

The Sum Of Us



The Sum of Us: Understanding the Power of Collective Action

Are you tired of feeling like your individual efforts are insignificant in the face of larger problems? Do you yearn to be part of something bigger, to contribute meaningfully to a cause you believe in? This blog post delves into the profound impact of collective action, exploring what "the sum of us" truly represents and how harnessing this power can create transformative change. We'll examine the psychology behind group dynamics, explore successful examples of collective action, and provide actionable strategies for you to become a more effective participant in movements for positive change. Get ready to discover the incredible potential that lies within the collaborative spirit of humanity - the sum of us.

H2: Unpacking the Phrase "The Sum of Us"

The phrase "the sum of us" signifies more than just a simple mathematical addition. It's a powerful metaphor representing the synergistic effect of individuals working together towards a shared goal. It acknowledges that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts – that when individuals combine their skills, resources, and passions, the outcome is exponentially more significant than what any single person could achieve alone. This synergistic effect isn't merely about combining efforts; it's about the creation of something entirely new and impactful through collaboration and shared purpose.

H3: The Psychology Behind Collective Action

Our innate desire for belonging and social connection fuels collective action. Humans are social creatures; we thrive in communities and find strength in shared identity. This inherent need for connection is often the driving force behind participation in collective movements, whether it's a neighborhood cleanup, a political campaign, or a global environmental initiative. Furthermore, the feeling of shared responsibility and the belief that one's contribution matters significantly influence an individual's willingness to participate. The "bystander effect," where individuals feel less responsible when others are present, diminishes significantly when a clear sense of collective purpose emerges.

H3: The Power of Shared Identity and Purpose

A crucial element in successful collective action is the creation of a strong shared identity and a clearly defined purpose. When individuals feel a sense of belonging to a group and understand the collective objective, their commitment and engagement increase dramatically. This shared identity can be based on shared values, beliefs, experiences, or a common goal. Effective movements often cultivate a sense of community, fostering mutual support and encouraging collaboration. A strong, well-articulated purpose provides a focal point for action, guiding individual contributions and strengthening collective efforts.

H2: Real-World Examples of "The Sum of Us" in Action

Numerous historical and contemporary examples showcase the remarkable power of collective action. Consider the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, where the combined efforts of countless individuals led to significant legal and societal changes. The suffragette movement, fighting for women's right to vote, similarly demonstrates the transformative potential of unified action. More recently, we've seen the impactful mobilization of environmental groups advocating for climate action and social justice movements pushing for systemic change. These examples illustrate

that even seemingly insurmountable challenges can be overcome when individuals unite around a shared cause.

H3: Analyzing Successful Collective Action Campaigns

Examining successful collective action campaigns reveals several key components. Effective communication and outreach strategies are essential for mobilizing individuals and building momentum. Utilizing social media, grassroots organizing, and strategic alliances are often crucial for widespread engagement. Furthermore, the ability to adapt and evolve in response to challenges and setbacks is critical for sustained success. Successful movements demonstrate resilience, continually adjusting their strategies and messaging to remain effective.

H2: How You Can Contribute to the Sum of Us

You don't need to lead a massive movement to contribute significantly to "the sum of us." Even small acts of collective action can have a ripple effect, creating positive change within your community and beyond. Consider volunteering your time to a local charity, participating in community events, supporting social enterprises, or simply engaging in respectful dialogue with those who hold different perspectives. Every contribution, however small, adds to the overall impact.

H3: Practical Steps for Effective Participation

Finding your niche within a collective movement is crucial. Identify causes you're passionate about and research organizations working in those areas. Explore ways to contribute your skills and talents - whether it's through fundraising, advocacy, volunteering, or simply spreading awareness. Remember, effective collective action requires sustained effort and commitment. Don't get discouraged by setbacks; instead, focus on the long-term impact of your contributions.

Conclusion

"The sum of us" isn't just a catchy phrase; it's a potent reminder of our collective power to create a better world. By understanding the psychology behind group dynamics, learning from successful collective action campaigns, and actively participating in movements for positive change, we can all contribute to a more just, equitable, and sustainable future. Our individual actions, when combined with the efforts of others, have the potential to achieve incredible things. Embrace the power of collaboration and become a vital part of "the sum of us."

FAQs

Q1: What if my individual contribution seems insignificant?

A1: Even small acts contribute to the larger whole. Every bit of effort adds to the momentum and overall impact of a movement.

Q2: How can I find a cause that aligns with my values?

A2: Research organizations working on issues you care about. Explore online resources, attend local events, and connect with like-minded individuals.

Q3: What if I don't have much time to dedicate to collective action?

A3: Even small amounts of time – donating a few hours a month, for example – can make a difference.

Q4: How can I overcome feelings of helplessness or apathy?

A4: Focus on achievable goals, celebrate small victories, and connect with others who share your passion.

