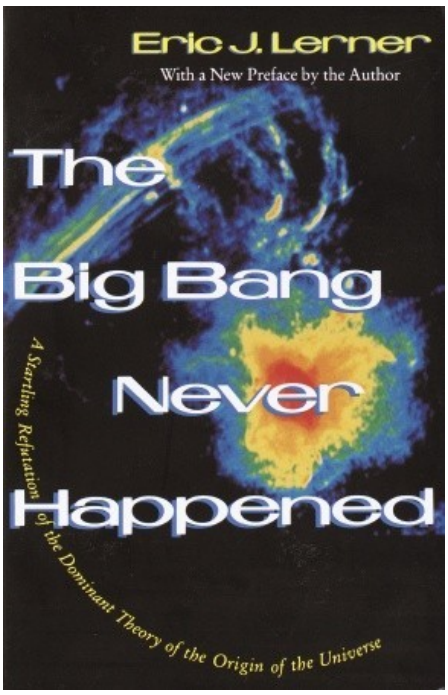

The Big Bang Never Happened: A Startling Refutation of the Dominant Theory of the Origin of the Universe

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A mesmerizing challenge to orthodox cosmology with powerful implications not only for cosmology itself but also for our notions of time, God, and human nature -- with a new Preface addressing the latest developments in the field.

Far-ranging and provocative, The Big Bang Never Happened is more than a critique of one of the primary theories of astronomy -- that the universe appeared out of nothingness in a single cataclysmic explosion ten to twenty billion years ago. Drawing on new discoveries in particle physics and thermodynamics as well as on readings in history and philosophy, Eric J. Lerner confronts the values behind the Big Bang theory: the belief that mathematical formulae are superior to empirical observation; that the universe is finite and decaying; and that it could only come into being through some outside force. With inspiring boldness and scientific rigor, he offers a brilliantly orchestrated argument that generates explosive intellectual debate.

The Big Bang Never Happened: A Startling Refutation of the Dominant Theory of the Origin of the Universe Details

Date	:	Published October 27th 1992 by Vintage (first published 1991)
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From Reader Review The Big Bang Never Happened: A Startling Refutation of the Dominant Theory of the Origin of the Universe for online ebook

Brian Widmer says

Interesting

Dusty Desert says

I understood little of this difficult book, so I don't have a clue if The Big Bang happened (though physicists all think it did). Also, I'm an atheist so I wasn't looking for proof of a Creator Guy.

Jake says

I imagine a lot of the scientific content is outdated if not falsified, but the way everything was argued was beautiful. Instead of engaging in the intellectual preening one finds among most science popularizers, Lerner is down-to-earth: his scientists are actually real, flawed people, he appeals regularly to philosophy - a field disdained by Neil deGrasse Tyson and cohort - and unlike them he does not deny scientists' subjectivity. The philosophical aspect is fascinating: Lerner brings forth the old argument that the big bang is too creationist - and dwells greatly on the issue. Lerner much prefers an eternal universe (and perhaps cyclic - I don't remember). So while the title is appealing to religious creationists, Lerner is very much their ideological opposite.

While you'll probably get the wrong idea from the conclusions about the science, you'll learn at an introductory level the problems astrophysicists/cosmologists have and how they think about their fields: There's a very good description of stars' radial velocity curves as evidence for dark matter, for example. And since Lerner has unconventional ideas about the conclusions we should make based on existing data, the book is a good example of competing scientific paradigms in action. Lerner frames his argument as over the nature and direction of science itself, and he's not unconvincing. The grandness of the book's subject and scope combines with its retelling of the relevant history and experimental observations to make a pretty exciting ride. I'd give it five stars, but it's been so long since I read it that I don't remember it well enough to do so.

Eric says

I loved the first half of this book. Mr. Lerner provides a great synopsis of the evolving theories regarding the cosmos. He provides the background of new observations that reinforced or challenged existing theories. I like his observation as to how our concept of the universe has swung like a pendulum between closed and open systems. These swings have been accompanied by social changes. The most recent dark age coinciding with the pessimistic conclusions of the big bang model where the inevitable dwindling heat of the big bang

freezes us as we peeter out in the dark or the other alternative finds us rushing back to the bang in a giant crushing event.

The good news is that there is mounting observational evidence that the big bang theory does not explain. The bad news is that the cosmologists are in denial and are postulating unobserved phenomenon to fix their model. The most obvious suspects being "dark matter" and "black holes". This book was written in 1991 and these suspect devices remain theoretical to this day. The sad thing is that the alternative theories presented involving cosmic plasma are receiving nearly as little attention now as they were 22 years ago. This despite the fact that they do resolve the observable phenomenon of everything from lab scale experiments to solar, galactic, and super-cluster scales.

