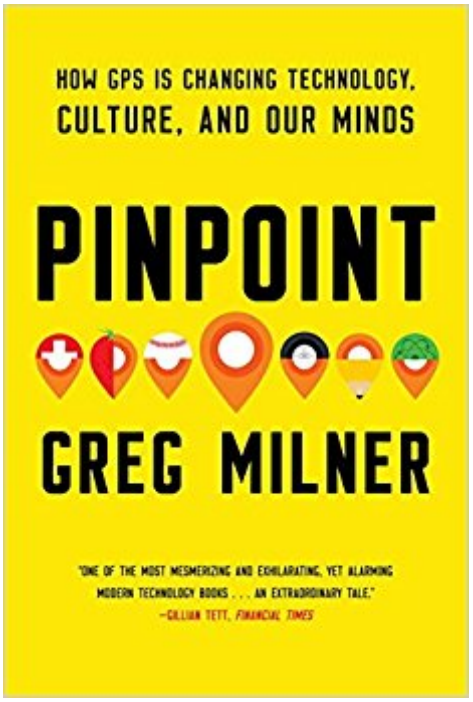
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Pinpoint: How GPS Is Changing Technology, Culture, And Our Minds



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“One of the most mesmerizing and exhilarating, yet alarming modern technology books . . . an extraordinary tale.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Gillian Tett, Financial TimesOver the last fifty years, humanity has developed an extraordinary shared utility: the Global Positioning System. Even as it guides us across town, GPS helps land planes, route mobile calls, anticipate earthquakes, predict weather, locate oil deposits, measure neutrinos, grow our food, and regulate global finance. It is as ubiquitous and essential as another Cold War technology, the Internet. In Pinpoint, Greg Milner takes us on a fascinating tour of a hidden system that touches almost every aspect of our modern life.While GPS has brought us breathtakingly accurate information about our planetary environment and physical space, it has also created new forms of human behavior. We have let it saturate the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s systems so completely and so quickly that we are just beginning to confront the possible consequences. A single GPS timing flaw, whether accidental or malicious, could bring down the electrical grid, hijack drones, or halt the world financial system. The use, and potential misuse, of GPS data by government and corporations raise disturbing questions about ethics and privacy. GPS may be altering the nature of human cognitionÃ¢â ¬â ¢possibly even rearranging the gray matter in our heads.Pinpoint tells the sweeping story of GPS from its conceptual origins as a bomb guidance system to its presence in almost everything we do. Milner examines the different ways humans have understood physical space, delves into the neuroscience of cognitive maps, and questions GPSÃ¢â ¬â„¢s double-edged effect on our culture. A fascinating and original story of the scientific urge toward precision, Pinpoint offers startling insight into how humans understand their place in the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“GPS guides our world. Here at last is the amazing and well-told story of where it came from, how it works, and where itÃ¢â ¬â ¢and weÃ¢â ¬â ¢are going.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer PrizeÃ¢â ¬â œwinning author of The Making of the Atomic BombÃ¢â ¬Å“In Pinpoint, Greg Milner gives us a much-needed account of GPS, its history, philosophy, and the overwhelming consequences of its success. Funny, scary, and tremendously readable, Pinpoint will be an eye-opening thrill for anyone who has watched their blue dot dance around an online map.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Andrew Blum, author of TubesÃ¢â ¬Å“Milner is a brisk and funny guide.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Konstantin Kakaes, Wall Street JournalÃ¢â ¬Å“No technology has transformed the human landscape so completely, yet been taken for granted so quickly, as GPS. The reason that brains are so good at storing maps is because the brain is a map, and our collective internal map is now migrating somewhere else. Greg MilnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Pinpoint is a fascinating chronicle of how this happened and whyÃ¢â ¬â ¢captured before the details had a chance to escape.Ã¢â ¬Â• - George DysonÃ¢â ¬Å“An informative yarn.Ã¢â ¬Â• - James Anthony, Evening StandardÃ¢â ¬Å“[A] joy to readÃ¢â ¬Â¦ It will be a strong contender for my science book of 2016.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Clive Cookson, Financial TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“One of the most mesmerizing and exhilarating, yet alarming modern technology booksÃ¢â ¬Â¦ By any standards, it is an extraordinary tale.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Gillian Tett, Financial TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“[A]ssured technological history.Ã¢â ¬Â• - NatureÃ¢â ¬Å“A deeply researched book with fascinating interludes... [Milner] explains the technological principles lucidly.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Stephen Poole, New StatesmanÃ¢â ¬Å“[A] suitably precise and fascinating account of the modern evolution of [GPS]... Milner expertly deconstructs the implications of this monumental shift in human life.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Tim Adams, ObserverÃ¢â ¬Å“In this startling and persuasive book, American journalist Greg Milner shows how [GPS] saturates our existence... [Milner] suggests that GPS is as potent and pervasive a force as the Internet Ã¢â ¬â œ if much less well understood.Ã¢â ¬Â• - James McConachie, Sunday TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“[A] welcome guide to where [GPS] came from, what it does and where it might be taking us.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Damian Whitworth, The TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“Dramatically illustrating just what the GPS might be taking from the human race, Milner recounts the feats of early Polynesian seafarers who traversed wide Pacific expanses guided by nothing but their dauntless minds. . . . [A] fascinating probe into an increasingly ubiquitous

