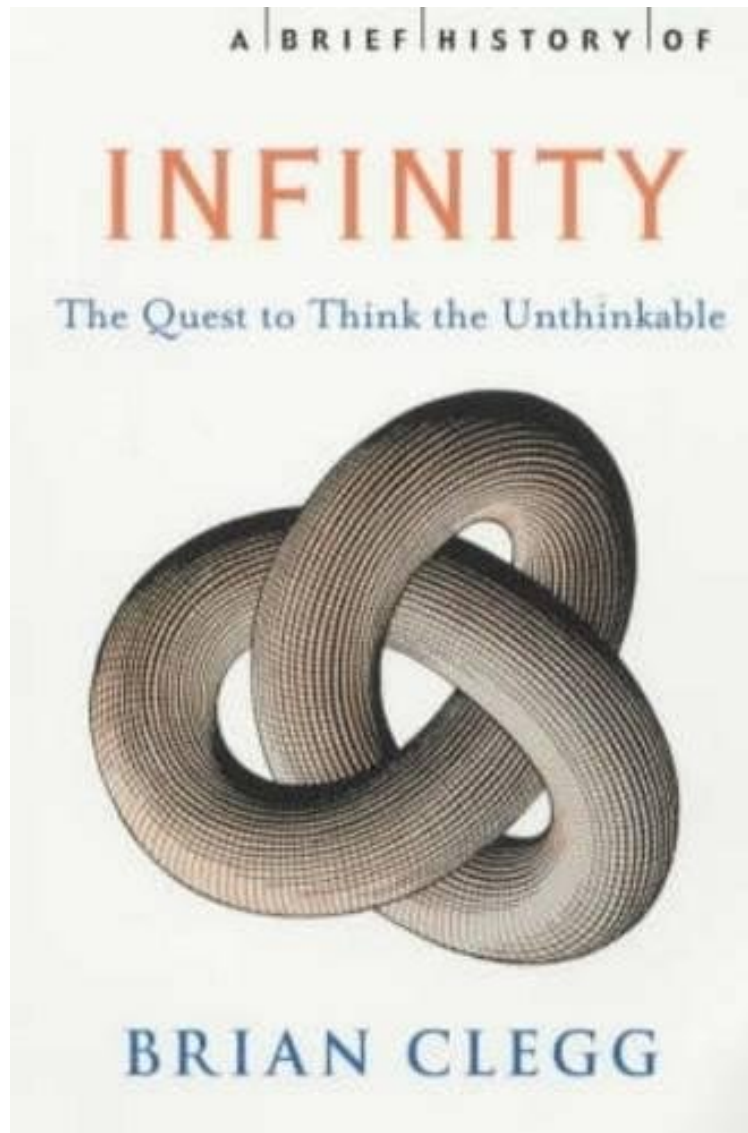


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## A Brief History of Infinity: The Quest to Think the Unthinkable

Brian Clegg

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**Brian Clegg : A Brief History of Infinity: The Quest to Think the Unthinkable** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Brief History of Infinity: The Quest to Think the Unthinkable:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clegg held my interest to the very end. By Alan Zinn Algebra and math subjects often lose me at the first chapter. Clegg held my interest to the very end - pun intended. There is repetition but I retained more than I usually do with these subjects. The take-home was my own "learned opinion". 0 of

0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy CustomerEnjoyable book and was at the end before I knew it.....not a book of infinite tedium!!!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A brief history of infinity: the quest to think the unthinkable - worthwhileBy William P. PalmerReview of A brief history of infinity: the quest to think the unthinkable by Brian Clegg.CITATION: Clegg, Brian (2002). A brief history of infinity: the quest to think the unthinkable. London: Robinson.Reviewer: Dr W. P. Palmer.This reviewer has an interest in the history of science and found the lives of the various mathematicians, given briefly, as one of the positive features of the 'A brief history of infinity'. Several of the mathematicians mentioned also had scientific discoveries to their credit, such as Newton and Galileo and the historical information about these scientists, though brief, appeared accurate. The mathematical work of Galileo mentioned showed him to be more of a polymath than I had realised. However, when Clegg mentions 'Brownian motion', Clegg's claim to historical accuracy is severely dented. Robert Brown, not James Brown (p. 213), is usually considered the discoverer of the phenomenon of Brownian motion, though the phenomenon had been noticed half a century earlier. James Brown was a Scottish clergyman and the father of Robert Brown (1773-1858). Robert Brown was Scottish and not English. Errors, such as this, should have been edited out.What of the book more generally? A number of other reviewers found the writing a little dull and I have to agree with that opinion. However, I did learn a lot from the book and I have a fuller view of the concept of infinity than I had previously. I liked the last chapter with its story of Gabriel's Horn, a paradox that was new to me.Overall, though not enthused, I find that it was a worthwhile read.BILL PALMER

Infinity is a concept that fascinates everyone from a seven-year-old child to a maths professor. An exploration of the most mind-boggling feature of maths and physics, this work examines amazing paradoxes and looks at many features of this fascinating concept.

Here [Clegg] has done an excellent job of making the most complex concepts accessible while allowing their mystery to continue to shimmer just out of focus. --Kirkus sClegg is immensely readable and manages to convey to a lay audience some of the key mathematical ideas concerning infinity... a success. --H. Geiges, Times Higher Education SupplementAn accessible and, of course, open-ended overview of infinity as conceived of and wrestled with by theologians, mathematicians and philosophers, from Ancient Greece onwards... endlessly fascinating. --Laurence Phelan, The IndependentAbout the AuthorBrian Clegg studied physics at Cambridge University and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has written a number of popular science books including A Brief History of Infinity, Light Years, The God Effect and Before the Big Bang.