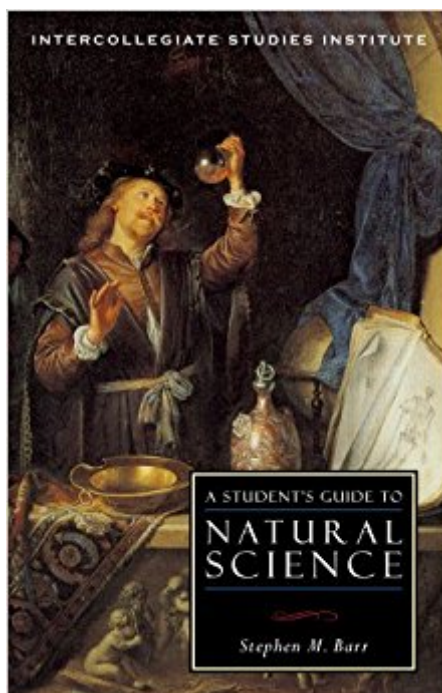


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A Students Guide To Natural Science (Guides To Major Disciplines)



Synopsis

Physicist Stephen M. Barr's lucid Student's Guide to Natural Science aims to give students an understanding, in broad outline, of the nature, history, and great ideas of natural science from ancient times to the present, with a primary focus on physics. Barr begins with the contributions of the ancient Greeks, in particular the two great ideas that reality can be understood by the systematic use of reason and that phenomena have natural explanations. He goes on to discuss, among other things, the medieval roots of the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century, the role played by religion in fostering the idea of a lawful natural order, and the major breakthroughs of modern physics, including how many newer "revolutionary" theories are in fact related to much older ones. Throughout this thoughtful guide, Barr draws his readers' attention to the larger themes and trends of scientific history, including the increasing unification and "mathematization" of our view of the physical world that has resulted in the laws of nature appearing more and more as forming a single harmonious mathematical edifice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stephen M. Barr is a theoretical particle physicist on the faculty of the Bartol Research Institute of the University of Delaware, where he holds the rank of professor. He has published over 125 papers in research journals in the fields of particle physics and cosmology and has also written numerous articles and book reviews on science and religion for such magazines as First Things (on

whose editorial advisory board he sits), National Review, the Public Interest, and Academic Questions. His book Modern Physics and Ancient Faith was published in 2003.

Concise, well written, and informative.

I find this most interesting and from this reading just like the others plan on ordering other books to read

This is one of a series of small books aimed, I think, at high school seniors thinking of attending college but without sufficient education to have a clue about what to expect in college level courses. Readers of these small books will end up with an expectation which they can then compare to curriculum offerings. Many colleges and universities offer courses which are worse than useless and the avoiding of these will save money and minds. Barr is a scientist who can write for a general audience and is part of the new group of non determinists formed since the discovery of Da Vinci's writings-the ones which poked an unhealed hole into so-called Enlightenment history of science.

I bought this book for a 6th through 8th grade class, got it in the mail, began to read and it's wayyyyyy to difficult for middle school! Definitely college level or an advanced junior/senior high school student. I have a Master's degree and Bachelor's degree in History but still had to seriously concentrate to understand parts of this book. The good news is that it is only 74 pages long, but it may take a month to force my 7th grader to read it as I'm explaining every sentence. No wonder kids aren't fond of history! My honest advice: If your teacher wants this book, pick another class.

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