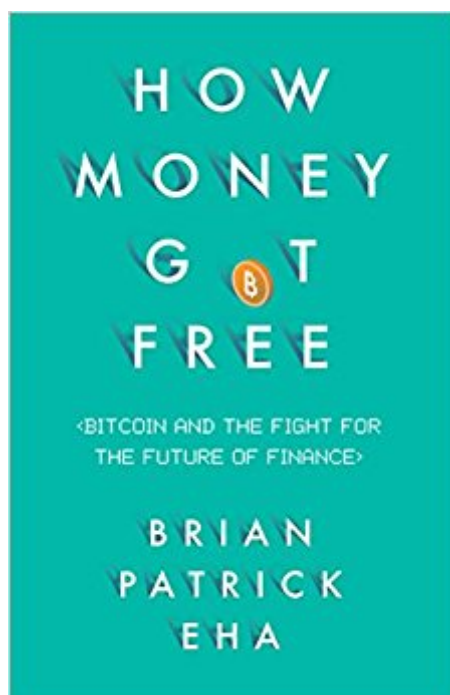


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# How Money Got Free: Bitcoin And The Fight For The Future Of Finance



## Synopsis

"The rollicking, delightfully told tale of the creation of one of the most profound new technologies of our time." —Nicholas Thompson, editor-in-chief, *Wired* "If Brian Patrick Eha can make me, a Luddite dunce, both understand and care about the enigmatic Bitcoin, and if he can also tantalize the novelist in me with a narrative of intellectual daring and primal risk relating to Bitcoin's rise and fall and rise, then he is some kind of journalistic magician. And so he is, because he did all those things and more. Welcome to a new reality and the monetary future. You'll never find a better guide." —Walter Kirn, author of *Up in the Air* and *Blood Will Out* In the space of a few years, Bitcoin has gone from an idea ignored or maligned by almost everyone to an asset with a market cap of more than \$12 billion. Venture capital firms, Goldman Sachs, the New York Stock Exchange, and billionaires such as Richard Branson and Peter Thiel have invested more than \$1 billion in companies built on this groundbreaking technology. Bill Gates has even declared it "better than currency." But can its early promise endure? Or will the next evolution of money be neutered as it goes mainstream? The pioneers of Bitcoin were twenty-first-century outlaws — cryptographers, hackers, Free Staters, ex-cons and drug dealers, teenage futurists and self-taught entrepreneurs — armed with a renegade ideology and a grudge against big government and big banks. Now those same institutions are threatening to co-opt or curtail the impact of digital currency. But the pioneers, some of whom have become millionaires themselves, aren't going down without a fight. Sweeping and provocative, *How Money Got Free* reveals how this disruptive technology is shaping the debate around competing ideas of money and liberty, and what that means for our future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were ordered by the twin conceptions of mass and energy, and currencies were correspondingly massive — forged from precious metals and wood pulp. The late-twentieth and twenty-first centuries have been ordered by information and computation, and money has become digital, cryptographic, and scattered across a light-speed network of circulating trust. In this fascinating book, Brian Patrick Eha describes the inventor-revolutionary-hackers who made Bitcoin a reality — how they did it, the computing challenges they overcame, the vested interests they overturned, the laws that they broke, and the socio-technological reality that they are creating. This book is like a fiber-optic cable extending into our uncertain economic future." (David Krakauer, president and William H. Miller Professor of Complex Systems, Santa Fe Institute)"Eha pieces together the puzzle of Bitcoin's history in an engaging and accessible narrative. A great choice for anyone interested in technology, finance, politics, or the currency they spend." (Library Journal)"A tremendously entertaining story of the technology, ideology, and personalities behind Bitcoin's rise. Highly recommended." (Balaji Srinivasan, CEO of 21.co and board partner at Andreessen Horowitz)"The sweeping, exhaustively researched and vividly painted story of a fascinating new form of financial technology, with a cast of characters worthy of a cyberpunk novel and enough drama and heartbreak to capture the imaginations of non-geeks." (Marc Hochstein, editor-in-chief, American Banker)"The rollicking, delightfully told tale of the creation of one of the most profound new technologies of our time." (Nicholas Thompson, editor-in-chief, Wired)"[An] entertaining look at a period of financial change that may have lasting implications for finance and the global economy." (Money Week)"[A] fast-moving tale of digital currency and its discontents." (Kirkus Reviews)"If Brian Patrick Eha can make me, a Luddite dunce, both understand and care about the enigmatic Bitcoin, and if he can also tantalize the novelist in me with a narrative of intellectual daring and primal risk relating to Bitcoin's rise and fall and rise, then he is some kind of journalistic magician. And so he is, because he did all those things and more. Welcome to a new reality and the monetary future. You'll never find a better guide." (Walter Kirn, author of *Up in the Air* and *Blood Will Out*)"[Eha] draws on years of reporting and access to major figures to take readers inside the heads of pioneers who staked their livelihoods and reputations on cryptocurrency. The result is an engaging look at the origins of

Bitcoin and what smart minds think it will ultimately end up being." (American Banker)

Brian Patrick Eha is a former editor at Entrepreneur and a journalist who has spent nearly five years following the rise of Bitcoin. His work has been published by The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Fortune, CNNMoney, American Banker, Outside, Port, Avaunt, and the Los Angeles Review of Books, among other publications. He lives in New York City.

This is a remarkable piece of journalism in both its breadth and its depth. Trust me when I say you will learn things--from economics to emerging technology, Silicon Valley culture to business regulation, currency, computers, and everything in between, Eha has really done his homework, and it shows. And somehow, it never feels like a lecture; instead, Eha coaxes his audience up a subtle learning curve simply by giving us a book we'll want to keep reading. In fact, the real beauty of the piece is that the story has a life to it. Unlike some narrative non-fiction that can be dry (and hard to get through), *How Money Got Free* is a really enjoyable book to read. Eha has managed to seamlessly weave an immense amount of factual information into a compelling narrative about truly vivid characters. It's not often that a work of nonfiction gets called a "page-turner," but here the label fits. If you have any interest in Bitcoin, you need to buy this book. If you have zero interest in Bitcoin, but simply love well-written nonfiction, you should definitely buy this book.

Bitcoin is creating a technical revolution and this book captures the gritty and fascinating story behind it.

A rollicking yarn about the birth and growing pains of Bitcoin. Along the way you will gain understanding of the uses and abuses of the revolutionary technology. Brian Patrick Eha is the Michael Lewis of Bitcoin.

You learn a sneaky amount of information in this book. I went into it knowing basically nothing about Bitcoin. After being drawn in by the stories of its pioneers, I found out that I learned way more than I even realized. It's not just "here's a bunch of facts about Bitcoin." It reads like a novel, but one that is extremely well researched. I would definitely recommend checking it out. You won't be disappointed.

Similar to Michael Lewis where it dives deep into the history of Bitcoin. Fascinating read.

Well written book that reads like a novel and yet teaches the history and evolution of Bitcoin and the Blockchain in a fascinating story.

Intriguing and in depth; it takes you back to the beginning and asks; how did it all begin?

Very interesting history and well written. Accurate as well.

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