

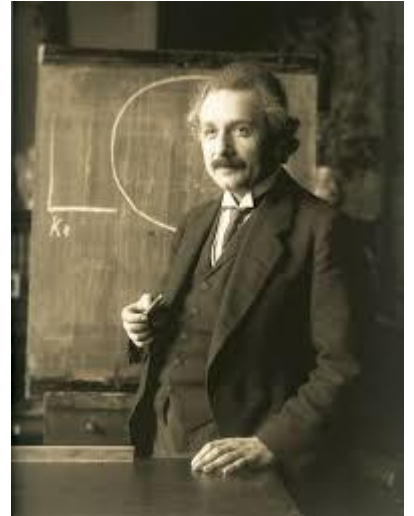
GEOFF WILKINS' FOURTH BLOG – ALBERT EINSTEIN

"The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible"

This blog is partly intended to publicise my new (and still growing) Web site on Albert Einstein, which is at <http://www.albert-einstein.info/> - check it out!

As one would expect for someone who radically changed our whole scientific understanding of the physical world, there is a huge amount of material about Einstein on the Web. My blog and Web site are aimed at those who have little or no knowledge of physics, but who know just enough about Einstein to want to learn a bit more.

Wikipedia, at the start of a very long article on Einstein, says



Albert Einstein (14 March 1879 – 18 April 1955) was a German-born [theoretical physicist](#). He developed the [general theory of relativity](#), one of the two pillars of [modern physics](#) (alongside [quantum mechanics](#)). Einstein's work is also known for its influence on the [philosophy of science](#). Einstein is best known in popular culture for his [mass–energy equivalence](#) formula $E = mc^2$ (which has been dubbed "the world's most famous equation"). He received the 1921 [Nobel Prize in Physics](#) for his "services to theoretical physics", in particular his discovery of the law of the [photoelectric effect](#), a pivotal step in the evolution of [quantum theory](#).

Einstein was German-born, but also Jewish, which influenced the course of his life (he moved from Germany to the USA following the rise of the Nazis, and became an American citizen); and perhaps also his politics and his active support of civil rights. He was a socialist, critical of capitalism, and a vigorous campaigner for world peace (and for a Jewish homeland).

His campaigning for world peace may also have been fired by the fact that his scientific theories were the basis for the development of nuclear weapons – although he himself was not involved in that development. He did, however, support a letter sent in 1939 to the US President, recommending that the US engage in nuclear weapons research because of the danger that Hitler was already developing such weapons. In 1954, he said, "I made one great mistake in my life - when I signed the letter to President Roosevelt recommending that atom bombs be made; but there was some justification - the danger that the Germans would make them ..."

To learn more about him, go to <http://www.albert-einstein.info/>

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