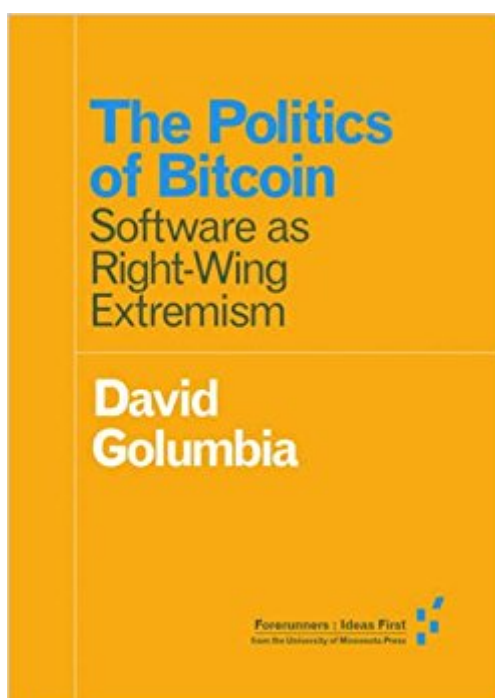The book was found

The Politics Of Bitcoin: Software As Right-Wing Extremism (Forerunners: Ideas First)

Synopsis

Since its introduction in 2009, Bitcoin has been widely promoted as a digital currency that will revolutionize everything from online commerce to the nation-state. Yet supporters of Bitcoin and its blockchain technology subscribe to a form of cyberlibertarianism that depends to a surprising extent on far-right political thought. The Politics of Bitcoin exposes how much of the economic and political thought on which this cryptocurrency is based emerges from ideas that travel the gamut, from Milton Friedman, F.A. Hayek, and Ludwig von Mises to Federal Reserve conspiracy theorists.Forerunners: Ideas First is a thought-in-process series of breakthrough digital publications. Written between fresh ideas and finished books, Forerunners draws on scholarly work initiated in notable blogs, social media, conference plenaries, journal articles, and the synergy of academic exchange. This is gray literature publishing: where intense thinking, change, and speculation take place in scholarship.

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Customer Reviews

"Golumbia, in his small but important way, is helping wake us to the falsity of our perceived neutrality."Ã¢â ¬â •One Flew East"This book is a very readable and valuable monograph which combines sound historical research with insightful analysis. All concerned citizens should read this book, which is an essential resource for understanding the true stakes of current technological hyperbole."Ã¢â ¬â •Newsclick"Golumbia a le mÃƒÂ©rite de sÃ¢â ¬â„¢attaquer ÃƒÂ des idÃƒÂ©es qui ne sont pas suffisamment remises en question dans les communautÃƒÂ©s de la

cryptomonnaie et des technologies de chaÃƒÂ®nes concertÃƒÂ©es. JÃ¢â¬â„¢en recommande fortement la lecture ÃƒÂ quiconque sÃ¢â¬â„¢interroge sur les impacts de ces technologies sur nos sociÃƒÂ©tÃƒÂ©s."Ã¢â¬â¢DÃ¢â¬â„¢un bloc ÃƒÂ lÃ¢â¬â„¢autre

David Golumbia teaches in the English department and the Media, Art, and Text PhD program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

What follows is extracted from the longer review published at:[...]This book is a very readable and valuable monograph which combines sound historical research with insightful analysis. The issues discussed go far beyond Bitcoin and are directly related to broader Internet governance issues.It is revealing to cite a previous comment posted on the web site for the book: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã Ã…"This article is a statist critique of Bitcoin and its ideological (anti-statist or libertarian) background. Which would be fine, except the author does not realize that statism is also an ideology, and thus does not understand the anti-statist position either.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã Ã‚•The author of that comment appears to equate the two ideologies, without taking into account the fact that state institutions are very real, and pervasive, and have been so for millennia, whereas the anti-statist ideology is a utopia that has rarely been implemented on any significant scale.In fact, the private companies that are touted by right wing libertarians as the ultimate arbiters of most everything are thoroughly hierarchical, autocratic, top-down, organizations that embody the antithesis of anarchism and individual freedom.As the book says, proponents of the demise of the state want the state when it suits them, namely to protect private property, intellectual property, etc., but not when it does not suit them, namely to protect users, consumers, and workers . This is corporate violence, which, if it continues unchecked, will surely be worse than the state violence decried by right-wing libertarians.Thus all concerned citizens should read this book, which is an essential resource for understanding the true stakes of current technological hyperbole.

An extremely concise pulling back of the curtain on the bitcoin movement. It's not a deep technical dive into the crypto underpinnings of Bitcoin, and the Blockchain behind it, which is why it is an essential guide for any reader. The crypto and technical complexities of blockchain are often used to obfuscate the ideology and motivations behind its usage, and this is THE GUIDE to help business, institutional, and government leaders navigate through this.While the book is focused on Bitcoin and the Blockchain, and Golumbia is revealing the history and ideology of this particular movement, his story is applicable to almost every Internet technology movement we are seeing

playing out right now from education technology to the APIs driving Facebook and Twitter. Where ideology is being wrapped in technology, hidden behind complexity, allowing technologists to shed and ignore any historical context along the way--leaving only those in the technical know with the ability to understand what is happening, and the average user unable to separate fact from fiction, and ideology from reality.The Politics of Bitcoin is an essential read for anyone trying to make sense of this movement, and understand why it is so appealing to many technologists.

This book absolutely nails down the political origins of Bitcoin. It doesn't just make assertions of Bitcoin's origins in far-right goldbug conspiracy thinking - it's a rigorous academic survey that absolutely nails down every claim and its backing. I also found it an essential reference for my own Bitcoin book, "Attack of the 50 Foot Blockchain".Ã Â Attack of the 50 Foot Blockchain: Bitcoin, Blockchain, Ethereum & Smart ContractsÃ Â This and "Digital Gold" by Nathaniel PopperÃ Â Digital Gold: Bitcoin and the Inside Story of the Misfits and Millionaires Trying to Reinvent MoneyÃ Â (and of course my own book!) are the essential critical reading you need to keep a clear head in the midst of tidal waves of Bitcoin hype.

In depth analysis of the ideological foundations behind a lot of the Bitcoin talk.This is not a technical book but one that analyses the misconceptions and ideas about money and economies that Bitcoin is based on following its right-wing roots to today. Important to understand the model of the world the Bitcoin proponents operate on. Essential reading for any reflection on Bitcoin (and other crypto currencies).

Poorly written and lacks substance. You'd be better off reading Wikipedia.Fascinating topic, but the books just fails to deliver.

I'm not surprised to see the negative reviews and what they're predicated on; as such, author David Golumbia should consider his mission accomplished. This book provides an excellent demonstration of what others (Gillespie, e.g.) have described as the politics of platforms. In this case, author Golumbia takes on the politics of technological imagings of currency, and the deep political ideologies at play that back it. Importantly, he targets movements and organizations who would be loath to acknowledge their politics in the first place. This is a much needed intervention that has the benefit of also being accessible and short. Pick it up.

I can't believe a serious American university agreed to publish the work of an economic illiterate who not only has no idea about monetary policy, but also doesn't understand the blockchain technology. Although I recommend this book if you enjoy seeing other people humiliating themselves.

This is an important look not just at Bitcoin, but at the capacity of software to proliferate an ideology.

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