



# Dreams of a Final Theory: The Scientist's Search for the Ultimate Laws of Nature

By Steven Weinberg

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The Nobel Prize-winning physicist and bestselling author of *The First Three Minutes* describes the grand quest for a unifying theory of nature--one that can explain forces as different as the cohesion inside the atom and the gravitational tug between the sun and Earth. Writing with dazzling elegance and clarity, he retraces the steps that have led modern scientists from relativity and quantum mechanics to the notion of super-strings and the idea that our universe may coexist with others.

But Weinberg asks as many questions as he answers, among them: Why does each explanation of the way nature works point to other, deeper explanations? Why are the best theories not only logical but beautiful? And what implications will a final theory have for our philosophy and religious faith?

Intellectually daring, rich in anecdote and aphorism, *Dreams of a Final Theory* launches us into a new cosmos and helps us make sense of what we find there.

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## Dreams of a Final Theory: The Scientist's Search for the Ultimate Laws of Nature By Steven Weinberg Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #430803 in Books
- Published on: 1994-02-01
- Released on: 1994-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.01" h x .76" w x 5.21" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Nobel Prize-winning physicist Weinberg's quest for a final explanation of the laws of nature displays a scientist's sense of wonder and an artist's love of beauty.

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From Library Journal

In his celebrated book *The First Three Minutes* (Basic, 1977; 1988, reprint) Nobel laureate Weinberg wrote the ominous and oft-quoted remark "The more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it seems pointless." This book can be seen as his response to that remark after 15 years of reflection and scientific progress. Weinberg writes with great hope and clarity about the possibility that science can find a universal theory uniting the laws of nature into a single statement that is mathematically, philosophically, and aesthetically complete. His writing is technical in places, and some of the first-person narratives come off as less than humble, but overall Weinberg offers excellent insights on how such a theory could be realized and what it would mean. Especially engaging are his chapters, "Beautiful Theories" and "What About God?" Other books have been written on this subject (e.g., Paul Davies's *Superforce* , LJ 11/15/84; John Barrow's *Theories of Everything* , Oxford Univ. Pr., 1991; and Barry Parker's *Search for a Supertheory* , Plenum, 1987), but Weinberg's is likely to have the highest demand. Highly recommended.

- Gregg Sapp, *Montana State Univ. Libs.*

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Review

"A splendid introduction to the nature and ambitions of modern physics and a brilliant and... moving essay on its philosophical implications".

-- San Francisco Chronicle

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