Q5: How can I ensure my participation is truly effective?

A5: Research organizations thoroughly, communicate effectively, and be open to learning and adapting your approach.

the sum of us: The Sum of Us Heather McGhee, 2022-02-08 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD • One of today's most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color. WINNER OF THE PORCHLIGHT BUSINESS BOOK AWARD • ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: Time, The Washington Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Ms. magazine, BookRiot, Library Journal “This is the book I’ve been waiting for.”—Ibram X. Kendi, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *How to Be an Antiracist* Look for the author's podcast, *The Sum of Us*, based on this book! Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis of 2008 to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a root problem: racism in our politics and policymaking. But not just in the most obvious indignities for people of color. Racism has costs for white people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out? McGhee embarks on a deeply personal journey across the country from Maine to Mississippi to California, tallying what we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm—the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others. Along the way, she meets white people who confide in her about losing their homes, their dreams, and their shot at better jobs to the toxic mix of American racism and greed. This is the story of how public goods in this country—from parks and pools to functioning schools—have become private luxuries; of how unions collapsed, wages stagnated, and inequality increased; and of how this country, unique among the world's advanced economies, has thwarted universal healthcare. But in unlikely places of worship and work, McGhee finds proof of what she calls the Solidarity Dividend: the benefits we gain when people come together across race to accomplish what we simply can't do on our own. *The Sum of Us* is not only a brilliant analysis of how we arrived here but also a heartfelt message, delivered with startling empathy, from a black woman to a multiracial America. It leaves us with a new vision for a future in which we finally realize that

life can be more than a zero-sum game. **LOONGLISTED FOR THE ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDAL**

the sum of us: The Sum of Us Heather McGhee, 2021-02-16 **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • LOONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD •** One of today's most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color. **WINNER OF THE PORCHLIGHT BUSINESS BOOK AWARD • ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR:** Time, The Washington Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Ms. magazine, BookRiot, Library Journal “This is the book I’ve been waiting for.”—Ibram X. Kendi, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *How to Be an Antiracist* Look for the author's new podcast, *The Sum of Us*, based on this book! Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis of 2008 to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a root problem: racism in our politics and policymaking. But not just in the most obvious indignities for people of color. Racism has costs for white people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out? McGhee embarks on a deeply personal journey across the country from Maine to Mississippi to California, tallying what we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm—the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others. Along the way, she meets white people who confide in her about losing their homes, their dreams, and their shot at better jobs to the toxic mix of American racism and greed. This is the story of how public goods in this country—from parks and pools to functioning schools—have become private luxuries; of how unions collapsed, wages stagnated, and inequality increased; and of how this country, unique among the world's advanced economies, has thwarted universal healthcare. But in unlikely places of worship and work, McGhee finds proof of what she calls the Solidarity Dividend: the benefits we gain when people come together across race to accomplish what we simply can't do on our own. *The Sum of Us* is not only a brilliant analysis of how we arrived here but also a heartfelt message, delivered with startling empathy, from a black woman to a multiracial America. It leaves us with a new vision for a future in which we finally realize that life can be more than a zero-sum game. **LOONGLISTED FOR THE ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDAL**

the sum of us: The Sum of Us David Stevens, 1990 About a widower and his gay son. Jeff is in love with a young gardener he met in the local pub, but Greg is wary particularly when he meets dear old Dad. Meanwhile, Dad is developing a relationship with a woman he met through a dating service, but she is put off by Jeff's homosexuality and she pulls away just before he suffers a stroke.

the sum of us: The Sum of the People Andrew Whitby, 2020-03-31 This fascinating three-thousand-year history of the census traces the making of the modern survey and explores its political power in the age of big data and surveillance. In April 2020, the United States will embark on what has been called the largest peacetime mobilization in American history: the decennial population census. It is part of a tradition of counting people that goes back at least three millennia and now spans the globe. In *The Sum of the People*, data scientist Andrew Whitby traces the remarkable history of the census, from ancient China and the Roman Empire, through revolutionary America and Nazi-occupied Europe, to the steps of the Supreme Court. Marvels of democracy, instruments of exclusion, and, at worst, tools of tyranny and genocide, censuses have always profoundly shaped the societies we've built. Today, as we struggle to resist the creep of mass surveillance, the traditional census -- direct and transparent -- may offer the seeds of an alternative.

the sum of us: The Sum of Small Things Elizabeth Currid-Halkett, 2017-05-15 How the leisure class has been replaced by a new elite, and how their consumer habits affect us all In today's world, the leisure class has been replaced by a new elite. Highly educated and defined by cultural capital rather than income bracket, these individuals earnestly buy organic, carry NPR tote bags, and breast-feed their babies. They care about discreet, inconspicuous consumption—like eating free-range chicken and heirloom tomatoes, wearing organic cotton shirts and TOMS shoes, and listening to the *Serial* podcast. They use their purchasing power to hire nannies and housekeepers, to cultivate their children's growth, and to practice yoga and Pilates. In *The Sum of Small Things*,

