

FAREED'S BRIEFING BOOK

12-20-2009

CLIMATE CHANGE

Nathan Myhrvold

Dr. Myhrvold is CEO and managing director of [Intellectual Ventures](#), a private entrepreneurial firm he founded with his former Microsoft colleague, Dr. Edward Jung. He currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Department of Physics at the University of Washington. He is also an affiliate research associate of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies where he funds and participates in paleontological research and yearly expeditions.

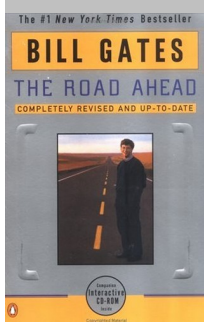


Myhrvold describes Intellectual Ventures as a company that "invests in inventions." Intellectual Ventures has over 20,000 purchased patents and applications and over 2000 internally-developed inventions. Dr. Myhrvold personally holds 18 patents and has more than 100 patents pending.

Before Intellectual Ventures, Myhrvold spent 14 years with the Microsoft Corporation. He held various positions within the company and was responsible for founding Microsoft Research and numerous technology groups that resulted in many of Microsoft's most successful products.

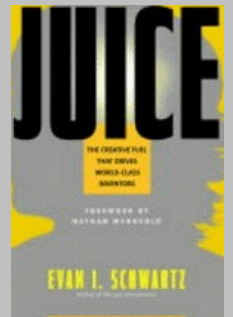
Myhrvold began working for Microsoft after the company he founded and presided over, Dynamical Systems, was acquired by Microsoft. Prior to that, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the department of applied mathematics and theoretical physics at Cambridge University and worked with Professor Stephen Hawking on research in cosmology, quantum field theory in curved space time and quantum theories of gravitation.

Myhrvold began college at age 14, getting his master's degree in geophysics and space physics and a bachelor's degree in mathematics at UCLA. He then went to Princeton where he simultaneously worked on and obtained a master's degree in mathematical economics and a Ph.D in theoretical and mathematical physics at the same university -- all done by the age of 23.



Since then he has published scientific papers in many journals including Science, Nature, Paleobiology and the Physical Review. His paper "Cyberpaleontology - Supersonic Sauropods," co-authored with Dr. Philip Currie, was added to the Smithsonian Institution's 1998 Innovation collection and was one of the 1998 finalists for the Computerworld Smithsonian Innovation Awards. He has contributed to many popular magazines including Fortune, Time, Talk Magazine, National Geographic Traveler and the online magazine, Slate.

He co-authored the *New York Times* number one bestseller entitled [The Road Ahead](#), with Bill Gates. In 2004, he provided the foreword to a book profiling some of the world's greatest inventors – [Juice: The Creative Fuel That Drives World-Class Inventors](#)



Dr. Myhrvold is a member of the United Way's Million Dollar Roundtable and a regular contributor to local Seattle arts and education non-profits. In 2000, he partnered with Paul Allen and pledged \$1 million to the SETI Foundation, to fund the development phase of the world's most powerful telescope – the Allen Telescope Array.

MORE:



["Nathan Myhrvold Profile"](#) *Forbes*

["Annals of Innovation: In the Air"](#) *The New Yorker*

["Nathan Myhrvold"](#) *Silobreaker*

[Myhrvold, Nathan - Archive](#) *The New Yorker*

CLIMATE CHANGE

["Stratoshield: Nathan Myhrvold explains how to save the planet"](#) *TechFlash*

[Here](#) are his contributions to the *New York Times* Freakonomics Blog

["Is Shanghai Turning Pro or Just Building High? A Guest Post"](#) *New York Times*

["The Truth About Peking Duck and Other Beijing Reflections: A Guest Post"](#) *New York Times*

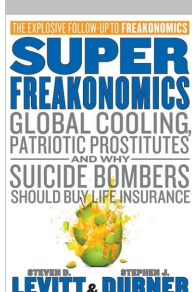
["Are Solar Panels Really Black? And What Does That Have to Do With the Climate Debate?"](#) *New York Times*

["Eating Polar Bears Is Okay in Greenland"](#) *New York Times*

["ClimateGate as Rorschach Test"](#) *New York Times*

["Superfreakonomics: More play with bizarre facts & data"](#) *Moneycontrol.com*

More from the [Freakonomics Blog - NYTimes.com](#)



[Superfreakonomics](#) by Steven Dubner and Steven Levitt.

The book is a sequel to these economists' huge best-seller, [Freakonomics](#), or what publicists are calling it, a "FREAK-quel." It is more on the same fascinating idea that made the first book sell so well: when you see irrational behavior, you need only to understand the incentives that led to the behavior to make sense of the behavior. The authors use their counterintuitive approach to explain everything from prostitution to children's car seats -- though Fared does not always agree with them, they make wonderfully entertaining arguments.

