2022 summer reading guide from leaders, authors, and editors

McKinsey’s annual books list is back—with something for everyone.
Biography & memoir

Azeem Azhar, creator, Exponential View
— Free: A Child and a Country at the End of History by Lea Ypi

Abhijit Banerjee, Nobel Prize laureate; economist; author, Cooking to Save Your Life
— Toast: The Story of a Boy’s Hunger by Nigel Slater

Sinéad Burke, CEO, Tilting the Lens
— Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law by Haben Girma

Óscar García Maceiras, CEO, Inditex
— Personal History by Katharine Graham

Radhika Jones, editor in chief, Vanity Fair
— Terms & Conditions: Life in Girls’ Boarding Schools, 1939–1979 by Ysenda Maxtone Graham

Leslie Maasdorp, vice president and CFO, New Development Bank
— Xi: A Study in Power by Kerry Brown

Kevin Merida, executive editor, Los Angeles Times
— His Name Is George Floyd: One Man’s Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice by Toluse Olorunniwa and Robert Samuels
— It Was All a Dream: Biggie and the World That Made Him by Justin Tinsley
— Shine Bright: A Very Personal History of Black Women in Pop by Danyel Smith

Lloyd B. Minor, dean, Stanford University School of Medicine
— In the Shadow of the Mountain: A Memoir of Courage by Silvia Vasquez-Lavado

Indra Nooyi, former CEO, PepsiCo
— The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel by Kati Marton

Reshma Saujani, founder, Girls Who Code; CEO, Marshall Plan for Moms
— Burn Rate: Launching a Startup and Losing My Mind by Andy Dunn

Christi Shaw, CEO, Kite Pharma
— Healing: When a Nurse Becomes a Patient by Theresa Brown
— This Will All Be Over Soon: A Memoir by Cecily Strong

Sylvana Quader Sinha, founder and CEO, Praava Health
— My Life in Full: Work, Family, and Our Future by Indra Nooyi

Albert Wenger, managing partner, Union Square Ventures
— The Argonauts by Maggie Nelson

Bob Sternfels, global managing partner, McKinsey
— Out of Thin Air: Running Wisdom and Magic from above the Clouds in Ethiopia by Michael Crawley

Tracy Francis, senior partner, McKinsey
— Ten Steps to Nanette: A Memoir Situation by Hannah Gadsby
Eric Kutcher, senior partner, McKinsey

— Never Enough: A Navy SEAL Commander on Living a Life of Excellence, Agility, and Meaning by Mike Hayes

— Phil: The Rip-Roaring (and Unauthorized!) Biography of Golf’s Most Colorful Superstar by Alan Shipnuck

Pierre M. Gentin, senior partner, McKinsey

— The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance by Edmund de Waal

Chris Bradley, senior partner, McKinsey

— Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J. D. Vance

Business & economics

François-Philippe Champagne, minister of innovation, science, and industry, Government of Canada

— The Next Age of Uncertainty: How the World Can Adapt to a Riskier Future by Stephen Poloz

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

— The Key Man: The True Story of How the Global Elite Was Duped by a Capitalist Fairy Tale by Simon Clark and Will Louch

Neil Hoyne, chief measurement strategist, Google


— The Voltage Effect: How to Make Good Ideas Great and Great Ideas Scale by John A. List

Leslie Maasdorp, vice president and CFO, New Development Bank

— The World for Sale: Money, Power, and the Traders Who Barter the Earth’s Resources by Javier Blas and Jack Farchy

Matt Murray, editor in chief, the Wall Street Journal

— 21st Century Monetary Policy: The Federal Reserve from the Great Inflation to COVID-19 by Ben S. Bernanke

Sylvana Quader Sinha, founder and CEO, Praava Health

— Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion, and Purpose by Tony Hsieh

Noel Quinn, CEO, HSBC

— Maverick: The Success Story behind the World’s Most Unusual Workplace by Ricardo Semler

Kiersten Saunders, cocreator, rich & REGULAR

— Build the Damn Thing: How to Start a Successful Business If You’re Not a Rich White Guy by Kathryn Finney

Shankar Vedantam, creator and host, Hidden Brain

— Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo

Daisy Veerasingham, president and CEO, the Associated Press

— No Rules Rules: Netflix and the Culture of Reinvention by Reed Hastings and Erin Meyer

David Vélez, cofounder and CEO, Nubank

— The Bitcoin Standard: The Decentralized Alternative to Central Banking by Saifedean Ammous
Amy Webb, founder and CEO, Future Today Institute
— Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty (translated by Arthur Goldhammer)

