

# We know what you're reading this summer

McKinsey's annual reading list is back—reimagined for  
this pandemic year.



See the full list of responses below.

## Business leaders

**Bob Iger**, Executive chairman,  
The Walt Disney Company

- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Isabel Wilkerson
- *The Splendid and the Vile*, Erik Larson

**Oscar Munoz**, Executive chairman,  
United Airlines Holdings, Inc.

- *Separated: Inside an American Tragedy*, Jacob Soboroff

**Kenneth M. Jacobs**, Chairman and CEO, Lazard

- *The Splendid and the Vile*, Erik Larson
- *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*, Douglas A. Blackmon
- *Twilight of Democracy: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism*, Anne Applebaum

**Laxman Narasimhan**, CEO, Reckitt Benckiser

- *The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History*, John M. Barry
- *Wherever You Go, There You Are: Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life*, Jon Kabat-Zinn
- *Leadership: In Turbulent Times*, Doris Kearns Goodwin

**Katherine Garrett-Cox**, CEO,  
Gulf International Bank (UK)

- *The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis*, Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

**Glenn Kelman**, CEO, Redfin

- *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*, Cho Nam-Joo

**John Visentin**, CEO, Xerox

- *Scotty*, Ken Dryden
- *Ride of a Lifetime: Lessons Learned From 15 Years as CEO of The Walt Disney Company*, Bob Iger

**David Gibbs**, CEO, Yum! Brands

- *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*, Malcolm Gladwell

**Nandan Nilekani**, Chairman and cofounder, Infosys

- *What It Takes: Lessons in the Pursuit of Excellence*, Steve Schwarzman
- *Capitalism in America: An Economic History of the United States*, Alan Greenspan and Adrian Woolridge
- *Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism*, Dinyar Patel

**Peter Chapman**, President and CEO, IonQ

- *The Ride of a Lifetime: Lessons Learned from 15 Years as CEO of the Walt Disney Company*, Bob Iger
- *That Will Never Work: The Birth of Netflix and the Amazing Life of an Idea*, Marc Randolph

**Serge Saxonov**, Cofounder and CEO, 10x Genomics

- *The Billion Dollar Molecule: The Quest for the Perfect Drug*, Barry Werth
- *Reamde: A Novel*, Neal Stephenson
- *The Fabric of Reality: The Sciences of Parallel Universes—and Its Implications*, David Deutsch

**Thomas S. Gayner**, Co-CEO, Markel

- *The Power of Bad: How the Negativity Effect Rules Us and How We Can Rule It*, John Tierney and Roy Baumeister
- *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt*, Arthur C. Brooks
- *Days of Grace: A Memoir*, Arthur Ashe and Arnold Rampersad

### Global leaders

**François-Philippe Champagne**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada

- *Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st-Century Memoir*, Madeleine Albright
- *Seven Lessons for Leading in Crisis*, Bill George

**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, Director-General, World Health Organization

- *Inside Change: Transforming Your Organization with Emotional Intelligence*, Joshua Freedman and Massimiliano Ghini MBA
- *A World of Three Zeros: The New Economics of Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions*, Muhammad Yunus

**Joseph E. Stiglitz**, Professor, Columbia Business School; 2001 recipient, Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences

- *Mapmaker's Wife*, Robert Whittaker
- *The Great Influenza*, John M. Barry
- *Heavy*, Kiese Laymon
- *Too Much and Never Enough: How my Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man*, Mary L. Trump

### Technologists/entrepreneurs/ philanthropists

**Craig Newmark**, Founder, Craigslist and Craig Newmark Philanthropies

*Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy*, Margaret Sullivan

*The Mirror & the Light*, Hilary Mantel

*The City We Became: A Novel*, N. K. Jemisin

**Yoky Matsuoka**, CEO of the Lifestyle Business Strategy Division, Panasonic; former CTO of Google Nest and a cofounder of Google X

*A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*, Eckhart Tolle

**Sebastian Thrun**, CEO, Kitty Hawk, and chairman, Udacity

- *Einstein: His Life and Universe*, Walter Isaacson
- *Never Split the Difference: Negotiating As If Your Life Depended on It*, Chris Voss with Tahl Raz
- *Crossing the Chasm: Marketing and Selling Disruptive Products to Mainstream Customers*, Geoffrey A. Moore

**Debbie Sterling**, Founder and CEO, GoldieBlox

- *American Pastoral*, Philip Roth
- *American Dirt*, Jeanine Cummins
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, Bryan Stevenson
- *This Could Be Our Future: A Manifesto for a More Generous World*, Yancey Strickler

**Alberto Ibarguen**, President and CEO, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

- *The Twilight of Democracy: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism*, Anne Applebaum
- *The Coddling of the American Mind*, Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt
- *Self-Portrait in Black and White*, Thomas Chatterton Williams
- *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, Robin DiAngelo

