

Author	Title	Comments
Adric, Ivo	The Bridge on the Drina	Nobel Prize for literature; Historical Novel of the Balkans 1300-WWI; The protagonist is not a person, but a bridge that connects two sides
Alexander, Caroline	Endurance	Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic travails, survival and escape - true leadership story
Albom, Mitch	Tuesdays With Morrie	Albom meets weekly with a dying professor who teaches more about life than any books or therapy
Ambrose, Stephan	Undaunted Courage	The best book on leadership I've read; Lewis and Clark's voyage of discovery across America
Baumeister/Tierney	Willpower	You only have so much willpower; learn to focus it where it counts most; keep your list short; pick your battles
Biddle, Tammy Davis	Rhetoric and Reality in Air Warfare	Hated by zealots; loved by skeptics - an honest methodological look at claims about airpower decisiveness and whether they bear fruit
Bowden, Mark	Black Hawk Down	What happened in Mogadishu
Bronte, Emily	Wuthering Heights	Dark and unhappy story of tortured love, loss and rage on the Moors in old England
Brown, Alton	I'm Just Here for the Food	Not a cookbook, but a book about cooking and the kitchen
Buford, Bill	Heat	NY writer apprentices in Mario Batali's restaurant as kitchen slave; outstanding story about kitchens/food
Cahill, Thomas	How the Irish Saved Civilization	History of the fall of Rome, and how Irish monks transcribed all knowledge to pass on for future generations throughout Europe
Card, Orson Scott	Ender's Game (and all prequels and sequels)	Most <i>compelling</i> novel I've ever read; sociology and morality – how far can we go when threatened?
Chesterton, G.K.	The Everlasting Man (personal #1)	1921 book that logically challenges naturalist and anthropological claims that Man descended from apes
Chesterton, G.K.	The Man Who Knew Too Much	8 detective stories: thinking, morality, sociology and how we see the world; see also www.chesterton.org
Crichton, Michael	Timeline	Archaeologists travel back in time to 13th C France in the middle of the Hundred Years War
Clancy, Tom	Red Storm Rising	Tale of what conventional WWII would have looked like between the US and Soviets in 1980s
Clausewitz, Carl von	On War	Timeless treatise on war, statecraft, strategy, and critical thinking
Cooper, James Fenimore	The Last of the Mohicans	Timeless story of the early American frontier; sisters are kidnapped by natives and tracked by a woodsman
Davis, Natalie Zemon	The Return of Martin Guerre	Detailed history of a medieval French trial; Asks what we know about History and how we know it
DeMille, Nelson	Charm School	Air Force attaché finds Vietnam POWs alive in Russia teaching their spies; also read <i>Cathedral</i> – great book
Dickens, Charles	A Christmas Carol	Very short read, but far better than any play or movie version; worth reading every Christmas
Dickens, Charles	The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit	A rich man watches his relations scheme for his money. Outstanding human insights, both good and bad
Doerr, Anthony	Four Seasons in Rome	Melodically written short book about the author, his wife and twin baby boys and life in Rome for one year
Donahue, Keith	Angels of Destruction	Great story about a woman whose teen daughter runs away and 10 years later a girl shows up on her door
Druett, Joan	Island of the Lost	History of 2 ships that wrecked on Auckland Island in 1864; the crew of one survives, the other all die - why?
Eco, Umberto	The Name of the Rose	English empiricist monk seeks to solve murders in an Italian Franciscan abbey in 1327; I need 8 more lines...
