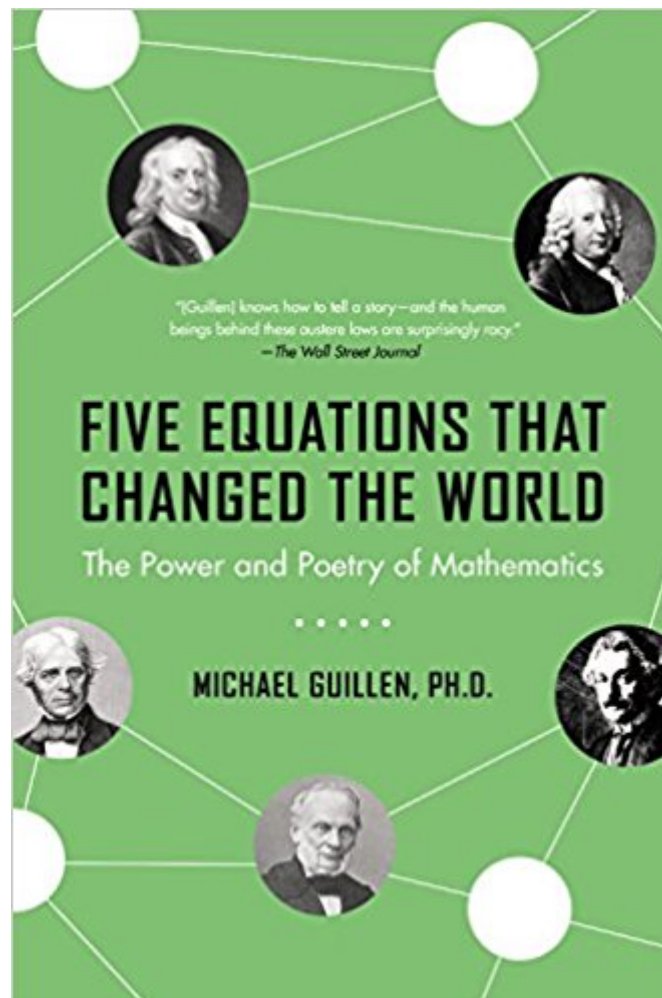




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# Five Equations That Changed The World: The Power And Poetry Of Mathematics



## Synopsis

A Publishers Weekly best book of 1995! Dr. Michael Guillen, known to millions as the science editor of ABC's Good Morning America, tells the fascinating stories behind five mathematical equations. As a regular contributor to daytime's most popular morning news show and an instructor at Harvard University, Dr. Michael Guillen has earned the respect of millions as a clear and entertaining guide to the exhilarating world of science and mathematics. Now Dr. Guillen unravels the equations that have led to the inventions and events that characterize the modern world, one of which -- Albert Einstein's famous energy equation,  $E=mc^2$  -- enabled the creation of the nuclear bomb. Also revealed are the mathematical foundations for the moon landing, airplane travel, the electric generator -- and even life itself. Praised by Publishers Weekly as "a wholly accessible, beautifully written exploration of the potent mathematical imagination," and named a Best Nonfiction Book of 1995, the stories behind *The Five Equations That Changed the World*, as told by Dr. Guillen, are not only chronicles of science, but also gripping dramas of jealousy, fame, war, and discovery.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Harvard mathematician Guillen looks at five mathematical breakthroughs and the theorists behind them, among them Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Guillen, an instructor in physics and mathematics at Harvard, devotes this work to discussions of five significant equations in physics and the individuals who developed them. The individuals are

Issac Newton (universal gravitation), Daniel Bernoulli (hydrodynamic pressure), Michael Faraday (thermodynamics), Rudolf Clausius (thermodynamics), and Albert Einstein (special relativity). Guillen sets their work in the context of the science of their times with accounts that are obviously fictionalized, containing many purported conversations and private thoughts of the physicists in question. The prose is quite purplish in places, and the matters of fact and interpretation are often questionable if not outright wrong. Not recommended for most libraries. ?Jack W. Weigel, Univ. of Michigan Lib., Ann Arbor Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is very informative to the curious but not scientifically trained individual. I would recommend it as a starting point for those wanting to begin their scientific learning.

I loved this book as a kid and now so does my daughter. Its not heavy on Math but is more story oriented. Allows you to really appreciate these great equations and how they have changed the world. I certainly recommend this to anyone interested in Science and Math.

This is an easy book to follow. I would recommend this to any one who thinks they're not smart enough to get into scientific theories because the author was able to simplify them so that common folk like I can pretend to understand the theory of relativity. Overall a great read. Would recommend it.

I have read this before and wanted my own copy, good value

I wish I knew it was the old book and the quality of the pages were good but the outside was beating up a good bit

Great stories and written in a unique way; made the learning about the scientists enjoyable.

This guy knows how to write!

Much has been written about Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein, all carefully documented. The anecdotal tales in this book are completely undocumented. Perhaps the lack of scientific rigor is not noticed by the nonscientific reader, but as a practicing scientist for 45 years (Ph.D. in theoretical

physics) I found expressions like "the weight of the universe" annoying. Even the choice of Michael Faraday seems strange in a book devoted to "The power and poetry of Mathematics" as Faraday was mostly unversed in mathematics.

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