The book was found

The Wisdom Of Crowds

A NEW YORK TIMES BUSINESS BESTSELLER "As entertaining and thought-provoking as The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell. . . . The Wisdom of Crowds ranges far and wide." — The Boston Globe

THE WISDOM OF CROWDS JAMES SUROWIECKI

WITH A NEW AFTERWORD BY THE AUTHOR





Synopsis

In this fascinating book, New Yorker business columnist James Surowiecki explores a deceptively simple idea: Large groups of people are smarter than an elite few, no matter how brilliantâ "better at solving problems, fostering innovation, coming to wise decisions, even predicting the future. With boundless erudition and in delightfully clear prose, Surowiecki ranges across fields as diverse as popular culture, psychology, ant biology, behavioral economics, artificial intelligence, military history, and politics to show how this simple idea offers important lessons for how we live our lives, select our leaders, run our companies, and think about our world.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages Publisher: Anchor; Reprint edition (August 16, 2005) Language: English ISBN-10: 0385721706 ISBN-13: 978-0385721707 Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (296 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #25,609 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Books > Business & Money > Marketing & Sales > Consumer Behavior #72 in Books > Business & Money > Biography & History > Economic History #395 in Books > Business & Money > Economics

Customer Reviews

The Wisdom of Crowds : Why the Many Are Smarter Than the Few and How Collective Wisdom Shapes Business, Economies, Societies and Nations by James Surowiecki is, essentially, a thoroughly accessible and readable tome on applied behavioral economics and game theory. I know that doesn't sound too exciting, but this actually is a fascinating book that is something of a page turner if you have even the most vestigial interest in the topic. The premise isn't new-those who are denizens of Wall Street and know Robert Prechter's oft cited work with Elliott Wave Theory will know something of the underlying premises of the book. However, Surowiecki takes this notion and moves well beyond the confined world if inventing (though he covers that as well) to apply the principles he delineates to life in general-behavior in traffic, tracking and responding to disease, navigating the internet and so on. The strength of the boom is Surowiecki's ability to render the underpinnings of his theoretical paradigm in easily understandable terms and examples.

Additionally, the book features an excellent opening that provides a wonderful foundation as regards applied behavioral economics and game theory in general. On the other hand, Surowiecki tends to play both sides of the street. He uses his "expert" position on the subject to configure his arguments and analysis to tilt the weight of evidence behind his theory in many cases. In other words, his familiarity with where he wants this to go influences his choices of examples. Moreover, he relies on too few examples in too many cases. For example, the world of wall Street should have provided a wealth of examples as to the validity-and the errors-inherent in his theory.

Upon hearing about a book on "the wisdom of crowds", I expected it to answer three geustions: Are crowds wise?, When are they wise?, and Why are they wise? Sadly, this book answers none of them. Are crowds wise? Surowiecki fills his pages with unconvincing anecdotes. He has only a handful of real studies and he buries them randomly throughout the book. Worse, Surowiecki sometimes describes a study that would be easy to conduct, but instead of doing it he simply tells us what he expects the results would be. And despite the book's constant championing of dissent, Surowiecki offers no evidence that cuts against his argument. Instead, every failure of a crowd simply helps prove his thesis, since he claims it failed because it violated one of his vaugely-stated rules. When are crowds wise? Surowiecki offers only untested speculation. He claims they need "diversity, independence, and a particular kind of decentralization" (oddly, by decentralization Surowiecki appears to mean aggregation). Surowiecki never defines any of these particularly clearly but instead gives lots of examples. This makes them useless as predictors of a crowd's intelligence which is probably why Surowiecki makes no attempt to test them. Why are crowds wise? Surowiecki doesn't even bother to answer this one, even though it's the first half of the books subtitle. He considers the question briefly on page 10, only to spout some empty sayings (crowds are "information minus error") and wonder in amazement ("who knew ... we can collectively make so much sense") before finally concluding "You could say it's as if we've been programmed to be collectively smart."Perhaps noticing these weaknesses, Surowiecki gets all this out of the way in the first 40% of the book.

Download to continue reading...

The Wisdom of Crowds The Wisdom of Crowds: Why the Many Are Smarter than the Few Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds and Confusion The Wisdom of God (A 10-week Bible Study): Seeing Jesus in the Psalms and Wisdom Books Food Drying Techniques: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-197 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) Grow the Best Strawberries: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-190 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin, a-190) Growing and Using Garlic: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-183 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) Grow 15 Herbs for the Kitchen: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-61 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) Making Cheese, Butter & Yogurt: (Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-283) (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) Making & Using Flavored Vinegars: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-112 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) Teaching Your Cat Simple Tricks: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-272 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin, a-272) Building Homebrew Equipment: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-186 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) Building Stone Walls: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-217 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) What to Do When the Power Fails: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-191 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) The Sun of Wisdom: Teachings on the Noble Nagarjuna's Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM (Illustrated) **** THE EVOLUTION OF A REVOLT (TIMELESS WISDOM COLLECTION Book 4770) The Gnosis or Ancient Wisdom in the Christian Scriptures: Or the Wisdom in a Mystery Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature AI Game Programming Wisdom 3 (AI Game Programming Wisdom (W/CD))

<u>Dmca</u>