Ehrenreich, Barbara	Blood Rites	Origins and History of the Passions of War - sociological study of man and why we are driven to war
Feist, Raymond	Riftwar Saga	Great novels dealing with culture and war between two very different worlds; also read <i>Faerie Tale</i>
Fforde, Jasper	The Eyre Affair (and all Thursday sequels)	Alternative Future - Jayne Eyre is kidnapped from her story and tracked by detective Thursday Next; also read Fforde's <i>Shades of Grey</i>
Fisher, Alec	The Logic of Real Arguments	Critical Thinking and sound logic for making sound arguments
Funke, Cornelia	The Thief Lord	Orphaned German children run away from their Aunt to Venice and find refuge/adventure with other kids
Gaskell, Elizabeth	North and South	Powerful Victorian novel of cleavages in England; rich, poor; north, south; owner, laborer; man, woman
Gibbons, Euell	Stalking the Healthful Herb/Stalking the Wild Asparagus	Gibbons delightfully tells of how nature provides all we need. Excellent narratives, drawings and recipes for how to find and prepare wild
Gladwell, Malcolm	Blink	The power of thinking without thinking; you can't put this down once you start it; read him at gladwell.com
Glenny, Misha	The Fall of Yugoslavia	Excellent, accessible explanation of why Yugoslavia broke apart; culture, history; easy to read
Gorman, Bob	Newsmaker	Gripping story of cleavages in a small South Carolina town; makes us consider how we interact in our communities
Hansen, Brooks	Pearlman's Ordeal	Hansen won a Gold Medal for The Chess Garden; this book is better, especially the second time you read it
Heinlein, Robert	Starship Troopers	Political Theory book disguised as science fiction - not like the movie; much better
Hofstadter, Richard	Anti-intellectualism in American Life	Pulitzer-winning study how and why Americans shun thinkers in favor of doers; applicable in today's military
Holzimmer, Kevin	General Walter Kreuger	Excellent biography of one of the most important, yet least known 4-star generals of WWII
Homer	The Iliad	Epic poem about the Trojan War; Very timeless; not just a literature assignment
Hood, William	Cry Spy	Very detailed and fast-paced novel about Cold War spy tradecraft - still applicable today
Huntington, Samuel	The Clash of Civilizations	How and why the West will fight the rest; also read the many academic rebuttals to this book
Huntington, Samuel	The Soldier and the State	Relationship between military officers and the country they serve
Irving, John	A Prayer for Owen Meany	Owen Meany is a small person with a large role to play in individuals' lives
Kapor, Momo	A Guide To The Serbian Mentality	Hilarious, but dead on accurate study of the Balkan mindset; short, engaging chapters on various themes
Keegan, John	The Face of Battle	Why men fight in battles - Studies of the battles of Agincourt, Waterloo and Somme
Keegan, John	Fields of Battle	The Wars for North America - we know far less about our own history than we ought to know; this helps out
Kempis, Thomas á	The Imitation of Christ	The most classic and timeless book on spiritual growth
King, Stephen	The Stand	The ultimate story of good versus evil; if you read only one Stephen King book, this should be it
Lang, Pierce, Rosenthal	Ethics and the Future of Conflict	Chapters on various ethical issues and future war
Lee, Harper	To Kill a Mockingbird	Quintessential American novel of the South, goodness, sociological problems and a child's innocence
Lester, Toby	The Fourth Part of the World	Exploration of the New world from the viewpoint of the European map-makers, thinkers, and explorers

Lewis, C.S.	The Screwtape Letters	Letters from a senior devil to his nephew on how to bring down man - man wins in the end
Lewis, Michael	The Blind Side	Evolution of the game of football through the powerful story of one poor inner city kid in Memphis
Levitt and Dubner	Freakonomics	A rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything - great critical thinking book
Lightman, Alan	Einstein's Dreams	Excellent allegorical short chapters, each a different dream conceiving time and society in a new way
Ludlum, Robert	Bourne Identity	Fast-paced spy novel takes you on a trip through Europe & US
Mandino, Og	The Choice	Short book about an author who receives a choice about which way to take his life
McCullough, David	The Greater Journey	How a small group of Americans in Paris btwn 1830-1900 had a tremendous impact on the USA
McMaster, H.R.	Dereliction of Duty	How the Joint Chiefs let the people down and lost the Vietnam War
McMurtry, Larry	Lonesome Dove	Quintessential novel of the American West; Texas Rangers drive cattle to Canada
Mearsheimer, John	The Tragedy of Great Power Politics	Mearsheimer take on why the US is doomed to go to war in the future (China) - hence the tragedy
Mingst, Karen	Essentials of International Relations	Basic paperback text on IR; easy to read, very broad, not very deep, but everything you need
de Montaigne, Michel	Essays	Short essays on every topic from virtue to books to cannibals, written c. 1580 by a French nobleman
More, Thomas	Utopia	Middle-ages manifesto on the utopian society; he leaves you to realize why it would never work
Morganstern, Erin	The Night Circus	The Circus appears without warning, a marvel, a life-and-death competition between two magicians