Elizabeth Currid-Halkett dubs this segment of society “the aspirational class” and discusses how, through deft decisions about education, health, parenting, and retirement, the aspirational class reproduces wealth and upward mobility, deepening the ever-wider class divide. Exploring the rise of the aspirational class, Currid-Halkett considers how much has changed since the 1899 publication of Thorstein Veblen’s *Theory of the Leisure Class*. In that inflammatory classic, which coined the phrase “conspicuous consumption,” Veblen described upper-class frivolities: men who used walking sticks for show, and women who bought silver flatware despite the effectiveness of cheaper aluminum utensils. Now, Currid-Halkett argues, the power of material goods as symbols of social position has diminished due to their accessibility. As a result, the aspirational class has altered its consumer habits away from overt materialism to more subtle expenditures that reveal status and knowledge. And these transformations influence how we all make choices. With a rich narrative and extensive interviews and research, *The Sum of Small Things* illustrates how cultural capital leads to lifestyle shifts and what this forecasts, not just for the aspirational class but for everyone.

the sum of us: The Sum of Trifles Julia Ridley Smith, 2021-11-01 When Julia Ridley Smith’s parents died, they left behind a virtual museum of furniture, books, art, and artifacts. Between the contents of their home, the stock from their North Carolina antiques shop, and the ephemera of two lives lived, Smith faced a monumental task. What would she do with her parents’ possessions? Smith’s wise and moving memoir in essays, *The Sum of Trifles*, peels back the layers of meaning surrounding specific objects her parents owned, from an eighteenth-century miniature to her father’s prosthetics. A vintage hi-fi provides a view of her often tense relationship with her father, whose love of jazz kindled her own artistic impulse. A Japanese screen embodies her mother’s principles of good taste and good manners, while an antebellum quilt prompts Smith to grapple with her family’s slaveholding legacy. Along the way, she turns to literature that illuminates how her inheritance shaped her notions of identity and purpose. *The Sum of Trifles* offers up dark humor and raw feeling, mixed with an erudite streak. It’s a curious, thoughtful look at how we live in and with our material culture and how we face our losses as we decide what to keep and what to let go.

the sum of us: The Sum of My Parts Olga Trujillo, 2011-10-01 By the first day of kindergarten, Olga Trujillo had already survived years of abuse and violent rape at the hands of her tyrannical father. Over the next ten years, she would develop the ability to numb herself to the constant abuse by splitting into distinct mental “parts.” Dissociative identity disorder (DID) had begun to take hold, protecting Olga’s mind from the tragic realities of her childhood. In *The Sum of My Parts*, Olga reveals her life story for the first time, chronicling her heroic journey from survivor to advocate and her remarkable recovery from DID. Formerly known as multiple personality disorder, DID is defined by the presence of two or more identities. In this riveting story, Olga struggles to unearth memories from her childhood, and parallel identities—Olga at five years old, Olga at thirteen—come forth and demand to be healed. This brave, unforgettable memoir charts the author’s triumph over the most devastating conditions and will inspire anyone whose life has been affected by trauma.

the sum of us: The Runelords David Farland, 2007-04-01 The first book of the saga of *The Runelords* Young Prince Gaborn Val Orden of Mysteria is traveling in disguise on a journey to ask for the hand of the lovely Princess Iome of Sylvarresta. Armed with his gifts of strength and perception, Prince Gaborn and his warrior bodyguard stop in a local tavern along the way. Immediately, they spot a pair of assassins who have their sights set on Princess Iome's father. As the prince and his bodyguard race to warn the king of this impending danger, they realize that more than the royal family is at risk, the very fate of the Earth is in jeopardy. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

the sum of us: Sum David Eagleman, 2009-02-10 At once funny, wistful and unsettling, *Sum* is a dazzling exploration of unexpected afterlives—each presented as a vignette that offers a stunning lens through which to see ourselves in the here and now. In one afterlife, you may find that God is the size of a microbe and unaware of your existence. In another version, you work as a background character in other people’s dreams. Or you may find that God is a married couple, or that the

universe is running backward, or that you are forced to live out your afterlife with annoying versions of who you could have been. With a probing imagination and deep understanding of the human condition, acclaimed neuroscientist David Eagleman offers wonderfully imagined tales that shine a brilliant light on the here and now.

the sum of us: The Sum of Our Gods Benjamin Gorman, 2013-10 Joe has been cursed. He must meet with Yahweh, the Creator, once a week for coffee and listen to God complain. Yahweh is a crotchety old deity with a pantheon of family problems. His wife, Frigga, has basically stopped talking to Him, except to nag Him about retiring. His son, Jesus, suffers from crippling depression. Oh, and Jesus' estranged wife is planning a terrorist attack to start a holy war. God is fed up with all the drama. He's perfectly tired and infinitely irritable. Though God doesn't seem to care about human problems, Joe's little, mortal life isn't perfect, either. In fact, it's a comedy as black as God's coffee.