**Mack Gill**, COO and board member, Torstone Technology

- *The Gene: An Intimate History*, Siddhartha Mukerjee
- *Good Economics for Hard Times*, Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo
- *The Mirror & the Light*, Hilary Mantel

**Gary Liu**, CEO, South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd

- *Factfulness*, Hans Rosling
- *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom*, John Pomfret
- *A History of Scotland*, Neil Oliver

**Richard Buery**, President, Achievement First, a charter-school network with 37 schools in Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island

- *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin
- *Deacon King Kong*, James McBride
- *Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice, from the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter*, Charlton D. McIlwain

**Angela Duckworth**, Founder and CEO, Character Lab at University of Pennsylvania

- *Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise*, Anders Ericsson

## Business media

**Matt Murray**, Editor in Chief, *Wall Street Journal*

- *The Revolt of the Elites and the Betrayal of Democracy*, Christopher Lasch
- *The Restless Kings: Henry II, His Sons and the Wars for the Plantagenet Crown*, Nick Barratt
- *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany*, William L. Shirer
- *Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life*, Alison Weir

**Gillian Tett**, Chair, editorial board, and Editor at Large, US, *Financial Times*

- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Isabel Wilkerson

**Alan Murray**, CEO, FORTUNE Media

- *George Marshall: Defender of the Republic*, David Roll

**Jessica Lessin**, Founder and Editor in Chief, *The Information*

- *Girl, Woman, Other*, Bernardine Evaristo
- *Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America*, Conor Dougherty

**Adi Ignatius**, Editor in Chief, *Harvard Business Review*

- *Eat the Buddha: Life and Death in a Tibetan Town*, Barbara Demick

**Stephanie Mehta**, Editor in Chief, *Fast Company*

- *Antisocial*, Andrew Marantz
- *Rodham*, Curtis Sittenfeld
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson

## Platforms

**Dan Roth**, Editor in Chief, LinkedIn

- *The Vanishing Half: A Novel*, Brit Bennett
- *Citizen Reporters: S.S. McClure, Ida Tarbell, and the Magazine That Rewrote America*, Stephanie Gorton
- *The Deficit Myth: Modern Monetary Theory and the Birth of the People's Economy*, Stephanie Kelton

**Katherine Maher**, CEO and executive director, Wikimedia Foundation

- *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine Keeble Wilkinson
- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Isabel Wilkerson
- *The History of White People*, Nell Irvin Painter

**Richard Gingras**, Vice president, News, Google

- *Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman*, Robert K. Massie
- *The Overstory: A Novel*, Richard Powers
- *The Big Goodnight: Chinatown and the Last Years of Hollywood*, Sam Wassan
- *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water*, Marc Reisner
- *Wolf Hall Trilogy*, Hilary Mantel

## TV/entertainment

**Jorge Ramos**, Coanchor, “Noticiero Univision,” host, “Al Punto,” and anchor, “Real America”

- *Intimations*, Zadie Smith
- *My Time To Speak: Reclaiming Ancestry and Confronting Race*, Ilia Calderón
- *La Corresponsal*, Cristina De Stefano

**Dan Lemon**, Anchor, “CNN Tonight”

*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Isabel Wilkerson

*Intimations*, Zadie Smith

*The Beauty in Breaking: A Memoir*, Michele Harper

*The Vanishing Half: A Novel*, Brit Bennett

*Utopia Avenue: A Novel*, David Mitchell

*Finding Freedom: Harry and Meghan and the Making of a Modern Royal Family*, Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand

**Ali Velshi**, Host, “Velshi,” on MSNBC

- *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, Isabel Wilkerson
- *For the Love of Men: A New Vision for Mindful Masculinity*, Liz Plank
- *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*, Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

**Poorna Jagannathan**, Actor; producer, *Nirbhaya* (winner of the 2013 Amnesty International Award)

- *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, Valerie Kaur

**Adam Sharp**, President and CEO, National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, which oversees the Emmys

- *The Hardest Job in the World: The American Presidency*, John Dickerson
- *Action Park: Fast Times, Wild Rides, and the Untold Story of America's Most Dangerous Amusement Park*, Andy Mulvihill and Jake Rossen
- *Forever: A Novel*, Pete Hamill

**Ilia Calderón**, News anchor and cohost, "Noticiero Univision" and "Aquí y Ahora"

- *Say It Louder*, Tiffany D. Cross
- *Little Leaders*, Vashti Harrison
- *Three Women*, Lisa Taddeo

