

Suggested Reading for the AfterShock CEO

Systems Thinkers & Ignored Intellectuals (1960s–1990s)

The forebears who saw it all coming.

- **Donella Meadows**, *Thinking in Systems: A Primer*
- **Gregory Bateson**, *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*
- **Peter Senge**, *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization*
- **Stafford Beer**, *Designing Freedom*
- **Russell L. Ackoff**, *Redesigning the Future: A Systems Approach to Societal Problems*
- **Riane Eisler**, *The Chalice and the Blade*
- **Clare W. Graves/Don Beck and Christopher Cowan**, *Spiral Dynamics*

Power, Infrastructure & Geoeconomics

For CEOs who want to grasp the real machinery behind global systems.

- **Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman**, *Underground Empire: How America Weaponized the World Economy*
- **Parag Khanna**, *Connectography: Mapping the Future of Global Civilization*
- **Michael T. Klare**, *The Race for What's Left: The Global Scramble for the World's Last Resources*
- **Adam Tooze**, *Shutdown: How COVID Shook the World's Economy*

Automation & The Future Of Work

Essential reads for understanding techno-human systems and leadership adaptation.

- **Darrell M. West**, *The Future of Work: Robots, AI, and Automation*
- **Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee**, *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress and Prosperity*
- **Shoshana Zuboff**, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the Frontier of Power*
- **Brian Christian**, *The Alignment Problem: Machine Learning and Human Values*
- **Daniel Kahneman, Olivier Sibony, and Cass R. Sunstein**, *Noise: A Flaw in Human Judgment*

AI, Ethics & The Future Of Humanity

For leaders navigating the convergence of artificial intelligence, ethics, systems governance, and human identity in the post-singularity horizon.

- **Hamilton Mann**, *Artificial Integrity: The Paths to Leading AI Toward a Human-Centered Future*
- **Ray Kurzweil**, *The Singularity Is Nearer: When We Merge with AI*
- **Kate Crawford**, *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence*
- **Shannon Vallor**, *Technology and the Virtues: A Philosophical Guide to a Future Worth Wanting*
- **Toby Ord**, *The Precipice: Existential Risk and the Future of Humanity*
- **Cade Metz**, *Genius Makers: The Mavericks Who Brought AI to Google, Facebook, and the World*
- **Nick Bostrom**, *Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies*
- **Luciano Floridi**, *The Ethics of Information*
- **James Bridle**, *Ways of Being: Animals, Plants, Machines: The Search for a Planetary Intelligence*

Climate, Resilience & Ecological Systems

To understand planetary collapse and regeneration as business realities.

- **Elizabeth Kolbert**, *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future*
- **Paul Hawken**, *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*
- **Katharine Hayhoe**, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*
- **Bill McKibben**, *Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?*
- **Rebecca Solnit**, *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster*
- **Daniel Christian Wahl**, *Designing Regenerative Cultures*
- **Johan Rockström and Owen Gaffney**, *Breaking Boundaries: The Science of Our Planet*
- **Earth4All Collective**, *Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity*
- **Jason Hickel**, *Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World*
- **David Wallace-Wells**, *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*
- **Vaclav Smil**, *How the World Really Works: The Science Behind How We Got Here and Where We're Going*

Trauma, Brain, And Leadership Evolution

These build the emotional and cognitive scaffolding this book explores.

- **Gabor Maté**, *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness and Healing in a Toxic Culture*
- **Bessel van der Kolk**, *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma*
- **Stephen Porges**, *The Pocket Guide to the Polyvagal Theory: The Transformative Power of Feeling Safe*
- **Rick Rubin**, *The Creative Act: A Way of Being*
- **Lisa Feldman Barrett**, *How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain*
- **Norman Doidge**, *The Brain's Way of Healing: Remarkable Discoveries and Recoveries from the Frontiers of Neuroplasticity*

Cognitive Performance, Neuroplasticity & Decision-Making

Critical for leaders wanting to rewire for the future.

- **Annie Duke**, *Thinking in Bets: Making Smarter Decisions When You Don't Have All the Facts*
- **Carol Dweck**, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*
- **David Eagleman**, *Livewired: The Inside Story of the Ever-Changing Brain*
- **Matthew Walker**, *Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams*

Neurodivergent Futures

Essential reads for building cognitively inclusive systems, understanding neurodiverse leadership, and designing for adaptability across human wiring.

- **Ludmila N. Praslova**, *The Canary Code: A Guide to Neurodiversity, Dignity, and Intersectional Belonging at Work*
- **Devon Price**, *Unmasking Autism: Discovering the New Faces of Neurodiversity*
- **Victoria Honeybourne**, *The Neurodiverse Workplace*
- **Thomas Armstrong**, *The Power of Neurodiversity: Unleashing the Advantages of Your Differently Wired Brain*
- **Nick Walker**, *Neuroqueer Heresies: Notes on the Neurodiversity Paradigm, Autistic Empowerment, and Postnormal Possibilities*
- **Edward M. Hallowell and John J. Ratey**, *Delivered from Distraction: Getting the Most out of Life with Attention Deficit Disorder*
- **Gabor Maté**, *Scattered Minds: The Origins and Healing of Attention Deficit Disorder*
- **Steve Silberman**, *NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity*

Paradigm Shift & Existential Foresight

Cross-paradigm books to help leaders sense and step into the unknown.