the sum of us: The Sum of Our Days Isabel Allende, 2014-04-01 In this heartfelt memoir, Isabel Allende reconstructs the painful reality of her own life in the wake of tragic loss—the death of her daughter, Paula. Recalling the past thirteen years from the daily letters the author and her mother, who lives in Chile, wrote to each other, Allende bares her soul in a book that is as exuberant and full of life as its creator. She recounts the stories of the wildly eccentric, strong-minded, and eclectic tribe she gathers around her that becomes a new kind of family. Throughout, Allende shares her thoughts on love, marriage, motherhood, spirituality and religion, infidelity, addiction, and memory. Here, too, are the amazing stories behind Allende's books, the superstitions that guide her writing process, and her adventurous travels. Ultimately, *The Sum of Our Days* offers a unique tour of this gifted writer's inner world and of the relationships that have become essential to her life and her work. Narrated with warmth, humor, exceptional candor, and wisdom, *The Sum of Our Days* is a portrait of a contemporary family, bound together by the love, fierce loyalty, and stubborn determination of a beloved, indomitable matriarch.

the sum of us: Running Out Lucas Bessire, 2022-10-04 Finalist for the National Book Award An intimate reckoning with aquifer depletion in America's heartland The Ogallala aquifer has nourished life on the American Great Plains for millennia. But less than a century of unsustainable irrigation farming has taxed much of the aquifer beyond repair. The imminent depletion of the Ogallala and other aquifers around the world is a defining planetary crisis of our times. *Running Out* offers a uniquely personal account of aquifer depletion and the deeper layers through which it gains meaning and force. Anthropologist Lucas Bessire journeyed back to western Kansas, where five generations of his family lived as irrigation farmers and ranchers, to try to make sense of this vital resource and its loss. His search for water across the drying High Plains brings the reader face to face with the stark realities of industrial agriculture, eroding democratic norms, and surreal interpretations of a looming disaster. Yet the destination is far from predictable, as the book seeks to move beyond the words and genres through which destruction is often known. Instead, this journey into the morass of eradication offers a series of unexpected discoveries about what it means to inherit the troubled legacies of the past and how we can take responsibility for a more inclusive, sustainable future. An urgent and unsettling meditation on environmental change, *Running Out* is a revelatory account of family, complicity, loss, and what it means to find your way back home.

the sum of us: Five Days Wes Moore, Erica L. Green, 2020 A kaleidoscopic account of five days in the life of a city on the edge, told through seven characters on the frontlines of the uprising that overtook Baltimore and riveted the world, from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Other Wes Moore*. When Freddie Gray was arrested for possessing an illegal knife in April 2015, he was, by eyewitness accounts that video evidence later confirmed, treated roughly as police loaded him into a vehicle. By the end of his trip in the police van, Gray was in a coma he would never recover from. In the wake of a long history of police abuse in Baltimore, this killing felt like a final straw—it led to a week of protests and then five days described alternately as a riot or an uprising that set the entire city on edge, and caught the nation's attention. Wes Moore is one of Baltimore's most famous sons—a Rhodes Scholar, bestselling author, decorated combat veteran, White House fellow, and current

President of the Robin Hood Foundation. While attending Gray's funeral, he saw every strata of the city come together: grieving mothers; members of the city's wealthy elite; activists; and the long-suffering citizens of Baltimore--all looking to comfort each other, but also looking for answers. Knowing that when they left the church, these factions would spread out to their own corners, but that the answers they were all looking for could only be found in the city as a whole, Moore--along with Pulitzer-winning coauthor Erica Green--tells the story of the Baltimore uprising. Through both his own observations, and through the eyes of other Baltimoreans: Partee, a conflicted black captain of the Baltimore Police Department; Jenny, a young white public defender who's drawn into the violent center of the uprising herself; Tawanda, a young black woman who'd spent a lonely year protesting the killing of her own brother by police; and John DeAngelo, scion of the city's most powerful family and owner of the Baltimore Orioles, who has to make choices of conscience he'd never before confronted. Each shifting point of view contributes to an engrossing, cacophonous account of one of the most consequential moments in our recent history--but also an essential *cri de coeur* about the deeper causes of the violence and the small seeds of hope planted in its aftermath.

