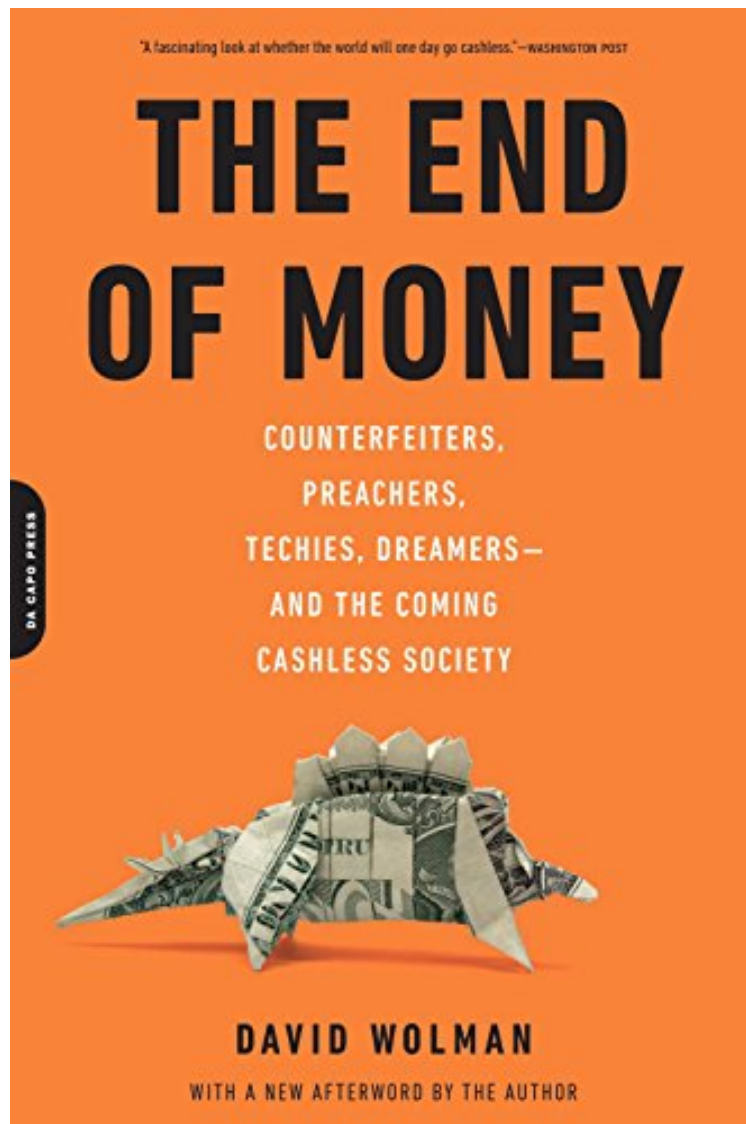


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The End of Money: Counterfeiters, Preachers, Techies, Dreamers--and the Coming Cashless Society

David Wolman

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David Wolman : The End of Money: Counterfeiters, Preachers, Techies, Dreamers--and the Coming Cashless Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of Money: Counterfeiters, Preachers, Techies, Dreamers--and the Coming Cashless Society:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Do you dare to go cashless??By Harish NairLet me begin by an amazing coincidence. Just as I finished the book today (Oct 25, 14), I read this news item in a leading Indian