Lisa Witter, CEO, Apolitical Foundation; cofounder, Apolitical
— The XX Edge: Unlocking Higher Returns and Lower Risk by Patience Marime-Ball and Ruth Shaber

Jen L. Wong, COO, Reddit
— Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done by Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan

Fiction, poetry & essays

Mina Al-Oraibi, editor in chief, the National
— The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

Abhijit Banerjee, Nobel Prize laureate; economist; author, Cooking to Save Your Life
— Bluebird, Bluebird by Attica Locke
— On Photography by Susan Sontag

Sinéad Burke, CEO, Tilting the Lens
— Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century edited by Alice Wong
— Just by Looking at Him by Ryan O’Connell

Esther Duflo, professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Nobel Prize laureate
— Summer by Ali Smith

Óscar García Maceiras, CEO, Inditex
— Dogs of Summer by Andrea Abreu

Neil Hoyne, chief measurement strategist, Google
— The Wonderful Things You Will Be by Emily Winfield Martin

Paul Hudson, CEO, Sanofi
— The Paris Bookseller by Kerri Maher

Radhika Jones, editor in chief, Vanity Fair
— The Magician by Colm Tóibín

S. Mitra Kalita, CEO, URL Media; publisher, Epicenter NYC
— Brown Girls by Daphne Palasi Andreades
— Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells

Laxman Narasimhan, CEO, Reckitt Benckiser
— Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Manuel Rabaté, director, Louvre Abu Dhabi
— The Nabatī Poetry of the United Arab Emirates: Selected Poems, Annotated and Translated into English edited by Said Salman Abu Athera and Clives Holes

Marc Rosen, CEO, JCPenney
— The Maid by Nita Prose

Amy Webb, founder and CEO, Future Today Institute
— Upgrade by Blake Crouch

Albert Wenger, managing partner, Union Square Ventures
— Perhaps the Stars by Ada Palmer

Tracy Francis, senior partner, McKinsey
— Middlemarch by George Eliot
Magnus Tyreman, senior partner, McKinsey
— Ulvene fra evighetens skog (The wolves from the forest of eternity) by Karl Ove Knausgård

Ozgur Tanrikulu, senior partner, McKinsey
— Complete Tales & Poems of Edgar Allan Poe by Edgar Allan Poe
— Rumi: Whispers of the Beloved by Rumi (translated by Maryam Mafi and Azima Melita Kolin)

History

Mimi Alemayehou, senior vice president, Mastercard

Mina Al-Oraibi, editor in chief, the National
— The Hundred Years’ War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017 by Rashid Khalidi

Esther Duflo, professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Nobel Prize laureate
— A Brief History of Equality by Thomas Piketty (translated by Steven Rendall)

Benedict Evans, independent analyst
— Nature’s Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West by William Cronon
— Recollections of a Picture Dealer by Ambroise Vollard

Radhika Jones, editor in chief, Vanity Fair
— Portrait of a Novelist: Henry James and the Making of an American Masterpiece by Michael Gorra

Alan Murray, CEO, Fortune Media
— Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty by Patrick Radden Keefe
— The Man Who Broke Capitalism: How Jack Welch Gutted the Heartland and Crushed the Soul of Corporate America—and How to Undo His Legacy by David Gelles

Matt Murray, editor in chief, the Wall Street Journal
— The Civil War: A Narrative (Volume 1, Fort Sumter to Perryville) by Shelby Foote

Laxman Narasimhan, CEO, Reckitt Benckiser
— How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery across America by Clint Smith

Manuel Rabaté, director, Louvre Abu Dhabi
— Art contemporain africain: Histoire(s) d’une notion par celles et ceux qui l’ont faite by Cédric Vincent

Marc Rosen, CEO, JCPenney
— How Civil Wars Start: And How to Stop Them by Barbara F. Walter

Enric Sala, explorer in residence, National Geographic Society
— The Greeks: A Global History by Roderick Beaton

Anjhula Mya Singh Bais, chair, international board, Amnesty International
— Amnesty International and Human Rights Activism in Postwar Britain, 1945–1977 by Tom Buchanan
Daisy Veerasingham, president and CEO, the Associated Press
— *You Don’t Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War* by Elizabeth Becker

Albert Wenger, managing partner, Union Square Ventures
— *The Collapse of Complex Societies* by Joseph A. Tainter

