

25 Books You Should Read --

According to a Few of the World's Most Successful People

By [John Rampton of Inc.](#)

Successful CEOs never stop learning. Personal growth is almost as important as hard work in building a winning business. Many entrepreneurs accomplish this through workshops, conferences, and even a few continuing education courses. However, for a busy entrepreneur, being away from the office for a few days can lead to other problems.

For that reason, it's likely no surprise some of the top CEOs choose to boost their personal growth through reading a good book. Not only is it a great way to learn and grow, but it provides a way to relax after a long day.

Here are 25 books recommended by some of the top CEOs in the world to kick off your reading list.

1. [*The Remains of the Day*](#)

[Amazon](#) founder and CEO Jeff Bezos lists Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* among his favorite books, citing its ability to teach readers about life and regret.

2. [*The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Olympics*](#)

As Morgan Stanley's chairman and CEO, James Gorman [finds inspiration](#) in this story of determined amateurs who accomplished great things.

3. [*The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What It Used to Be*](#)

When Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg [kicked off his goal](#) to read a new book every two weeks, he started with this book, a study in how leadership has evolved over the past 100 years.

4. [*The Innovator's Dilemma: the Revolutionary Book That Will Change the Way You Do Business*](#)

Although he's no longer with us, Steve Jobs remains an inspiration. Among [his favorite books](#) was Clayton M. Christensen's book on changing technology, which he said deeply influenced him.

5. [*Competing Against Time: How Time-Based Competition Is Reshaping Global Markets*](#)

Apple's Tim Cook [reportedly](#) recommends this book to new hires and hands out copies to colleagues.

6. [*Napoleon: a Life*](#)

Former Oracle CEO Larry Ellison [felt particularly inspired](#) by Vincent Cronin's biography on Napoleon, feeling inspired by the way a man of modest means accomplished great things.

7. [*The Charisma Myth: How Anyone Can Master the Art and Science of Personal Magnetism*](#)

Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer [threw her support](#) behind this book, which instructs readers on mastering charisma to win people over.

8. [*Search Inside Yourself: the Unexpected Path to Achieving Success, Happiness \(and World Peace\)*](#)

Among the books that [Zappos](#) CEO Tony Hsieh [recommends](#) is *Search Inside Yourself*, a guide to finding inner joy.

9. [*The Intelligent Investor: the Definitive Book on Value Investing. A Book of Practical Counsel*](#)

He may be the world's top investor, but Warren Buffett spends most of his time reading. Among the many books on the billionaire's to-read list is this one, which [he says](#) shaped his investment philosophy.

10. [*Business Adventures: Twelve Classic Tales From the World of Wall Street*](#)

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates [read](#) *Business Adventures* at Buffett's recommendation and says the 1969 collection of Wall Street tales remains his favorite business book to date.

11. [*The Art of Happiness: a Handbook to Living*](#)

LinkedIn's Jeff Weiner [learned](#) the true meaning of compassion through this book from the Dalai Lama.

12. [*The Prince*](#)

Blackstone Group CEO Stephen Schwarzman [lists](#) this Nicolo Machiavelli classic among his all-time favorites.

13. [*The Art of War*](#)

In his book *Behind the Cloud*, Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff describes how he applied the concepts in *The Art of War* to beat competitors through the element of surprise.

14. [*Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*](#)

When Facebook CEO Sheryl Sandberg released her book *Lean In*, Cisco's John Chambers saw it as the perfect opportunity to encourage the promotion of women. He [handed a copy](#) to each of his senior managers.

15. [*A Short Guide to a Happy Life*](#)

In addition to her own book, Sandberg [recommends](#) this book, which centers around women's roles and self-perception.

16. [*How Will You Measure Your Life?*](#)

Former New York City mayor and business magnate Michael Bloomberg recommends *How Will You Measure Your Life?*—which explores the importance of mingling business and philosophy.

17. [*The Effective Executive*](#)

Another book on [Jeff Bezos's list](#) is *The Effective Executive*, which helps with time management and decision making.

18. [*The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World*](#)

When Coca-Cola executive Muhtar Kent wants inspiration, he [turns](#) to this book, which bills itself as “a financial history of the world.”

19. [*Playing to Win: How Strategy Really Works*](#)

HP CEO Meg Whitman makes this book [required reading](#) for HP's hundreds of thousands of employees, believing its advice on setting and following strategy is crucial to success.

20. [*The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*](#)

When she wants to inspire her staff, Lockheed Martin Corp's Marillyn Hewson brings in *The Tipping Point* author Malcolm Gladwell.

21. [*My Inventions: the Autobiography of Nikola Tesla*](#)

Google's Larry Page finds inspiration in stories about other successful leaders, including this one about AC current inventor Tesla.

22. [*The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right*](#)

Twitter and Square founder Jack Dorsey [hands this book](#) to new hires at Square and quotes from it often.

23. [*The Catcher in the Rye*](#)

In addition to his business book recommendations, Bill Gates [lists this classic](#) as his all-time favorite, admiring its depiction of the intelligence of youth.

24. [*The World Is Flat: a Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*](#)

JP Morgan's Jamie Dimon has a long recommended reading list, but this book is at the top of the list.

25. [*Atlas Shrugged*](#)

Add ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson to the [long list](#) of people [who believe](#) *Atlas Shrugged* is among the most influential books of our time.

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