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Private Equity's Summer Reading List



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By **WSJ PRO STAFF**

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Summer is here and for many in the industry, it's a time to take a break and perhaps catch up on some reading. Each year for the past decade, we have asked professionals from across the private-equity and venture-capital industries to share their book recommendations with their peers. We hope you enjoy this year's selections.

Gary Bruebaker, chief investment officer, Washington State Investment Board

“Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think” by Hans Rosling, Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Ronnlund

“Bill Gates says this is the most important book he has ever read. This book is enlightening relative to both the unconscious and predictable biases which distort our view.”

“Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity” by David Allen

“While this is not a new book, I include it because I reread this book annually and it changed my life! On a daily basis, I get over 100 emails, stacks of physical mail and participate in numerous meetings. After applying the techniques from this book a few years ago, I never have any emails or physical mail in my inboxes at the end of each day and I manage oversight of tasks/next action steps effectively and efficiently.”

Oscar Decotelli, chief executive, DXA Investments

“The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey” by Candice Millard

“The story about the resilience and challenges faced by the former president after his terms in the White House is fascinating, not just because of the jungle challenges but also for the impact his expedition created in Brazil. As an investor dedicated to bringing American capital into South America, I can see the daily business challenges just as dangerous as the piranhas Pres. Roosevelt was exposed to. Just like in business, if it were not for Colonel Cândido Rondon, a local Brazilian expert in the ways of the jungle, the president would have never returned home. An exciting story of determination and perseverance some might not expect from a former resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.”

Rodger Krouse, co-founder and co-chief executive, Sun Capital Partners

“Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century” by George Packer

“I worked for Holbrooke at the beginning of my career. The book draws a resonating parallel between Holbrooke and America itself, and is a compelling read.”

“War and Peace” by Leo Tolstoy

“The summer must be my time for long Russian novels; I read Anna Karenina last summer. Forget preconceptions—‘War and Peace’ is a great book and a pleasure to read.”

Stewart Kohl, co-chief executive, Riverside Co.

“Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley’s Bill Campbell” by Eric Schmidt, Jonathan Rosenberg, Alan Eagle

“Easy read, memorable stories, actionable advice. And hey, he created a trillion dollars in value with a T!”

Doug Cruikshank, head of fund financing and Hark Capital, Aberdeen Standard Investments

“The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure” by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt

"This book blew me away. For anyone wondering how the current environment of 'safe spaces,' extreme political correctness, echo-chamber thinking and demonization-politics came into being, read this. This will change your view of 'higher' education, and parenting. It ties together psychology, sociology, social media, politics, college-speaker riots and unstructured playtime. Well-written with clear, concise language."

Joelle Marquis, Senior Partner, Arsenal Capital Partners

"Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance" by Bob Buford

"Bob challenges the reader to look at our own lives. What got us here? If we were to be truly intentional, what would we do next? He gets us thinking about our epitaph, about significance versus success and about wisdom versus intelligence. As a sports enthusiast, I love that Bob challenges the reader to look at our lives through the game of football. He encourages us to take time to go into the 'locker room' and reflect on how we 'played' the 'first half' of our 'game.' The challenge is for us to be intentional about our second-half—our strategies, who we want on our team, what plays we want to execute. If our epitaph is honest, it will say something about our soul, and our depth of character. This isn't a book for the faint of heart—it's for people with deep courage...and who want to leave a legacy far beyond their financials."

Shawn T. Wooden, Connecticut State Treasurer

"Doing Justice: A Prosecutor's Thoughts on Crime, Punishment, and the Rule of Law" by Preet Bharara

"A great discussion of the concept of justice and the obligations of those in public service."

--Compiled by Luis Garcia, Laura Kreutzer and Isaac Taylor

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