

Book Summaries for Bridges Out of Poverty/Getting Ahead Readings

Peter Senge and others - *The Necessary Revolution* An optimistic manifesto for businesses, individuals and organizations and how they can work together to ensure societal and environmental sustainability

7000 words from a blogger/consultant in the realm of sustainability and business. An in-depth review with excellent summaries of both concepts and information.

<http://edgarwille.wordpress.com/2010/03/26/peter-senges-book-the-necessary-revolution-full-review/>

2000 word summary (pdf) available through Google search from getAbstract – well organized with a nice sampling of thought provoking examples

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&ved=0CEUQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.economist.com%2Fmedia%2Fmanagement%2Fnecessary-revolution-senge-uk-e.pdf&ei=LWXETuzsO6WBsgL8u52pCw&usg=AFQjCNGW0eC52rK33Slz8R92et-Gr9bc-w&sig2=u2YDwegu8VKiviam7uf4Pg>

Umair Haque - *The New Capitalist Manifesto* (from Amazon book description) -The author argues that business as usual has outgrown the old paradigm of short-term growth, competition at all costs, adversarial strategy, and pushing costs onto future generations. For “thick” value—enduring, meaningful, sustainable advantage that deeply benefits the larger society- he details five new cornerstones of prosperity in the twenty-first century:

1500 Word summary/review from management consultant and author Steve Denning. Very positive review of the author’s concepts for businesses of the future.

http://stevedenning.typepad.com/steve_denning/2010/12/book-review-the-new-capitalist-manifesto-by-umair-haque-.html

1300 word review from Mark McDonald of Gartner IT Consulting that includes brief chapter summaries as well as some critique.

http://blogs.gartner.com/mark_mcdonald/2011/03/07/the-new-capitalist-manifesto-a-book-review/

Michele Alexander - *The New Jim Crow* This book challenges readers to see mass incarceration as a societal injustice with strong racial overtones.

8600 word summary Wikipedia article is balanced and comprehensive. It includes a 400 word abstract, as well as individual chapter summaries.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Jim_Crow

A 1900 word summary/review by Dr. Lenore Daniels, a Ph.D. in Modern American Literatures, with a specialty in Cultural Theory for Born Black Magazine
<http://bornblackmag.com/new-jim-crow.html>

Robert W. Fuller's *Somebodies and Nobodies*. The premise of this book is that we need to get rid of "rankism", where groups of persons, who would refer to themselves as "somebodies", by the virtue of their rank (I'm the boss, I have more education, I have more money, etc) make others not of their rank feel like "nobodies". While some critics may dismiss this book as overly optimistic and without sufficient practical responses to rankism, it does present some ways to limit the unfair use of power and influence.

http://www.radicalmiddle.com/x_rankism.htm - a link to an overall positive review from the website – Radical Middle this review is about 1500 words.

A 500 word review, somewhat more descriptive than evaluative, from the website, Spirituality and Practice

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/books.php?id=5934>

Richard G. Wilkinson's *The Impact of Inequality*. The author is a professor of epidemiology at Nottingham's university Medical School, and brings a wealth of data to support his premise. He says, "societies that tolerate the injustices of great inequality will almost inescapably suffer their social consequences: they will be unfriendly and violent societies, recognized more for their hostility than their hospitality". Greater inequality - higher death rates, higher crime rates, even more back pain..... This premise is not well received by those who feel that poverty is the result of poor individual choices.

An 1850 word review by Marek Kahn that appeared in Prospect magazine. Its focus is decidedly British, but identifies the rationale of both supporters and critics of the work.

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/marek.kohn/impact.html>

A 925 word review by a US physician on a CDC -sponsored website. It includes brief chapter summaries, a strong endorsement of the author's research rigor, and an acknowledgment of Wilkinson's zeal for social change.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1500967/>

Paulo Friere, - *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* This book, a classic in educational philosophy classes across the world, takes what might be considered radical, even revolutionary view of the power of education, especially among the oppressed within a society.

1050 word Wikipedia article includes chapter summaries and historic criticisms of the book http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedagogy_of_the_Oppressed

Review (2950 words) translated from Spanish for the Communication Initiative Network website, which focuses on social and economic development. The educational and societal dimensions of the text are highlighted, and posted comments after the review are from students across the world, many in countries with oppression. . <http://www.cominit.com/node/27123>

R.D. Putman - *Bowling Alone* This book documents the growing evidence of withdrawal from social interaction and a growing social isolation in modern society. Criticized by some as a limited picture of interactions across society. Written before the boom in social networking .

Wikipedia article (600 words) includes summary and criticisms of the work http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowling_Alone

A slideshow that uses direct quotes from the book, includes questions for thought/discussion and presents much of the data from Putman's book in graphical form (194 slides) . <http://www.slideshare.net/rcragun/bowling-alone>

David Shipler, *The Working Poor* – Presented as a comprehensive description of the life of America's working poor. Shipler was a New York Times reporter.

A 4075 word book summary, available as a pdf, from the Foundation for Community Empowerment of Dallas TX. A straight-forward chapter by chapter summary without much evaluation or critique. . http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CB8QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Ftamarackcommunity.ca%2Fdownloads%2Fvc%2Fwork_poor_invisible_in_US.pdf&ei=64y9Tu3bKtOs0AHetOGvBA&usg=AFQjCNH4TfWuQjJKhuwS0GkiZJTofvDUFG&sig2=edtPqKyDquZZm3G2-fMvHw

A 1250 word summary with many review comments from various noted personalities included. From the website Everyday Citizen. http://www.everydaycitizen.com/2007/03/the_working_poor_by_david_ship.html

Various – *The Color of Wealth* This work by a team of 5 writers from **United for a Fair Economy** focuses on wealth rather than income, and its connection to race.

A 700 word summary designed to recruit participants for a book study on racial justice in Ann Arbor, MI.

<http://www.annarbor.com/faith/the-color-of-wealth-the-story-behind-the-us-racial-wealth-divide/>

A FORA.tv video of a presentation and Q/A (63 minutes) by one of the books authors, Meizhu Lui

[http://fora.tv/2006/06/22/Color Of Wealth Racial Wealth Divide#fullprogram](http://fora.tv/2006/06/22/Color%20Of%20Wealth%20Racial%20Wealth%20Divide#fullprogram)