

## Reading List 2012

*I am trying my damndest to get a tenuous grip on the extraordinary-revolutionary-earthflipping change that surrounds us and which is accelerating madly. Below is an idiosyncratic reading list I've pulled together. In addition to nonfiction, there are a handful of well-researched ultra-sane sci-fi novels by the likes of David Wilson and Neal Stephenson. Also you'll find a couple of my favorites on the financial crisis; and a Cold War collection that is here because it is the ultimate study of leadership with consequences amidst uncertainty and ambiguity. A few others touch on decision-making and the typically faulty interpretation of cause and effect—and the power of being wrong. (And, of course, there's a duo on the eclipse of men!)*

*Etc.*

Herewith, 55 books with my “14 Musts” in boldface:

***The Singularity Is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology***—Ray Kurzweil

*How to Create a Mind: The Secret of Human Thought Revealed*—Ray Kurzweil

*Redesigning Humans: Choosing Our Genes, Changing Our Future*—Gregory Stock

*Wetware: A Computer in Every Living Cell*—Dennis Bray

*Power, Sex, Suicide: Mitochondria and the Meaning of Life*—Nick Lane

*Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century*—P.W. Singer

***America the Vulnerable: Inside the New Threat Matrix of Digital Espionage, Crime, and Warfare***—Joel Brenner

*Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It*—Richard Clarke & Robert Knake

*Worm: The First Digital World War*—Mark Bowden

***Fab: The Coming Revolution on Your Desktop—From Personal Computers to Personal Fabrication***—Neil Gershenfeld

*Makers: The New Industrial Revolution*—Chris Anderson

*The New Industrial Revolution: Consumers, Globalization and the End of Mass Production*—Peter Marsh

*The Department of Mad Scientists: How DARPA Is Remaking Our World, from the Internet to Artificial Limbs*—Michael Belfiore

*Makers*—Cory Doctorow  
***Amped***—Daniel Wilson  
*Robocalypse*—Daniel Wilson  
*Freedom*—Daniel Suarez  
*Kill Decision*—Daniel Suarez  
*REAMDE*—Neal Stephenson  
*Cryptonomicon*—Neal Stephenson  
***Race Against the Machine: How the Digital Revolution Is Accelerating Innovation, Driving Productivity, and Irreversibly Transforming Employment and the Economy***—Erik Brynjolfsson & Andrew McAfee  
*The Coming Jobs War*—Jim Clifton  
*Future Perfect: The Case for Progress in a Networked Age*—Steven Johnson  
*Open Services Innovation: Rethinking Your Business to Grow and Compete in a New Era*—Henry Chesbrough  
***The Power of Co-Creation: Build It With Them to Boost Growth, Productivity and Profits***—Venkat Ramaswamy & Francis Gouillart  
*Creating Innovators: The Making of Young People Who Will Change the World*—Tony Wagner  
***Everything Bad Is Good For You: How Today's Popular Culture Is Actually Making Us Smarter***—Steven Johnson  
*Women and Gaming: The Sims and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning*—James Paul Gee & Elisabeth Hayes  
*Reality Is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World*—Jane McGonigal  
*Extra Lives: Why Video Games Matter*—Tom Bissell  
***The Social Conquest of Earth***—E.O. Wilson  
*Games Primates Play: An Undercover Investigation of the Evolution and Economics of Human Relationships*—Dario Maestriperi  
*The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*—Steven Pinker  
***The End of Men and the Rise of Women***—Hanna Rosin  
*The Richer Sex: How the New Majority of Female Breadwinners Is Transforming Sex, Love and Family*—Liza Mundy  
*The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail—But Some Don't*—Nate Silver

***Ubiquity: The Science of History ... Or Why the World Is Simpler Than We Think*—Mark Buchanan**

*The Ambiguities of Experience*—James March

***The Shareholder Value Myth: How Putting Shareholders First Harms Investors, Corporations and the Public*—Lynn Stout**

*Age of Greed: The Triumph of Finance and the Decline of America, 1970 to the Present*—Jeff Madrick

*Extreme Money: Masters of the Universe and the Cult of Risk*—Satyajit Das

***Enough. True Measures of Money, Business, and Life*—John Bogle**

***Not For Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities*—Martha Nussbaum**

*Antifragile: Things That Gain from Disorder*—Nassim Nicholas Taleb

***Practice Perfect: 42 Rules for Getting Better at Getting Better*—Doug Lemov, Erica Woolway & Katie Yezzi**

*The Little Book of Talent: 52 Tips for Improving Your Skills*—Daniel Coyle

*Better By Mistake: The Unexpected Benefits of Being Wrong*—Alina Tugend

*Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error*—Kathryn Schulz

*Addiction By Design: Machine Gambling in Las Vegas*—Natasha Schüll

*Redesigning Leadership(Design, Technology, Business, Life)*—John Maeda

*The Plentitude: Creativity, Innovation and Making Stuff*—Rich Gold

*The Years of Lyndon Johnson: Master of the Senate*—Robert Caro

*Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth*—Frederick Kempe

*Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Battle to Save the World*—Evan Thomas

*Eisenhower 1956: The President's Year of Crisis—Suez and the Brink of War*—David Nichols

Bonus:

***Choosing Civility: The 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct*—P.M. Forni**