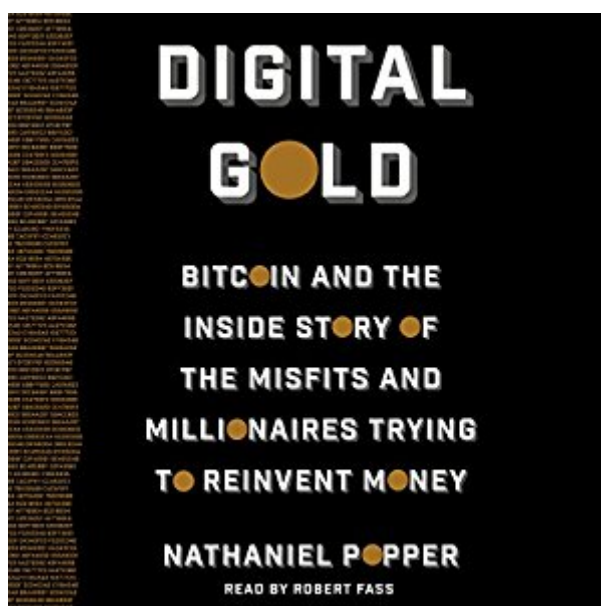


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# Digital Gold: Bitcoin And The Inside Story Of The Misfits And Millionaires Trying To Reinvent Money



## Synopsis

A New York Times technology and business reporter charts the dramatic rise of Bitcoin and the fascinating personalities who are striving to create a new global money for the Internet age. Digital Gold is New York Times reporter Nathaniel Popper's brilliant and engrossing history of Bitcoin, the landmark digital money and financial technology that has spawned a global social movement. The notion of a new currency, maintained by the computers of users around the world, has been the butt of many jokes, but that has not stopped it from growing into a technology worth billions of dollars, supported by the hordes of followers who have come to view it as the most important new idea since the creation of the Internet. Believers from Beijing to Buenos Aires see the potential for a financial system free from banks and governments. More than just a tech industry fad, Bitcoin has threatened to decentralize some of society's most basic institutions. An unusual tale of group invention, Digital Gold charts the rise of the Bitcoin technology through the eyes of the movement's colorful central characters, including a British anarchist, an Argentinian millionaire, a Chinese entrepreneur, Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, and Bitcoin's elusive creator, Satoshi Nakamoto. Already Bitcoin has led to untold riches for some and prison terms for others.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours 49 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: May 19, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00UVY508W

Best Sellers Rank: #3 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Money & Monetary Policy

#5 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Digital Currencies #8 in Books >

Computers & Technology > History & Culture

## Customer Reviews

This book is standing out among other bitcoin books recently published in one important difference: This one is the result of genuine journalism. The writer is not here for attracting the techie crowd who are interested in the fortunes of mining bitcoins every 10 minutes or so. But he does a very

good job of digging all the key people (arguably even the main character. Mr Satoshi himself) and putting events in a time-line starting from day one, from early 2009. Before this book, I read three other bitcoin/blockchain books, watched the documentary (The Rise and Rise of Bitcoin) and read lots of web site articles and blogs. I heard lots of things about the main characters, Satoshi, Gavin, Hal, Ross, Erik, Wences, Winklevii, Charlie etc. but after Popper's book, all of them are now linked in an organized story line and they came alive in my mind. In a way this book reads like fiction, almost like the script of an HBO mini series. But all of the events are real and the characters are actual living human beings, sometimes with sad endings. I wonder if the FBI had ever used description of some events in this book as evidence? Or just the opposite, did Popper use legal documents or police reports. How on the earth did he find out all the details of the life of the founder of Silk Road? (Like the thoughts of his former girl firends) Or details about the "super secret" meeting of Allen & Co? Wow! I am shocked, this is journalism at its best, applied to a favourite but difficult to understand contemporary subject. Bottom line: The book is an example of very fine writing and detailed reporting of the bitcoin subculture. Not a book to learn how to mine bitcoins or where to buy them.

Digital gold is a ready material for a thriller. Unexpected plot twists, the influence of powerful organizations, intrigue, commissioned the murder, drug trade, blackmail, and above all the story of the beginnings of a revolution in the fortress of capitalism. Money. Bitcoin is cryptocurrency, which became a digital gold. The origins of bitcoin belong to the people associated with libertarian views. The aim was to create a new kind of money that would be free from the state - dependent on the printing of money and monopolistic charges of the banking cartel. Launching a revolution similar to Uber, which changed the taxi market, and Airbnb, which affected the hotel market. Lots of information on Bitocin you can read on the network, but the background of the formation and development of cryptocurrency you will find in the book. The author has done a gigantic job, the number of interviews is impressive. But it paid off. The book is written well, journalistic style, so that it reads like a very good thriller.

I have been studying Bitcoin and Cryptocurrencies for some time now and wondered if another book on the subject will be interesting enough or have enough fresh material to keep me engaged. Digital Gold is fascinating. It reads like a fast paced thriller. Those who know only a little, or a lot, about Bitcoin and its origins would love it. Nathaniel Popper's narration makes the stories and characters involved come alive.

I read this book as a follow up to what I learned from watching the documentary titled: The Rise and Rise of Bitcoin. That movie was unfortunately made at a time when Bitcoin was growing so fast and the Mt. Gox crash had yet to happen. That said, I was hooked from what I saw and was deeply curious to learn more about Bitcoin. After reading the Satoshi Nakamoto "white paper" as seen here: <https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf> I was interested in learning more about the people that truly pioneered this great new technological innovation known as Bitcoin and the Blockchain. This book gave me all I was looking for and more! The stories about Charlie Shrem, the Winklevoss brothers, Wences Casares and more were all great to read about. This book has a very similar feel to that of the film "the Social Network" all about the facebook story. I finished it rather quickly and wasn't left feeling like I had missed anything...all I wanted to do when I was done...was buy more Bitcoin!

If you're just coming on to the scene of Bitcoin this is a great \_non technical\_ overview of its history and evolution. Five minor flaws: 1. Given the sprawling cast of people and companies I kept looking back to previous chapters to figure who this person was and their relationship to others. The book cried out for a summary of the "Cast of Characters". 2. Thanks for telling us Dan Morehead has a big house on Lake Tahoe. But when you repeat it multiple times, and keep mentioning that investors were flying to exclusive events on "gasp" private planes, you get a whiff that the author was thrilled to be in the story not just writing about it. 3. As others have mentioned, the book needed a tighter edit. It could have been 20% shorter and told the same story. 4. The blockchain is the critical innovation in Bitcoin. And while the author describes it, it cried out for a diagram contrasting it with existing centralized transaction systems. 5. While I understand the book was written for a non-technical audience, the "Technical" appendices were so non-technical to be useless in grasping any of the underlying technology. I just kept referring to Google. Minor quibbles aside, all in all a book worth buying if you're interesting Bitcoin

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