The second half of the book is called "Implications". I found it to be a little uneven. The author extrapolates from plasma theory into the theory of evolution, plus social and religious implications. Some of his assumptions in these areas don't fit my perception of reality but, what the heck, it's his book. I guess I just didn't feel it was necessary to delve into areas of non-quantifiable data and conjecture when you open with such a groundbreaking thesis.

In short, the big bang never happened.

Augustine Kobayashi says

This book really needs to focus. At first Lerner's challenge to the idea of the Big Bang derives a merit. Then his oversimplified ancient history undermines his argument by presenting his over political view of world history, backtracking from today's liberal democracy as the ultimate goal for humanity, and categorising ancient and medieval regimes as mainly obstacles to scientific advancement. The best part of the book is in the middle, where he explains why he thinks that the idea of the Big Bang was flawed. Then came the worst part at the end: instead of any meaning conclusion, he goes on talking about how human society is stagnating today (late 80s). Is this a book of science or sociology? His analysis of the evolution of human society is too one dimensional and does not add much except the reader can know why he thinks that the majority of scientists got things wrong. If he just went on explaining his idea of the plasma universe, the book would be more convincing. Sadly, no.

Devinder Dhiman says

I became interested in reading this book as soon as I came across the title, because I also do not believe in Big-Bang theory. I wanted to learn the alternative offered by the author. I was not disappointed, this book made my belief firmer.'Big Bang never happened' blows off all the evidence generally associated with the theory of Big-Bang. It gives valid reasons for refuting the three most important pillars of Big-Bang theory; namely- relative abundance of elements in the universe, homogeneous microwave background radiation and hubble expansion of the universe.
Moreover, it gives reasoning for the existence of super clusters where Big-Bang fails.
The author starts with the history of the understanding of universe by various philosphers and scientists, more than two thousand years back and takes you through all the religious and scientific beliefs and finally makes you aware of the developments in 20th century, how the Big-Bang theory originated and what difficulties it faced from the scientists who were not in favour of this theory. After you complete the initial

phase of learning about Big-Bang, you are led to an alternative approach of plasma technology. Plasma technology is well explained as the author himself has contributed to the research in Plasma technology. Thereafter, the author elaborates the biological and social evolution. At that time, you wonder whether you have picked the physics book or philosophy, but at the end of that chapter , you realize the reasoning of that addition in the book. Next, the author explains about Quantum chromodynamics Theory, and you are back in your familiar territory of physics. The drawbacks of QCD are well explained and it is clearly shown why QCD, inspite of being one of the most accurate thoeries of physics, fails to provide a support to Big-Bang theory.
The author writes that 'Renormalization' in QCD theory is totally arbitrary, which has been used to give mass to an electron, and the reason for this renormalization is not known to any physicist. After dealing with quantum theory and particle physics, the author once again goes into philosophical mode and discusses the effect of social and theological events on the study of science and cosmology. May be, because of my own lack of understanding of philosophy and social science, I felt little uninterested in some of the chapters of the book, but I really liked the book overall and believe that there was no Big-bang. Alternative to Big-Bang given by filaments formation in plasma is a very good concept, and in line with my own idea of 'Lines of Space'. This book has enhanced my knowledge about creation of universe.
I recommend this book to all the people who are curious about universe and do not blindly believe in the theory of Big-Bang which requires a 'Creator

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Owlseyes says

"It's impossible that the Big Bang is wrong"
Joseph Silk, 1988

"Down with the Big Bang"
Editorial of Nature, 1989

(Lerner in 1993)

Eric Lerner defends that observations don't match the predictions of the Big-Bang model. Yet, there are authors, like Marc Lachièze-Rey, who say Lerner is wrong. One of the greatest proofs for the Big-Bang theory are the data provided by the COBE satellite, on cosmic radiation.

However, Lerner argues that COBE data didn't solve the problems posed by the Big-Bang model. There are alternative models, like "Plasma cosmology" developed by the Swede Hannes Alfven.

Lerner's view leads one to imagine another conception of the universe: one which is continuously evolving, rather than one that's bound to end; so much so with time itself.

"An infinite universe evolving over infinite time", that is Lerner's view.

This is a book about a personal struggle, I would say; it’s the author’s “conflict with conventional Physics”, one conflict his mentor (Alfven) had already gone through some years before (versus a mathematician called Sidney Chapman).

(from left to right: Hannes Alfven, Toni Perrat and the author, in San Diego, in 1989, after the International Workshop on Plasma Cosmology).

Lerner dedicates some chapters exposing the prevalent view in science throughout history, which stemmed from “the Church fathers Tertullian and Saint Augustine”, who “introduced the doctrine of creation ex-Nihilo, as the foundation of a profoundly PESSIMISTIC and AUHORITARIAN worldview”.