the sum of us: The Sum of Our Dreams Louis P. Masur, 2020 This volume delivers a concise, clear round-up of American history starting from America's colonial era to current days of political disagreements and social uncertainty. Covering central themes and events of American history, Masur evaluates the contested meanings of the American dream and questions its viability--

the sum of us: *Beyond the Messy Truth* Van Jones, 2017-10-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A passionate manifesto that exposes hypocrisy on both sides of the political divide and points a way out of the tribalism that is tearing America apart—from the CNN host hailed as “a star of the 2016 campaign” (The New York Times), now seen on The Van Jones Show Van Jones burst into the American consciousness during the 2016 presidential campaign with an unscripted, truth-telling style and an already established history of bridge-building across party lines. His election night commentary, during which he coined the term “whitelash,” became a viral sensation. A longtime progressive activist with deep roots in the conservative South, Jones has made it his mission to challenge voters and viewers to stand in one another’s shoes and disagree constructively. In *Beyond the Messy Truth*, he offers a blueprint for transforming our collective anxiety into meaningful change. Jones urges both parties to abandon the politics of accusation. He issues a stirring call for a new “bipartisanship from below,” pointing us toward practical answers to problems that affect us all regardless of region or ideology. He wants to tackle rural and inner-city poverty, unemployment, addiction, unfair incarceration, and the devastating effects of the pollution-based economy on both coal country and our urban centers. Along the way, Jones shares memories from his decades of activism on behalf of working people, inspiring stories of ordinary citizens who became champions of their communities, and little-known examples of cooperation in the midst of partisan conflict. In his quest for positive solutions, Van Jones encourages us to set fire to our old ways of thinking about politics and come together to help those most in need. Includes an invaluable resource of contacts, books, media, and organizations for bipartisan bridge-building and problem solving. “Van Jones is a light in the darkness when we need it most. In the tradition of the great bridge builders of our past, Van’s love for this country and all its people shines through.”—Cory Booker, U.S. senator, New Jersey “Van Jones’s voice has become an integral part of our national political debate. He is one of the most provocative and interesting political figures in the country.”—Bernie Sanders, U.S. senator, Vermont

the sum of us: *Workbook for the Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee Quantum Press, 2021-02-27 This is a WORKBOOK for The Sum of Us Book by Heather McGhee. This workbook contains the key points of the original one to have some extra activities with the read/listening. Reflects the ideas one should do after one has learned throughout the read/listening from the original book.

the sum of us: *Be Antiracist* Ibram X. Kendi, 2020-10-06 Reflect on your understanding of race and discover ways to work toward an antiracist future with this guided journal from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *How to Be an Antiracist* and *Stamped from the Beginning*.

Antiracism is not a destination but a journey—one that takes deliberate, consistent work. Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism has reenergized and reshaped the conversation about racial justice in America and pointed us toward new ways of thinking about ourselves and our society. Whether or not you've read *How to Be an Antiracist*, this stunning paperback journal offers the opportunity to reflect on your personal commitment to antiracism. *Be Antiracist* is both a confessional and a log of your journey toward a more equitable and just society. *Be Antiracist* helps you reflect on topics such as body, power, class, gender, and policy, as well as specific questions like, Who or what scares you the most when you think about race? and How can we go about disconnecting Blackness from criminality? and What constitutes an American to you? Kendi's multipronged approach to self-reflection will challenge you to make change in yourself and your community, and contribute to an antiracist future.

the sum of us: Last Best Hope George Packer, 2021-06-15 One of The New York Times's 100 notable books of 2021 [George Packer's] account of America's decline into destructive tribalism is always illuminating and often dazzling. —William Galston, *The Washington Post* Acclaimed National Book Award-winning author George Packer diagnoses America's descent into a failed state, and envisions a path toward overcoming our injustices, paralyses, and divides In the year 2020, Americans suffered one rude blow after another to their health, livelihoods, and collective self-esteem. A ruthless pandemic, an inept and malign government response, polarizing protests, and an election marred by conspiracy theories left many citizens in despair about their country and its democratic experiment. With pitiless precision, the year exposed the nation's underlying conditions—discredited elites, weakened institutions, blatant inequalities—and how difficult they are to remedy. In *Last Best Hope*, George Packer traces the shocks back to their sources. He explores the four narratives that now dominate American life: Free America, which imagines a nation of separate individuals and serves the interests of corporations and the wealthy; Smart America, the world view of Silicon Valley and the professional elite; Real America, the white Christian nationalism of the heartland; and Just America, which sees citizens as members of identity groups that inflict or suffer oppression. In lively and biting prose, Packer shows that none of these narratives can sustain a democracy. To point a more hopeful way forward, he looks for a common American identity and finds it in the passion for equality—the “hidden code”—that Americans of diverse persuasions have held for centuries. Today, we are challenged again to fight for equality and renew what Alexis de Tocqueville called “the art” of self-government. In its strong voice and trenchant analysis, *Last Best Hope* is an essential contribution to the literature of national renewal.

