



Impatient Optimist: Bill Gates in His Own Words

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Bill Gates, the founder and former CEO of Microsoft, has been a revered, and occasionally controversial, worldwide business icon for more than three decades.

Recognized by most as an ingenious visionary, and painted by some as a tyrannical, less-than-scrupulous empire builder, Gates has had an unignorable impact on the growth of digital technology in daily life over the past 30 years. Even his sharpest critics have to acknowledge the obvious: Gates helped spearhead one of the greatest revolutions in modern history by seizing on the importance of software to the rise of the personal computer, along the way turning an arcane, specialized technology into a commonplace tool for the office and home.

Gates has long been ranked as one of the world's wealthiest men--which gave him a name recognition far greater than that of most CEOs--and businesspeople of all stripes have looked to him as a role model, using his words and business strategies to help create, inspire, and grow their own companies. After he stopped running Microsoft's day-to-day operations in 2008 to devote himself full-time to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a kinder, gentler Gates began to emerge. As a result, people actively involved in the philanthropic world, whether in professional, part-time, or personal capacities, began to develop a new appreciation for the man.

Bill Gates's second act is no less compelling than his first. And whether you're interested in his personal life or looking for inspiration to drive you forward in your own business endeavors, *Impatient Optimist: Bill Gates in His Own Words* has much to offer. As the tech giants who distinguished the turn of the 21st century shape public life in ways that outstrip the efforts of the previous century's titans of industry, we look to figures like Gates for inspiration as one of America's greatest business icons. This book will surely feed the world's curiosity about one of the most important leaders of the digital age.

Impatient Optimist: Bill Gates in His Own Words Details

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From Reader Review Impatient Optimist: Bill Gates in His Own Words for online ebook

Ishmeet Singh says

The book it is full of quotes (only quotes) of Bill Gates, written in order of his timeline . I found the concept of writing a biography with only quotes he said during those life events amusing and refreshing . It's not the book you're looking for if you want details and stuff. A nice and quick read if you love quotes.

Dave M. Puhrmann says

Not what I was expecting, just a bunch of quotes from Bill Gates. Didn't finish.

Shalini Sinha says

When I started reading this book, I was a bit disappointed only to find quotes by the famous American business magnate-turned author & philanthropist. However after persisting through first few pages, it became engaging as a wonderful compendium of Bill Gates' thoughts, quotes and visions on a broad spectrum of topics of global interests.

Some of the best nuggets of wisdom in "Impatient Optimist" :

- 1) I really had a lot of dreams when I was a kid, and I think a great deal of that grew out of the fact that I had a chance to read a lot.
- 2) You basically have to convince the other guys not to spend enough money to compete with us, to keep just making it harder and harder, move the terms up, we just keep raising the bar, and eventually maybe one of them will try to do stuff with us. But a lot of them will just say, "Forget it".
- 3) I never criticised a person. I have criticised ideas.
- 4) Arming myself with knowledge & sitting down with them who live the topic and brainstorming with them, that's what helps me back the right people and make sure what's going on.
- 5) I can do anything I put my mind to.

On early days

- 6) We didn't even obey a 24-hr clock, we'd come in and program for a couple of days straight... four or five of us. When it was time to eat we'd all get in our cars over to the restaurant and sit and talk about what we were doing. Sometimes I'd get excited talking about things, I'd forget to eat, but then you know, we'd just go back and program some more. It was us and our friends - those were fun days.

E-Books

- 7) I read a lot of obscure books and it is nice to open a book. But the electronic devices are good as well. Digital reading will completely take over.

Education

- 8) A quarter of our teachers are very good. We need to measure what they do and then have incentives for the other teachers to learn these things.

9) We have two big theories about how we might ... change things. One is to help improve the quality of teaching which means really studying why some teachers are so much better than others. There is some magic stuff being done by the best teachers. And yet there is not really an effort to transfer those skills to other teachers. One of the ways is to change is through feedback. You get peers to come in and see what you're doing. If there is a digital camera in the camera, you can even review yourself.

Meetings

10) When I go to a meeting, I keep specific objectives in mind. There isn't much small talk. There are always challenges than there are hours, so why be wasteful?

11) We never waste a lot of time talking about what we're doing well. It just isn't our culture. Every meeting is about, "Sure, we won in seven of the categories, but what about that eighth category?"

Employees

12) Take our 20 best people away, and I will tell you that Microsoft would become an unimportant company.

13) Smart people anywhere in the company should have the power to drive an initiative.

Energy Policy

14) We can say that we want energy that costs, say, a quarter of what coal electricity does and emits zero CO₂. But there are a lot of difficult things along that path. It is disappointing that some people have painted this problem as easy to solve. It's not easy, and it's bad for society if we think it is, because then funding for R&D doesn't happen.

Entrepreneurs

15) When somebody's in their entrepreneurial mode - being fanatical, inventing new things - the value they are adding to the world is phenomenal.

