Twitter Thread by Pat Gelsinger



Pat Gelsinger
@PGelsinger

In keeping with year-end tradition, I wanted to share the best books I read in 2020 – a year unlike any other - with a list of reads heavily influenced by global events including…

…Race and social justice. While not a planned reading theme as I started the year, social injustices that have plagued our nation for centuries rose up in a jolting manner. May we pass on to our children and grandchildren a more socially just world than we received.

Frederick Douglass, David Blight

Douglass was a self-educated slave who freed himself to become a tireless speaker, political leader & passionate reformer. Even reading his speeches today, you feel drawn to the power, drama & personal suffering of this great man.

Bonhoeffer, Eric Metaxas & Timothy Keller

Theologian, Pastor, Church Leader & spy/traitor. Quite a resume for an influential young German aristocrat. Details the rise of Hitler & pure evil unleashed in the face of the pure good of Christ as seen through Bonhoeffer's eyes.

So You Want To Talk About Race, Ijeoma Oluo

Jarring. We have so far to go as we confront the realities of systemic racism. Since reading I've sought out reverse mentors to try and learn more. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. (Much profanity for those sensitive to such)

The Third Option, Miles McPherson

The church in America faces many challenges – but seeing a radical and aggressive approach to crossing unconventional social/ethnic lines as Christ did to build relationships and impact lives is what faith is all about.

Of course we couldn't reflect on 2020 without news of the pandemic and the harsh impacts of COVID-19. However, as devastating as COVID has been, the great 1918 influenza had immense loss of life and changed the direction of healthcare.

The Great Influenza, John Barry

Gripping retelling of the great pandemic of 1918. Much of our modern understanding of the immune system, viral/bacterial infections, and so much more was born in the urgency of dealing with the Influenza.

Why We Sleep, Matthew Walker

Combined w/ @ouraring this book changed my habits. Overall health impact of good night's sleep is profound. I used to "thrive" on 5 hrs/night, this transformed how I think about God given benefits of sleep to overall health. Must read for achievers.

Side note – Why We Sleep was Twitter's most suggested from 2019 (https://t.co/tA3rlVn1se). Good call! Thanks.

> Here are my top 10 reads of 2019: https://t.co/qRzJtJhApS
>
> It's not lost on me that these 10 books barely scratch the surface for what authors and topics have to share. Which one should I dive into next?
>
> — Pat Gelsinger (@PGelsinger) December 30, 2019

To round out my top 10 list are a couple of great historical figures who you can't stop learning from and two great stories of achievement.

Leonardo da Vinci, Walter Isaacson

The ultimate renaissance man. He studied engineering, anatomy, nature - everything. His anatomical drawings were centuries ahead of his time. Had he published his findings, the world might be decades or centuries ahead of where it is today.

Napoleon: A Life, Andrew Roberts

The greatest military leader of his era, w/ broad intrigue of history, arts & governance. Napoleonic wars are a study in strategy & tactics. His ability and lessons on inspiring the team should instruct leaders to this day.

The Boys in the Boat, Daniel James Brown

A riveting story of what a team can do when entirely committed, acting with complete trust to each other and in pursuit of a singular goal – Olympic gold in the face of a ruthless dictator.

Hit Refresh, Satya Nadella

As a friend and colleague, it is truly impressive to see what @satyanadella has done at Microsoft. I deeply believe technologists have an inherent advantage running technology companies. Rebuilding a company is never a small task.

With those as my top 10, there are so many other great reads I may have missed. What should be on my list for 2021?