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## Book Review: The Big Bang: A View from the 21st Century

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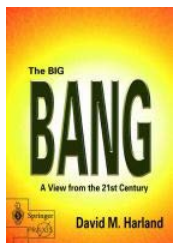
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## The big bang : a view from the 21st century



Harland, David M. Springer/Praxis, 2003

262p, 1-85233-713-3 \$39.95

LC Call Number: [QB991](#)

Harland's nicely written book chronicles the rapidly developing field of cosmology--the place where astronomy and particle physics converge. Beginning with a short primer on elementary astronomy, Harland (space historian, UK) leads readers on a whirlwind tour of basic electromagnetic theory, quantum mechanics, gravitational theory, and particle physics--all this in about 100 pages! Readers should not be intimidated; this is just the most essential background for his discourse on one of the late 20th century's most significant discoveries: that not only is the universe expanding at an accelerating rate, but the vast majority of it is invisible, and quite different from the matter and energy we experience in our daily activities. The book is liberally sprinkled with useful charts and photos that illustrate the more difficult concepts. It is written in a nontechnical yet accurate manner that will appeal to science buffs. The story line gives a good sense of the real way science advances in fits and starts, yet ultimately gets at the truth. This reviewer is glad to have this book on his shelf.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers; lower-division undergraduates through graduate students; two-year technical program students.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Two-Year Technical Program Students

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

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