



AGAINST THE GODS: THE REMARKABLE STORY OF RISK

PETER L. BERNSTEIN

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How does the curiosity of three young mathematicians regarding the win-lose situations in a game of chance form the foundation of a multi-million dollar enterprise in today's world? Risk assessment is used in every aspect of human life, but a few centuries ago there was little that resembled it. The emergence of the number zero changed the world of mathematics substantially and paved the way for the field to move towards the study of outcomes. Probability seems almost common sense to us nowadays, but its basic principles were not developed until Blaise Pascal, Pierre de Fermat and Gottfried Leibniz contributed to the field, mainly to understand the outcome of a gambling game. Bernstein's book traverses through the mathematical world of probability and builds the readers' understanding of math and chance through the journey. It puts the subject of risk assessment in a world view that mixes story-telling and numbers in a magical recipe to explain the mystery of mathematics.

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