Mowle, Thomas, Ed.	Hope is Not a Plan	The Iraq War From Inside the Green Zone; what planners offered as strategy but was not implemented
Page, Scott	The Difference	Why diversity in decisionmaking is critical to sound results; diversity trumps expertise
Pearl, Matthew	The Dante Club	America's most prominent thinkers in 1865 translate Dante during a string of murders in Boston
Pearlstein, Rick	Nixonland	Book challenges the current meta-narrative; how race and class were used in the 60s/70s to divide the US
Pears, Iain	Stone's Fall	Gripping novel of personal trial and national intrigue between 1870 and WWI; also <i>Instance at the Fingerpost</i>
Peiper, Joseph	Leisure, The Basis of Culture	Post WWII argument that man was made to live, not work, and that leisure and thought lead to heaven
Perez-Reverte, Arturo	The Fencing Master	Novel of intrigue set in the midst of Spanish revolution in mid-1800s Madrid -- his works are good finds
Potzsch, Oliver	The Hangman's Daughter (whole series)	Historical novels set in mid-1600s Bavaria; the outcast but wise village hangman solves murders
Powers, Tim	Declare	Wide-ranging espionage-fantasy mix; real story of spy Kim Philby mixed with hypothetical fantasy
Prosek, James	Trout: An Illustrated History	Excellent book about North American Trout with beautiful pictures of them all, including extinct species
Putnam, Robert	Bowling Alone	Explains the rise in negative social indicators as civic involvement decreases
Rowlings, J.K.	Harry Potter series	Life in the wizarding world parallels life in ours; These are seriously well-written books
Rutler, George	Principlities and Powers	Back story of spiritual warfare between totalitarian forces and the faithful during WWII
de Sales, Francis	Introduction to the Devout Life	Letters and meditations from St Francis de Sales to a person desiring to grow closer to the Lord
de Sales, Raoul de Roussy	The Making of Tomorrow	1943 book pretty accurately predicting the collective global political system and its inherent issues
Scharra, John/Michael	Killer Angels trilogy	The definitive novelization of the Civil War
Setterfield, Diane	The Thirteenth Tale	Book the Brontes never wrote; obscure biographer listens to a dark story from a famous, dying writer
Sowell, Thomas	Ethnic America	Who came to America, when, why, and what resulted; Also try his book, Race and Culture
Steinbeck, John	The Short Reign of Pippin IV	A tale of a common man who is given the French throne even though he doesn't want it
Stevens, Richard	Sober as a Judge	Studies in the Judicial sobriety of several key justices through history
Stevens, Richard	The Declaration of Independence and US Constitution	The volume with Richard Stevens' introduction is the best available; his words illuminate the documents
Stikker, Dirk	Men of Responsibility	Former NATO Secretary General writes one of the best books on diplomacy you can read
Surowiecki, James	The Wisdom of Crowds	How the many are smarter than the few; gathering a few experts may be worse than asking the masses
Taleb, Nassim Nicholas	The Black Swan	Sometimes overly pithy, but good cautionary tale about placing faith in statistical methods
Thucydides	The History of the Peloponnesian Wars	Mandatory reader for early statecraft, combined arms, morality and international relations
Tolkein, JRR	Lord of the Rings Trilogy	Foundation for all modern fantasy; really an allegory of faithful selflessness and brotherhood
Tufte, Edward	The Visual Display of Quantitative Information	A brilliant look at how information is presented and how it can be presented better with fewer words
Twelve Hawks, John	The Traveler (and sequels)	People trying to live beyond government control; predicted many technologies of today's surveillance state
Unknown	Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	Late 14th Century tale of Sir Gawain's honor and courage, and a kept promise - excellent short read
Unknown	Song of Roland	11th Century French epic poem about Charlemagne and chivalry
Virgil	The Aeneid	Epic tale of Aeneas' flight after the fall of Troy and his journey ending in the founding of Rome
Waugh, Evelyn	Decline and Fall	Brilliant satirical novel of England's aristocratic class, how those below them are resigned to their fates
Weigley, Russell	Eisenhower's Lieutenants	Definitive study of Allied leadership in Europe, WWII; difference between strategy and actual employment
Weigley, Russell	The Age of Battles	Details the futile quest for the decisive battle in warfare; strategy really matters; an excellent European history
West, Rebecca	Black Lamb, Grey Falcon	Sociological study of Yugoslavia in the 1930s; Excellent Read; very long and full of thick description
White, T.H.	The Once and Future King	Definitive modern work on Arthurian legend; moral dilemmas and the implications of right vs. might
Widmer, Andreas	The Pope and the CEO	Former Swiss Guard tells of leadership lessons learned from Pope John Paul II which made him a top CEO
Wodehouse, P.G.	A Damsel in Distress	Best known for the Jeeves and Wooster books, his comedic genius is unmatched; pick any title and read it
Wright, Mike	What They Didn't Teach You About ...	The Civil War; World War I; World War II; Good books full of facts/stories most people don't know about