Ethanol

16) Despite often-heard claims to be contrary, ethanol has nothing to do with reducing CO₂; it is just a form of farm subsidy. If you're using 1st class land for biofuels, then you're actually spiking food process by moving energy production into agriculture. For poor people, this is a real problem because their food budget is an extremely high percentage of their income.

17) I'm an optimist. I think this is a wonderful time to be alive. There have never been so many opportunities to do things that were impossible before.

18) The world is getting better, but it's not getting better fast enough, and it's not getting better for everyone.

19) In my twenties, I just worked. Now I go home for dinner.

20) I don't think that IQ is as fungible as I used to. To succeed, you also have to know how to make choices and how to think more broadly.

21) There is plenty of challenge, which is why it's good we're not a culture that looks back and has to waste a lot of time celebrating what we have done well.

22) I am an optimist. But I am an impatient optimist.

23) With technology we've always got that people tend to overestimate what can change in a year or two, and they underestimate the cumulative effect of change that can take place in a 10 or 15 year period.

24) I am not immune to the lures of television. I just try to stay away from it because I like to read.

Azhar Qureshi says

I see reviews of this book and I think what most of them have missed is essence of this book. I see people criticizing that it's just bunch of his quotes. That doesn't justify the book.

Now let me tell you something, IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE THAT. It is not a work of fiction or someone's opinion or anything like that. It is simply compilation of what he said on different occasions in interviews. So, if you have picked up the book which means you are interested in his thoughts then it is DEFINITELY worth read.

Gowtham says

don't even think about opening this book unless until you are an ardent follower of Bill Gates..the book is just a mere compilation of some of Gates's talks. The author just gives us some irrelevant quotations which portray Gates in a different way. On the whole just waste of 150 bucks :-(
P.S: this is my thought which may differ from others.

Omar Velásquez says

Se puede estar de acuerdo o no con cada una de las citas del libro, pero indudablemente hablamos de la vida de un personaje influyente en la forma en como vivimos, de ahí que sea interesante meditar en sus ideas. Quizá para muchas de ellas se haga necesario estar dentro o gustar del mundo de la tecnología.

Daniel Zaltsman says

A series of milestones and Bill Gates quotes should not be called a book in my opinion, but what do I know. I did enjoy the quotes and highlighted a whole bunch for inspiration.

Lia Purnamasari says

*"Success is a lousy teacher.
It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose."*

At least this book told me the way Bill Gates thinks.

Ariel says

Expected biography and got a bunch of quotes... Maybe it was what it should be, but I'm deeply disappointed.

Sid says

Bill Gates is a very interesting person, one of the most smartest people who has a great myriad of experience under his belt.

Having said that the means of using quotes as means to explain the individual are not justified. I prefer reading about his experiences which portrays the environment he was experiencing and his exact responses to things around him but the use of one liners said in a generalised theme or excerpts from speeches do not justify to give a full idea of the man and his views on an opinion.

Ashok says

Meh.

It's as if Lisa started off with her research to write a book on Bill Gates, google'd 'Bill Gates', scanned thru the results, and compiled notes of useful bits of what was reported... and then had a change of heart, abandoned the book idea, and just published the notes she collected as a book.

I am not sure if that is what really happened, but it does look like it. The 'book' is essentially just quotes from various media / other publications which quotes Bill Gates. There's a small intro piece from the author, and a lot of simple one or two word headings for each of the quotes.

Unfortunately, it's not for me, and I can't imagine who / what would find this compilation useful or interesting, but the world is a large place...

Meghdut Sengupta says

Well, frankly speaking, I had a lot of expectations from this book. I thought it can show me the different sides of the genius and how his mind works. Instead, the book was far from meeting my expectations. It's filled with important and unimportant quotations done by him over the past decades. While some of his perspectives may touch you inside, I am sure you'll forget most of the text that's written through out the book. It's only some straightforward facts. I believe beauty is in the eye of the beholder. But if someone wants a recommendation based on my tastes, I won't be too eager to suggest this book to the concerned person.

Steve Wall says

I bought it for Kobo without realizing that it is all quotes from Bill Gates. That said, I think it gives perhaps more insight into his personality than a regular biography would. It's an interesting read.

Abhishek says

I bought this book online, and for the first time I experienced the drawback of not being able to "touch & feel" the product before buying it.

Here is what I expected: A book on not necessarily best business practices of Bill Gates, but at least as title suggested, a meaningful insight in his life.

Here is what I got: A collection of quotes, which was alphabetically arranged!! I mean, if all I wanted was his quotes, I would have used the internet! Why would I pay for a collection of quotes? Just because it is arranged in an alphabetical manner!?

But, this does not take the fact away from the book that every word in that book belongs to the "richest man", who decided not to be "the richest man in grave" and is still fighting a war against the malaria in his own way! and looks like he is doing good!!

shreya says

Nice compilation of his thoughts, word or quote to showcase his vision..