technology.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Bryce Christensen, Booklist (starred review)

Greg Milner is the author of Perfecting Sound Forever, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. His writing has appeared in Wired, New York, Slate, Village Voice, Salon, Spin, and Rolling Stone. He lives with his family in Brooklyn, New York.

If you are interested in changing times and what appears to be common stuff read this book.Wonderfully written and easily followed. Still it delves deeply into the thing we know as GPS.Starts with far, far back how we and others navigated. Then carries us through the many developments and changes that caused us to arrive where we are. Where we are now is really an interesting part that you shouldn't miss. GPS has spawned all sorts of connected systems - things that we can do because of the original GPS and how we are now far beyond it yet dependent still.An excellent read.

Fascinating. I have always known where I am and which direction to go next. I have never felt lost. I've made (driven) seven cross-country trips- there and back- of America, two of Canada, and one from London to the Hebrides. I have train-travelled in most of Western Europe and some of Eastern Europe. Alone in Berlin, I used a city map to walk from the train station to the Berlin Wall. Maps have always intrigued me. Knowing where I am and where I want to go next has defined my life. Reading Greg Milner's book has given me a foundation to my horror and worry that henceforth this skill and experience are lost.

A good description of the development and implementation of GPS by the military. The author curiously neglected uses of GPS by business. UPS gives their drivers the routes they will take each day, including avoiding left turns wherever possible to save time.

This book kept my attention through and through. The author covers all sorts of GPS history, its implications, and its future. The book had a good pace to it, captivating the reader's attention from the beginning of each chapter through the end.

This is s great view into the history of navigation and technology we take for granted. It's as informative as it is well written and fun to read.

Pin Point is Spot on. Learn how our current GPS technology that we all depend on daily is linked to the past 40 years. Try to image now what it would be like without it. Praise for the Armed Forces and Public Corporations who now provide us with this incredible technology. With an armada of satellites circling the Earth, we are linked through multiple sources for defining our arrival expectations. Learn about the only Air Force Base in the world without a landing strip and the dedicated soldiers who guard it every second of every day. Learn about other nation states and their GPS technology and how it's shared.

Phenomenal. Cerebral. And fascinating to learn about how integral this Nixon-Era technology is to everything happens today on our planet. Despite the potential dryness and humdrum nature of the science, Milner gives the subject life and vitality.

I didn't enjoy it as much as I expected. I guess I wasn't ready for the philosophical portions of the book. I just wanted to know more details and stories and less on how GPS relates to how our brain functions.

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