- **Jamais Cascio, Bob Johansen and Angela F. Williams, *Navigating the Age of Chaos: A Sense-Making Guide to a BANI World That Doesn't Make Sense***
- **Margaret Heffernan, *Uncharted: How to Navigate the Future and Willful Blindness: Why We Ignore the Obvious at Our Peril***
- **Kevin Kelly, *The Inevitable: Understanding the 12 Technological Forces That Will Shape Our Future***
- **Jenny Odell, *How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy***
- **Daniel Schmachtenberger** (via podcasts and Consilience Project essays)

Disruption, Rebellion & Post-Capitalist Thought

Beyond shareholder logic.

- **Nora Bateson, *Small Arcs of Larger Circles: Framing Through Other Patterns***
- **Douglas Rushkoff, *Survival of the Richest: Escape Fantasies of the Tech Billionaires***
- **David Graeber, *Bullshit Jobs: A Theory***
- **Mariana Mazzucato, *Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism***
- **Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate***

Breakthrough Thinking & Systems Disruption

How to nurture game-changing innovation.

- **Safi Bahcall, *Loonshots: How to Nurture the Crazy Ideas That Win Wars, Cure Diseases, and Transform Industries***
- **Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions***
- **Walter Isaacson, *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution***
- **Amy Edmondson, *Right Kind of Wrong: The Science of Failing Well***

- **Frans Johansson**, *The Medici Effect: What Elephants and Epidemics Can Teach Us About Innovation*
- **Rita McGrath**, *Seeing Around Corners: How to Spot Inflection Points in Business Before They Happen*
- **Linda Hill**, *Collective Genius: The Art and Practice of Leading Innovation*

Integrative Intelligence For The Next Era

For leaders willing to explore deeper patterns of meaning, grief, and ethics.

- **Charles Eisenstein**, *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know Is Possible*
- **Vandana Shiva**, *Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace*
- **Francis Weller**, *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred Work of Grief*
- **Joanna Macy**, *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy*
- **Thomas Hübl**, *Healing Collective Trauma: A Process for Integrating Our Intergenerational and Cultural Wounds*

ESG, Purpose & Regenerative Capital

For CEOs ready to move from performative responsibility to systemic reinvention.

- **Alison Taylor**, *Higher Ground: How Business Can Do the Right Thing in a Turbulent World*
- **Rebecca Henderson**, *Reimagining Capitalism in a World on Fire*
- **Jed Emerson**, *The Purpose of Capital: Elements of Impact, Financial Flows, and Natural Being*
- **Dambisa Moyo**, *How Boards Work: And How They Can Work Better in a Chaotic World*
- **Katherine Trebeck and Jeremy Williams**, *The Economics of Arrival: Ideas for a Grown-Up Economy*
- **Kate Raworth**, *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist*

- **Paul Polman and Andrew Winston**, *Net Positive: How Courageous Companies Thrive by Giving More Than They Take*
- **John Elkington**, *Green Swans: The Coming Boom in Regenerative Capitalism*

Generational Intelligence & Future Legacy

CEOs that prove they understand generations will win the long game.

- **Jean M. Twenge**, *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood—and What That Means for the Rest of Us*
- **David Stillman and Jonah Stillman**, *Gen Z @ Work: How the Next Generation is Transforming the Workplace*
- **Juliet Schor**, *After the Gig: How the Sharing Economy Got Hijacked and How to Win It Back*
- **Kim Stanley Robinson**, *The Ministry for the Future*

Moral Ambition & Courageous Leadership

Challenging CEOs to lead from principle, not performance

- **Rutger Bregman**, *Moral Ambition: Stop Wasting Your Talent and Start Making a Difference*
- **Jacqueline Novogratz**, *Manifesto for a Moral Revolution: Practices to Build a Better World*
- **Dov Seidman**, *How: Why How We Do Anything Means Everything*
- **Anand Giridharadas**, *Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World*
- **Brené Brown**, *Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts*
- **James Clear**, *Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones*

Civilization, Control & The Future Of Human Meaning

For leaders seeking narrative clarity in a world where AI, nationalism, and identity are colliding with speed and scale.

- **Yuval Noah Harari**, *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow and 21 Lessons for the 21st Century*

The Death Of Globalization & The Return Of Geopolitics

For leaders reckoning with the collapse of integrated markets, the rise of regional power blocs, and the rewiring of global interdependence.

- **Peter Zeihan**, *The End of the World Is Just the Beginning: Mapping the Collapse of Globalization*
- **Parag Khanna**, *Move: The Forces Uprooting Us*
- **Ian Bremmer**, *The Power of Crisis: How Three Threats—and Our Response—Will Change the World*
- **Fareed Zakaria**, *Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World*
- **Niall Ferguson**, *The Square and the Tower: Networks and Power, from the Freemasons to Facebook*
- **Henry Kissinger**, *World Order*
- **Adam Tooze**, *Shutdown: How Covid Shook the World's Economy*
- **Richard Haass**, *The World: A Brief Introduction*
- **Michael O'Sullivan**, *The Levelling: What's Next After Globalization*
- **Robert Kaplan**, *The Return of Marco Polo's World: War, Strategy, and American Interests in the Twenty-First Century*