CONTROVERSY/CRITIQUES

[“The Freakonomists Against the World”](#) *TIME*

[“Nathan Myhrvold at D6: Don't call me a patent troll”](#) *Webware - CNET*

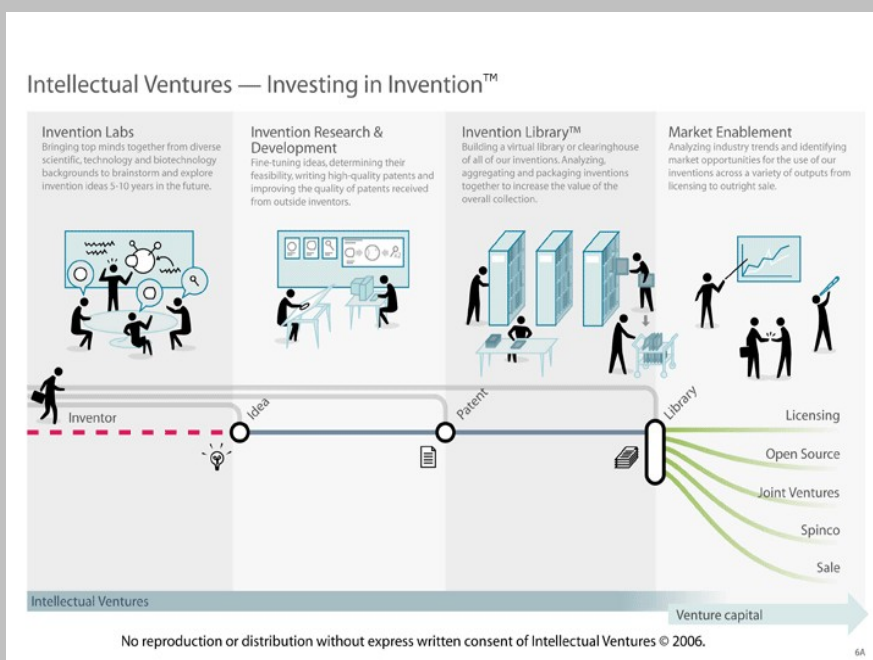
[“The Delusions Of Nathan Myhrvold”](#)

INTELLECTUAL VENTURES

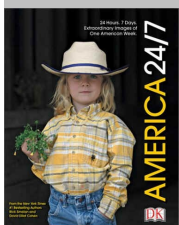
[Intellectual Ventures](#)

Intellectual Ventures [fact sheet](#)

[“Inside Nathan Myhrvold's shiny new invention lab”](#) *Tech Flash*



PHOTOGRAPHY AND OTHER HOBBIES



Dr. Myhrvold is an avid nature and wildlife photographer. His photographs have been featured in the books [America 24/7](#) and [Washington 24/7](#).



[PENGUINS! A Falklands Photo Essay \[1.19.07\]](#)

Here is the scientific paper Nathan Myhrvold mentions entitled [Pressures Produced when penguins pooh- calculations on avian defecation](#) *Polar Biology*

[LIONS: AFRICA'S MAGNIFICENT PREDATORS \[8.1.07\]](#)

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Myhrvold is an assistant chef at one of Seattle's leading French restaurants and is currently working on a cookbook surveying the science, technology and techniques used in modern cuisine.

["The Chef"](#)

[“Nathan Myhrvold's Cookbook”](#)

[“Former Microsoft Genius Masters the Culinary Art of Sous-Vide”](#) *Wired*

[“Scientist at Work - Nathan Myhrvold - After Microsoft, Bringing a High-Tech Eye to Professional Kitchens”](#) *New York Times*

VALI NASR

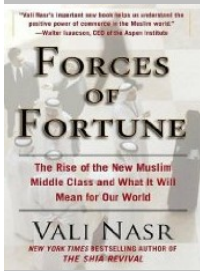
Vali Nasr

Vali Nasr was named senior advisor to Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, in February 2009. He was born in Iran, from which his family fled after the 1979 revolution.

He is a professor of International Politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center at Harvard University, and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He advised the President and Vice-President in 2006 regarding sectarian violence in Iraq.

He has taught at several universities including the University of San Diego, University of California, San Diego, Stanford and Tufts. His opinion pieces have appeared in: *The Christian Science Monitor*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Foreign Policy*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, as well as *Der Spiegel*, *La Repubblica*, and *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Nasr has been profiled in *The Wall Street Journal*, *La Repubblica* and *The National*.

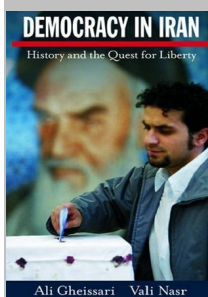
BOOKS:



[Forces of Fortune: The Rise of the New Muslim Middle Class and What It Will Mean for Our World](#) is Nasr's latest book. In it, he argues that mainstream Muslims are fighting the extremists in their midst with a new tool -- Capitalism.

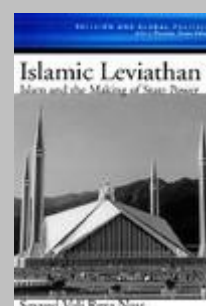
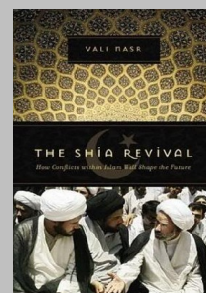
[The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will shape the Future](#)

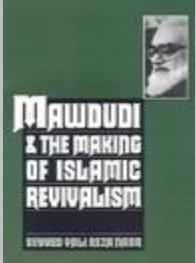
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[Democracy in Iran: History and the Quest for Liberty](#)

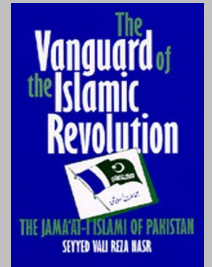
[Islamic Leviathan: Islam and the Making of State Power](#)





[Mawdudi and the Making of Islamic Revivalism](#)

[The Vanguard of the Islamic Revolution: The Jama'at-i Islami of Pakistan](#)



Articles

“South Asia Circa 1920-Present,” *The New Cambridge History of Islam V* (forthcoming).

[“The Cost of Containing Iran,”](#) *Foreign Affairs*

[“When the Shiites Rise,”](#) *Foreign Affairs*

[“The Conservative Consolidation in Iran,”](#) (co-author) *Survival*

[“The Rise of Muslim Democracy,”](#) *Journal of Democracy*

[“Regional Implications of Shi’a Revival in Iraq,”](#) *The Washington Quarterly*

[“Military Rule, Islamism, and Democracy in Pakistan,”](#) *The Middle East Journal*