### Civil rights/freedom of expression

**Anthony D. Romero**, Executive director, ACLU

- *Manifesto for a Moral Revolution*, Jacqueline Novogratz
- *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin*, Terrance Hayes
- *The End of Policing*, Alex S. Vitale
- *The Human Stain*, Philip Roth
- *Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City*, Wes Moore
- *Democracy If We Can Keep It*, Ellis Cose
- *Men in the Off Hours*, Anne Carson
- *Caravaggio*, Howard Hibbard

**Jameel Jaffer**, Executive director, Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University

- *In Hoffa's Shadow: A Stepfather, a Disappearance in Detroit, and My Search for the Truth*, Jack Goldsmith
- *The Lehman Trilogy: A Novel*, Stefano Massini
- *Feel Free: Essays*, Zadie Smith

**Suzanne Nossel**, CEO, PEN America, and author, *Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All*

- *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story that Helped Ignite a Movement*, Jodi Kantor and Meghan Twohey
- *Intimations*, Zadie Smith
- *The Room Where It Happened*, John Bolton

### Diversity/inclusion activists

**Ellen Pao**, Cofounder and CEO, Project Include, and author, *Reset: My Fight for Inclusion and Lasting Change*

- *So You Want To Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo
- *Big Friendship: How We Keep Each Other Close*, Aminatou Sow and Ann Friedman
- *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*, Ruha Benjamin

**Marley Dias**, Founder, #1000BlackGirlBooks, activist, and author, *Marley Dias Gets It Done And So Can You!*

- *Harbor Me*, Jacqueline Woodson
- *Modern HERstory*, Blair Imani
- *Living Lively*, Haile Thomas

**Reshma Saujani**, Founder and CEO, Girls Who Code, and author, *Brave Not Perfect: How Celebrating Imperfection Helps You Live Your Best, Most Joyful Life*

— *The Vanishing Half: A Novel*, Brit Bennett

## Other media

**Radhika Jones**, Editor in Chief, *Vanity Fair*

— *A Burning*, Megha Majumdar

— *The Last Samurai*, Helen DeWitt

— *Transcendent Kingdom*, Yaa Gyasi

**Edward Felsenthal**, Editor in Chief and CEO of *Time*

— *Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of An Empire*, Alex von Tunzelmann

— *The Last Trial*, Scott Turow

**Mina Al-Oraibi**, Editor in Chief, *The National*, and World Economic Forum Young Global Leader

— *The Nature of Nature*, Enric Sala

— *Divided: Why We Are Living in an Age of Walls*, Tim Marshall

**Danielle Belton**, Editor in Chief, *The Root*

— *Too Much and Never Enough: How my Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man*, Mary L. Trump

— *Drink: The Intimate Relationship Between Women and Alcohol*, Ann Dowsett Johnson

— *The Hero With A Thousand Faces*, Joseph Campbell

— *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers*, Christopher Vogler

**Emily Ramshaw**, Cofounder and CEO, The 19th

— *The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, Elaine Weiss

**Nabiha Syed**, President, The Markup

— *A Burning: A Novel*, Megha Majumdar

— *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, James C. Scott

— *Overcomplicated: Technology at the Limits of Comprehension*, Samuel Arbesman

## Teachers/experts

**Dan Ariely**, James B. Duke Professor of psychology and behavioral economics, Duke University

— *How to Change Your Mind*, Michael Pollan

— *Oryx and Crake*, Margaret Atwood

**Ram Charan**, Business adviser, author, speaker

— *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind*, Raghuram Rajan

**Arturo Condo**, President, EARTH University

— *Manifesto for a Moral Revolution*, Jacqueline Novogratz

— *The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis*, Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

— *La Peste*, Albert Camus

— *Cien años de soledad*, Gabriel García Márquez

## McKinsey leaders

**Liz Hilton Segel**, senior partner, New York, and managing partner for McKinsey in North America

- *The World: A Brief Introduction*, Richard Haass

**Kevin Sneader**, global managing partner, Hong Kong

- *The Lehman Trilogy: A Novel*, Stefano Massini
- *1968: The Year That Rocked the World*, Mark Kurlansky
- *Ordinary Grace*, William Kent Krueger

**Pal Erik Sjatil**, senior partner, Paris, and managing partner for McKinsey in Europe

- *The Second World War*, Antony Beevor

**Pierre Gentin**, partner and general counsel, New York

- *Zelda Fitzgerald: Her Voice in Paradise*, Sally Cline
- *Tender is the Night*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Black Box*, Amos Oz
- *Lives Like Loaded Guns: Emily Dickinson and Her Family's Feuds*, Lyndall Gordon

**Lareina Yee**, senior partner, San Francisco

- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, Matthew Desmond
- *Exhalation: Stories*, Ted Chiang
- *All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr

**Acha Leke**, senior partner, Johannesburg

- *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, Yuval Noah Harari

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