newspaper "Sweden goes cashless: A news report shows that four out of every five purchases in Sweden are paid for electronically or by card.. The local reports that Swedes are using electronic payment 260 times per person per year. Electronic payments as Swish are bypassing the ATM for cash. While going cash free comes with an increase in security cost, its more than offset by drop in cash handling costs. In Sweden, the cash handling costs are estimated to be around \$1.2 billion or 0.3% of the GDP. And according to Swedish Bankers Association, armed robbers are finding themselves out of job. Just five bank robberies were reported in 2012, Sweden's lowest rate in 30 years";The above news item is a testimonial that David's view points on going cashless is quite spot on.. And while the subject per se is quite drab, but he has added substantial wit and humor to it to keep the reader interested. While generally such books revolve around the financial capitals of the world, his choice of destination Iceland, Hawaii makes the discussion very interesting. The reference to the three identities of a nation - airlines, currency and stock exchange was an interesting paradox being brought out. While it is clear that David is a die hard supporter of going cashless, but the way he brings in some support for local community currency was heartening. Yes, it may not go a very long way given the ways commercial boundaries are no longer subservient to geographical boundaries, but definitely the thought is very interesting.The role of cash in political arena has been totally missed out in this book. I am not sure whether it was a deliberate miss. However, it would have been interesting to postulate the outcome of not having cash on the electoral outcomes. In many countries, the cash factor does cause some swing in the fortunes. So, going cashless would worry the politicians quite much. As regards the Gods who would be bereft of the offerings, I am sure they are already quite sick of it and would actually welcome it. It is the godman who would lose his sleep.I would highly recommend this book and more so adoption of this. Just that the title should have been "End of Cash" rather than "money";2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not bad - just a lot of tinfoilers in the commentsBy B. CarrollBased on the other reviews for this product, it seems clear that the topic of physical money vs. digital money can ruffle a lot of feathers. There are clearly a lot of commenters giving this book bad reviews because they are simply opposed to the idea of digital money, rather than commenting on the actual book.In reality, the book is actually quite bland and worthy of neither 1 star nor 5 stars. It doesn't propose any sort of earth shattering, privacy ending changes. It's not a radical thesis trying to persuade you on some point you may fundamentally oppose. It simply reports on the current state of the transition that's taking place. It's not a great book; there are a lot of topics left unexplored or merely touched on briefly. I would have liked it to go deeper. But, it's not a terrible book either; it is quite readable, interesting, and entertaining.The author makes his point through various stories, some of which are better than others, and at the end of the book, you may be slightly more knowledgeable on the subject. This isn't the book you'd reference if you were doing your dissertation on the topic, but it's a book that you could pick up and potentially get interested enough in the topic to go and look for more.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Engaging stories on the role of money and where it's goingBy Ron ShevlinA lot of books in the "cashless society" genre suffer from either being "gee-whiz-technology-is-going-to-render-cash-obsolete"-oriented or "cash-is-evil-God-wants-us-to-be-cashless"-focused. I know because as part of my real job, I've sized and forecasted the use of cash in the US, and for background research read all those books on the always-to-be-coming cashless society.I'm happy to say that this book suffers none of the problems of many other books in the genre. In fact, I'm not even sure this book fits in that genre in the first place.The End of Money is a very well-written and engaging book comprised of stories -- stories about individuals (characters?) around the world (England, Hawaii, India, Iceland, etc.) who will help you look at money (or cash) in a new light, and understand the role it plays in society, and what role it will play in the coming years.The chapters on The Counterfeiters and The Loyalists are especially interesting, and I must admit that because I know Dave Birch (well, virtually at least, through Twitter), the chapter on the Missionary was particularly interesting.Highly recommended.

For ages, money has meant little metal disks and rectangular slips of paper. Yet the usefulness of physical money;to say nothing of its value;is coming under fire as never before. Intrigued by the distinct possibility that cash will soon disappear, author and contributing editor David Wolman sets out to investigate;the future of money;and how it will affect your wallet.Wolman begins his journey by deciding to shun cash for an entire year;a surprisingly successful experiment (with a couple of notable exceptions). He then ventures forth;to find people and technologies that illuminate the road ahead. In Honolulu, he drinks Mai Tais with Bernard von NotHaus, a convicted counterfeit;and alternative-currency evangelist whom government prosecutors have labeled a domestic terrorist. In Tokyo, he sneaks a peek at the latest anti-counterfeiting wizardry, while puzzling over the fact that banknote forgers depend on society's addiction to cash. In a downtown Oregon town, he mingles with obsessive coin collectors;the people who are supposed to love cash the most, yet don't. And in rural Georgia, he examines why some people feel;the end of cash is Armageddon's warm-up act.After stops at the Digital Money Forum in London and Iceland's central bank, Wolman flies to Delhi, where he sees first-hand how cash penalizes the poor more than anyone;and how mobile technologies promise to change that.Told with verve and wit,The End of Money;explores an aspect of our daily lives so fundamental that we rarely stop to think about it. Yours;I'll never look at a dollar bill the same

again.