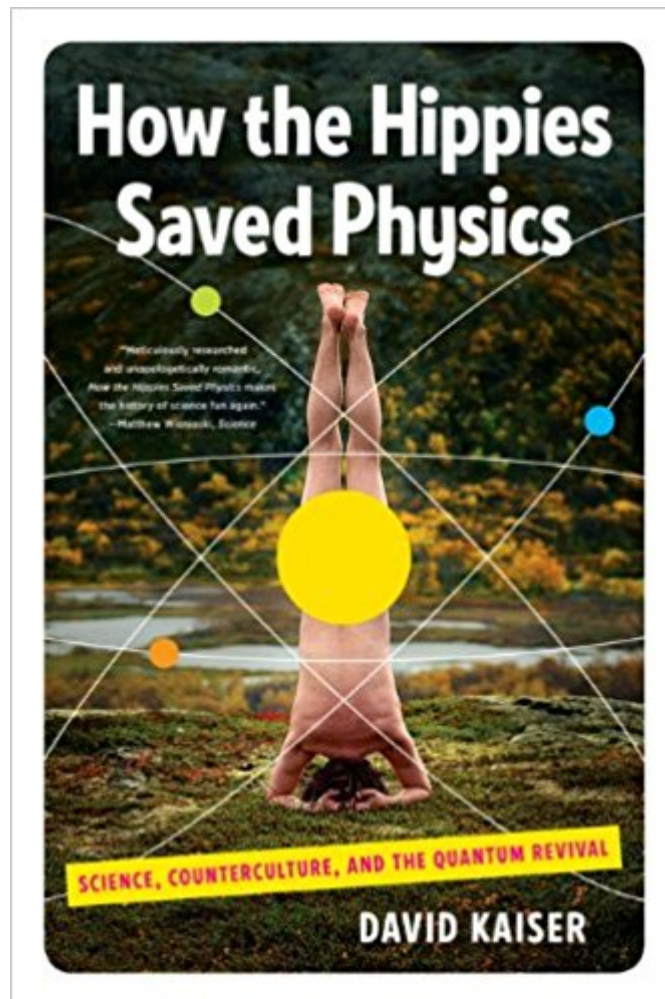


The book was found

How The Hippies Saved Physics: Science, Counterculture, And The Quantum Revival



Synopsis

âœMeticulously researched and unapologetically romantic, *How the Hippies Saved Physics* makes the history of science fun again.â••â”ScienceIn the 1970s, an eccentric group of physicists in Berkeley, California, banded together to explore the wilder side of science. Dubbing themselves the âœFundamental Fysiks Group,â•• they pursued an audacious, speculative approach to physics, studying quantum entanglement in terms of Eastern mysticism and psychic mind reading. As David Kaiser reveals, these unlikely heroes spun modern physics in a new direction, forcing mainstream physicists to pay attention to the strange but exciting underpinnings of quantum theory.

Book Information

File Size: 2820 KB

Print Length: 401 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0393076369

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (June 27, 2011)

Publication Date: July 16, 2012

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00530FBUG

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #549,096 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #254

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Physics > Quantum Theory #795

inÂ Books > Science & Math > Physics > Quantum Theory #947 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > History & Philosophy

Customer Reviews

Does philosophy have a place in serious science? Many of the founders of modern physics certainly thought so. Einstein, Bohr, Heisenberg and Schrodinger were not just great scientists but they were equally enthusiastic and adept at pondering the philosophical implications of quantum theory. To some extent they were forced to confront such philosophical questions because the world that they were discovering was just so bizarre and otherworldly; particles could be waves and vice versa, cats

(at least in principle) could be alive and dead, particles that were separated even by light years appeared to be able to communicate instantaneously with each other, and our knowledge of the subatomic world turned out to be fundamentally probabilistic. However, as quantum theory matured into a powerful tool for calculation and concrete application, the new generation of physicists in general and American physicists in particular started worrying less about "what it means" and much more about "how to use it". American physicists had always been more pragmatic than their European counterparts and after World War 2, as the center of physics moved from Europe to the United States and as the Cold War necessitated a great application of science to defense, physicists turned completely from the philosophizing type to what was called the "shut up and calculate" kind; as long as quantum mechanics agrees spectacularly with experiment, why worry about what it means? Just learn how to use it. Yet this only swept epistemological questions under the rug. Curiously, there emerged in the 1970s a quirky and small group of physicists in the Bay Area who tried to resurrect the age of philosopher-scientists.

