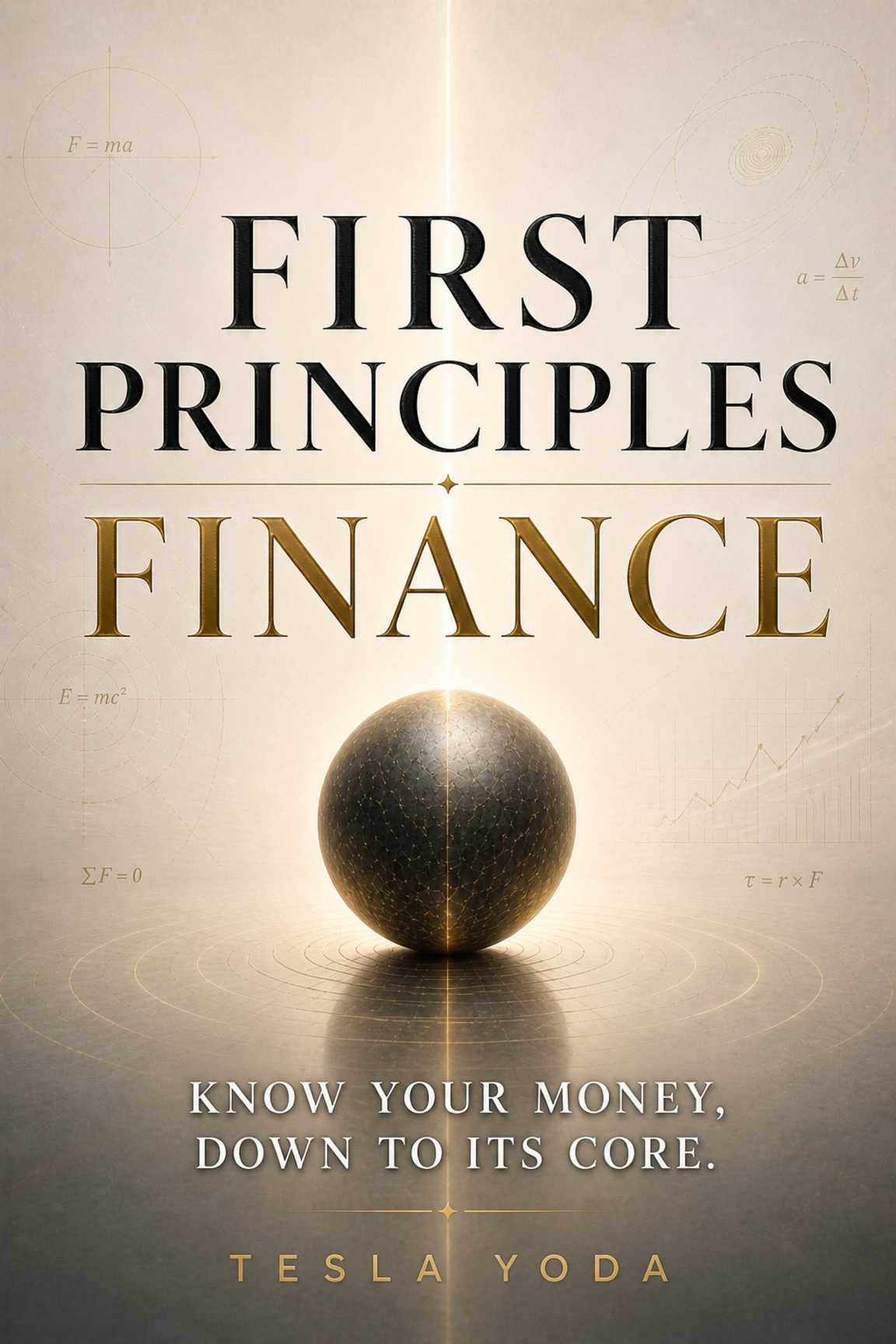




$F = ma$

$a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$

FIRST PRINCIPLES FINANCE

$E = mc^2$

$\Sigma F = 0$

$\tau = r \times F$

KNOW YOUR MONEY,
DOWN TO ITS CORE.

T E S L A Y O D A

Money

What money is — and why it shrinks while you sleep

What you were taught: Money is what you earn by working hard.

What it actually is: *Money is a story. A shared agreement that lets us trade value across time, distance, and strangers. It works because enough people believe it does — and not a moment longer.*

Pull a twenty-dollar bill out of your wallet. Hold it under a lamp. It is a piece of cotton-linen fiber, printed with green ink, worth about two cents to manufacture. You would trade it for a sandwich, a haircut, or twenty minutes of a plumber's time.

Why? Not because of what it is. Because of what we have collectively agreed it represents.

That agreement is held up by an enormous, mostly invisible apparatus: the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, commercial banks, payment networks, the people behind the counter, you. Stop believing in it and the paper goes back to being paper. This actually happens. It has happened to every empire that ever printed currency too freely.

Most of the money supply doesn't even exist as paper. The vast majority is entries in databases — numbers institutions agree to honor when you tap a card, swipe a phone, or get paid. When your paycheck hits, no truck pulls up. A number changes in one database, and another in yours, and that is the entire transaction.

The Real-World Example

You earn \$5,000 this month. You don't see it in cash. You see a notification. From there, more numbers move — to rent, to groceries, to streaming services, to a coffee. Behind every tap is a chain of trust running through banks, processors, and clearinghouses you will never meet. The fact that the system holds up under all of that traffic is genuinely remarkable. It also explains why every news headline about "the Fed"

feels both abstract and personally consequential. It is.

Behind the Scenes

The Federal Reserve has two main levers: interest rates and the size of the money supply. When the economy slows, it cuts rates and creates more money. When inflation runs hot, it raises rates and slows the printing. The dollars in your account react to those decisions whether or not you have ever heard of the FOMC.

And your bank? Your bank does not keep your deposits in a vault waiting for you. It lends most of them out. Your savings power somebody else's mortgage. Their loan becomes a deposit somewhere, which becomes another loan, and on it goes. This is fractional reserve banking. It is the reason "the money isn't really there" in any literal sense — and the reason the financial system functions at all.

“Money is a tool, not a destination. Treating it as the goal is like collecting hammers when you could be building something. Get clear on what it actually is, and what to do with it follows.”

Why this matters: Every concept in this book — inflation, interest, debt, investing — grows out of this single foundation. Money is a shared story. Once you see it that way, you stop being carried by it and start choosing your direction.

END OF PREVIEW

The rules have always been knowable.

First Principles Finance is 24 short chapters — covering money, inflation, debt, taxes, investing, real estate, and the math of financial freedom — written in plain English for people who were never actually taught any of this.

No products to sell. No twelve-step plan. Just the rules of a game you've been playing all along, finally written down.

Read it once. Revisit it for life.

Available now on Amazon