the sum of us: The Sum of All Fears Tom Clancy, 1991 One terrible act plunges the world into an instant nuclear crisis, and with the American president accused of incompetence, Jack Ryan calls on FBI head Dan Murray to help him avert disaster.

the sum of us: Dying of Whiteness Jonathan M. Metzl, 2019-03-05 A physician's provocative (*Boston Globe*) and timely (Ibram X. Kendi, *New York Times Book Review*) account of how right-wing backlash policies have deadly consequences -- even for the white voters they promise to help. In election after election, conservative white Americans have embraced politicians who pledge to make their lives great again. But as physician Jonathan M. Metzl shows in *Dying of Whiteness*, the policies that result actually place white Americans at ever-greater risk of sickness and death. Interviewing a range of everyday Americans, Metzl examines how racial resentment has fueled pro-gun laws in Missouri, resistance to the Affordable Care Act in Tennessee, and cuts to schools and social services in Kansas. He shows these policies' costs: increasing deaths by gun suicide, falling life expectancies, and rising dropout rates. Now updated with a new afterword, *Dying of Whiteness* demonstrates how much white America would benefit by emphasizing cooperation rather than chasing false promises of supremacy. Winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award

the sum of us: Tastes Like War Grace M. Cho, 2021-05-18 Finalist for the 2021 National Book Award for Nonfiction Winner of the 2022 Asian/Pacific American Award in Literature A *TIME* and NPR Best Book of the Year in 2021 This evocative memoir of food and family history is somehow both mouthwatering and heartbreaking... [and] a potent personal history (*Shelf Awareness*). Grace

M. Cho grew up as the daughter of a white American merchant marine and the Korean bar hostess he met abroad. They were one of few immigrants in a xenophobic small town during the Cold War, where identity was politicized by everyday details—language, cultural references, memories, and food. When Grace was fifteen, her dynamic mother experienced the onset of schizophrenia, a condition that would continue and evolve for the rest of her life. Part food memoir, part sociological investigation, *Tastes Like War* is a hybrid text about a daughter's search through intimate and global history for the roots of her mother's schizophrenia. In her mother's final years, Grace learned to cook dishes from her parent's childhood in order to invite the past into the present, and to hold space for her mother's multiple voices at the table. And through careful listening over these shared meals, Grace discovered not only the things that broke the brilliant, complicated woman who raised her—but also the things that kept her alive. "An exquisite commemoration and a potent reclamation." —Booklist (starred review) "A wrenching, powerful account of the long-term effects of the immigrant experience." —Kirkus Reviews

the sum of us: Winner-Take-All Politics Jacob S. Hacker, Paul Pierson, 2010 In this groundbreaking book on one of the world's greatest economic crises, Hacker and Pierson explain why the richest of the rich are getting richer while the rest of the world isn't.

the sum of us: U.S. History P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Sylvie Waskiewicz, Paul Vickery, 2024-09-10 U.S. History is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). U.S. History covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

the sum of us: The Sum of All Kisses Julia Quinn, 2013-10-29 From Julia Quinn, the New York Times bestselling author of steamy historical romances, comes the third seductive installment of the Smythe-Smith Quartet, *The Sum of All Kisses*. Sarah Pleinsworth can't forgive Hugh Prentice for the duel he fought three years ago that nearly destroyed her family, sent her cousin fleeing, and left Hugh himself with a badly injured leg. That's fine with Hugh, who can't tolerate Sarah's dramatic ways. But when the two are forced to spend a week together, they find that unexpected kisses, and mutual passion, may have the power to change both of their minds. Written with Julia Quinn's trademark style, *The Sum of All Kisses* is a witty and lighthearted Regency romance.

the sum of us: The Purpose of Power Alicia Garza, 2020-10-20 An essential guide to building transformative movements to address the challenges of our time, from one of the country's leading organizers and a co-creator of Black Lives Matter "Excellent and provocative . . . a gateway [to] urgent debates."—Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *The New Yorker* **NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY** Time • Marie Claire • Kirkus Reviews In 2013, Alicia Garza wrote what she called "a love letter to Black people" on Facebook, in the aftermath of the acquittal of the man who murdered seventeen-year-old Trayvon Martin. Garza wrote: Black people. I love you. I love us. Our lives matter. With the speed and networking capacities of social media, #BlackLivesMatter became the hashtag heard 'round the world. But Garza knew even then that hashtags don't start movements—people do. Long before #BlackLivesMatter became a rallying cry for this generation, Garza had spent the better part of two decades learning and unlearning some hard lessons about organizing. The lessons she offers are different from the "rules for radicals" that animated earlier generations of activists, and diverge from the charismatic, patriarchal model of the American civil rights movement. She reflects instead on how making room amongst the woke for those who are still awakening can inspire and activate more people to fight for the world we all deserve. This is the story of one woman's lessons through years of bringing people together to create change. Most of all, it is a new paradigm for change for a new generation of changemakers, from the mind and heart behind one of the most important movements of our time.