Critics of this book have focused on physics per se, ignoring the social environment in which its theoreticians and experimentalists dwell. As sociologist historians of science have thoroughly presented, physics does not occur in isolation, either from society and its politics or from other scientific and scholarly disciplines. While the author presents some of the physical puzzles and the proponents of various explanations as the meat of the book, he also furthers an underlying theme that other reviewers elected to ignore or demean. This book is not a reductionistic history of recent physics and should not be judged as such. As a Berkeley first-wave academic hippie myself during the era examined [tuned it, turned on, but never dropped out], I was especially interested in whether physicists 'up the hill' at Lawrence Laboratories were influenced by the counter-culture, with its sundry interdisciplinary probes in holistic fields, consciousness-mind, and alternative perspectives of existence [which soon beget the renaissance in environmentalism and ecological studies (even in medicine); cognitive psychology and neuroscience; self-organization in biology and chemistry; psychoneuroimmunology and the placebo effect; and noetic phenomena of remote-viewing, precognition, and information fields]. New Physics experiments and their resulting philosophical interpretations, popularized by the subjects of this book, would soon indirectly support research in other disciplines.

How the Hippies Saved Physics is a fantastically kooky and zany history of the fringes of physics research in the 1960s and 1970s. The premise is certainly intriguing. Kaiser argues that the Second

World War and the Cold War had relegated physics in America to number crunching and practical applications of theory (mainly in the defense industry) and that all previous notions of fundamental questions all but dried up. The timing couldn't have been less fortunate, as the war followed close on the heels of the heady days of the major physical discoveries that led to the formulation of quantum mechanics as a whole by luminaries such as Einstein, Bohr, Heisenberg and Schrodinger in the 1920s and 1930s. This was a time when great philosophical questions concerning the nature of reality should have been asked, but the academic institutions of American were mainly concerned with churning out PhDs to compete with the Soviets. In short, if you weren't doing something practical in physics like producing better nuclear weapons or radar invisible materials, you weren't doing real physics. According to Kaiser, a select group of Hippy physicists centered in Berkeley called the Fundamental Fysiks Group provided a venue for physicists interested in fundamental questions to keep the burning questions at the heart of physics alive for a future, post-Cold War era.it's an interesting argument, and Kaiser is quite even-handed in the weight he assigns to fringe physicists in important discoveries in spite of the grandiose title. Mainly, these physicists in their study of things like ESP and other elements of parapsychology and the connections between quantum mechanics (particularly the issue of nonlocality) were wrong more often than they were right.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

How the Hippies Saved Physics: Science, Counterculture, and the Quantum Revival Quantum
Runes: How to Create Your Perfect Reality Using Quantum Physics and Teutonic Rune Magic
(Creating Magick with The Universal Laws of Attraction Book 1) Quantum Thermodynamics:
Emergence of Thermodynamic Behavior Within Composite Quantum Systems (Lecture Notes in
Physics) The Solid State: An Introduction to the Physics of Crystals for Students of Physics,
Materials Science, and Engineering (Oxford Physics Series) Witness to the Revolution: Radicals,
Resisters, Vets, Hippies, and the Year America Lost Its Mind and Found Its Soul What the
Dormouse Said: How the Sixties Counterculture Shaped the Personal Computer Industry What the
Dormouse Said: How the 60s Counterculture Shaped the Personal Computer PequeÃfÂ o cerdo
capitalista: Inversiones para hippies, yuppies y bohemios (Spanish Edition) The Physics and
Philosophy of the Bible: How Relativity, Quantum Physics, Plato, and History Meld with Biblical
Theology to Show That God Exists and That ... Live Forever (The Inevitable Truth Book 1) Neither
Physics nor Chemistry: A History of Quantum Chemistry (Transformations: Studies in the History of
Science and Technology) The Meaning of Quantum Theory: A Guide for Students of Chemistry and
Physics (Oxford Science Publications) Towards Solid-State Quantum Repeaters: Ultrafast,

Coherent Optical Control and Spin-Photon Entanglement in Charged InAs Quantum Dots (Springer Theses) Quantum Nanoelectronics: An introduction to electronic nanotechnology and quantum computing Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Field Theory: A Mathematical Primer Quantum Computation and Quantum Information: 10th Anniversary Edition QUANTUM SELF HYPNOSIS STOP SMOKING NOW: Hypnosis Script & Inductions Included! (Quantum Self Hypnosis Singles Book 2) Light Science: Physics and the Visual Arts (Undergraduate Texts in Contemporary Physics) Britain's Revival and Fall in the Gulf: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the Trucial States, 1950-71 (Routledge Studies in the Modern History of the Middle East) Home Coffee Roasting, Revised, Updated Edition: Romance and Revival Revival and Reform in Islam: The Legacy of Muhammad al-Shawkani (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization)

[Dmca](#)