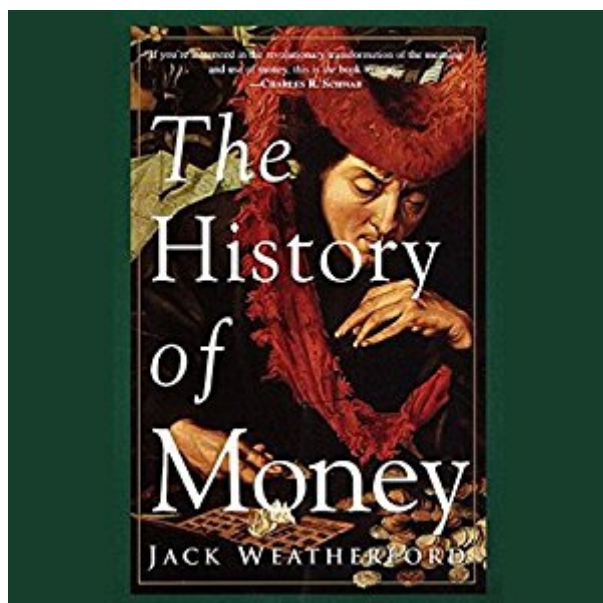


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# The History Of Money



## Synopsis

In his most widely appealing book yet, cultural anthropologist Jack Weatherford traces our relationship with money. From primitive man's cowrie shells to the electronic cash card, from the markets of Timbuktu to the New York Stock Exchange, *The History of Money* explores how money and the myriad forms of exchange have affected humanity, and how they will continue to shape all aspects of our lives—economic, political, and personal. Praise for *The History of Money*—“A fascinating book about the force that makes the world go round—the dollars, pounds, francs, marks, bahts, ringits, kwanzas, levs, birr, wellees, yuans, quetzales, paangas, ngultrums, ouguiyas, and other 200-odd brand names that collectively make up the mysterious thing we call money.”—*Los Angeles Times* “The History of Money stockpiles fascinating anecdotes and shining insights into humanity's long obsession with its most coveted possession.”—*Seattle Times* “[An] engaging analysis of all things bought and sold.”—*Hungry Mind Review* “An entertaining, on-the-money introduction to precisely what makes the world go round.”—*Kirkus Reviews* --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fascinating book. Before buying books I avoid Googling for reviews, and instead I search the author on social Media. Jack is a knowledgeable, passionate historian who places stories at the center of his lessons. That's his one downside as far as I can tell. I get the sense he corrals history to fit

narratives. He's not making things up! He's just leaving out counter arguments for the most part. That's all! But as someone who was raised to believe money was basically the root of all evil, this book has been an EXCELLENT introduction into where it came from and why we all use it!

Such a fine book. So accessible, yet so researched. The chapter on the origins of money in ancient Lydia (near ancient Troy) is unforgettable. Weatherford is an ethnographer who sees far beyond the ken of most economists, perhaps even J. M. Keynes and Adam Smith. The book is a great read for anyone over 17 or 18. I wish professional economists would read it. And then read Weatherford's even more amazing *Indian Givers*, which goes articulates the enormous contribution of Native Americans (in North and South America) to the growth of European and American capitalism itself. reviewers fault this book on relatively trivial matters. Yes, it's dated; it appeared in 1998 and guess what the world's money system has changed. Weatherford is writing about change: about the almost unimaginable changes the world's systems of regulating commerce and trade are undergoing. Most economists don't even want to think about that.

I'm a fan of Jack Weatherford's *Genghis Khan*, and wanted to learn more about history of money. Not nearly as interesting as *Genghis Khan*, but well researched and well written account. Money has a surprisingly short history and learning how money works makes the advent of e-money all the more likely.

This is a great book! I learned some really cool things as well as some useful ones. Everyone should read this book. You'll never watch the "Wizard of Oz" again without realizing its allegorical connection to money (read the book to find out what I am talking about).

Most enjoyable. Professor Weatherford has a gift of keeping you reading. As I was concluding the last 50 pages I was sad because I didn't want it to end. I read "Genghis Kahn, and the Making of the Modern World," and felt the same. Looking forward to start reading, "Genghis Kahn and the Quest for God. " The Mongol empire was fascinating and should be studied more diligently.

Money is used as threads for an interesting discussion of the entire human civilization. Great attempt for writing human history. There's one important miss though. The Federal Reserve deserves a whole chapter. So after so much epical reading, I'm still at large how money is issued systematically in the US, which is one of the primary questions for which i seek an answer, when i

bought this book.

I had to read this book for a macroeconomics class, and I have to say, it provided a wonderful break from my normal textbook. The book is written with the average reader in mind and really keeps you interested, which you probably wouldn't find in any other book titled "The History of Money". One thing I did notice while reading was that it was kind of gory, which was actually really fun. The author tied in a lot of human sacrifice/burning at the stake explanations in the beginning few chapters. It was seemingly out of place and described really explicitly, but it /did/ keep me reading. My one complaint is that it does seem vaguely unorganized in how it leads you through the creation and history of money. It's probably just my OCD tendencies begging for a neatly structured (and boring) timeline, but it did bother me a little nonetheless. Definitely an interesting read if you want to learn something, but avoid tedium.

I initially borrowed the book from my local library. I then decided to buy it because I thought that it would be a great book to share with my children and to have around as a reference. While the intro is a bit odd (comparing the life of a tribe woman to that of a wall street banker), the book is very well researched, full of good facts and is written in an engaging manner. My only issue is with the last few chapters, those dealing current times (like electronic money, etc.) -- these chapters felt a bit rushed and abrupt. I bought this book after reading Robert Kiyosaki's Rich Dad Poor Dad (which I decided to buy as well). In that book Mr. Kiyosaki asserts that schools fail to educate us about money resulting in people trained to be good employees but poor businessman and poor investors. Being a product of such education system, I wholeheartedly agreed with him so I decided to buy The History of Money to start filling in the missing info. Reading The History of Money was my first step in that journey and it surely helped me. Enjoy!

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