Nevertheless he recalls the views of Anaxagoras, in 430B.C. : the universe was Infinite, there were many worlds inhabited and the world began in a “vortex”. Lerner cites Nicholas de Cusa, Pelagius, Galileo Galilei and the Islamic Renaissance.

Then he explains an alternative view: Plasma Cosmology.*

After exploring superclusters complexes, universe’s dark matter distribution, redshifts and blue shifts, electromagnetism and much more, his optimistic option is for an Infinite Universe.

I would humbly add the views of Michio Kaku who acknowledged Einstein’s equation breaks on (1) the instant of Big Bang and (2) at the center of a black hole; so, we need another theory. Kaku advances the Strings theory, where there is a Multiverse. That is one way of escaping the death of the universe. This time around the Universe (big-bang?) may be the result of a (1) split of a universe, or (2) collision of universes.

As in Alice in Wonderland, one day, perhaps, a wormhole (technology) will connect Universes.
Jul 13, 2017

UPDATE
I recently came into contact with the work of Halton C. Harp. He's a Galileo of sorts, one could say, as a critical voice on the Big-Bang theory.
3rd August 2017.

*(From Wiki) "Plasma cosmology is a non-standard cosmology whose central postulate is that the dynamics of ionized gases and plasmas play important, if not dominant, roles in the physics of the universe. In contrast, the current observations and models of cosmologists and astrophysicists explain the formation, development, and evolution of astronomical bodies and large-scale structures in the universe as influenced by gravity (including its formulation in Einstein's theory of general relativity) and baryonic physics."

Steve says

According to Eric J. Lerner, the Big Bang theory has been in trouble for quite some time. It predicts that there should be no objects in the universe older than 20 billion years, but there is. It predicts that there should be 100 times as much dark matter as there is visible matter, he makes a compelling argument that there really is no dark matter at all. He even provides an alternate theory to the observable redshift of distant galaxies, hailed as indisputable proof of the big bang.
To quote Lerner "The Big Bang is a myth, a wonderful myth maybe. which deserves a place of honor in the columbarium which already contains the Indian myth of a cyclical Universe, the Chinese cosmic egg, the biblical myth of creation, the Ptolemaic cosmological myth and many others."
Lerner compares the dogma of modern cosmology to a time of Ptolematic thinking, when astronomers refused to look through Galileos telescope, when mankind believed the earth to be the center of the universe,

and when observation proved otherwise, people still stubbornly refused to believe otherwise, just as modern cosmologists do today.
Lerner offers a new theory that is as compelling as it is simplistic, Plasma Cosmology does away with the need for a Big Bang, and offers alternative explanations for many observable phenomena in our universe.
If you have ever questioned the validity of the Big Bang, this book might be for you.

Stephen says

Generally well written. Points out some of the flaws in Big Bang cosmology, with (I am told - I'm neither an astronomer nor a physicist) few gross errors and distortions. Provides an alternative, with some support. Good for the scientific minded individual who either doesn't want to or can't wade through the mathematics.

Moe Shinola says

Eric Lerner is the director on Lawrenceville Plasma Physics, in Lawrenceville, N.J., and was a friend of the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Hannes Alfven. He is carrying on Alfven's work and the group is close to acheiving their goal of proving the viability of cheap, safe fusion power using the dense plasma focus, an obscure technology. I hope the ideas he expresses in this book are not enough to deny him a place in the scientific community but they may be, since in this book he boldly dares to challenge the accepted "Big Bang" theory of cosmology, and does a very good job of stating his case, I think, both factually and philosophically.

Shanna-Mae Slight says

This is a sort of Cult Classic among creationists. While I consider myself devout, this book is terribly outdated. His arguments may have been valid when he wrote it 40 some years ago, but since it's publication lots has happened in the field of astronomy. Many of the points his argument hinges on have been well refuted to the point that, in my opinion, his stand disintegrates. Specifically, when this book was written, the idea of dark energy was new and there were a lot of questions and doubts, as there should have been. Since then, many questions have been resolved, including the ones raised in this book. With dark energy, Lerner's alternate theory is extraneous. I will concede that his plasma theory does seem probable as a contributing factor to creation but not a replacement.

Honestly, that parts of the Christian community continue to refer to this book do so at the risk of being discredited by educated people aware of current cosmology and astronomy. Creationists who continue to hold to this book as proof of God, will also be disappointed to note that his argument does not preclude a creator-less creation. I understand the desire to reconcile what we know through observation (astronomy) with what we know through faith, but this is the wrong mountain to die on.

Timothy says

yes