the sum of us: Zero-Sum Victory Christopher D. Kolenda, 2021-10-26 Why have the major post-9/11 US military interventions turned into quagmires? Despite huge power imbalances in the

United States' favor, significant capacity-building efforts, and repeated tactical victories by what many observers call the world's best military, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq turned intractable. The US government's fixation on zero-sum, decisive victory in these conflicts is a key reason why military operations to overthrow two developing-world regimes failed to successfully achieve favorable and durable outcomes. In *Zero-Sum Victory*, retired US Army colonel Christopher D. Kolenda identifies three interrelated problems that have emerged from the government's insistence on zero-sum victory. First, the US government has no organized way to measure successful outcomes other than a decisive military victory, and thus, selects strategies that overestimate the possibility of such an outcome. Second, the United States is slow to recognize and modify or abandon losing strategies; in both cases, US officials believe their strategies are working, even as the situation deteriorates. Third, once the United States decides to withdraw, bargaining asymmetries and disconnects in strategy undermine the prospects for a successful transition or negotiated outcome. Relying on historic examples and personal experience, Kolenda draws thought-provoking and actionable conclusions about the utility of American military power in the contemporary world—insights that serve as a starting point for future scholarship as well as for important national security reforms.

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the sum of us: The State Must Provide Adam Harris, 2021-08-10 "A book that both taught me so much and also kept me on the edge of my seat. It is an invaluable text from a supremely talented writer." —Clint Smith, author of *How the Word is Passed* The definitive history of the pervasiveness of racial inequality in American higher education America's colleges and universities have a shameful secret: they have never given Black people a fair chance to succeed. From its inception, our higher education system was not built on equality or accessibility, but on educating—and prioritizing—white students. Black students have always been an afterthought. While governments and private donors funnel money into majority white schools, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and other institutions that have high enrollments of Black students, are struggling to survive, with state legislatures siphoning away federal funds that are legally owed to these schools. In *The State Must Provide*, Adam Harris reckons with the history of a higher education system that has systematically excluded Black people from its benefits. Harris weaves through the legal, social, and political obstacles erected to block equitable education in the United States, studying the Black Americans who fought their way to an education, pivotal Supreme Court cases like *Plessy v. Ferguson* and *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the government's role in creating and upholding a segregated education system. He explores the role that Civil War-era legislation intended to bring agricultural education to the masses had in creating the HBCUs that

have played such a major part in educating Black students when other state and private institutions refused to accept them. *The State Must Provide* is the definitive chronicle of higher education's failed attempts at equality and the long road still in front of us to remedy centuries of racial discrimination—and poses a daring solution to help solve the underfunding of HBCUs. Told through a vivid cast of characters, *The State Must Provide* examines what happened before and after schools were supposedly integrated in the twentieth century, and why higher education remains broken to this day.

the sum of us: *Marine* Tom Clancy, 1996-11-01 An in-depth look at the United States Marine Corps—in the New York Times bestselling tradition of *Submarine*, *Armored Cav*, and *Fighter Wing* Only the best of the best can be Marines. And only Tom Clancy can tell their story—the fascinating real-life facts more compelling than any fiction. Clancy presents a unique insider's look at the most hallowed branch of the Armed Forces, and the men and women who serve on America's front lines. *Marine* includes: An interview with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Charles Chuck Krulak The tools and technology of the Marine Expeditionary Unit The role of the Marines in the present and future world An in-depth look at recruitment and training Exclusive photographs, illustrations, and diagrams

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the sum of us: *Sum of Squares: Theory and Applications* Pablo A. Parrilo, Rekha R. Thomas, 2020 This volume is based on lectures delivered at the 2019 AMS Short Course "Sum of Squares: Theory and Applications", held January 14–15, 2019, in Baltimore, Maryland. This book provides a concise state-of-the-art overview of the theory and applications of polynomials that are sums of squares. This is an exciting and timely topic, with rich connections to many areas of mathematics, including polynomial and semidefinite optimization, real and convex algebraic geometry, and theoretical computer science. The six chapters introduce and survey recent developments in this area; specific topics include the algebraic and geometric aspects of sums of squares and spectrahedra, lifted representations of convex sets, and the algorithmic and computational implications of viewing sums of squares as a meta algorithm. The book also showcases practical applications of the techniques across a variety of areas, including control theory, statistics, finance and machine learning.

