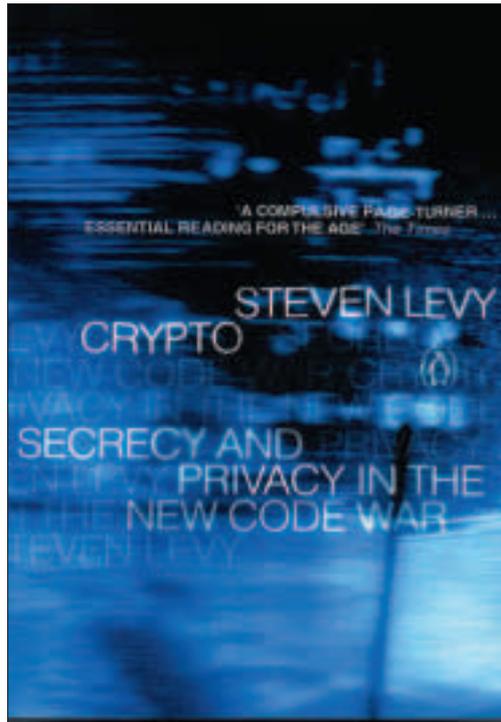


CRYPTO

Lets get this out in the open from the start: I did not like this book. I found the style of writing to be verbose and it will date easily with its frequent use of modern "buzz" phrases. That said I found the subject matter to be sufficiently fascinating to read through to the end and for those of you who like this style of writing the book should be a very good read. It deals with the development of cryptography since the 1960s and its role in the development of global communications. It covers in depth the creation of RSA and DES and explores the motives of the men behind them. The latter part of the book goes into the often secret battles between scientists and the fledgling encryption industry and the shadowy government forces, out to protect the interests of national security. Most of the book is based in the US and only the last



chapter goes into any detail about the activities of encryption experts in Britain and Europe. The development of PGP is mentioned, although not in as much detail as RSA and several pages are devoted to the court case against Phil Zimmerman.

Crypto is an interesting work about an important subject, that affects all of us, often without us realising, and apart from the irritating style it is written in, it could be a god read for anyone wanting to find out more on the topic. The text is supported by extensive notes and a bibliography for those wanting to continue their own research.

Author	Steven Levy
Publisher	Penguin
Price	£7.99
ISBN	9-780140-244328

CLONING SILICON VALLEY

This is a business text. The book seemed very promising at the start, an examination of technological clusters around the world and their similarities and differences to Silicon Valley in the US. David Rosenberg picks out six areas around the world to focus on in depth, asking the same questions about each to give a unified overview of what they are like. It might have been interesting to have asked the same questions about Silicon Valley itself to give a comprehensive picture of the contrasts. The text was very business orientated, which I found a little off putting and sometimes incomprehensible. A glossary of terms would have been useful and some explanation of the parameters of the data in the tables might have helped. Possibly I was prejudiced by an in depth analysis of

technology companies around Cambridge that barely mentioned Sinclair Research in passing, but at times seemed to be including half of southern England under Cambridge. I found the other places covered in the book, Helsinki, Tel Aviv, Bangalore, Singapore and Hsinchu-Taipei more interesting, possibly because I know less about them. As a guide to the next generation of high tech business leaders it is a very useful text with much to think about. Unfortunately I cannot recommend it as an entertaining read.

Author	David Rosenberg
Publisher	Reuters
Price	£18.99
ISBN	9-781903-684061

