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I'm trying to make up my mind whether Infinitesimal: How a Dangerous Mathematical Theory Shaped the Modern World by Amir Alexander is a religious, political, and social history with a mathematics theme, or a focused history of an important branch of mathematics irresistibly gift-wrapped in colorful religious, political, and social packaging. Ultimately, it is of no consequence in this deeply-absorbing and tantalizing tale of a world on the brink of discovering calculus.

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Infinitesimal: Not at all! This book pulls together a number of areas that may not be expected. It does it in a writing style that reads so compellingly, that I found it to be as difficult to put down as the best novel. It is a history that almost seems like the present day. Math was never so interesting. Now I'm off to buy his other two books.

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Infinitesimal: How a Dangerous Mathematical Theory Shaped the Modern World, Amir Alexander, 2014. 368 pp. including diagrams, bibliography, appendix: "Dramatis Personae," and index. \$27 hardcover, ISBN 978-0-374-17681-5. New York: Scientific American / Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The brotherhood railed at the new mathematical concept.

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Infinitesimal: How a Dangerous Mathematical Theory Shaped the Modern World. Amir Alexander Scientific American/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, April 2014 US\$27.00/US\$16.00, 368 pages precisely the champions of offensive infinitesimals who Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-0-37-417681-5 propelled mathematics forward, while the rational critics Paperback ISBN-13: 978-0-37-453499-8.

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Infinitesimal captures beautifully a world on the cusp of inventing calculus but not quite there, struggling with what might be lost in the process of rendering mathematics less certain and familiar., In *Infinitesimal: How a Dangerous Mathematical Theory Shaped the Modern World*, Amir Alexander successfully weaves a gripping narrative of the historical struggle over the seemingly innocuous topic of infinitesimals.

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