Jen L. Wong, COO, Reddit
— *The Lessons of History* by Ariel Durant and Will Durant

Tessa West, associate professor, NYU
— *The Monster’s Bones: The Discovery of T. rex and How It Shook Our World* by David K. Randall

Bob Sternfels, global managing partner, McKinsey
— *The Barbary Coast: An Informal History of the San Francisco Underworld* by Herbert Asbury

Sven Smit, senior partner, McKinsey
— *Oil Shock: The 1973 Crisis and Its Economic Legacy* edited by Elisabetta Bini, Giuliano Garavini, and Federico Romero

Magnus Tyreman, senior partner, McKinsey
— *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin* by Timothy Snyder

Pierre M. Gentin, senior partner, McKinsey
— *Legal Sabotage: Ernst Fraenkel in Hitler’s Germany* by Douglas G. Morris

**Personal development**

Paul Hudson, CEO, Sanofi
— *How to Get Your Act Together: A Judgement-Free Guide to Diversity and Inclusion for Straight White Men* by Felicity Hassan and Suki Sandhu

Alan Murray, CEO, Fortune Media
— *Don’t Trust Your Gut: Using Data to Get What You Really Want in Life* by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz

Tsedal Neeley, senior associate dean, Harvard Business School
— *Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well* by Sheila Heen and Douglas Stone

Manuel Rabaté, director, Louvre Abu Dhabi
— *The Art of Procrastination: A Guide to Effective Dawdling, Lollygagging and Postponing* by John Perry

Reshma Saujani, founder, Girls Who Code; CEO, Marshall Plan for Moms
— *Grief Is Love: Living with Loss* by Marisa Renee Lee

Christi Shaw, CEO, Kite Pharma
— *Dare to Lead: Brave Work, Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts.* by Brené Brown

Janeen Uzzell, CEO, the National Society of Black Engineers
— *Black Faces in High Places: 10 Strategic Actions for Black Professionals to Reach the Top and Stay There* by Randal D. Pinkett and Jeffrey A. Robinson
Lisa Witter, CEO, Apolitical Foundation; cofounder, Apolitical

Sven Smit, senior partner, McKinsey
— The Longevity Solution: Rediscovering Centuries-Old Secrets to a Healthy, Long Life by Dr. James DiNicolantonio and Dr. Jason Fung

Gautam Kumra, senior partner, McKinsey
— From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life by Arthur C. Brooks
— The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life by David Brooks

Politics & government

Mina Al-Oraibi, editor in chief, the National
— Liberalism and Its Discontents by Francis Fukuyama

Azeem Azhar, creator, Exponential View
— Liberalism and Its Discontents by Francis Fukuyama
— Plunder of the Commons: A Manifesto for Sharing Public Wealth by Guy Standing

Børge Brende, president, World Economic Forum
— The Age of Unpeace: How Connectivity Causes Conflict by Mark Leonard

François-Philippe Champagne, minister of innovation, science, and industry, Government of Canada
— China Unbound: A New World Disorder by Joanna Chiu

Esther Duflo, professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Nobel Prize laureate
— Streets of Gold: America’s Untold Story of Immigrant Success by Ran Abramitzky and Leah Boustan

Katherine Garrett-Cox, CEO, Gulf International Bank (UK)
— Very Bad People: The Inside Story of the Fight against the World’s Network of Corruption by Patrick Alley

Reid Hoffman, cofounder, LinkedIn; partner, Greylock Partners
— The Constitution of Knowledge: A Defense of Truth by Jonathan Rauch

S. Mitra Kalita, CEO, URL Media; publisher, Epicenter NYC
— Visions for a Better Indian Country: One Potawatomi Editor’s Opinions by Levi Rickert

Leslie Maasdorp, vice president and CFO, New Development Bank
— Chums: How a Tiny Caste of Oxford Tories Took Over the UK by Simon Kuper

Kiersten Saunders, cocreator, rich & REGULAR
— How We Show Up: Reclaiming Family, Friendship, and Community by Mia Birdsong

Janeen Uzzell, CEO, the National Society of Black Engineers
— Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot by Mikki Kendall

Shankar Vedantam, creator and host, Hidden Brain
— Civil Resistance: What Everyone Needs to Know by Erica Chenoweth
Daisy Veerasingham, president and CEO, the Associated Press

— Divided We Stand: The 2020 Elections and American Politics by Andrew E. Busch and John J. Pitney Jr.

