

Our Favorite Books

Must Reads (easy)

1. The Lessons of History, Will and Ariel Durant
The best 100-page book on the human condition.
2. The Art of War, Sun Tsu
3. Atlas Shrugged, Ayn Rand
This is a must-read.
4. Free to Choose, Milton and Rose Friedman
Free market advice from the University of Chicago.
5. East of Eden, John Steinbeck
6. American Declaration of Independence
7. Saving Adam Smith, Johnathan Wight
A novel with an economic message.
8. From Here to Economy: A Short Cut to Economic Literacy,
Todd Bucholz
9. Basic Economics, Thomas Sowell
10. Economics in One Lesson, Henry Hazlitt

Must Reads (difficult)

1. Theory of Moral Sentiments, Adam Smith
2. Road to Serfdom, F.A. Hayek
3. Introduction to Logic, Patrick Suppes
4. Human Action, Ludwig von Mises
5. The Wealth of Nations, Adam Smith
6. The Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay & James Madison
7. Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville
8. Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy, Joseph Schumpeter
9. Against the Gods, Peter Bernstein
10. The March of Folly, Barbara Tuchman
11. Politics, Aristotle
12. Add Your Favorite Book to: www.bigworldeconomics.com

*Books on macroeconomics have not been included on these lists.

Our Favorite Movies

1. A Beautiful Mind (2001). Life of John Nash, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Science.
2. Braveheart (1995). William Wallace leads Scots in fight against British tyranny.
3. Casablanca (1942). Rick is a capitalist who used to run guns and now operates a bar and cafe, with “secret” illegal gambling games going on in the back room.
4. Fahrenheit 451 (1966). Freedom lovers learn books by heart to subvert a totalitarian government that controls people by banning and burning books.
5. Fatal Attraction (1987). Unintended consequences of a one-night stand.
6. Forrest Gump (1994). Business success in spite of IQ.
7. The Fountainhead (1949). Adapted from the Ayn Rand novel. An architect endures poverty and scorn rather than give in to the prevailing egalitarian values. Bad movie, good book, great message.
8. The Godfather (1972). The unintended consequences of outlawing booze and gambling.
9. Gone With the Wind (1939). After the Civil War, Scarlett and Rhett beat carpetbaggers at their own game and become wealthy capitalists using Life’s Economic Wisdom.
10. High Noon (1952). Town marshal has to fulfill his obligations to the town, alone.

11. It's A Wonderful Life (1946). George Bailey recognizes his life is wonderful and rich. The evil banker is overdone.
12. A Man for All Seasons (1966). St. Thomas More is beheaded for opposing the tyranny of Henry VIII.
13. Man With The Golden Arm (1955). Man struggles to avoid slipping back into addiction.
14. Network (1976). "I'm mad as Hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."
15. Pay It Forward (2000). Enlightened self-interest.
16. Risky Business (1983). Self-interest and entrepreneurism.
17. The Quiet Man (1951). John Wayne does it his own way.
18. Schindler's List (1993). Enlightened self-interest. Schindler's well-being was tied to saving Jews from Auschwitz.
19. Treasure of Sierra Madre (1948). Greed interfering with self-interest.
20. Wall Street (1987). Stockbroker will do anything to get on top.
21. Wizard of Oz (1939). If you act in your self-interest, you should not expect the wizard to provide the things you need. This is a metaphor for 'there is no place like home.'
22. You've Got Mail (1998). Comparative advantage. Room for big and little at the same time.
23. Father of the Bride (1950 and 1991). The Economics of a wedding.
24. The Maltese Falcon (1941). Self-interest.
25. Your Favorite Economic Movie. Indicate which of the principles of economics are supported or violated.

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