the sum of us: *They Can't Kill Us All* Wesley Lowery, 2016-11-15 A deeply reported book that brings alive the quest for justice in the deaths of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, and Freddie Gray, offering both unparalleled insight into the reality of police violence in America and an intimate, moving portrait of those working to end it. Conducting hundreds of interviews during the course of over one year reporting on the ground, Washington Post writer Wesley Lowery traveled from Ferguson, Missouri, to Cleveland, Ohio; Charleston, South Carolina; and Baltimore, Maryland; and then back to Ferguson to uncover life inside the most heavily policed, if otherwise neglected, corners of America today. In an effort to grasp the magnitude of the repose to Michael Brown's death and understand the scale of the problem police violence represents, Lowery speaks to Brown's family and the families of other victims other victims' families as well as local activists. By posing the question, What does the loss of any one life mean to the rest of the nation? Lowery examines the

cumulative effect of decades of racially biased policing in segregated neighborhoods with failing schools, crumbling infrastructure and too few jobs. Studded with moments of joy, and tragedy, *They Can't Kill Us All* offers a historically informed look at the standoff between the police and those they are sworn to protect, showing that civil unrest is just one tool of resistance in the broader struggle for justice. As Lowery brings vividly to life, the protests against police killings are also about the black community's long history on the receiving end of perceived and actual acts of injustice and discrimination. *They Can't Kill Us All* grapples with a persistent if also largely unexamined aspect of the otherwise transformative presidency of Barack Obama: the failure to deliver tangible security and opportunity to those Americans most in need of both.

the sum of us: *Heart of Darkness* ,

the sum of us: The Sum of Us Juliet Marillier, 2017-08 Twenty-three science fiction and fantasy authors explore the depth and breadth of caring and of giving. They find insight, joy, devastation, and heroism in grand sweeps and in tiny niches. And, like wasps made of stinging words, there is pain in giving, and in working one's way through to the light. Our lives and relationships are complex. But in the end, there is hope, and there is love. These are their stories. Children giving care. Dogs and cats giving care. Sidekicks, military, monks, ghosts, robots. Even aliens. Care given by lovers, family, professionals. Caregivers who can no longer give. Caregivers who make the decision not to give. The costs and the consequences that follow. Bound to us by invisible bonds, but with lives, dreams, and passions of their own. Introduction by Dominik Parisien. In addition to dealing with caregiving and caregivers, the book also deals with mental health and mental illness. There is an appendix in the book for Mental Health Resources and another appendix for Caregiving and Caregivers Resources--

the sum of us: *How to Be a (Young) Antiracist* Ibram X. Kendi, Nic Stone, 2023-09-12 The #1 New York Times bestseller that sparked international dialogue is now a book for young adults! Based on the adult bestseller by Ibram X. Kendi, and co-authored by bestselling author Nic Stone, *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* will serve as a guide for teens seeking a way forward in acknowledging, identifying, and dismantling racism and injustice. The New York Times bestseller *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi is shaping the way a generation thinks about race and racism. *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* is a dynamic reframing of the concepts shared in the adult book, with young adulthood front and center. Aimed at readers 12 and up, and co-authored by award-winning children's book author Nic Stone, *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* empowers teen readers to help create a more just society. Antiracism is a journey--and now young adults will have a map to carve their own path. Kendi and Stone have revised this work to provide anecdotes and data that speaks directly to the experiences and concerns of younger readers, encouraging them to think critically and build a more equitable world in doing so.

the sum of us: *When the Stars Begin to Fall* Theodore R. Johnson, 2021-05-04 A "persuasive . . . heartfelt and vividly written" call to counter systemic racism and build national solidarity in America (Publishers Weekly). The American Promise enshrined in our Constitution states that all men and women are inherently equal. And yet racism continues to corrode our society. If we cannot overcome it, Theodore Johnson argues, the promise that made America unique on Earth will have died. In *When the Stars Begin to Fall*, Johnson presents a compelling blueprint for the kind of national solidarity necessary to mitigate racism. Weaving together history, personal memories, and his family's multi-generational experiences with racism, Johnson posits that solutions can be found in the exceptional citizenship long practiced in Black America. Understanding that racism is a structural crime of the state, he argues that overcoming it requires us to recognize that a color-conscious society—not a color-blind one—is the true fulfillment of the American Promise. Fueled by Johnson's ultimate faith in the American project, grounded in his family's longstanding optimism and his own military service, *When the Stars Begin to Fall* is an urgent call to undertake the process of overcoming what has long seemed intractable.

the sum of us: Culturally Responsive Education in the Classroom Adeyemi Stenbridge, 2019-11-26 This exciting book helps educators translate the concept of equity into the context of

pedagogy in the K-12 classroom. Providing a practice-oriented framework for understanding what equity entails for both teachers and learners, this book clarifies the theoretical context for equity and shares rich teaching strategies across a range of content areas and age groups. Unpacking six themes to understand Culturally Responsive Education (CRE), this powerful book helps teachers incorporate equity into behaviors, environments, and meaningful learning opportunities. Culturally Responsive Education in the Classroom provides specific, practice-based examples to help readers develop a culturally responsive pedagogical mindset for closing equity gaps in student achievement.

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