David Vélez, cofounder and CEO, Nubank

— Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order: Why Nations Succeed and Fail by Ray Dalio
— Liberalism and Its Discontents by Francis Fukuyama

Tracy Francis, senior partner, McKinsey

— The Power of Crisis: How Three Threats—and Our Response—Will Change the World by Ian Bremmer

Sven Smit, senior partner, McKinsey

— Republic by Plato

Psychology

Mimi Alemayehou, senior vice president, Mastercard


Børge Brende, president, World Economic Forum

— Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don’t Know by Adam Grant

Tsedal Neeley, senior associate dean, Harvard Business School

— Why We’re Polarized by Ezra Klein

Tessa West, associate professor, NYU

— You Have More Influence than You Think: How We Underestimate Our Power of Persuasion, and Why It Matters by Vanessa Bohns

Gautam Kumra, senior partner, McKinsey

— The Courage to Be Disliked: The Japanese Phenomenon That Shows You How to Change Your Life and Achieve Real Happiness by Ichiro Kishimi and Fumitake Koga

Chris Bradley, senior partner, McKinsey

— The Power of Knowing What You Don’t Know by Adam Grant

Public health

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

— Citizens: Why the Key to Fixing Everything Is All of Us by Jon Alexander

Lloyd B. Minor, dean, Stanford University School of Medicine

— Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation by Linda Villarosa
— Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future by Elizabeth Kolbert

Indra Nooyi, former CEO, PepsiCo

— Moonshot: Inside Pfizer’s Nine-Month Race to Make the Impossible Possible by Dr. Albert Bourla
Noel Quinn, CEO, HSBC
— *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need* by Bill Gates

Kiersten Saunders, cocreator, rich & REGULAR
— *Essential Labor: Mothering as Social Change* by Angela Garbes

Lisa Witter, CEO, Apolitical Foundation; cofounder, Apolitical
— *Citizens: Why the Key to Fixing Everything Is All of Us* by Jon Alexander

Magnus Tyreman, senior partner, McKinsey
— *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need* by Bill Gates

Science & technology

François-Philippe Champagne, minister of innovation, science, and industry, Government of Canada

Óscar García Maceiras, CEO, Inditex

Reid Hoffman, cofounder, LinkedIn; partner, Greylock Partners
— *Daedalus: AI & Society* edited by James M. Manyika

Paul Hudson, CEO, Sanofi
— *The Age of AI: And Our Human Future* by Daniel Huttenlocher, Henry A. Kissinger, and Eric Schmidt

Tsedal Neeley, senior associate dean, Harvard Business School
— *The Exponential Age: How Accelerating Technology Is Transforming Business, Politics and Society* by Azeem Azhar

Indra Nooyi, former CEO, PepsiCo
— *Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us* by Ro Khanna

Enric Sala, explorer in residence, National Geographic Society
— *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World* by Andrea Wulf
— *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by Suzanne Simard

Amy Webb, founder and CEO, Future Today Institute
— *Reality+: Virtual Worlds and the Problems of Philosophy* by David J. Chalmers

Jen L. Wong, COO, Reddit
— *Scale: The Universal Laws of Life, Growth, and Death in Organisms, Cities, and Companies* by Geoffrey West

Ozgur Tanrikulu, senior partner, McKinsey
— *You Look Like a Thing and I Love You: How Artificial Intelligence Works and Why It’s Making the World a Weirder Place* by Janelle Shane

Summer reading 2022
Workplace culture

Reid Hoffman, cofounder, LinkedIn; partner, Greylock Partners

— Talent: How to Identify Energizers, Creatives, and Winners around the World by Tyler Cowen and Daniel Gross

Laxman Narasimhan, CEO, Reckitt Benckiser

— Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy by Henry Kissinger

Marc Rosen, CEO, JCPenney

— Reboot: Leadership and the Art of Growing Up by Jerry Colonna

Reshma Saujani, founder, Girls Who Code; CEO, Marshall Plan for Moms

— Inclusion Revolution: The Essential Guide to Dismantling Racial Inequity in the Workplace by Daisy Auger-Dominguez

Anjula Mya Singh Bais, chair, international board, Amnesty International

— Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy by Henry Kissinger

Shankar Vedantam, creator and host, Hidden Brain

— Mastering Civility: A Manifesto for the Workplace by Christine Porath

Eric Kutcher, senior partner, McKinsey

— CEO Excellence: The Six Mindsets That Distinguish the Best Leaders from the Rest by Carolyn Dewar, Scott Keller, and Vikram Malhotra