

[Ebook pdf] The Man of Numbers: Fibonacci's Arithmetic Revolution by Devlin, Keith (2012)

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From Bloomsbury Paperbacks : The Man of Numbers: Fibonacci's Arithmetic Revolution by Devlin, Keith (2012) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Man of Numbers: Fibonacci's Arithmetic Revolution by Devlin, Keith (2012):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great book on maths history for a general audienceBy A customerThis book is an immensely enjoyable read, and nobody needs to be a mathematician to understand it. There is some maths in it, but you don't miss the message if you skip those parts. It isn't so much a biography of Leonardo of Pisa, nicknamed Fibonacci, since very little is known about his life. But it is an engrossing and well-told story of how the numbers and arithmetic operations that have become such an essential part of our lives came to us, from India, via Muslim scholars and then Leonardo, to us. It is also part history of the teaching of maths. The most interesting part, for me, was not the Rabbit Problem which gave rise to the famous Fibonacci sequence (where Devlin takes the opportunity to bust some pop-culture myths), but rather, how humans first developed the concept of zero and how to do math with it. Highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Mathematical History accessible to the general audienceBy Infinite LoopGreat history lesson on the development of Hindu-Arabic arithmetic and how it slowly made its way to Europe.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. East to WestBy troyesffigyThis book is one of many recent works that labors to dispel the illusion that there was a wall between Muslim cultures and 'western' European culture. The two cultures were indeed in constant peaceful contact through the world of commerce, it was this contact that eventually allowed the west to advance technologically and intellectually.

This book's focus is specifically on the mathematical knowledge transmitted from east to west. The book does a great job telling the story but the main complaint (for me) is that some of the examples the author delves into are slightly opaque. If you love numbers and are, more mathematical than I am you will probably not see fault!