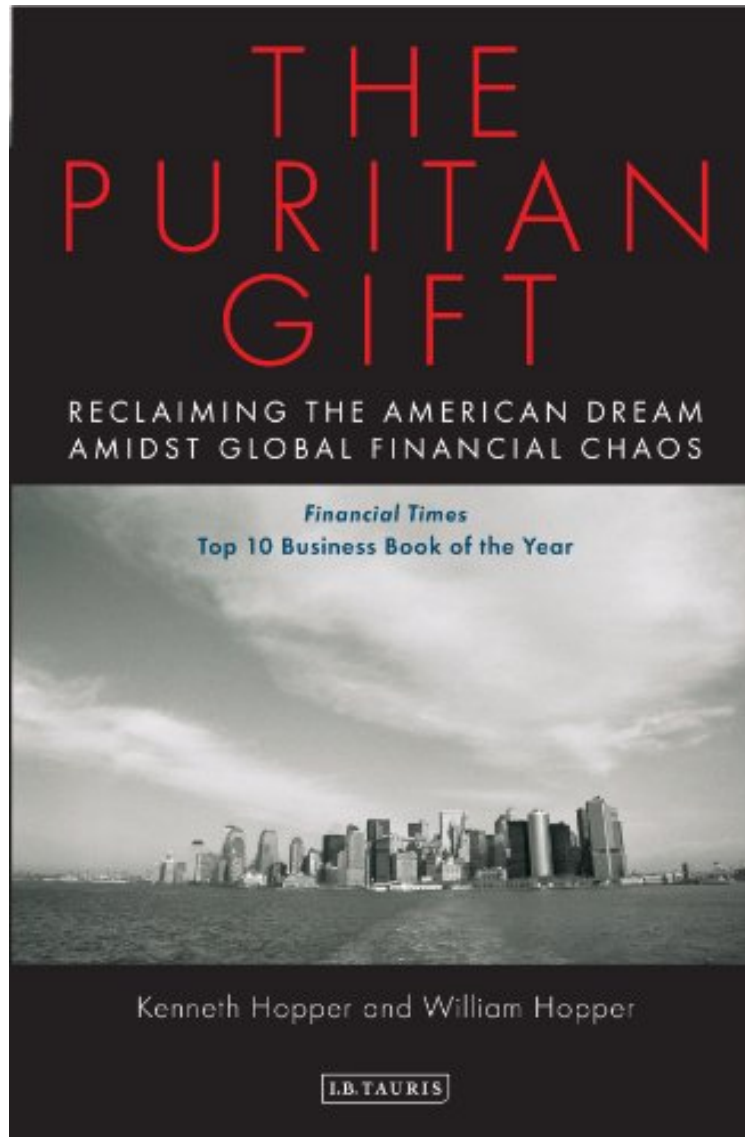


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Puritan Gift, The: Reclaiming the American Dream Amidst Global Financial Chaos

Kenneth Hopper, William Hopper

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Kenneth Hopper, William Hopper : Puritan Gift, The: Reclaiming the American Dream Amidst Global Financial Chaos before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Puritan Gift, The: Reclaiming the American Dream Amidst Global Financial Chaos:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An important contribution to management theory and practice By J. Chapados The Hopper brothers have written a highly readable, insightful, idiosyncratic, and curmudgeonly history and analysis of what created and made American management great and what then caused its deterioration. They rightly

point out that, for a window of about half a century, American management is what drove American industry and economy to achieve such remarkable outcomes. They also rightly point out what changed in American management methods that contributed to the deterioration of American industry and the bifurcation of the American economy. They go on to define the principles of management excellence and express a belief that a return to these core principle could reinvigorate America. I agree. Not only is this good historical journalism, it is also a fun book with tongue in cheek sarcasm. It is unapologetic in it's point of view and the authors are not shy in sharing their opinions about what they observed and chronicled. The people they depict are presented as flesh and blood, who's contributions also came at a price. Can you tell that I loved this book? This should be on the reading list of every manager, wannabe manager, and those who presume to teach and consult management. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Most significant book I've read on business management and leadership

By Paul Grizzell "This may be the most significant book I have ever read on business management and leadership. Thanks to Dr. George Cybulski of Chicago for recommending it to me. A key learning is the author's opinion on why publicly held organizations seem to be so short-term focused these days: senior leaders (and especially CEOs) view their customer not as the end-user of their product, but as the institutional investor that buys or sells their shares...and those two groups certainly do not have aligned requirements. In my opinion, this book answers the question of "Why aren't more organizations using the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence as a management model?" The book describes "25 Principles Underlying Good Practice from the "Golden Age of Management" that align closely with the Core Values of Baldrige. While few of us would want to go back to the "Mad Men" days, the authors describe the focus by past leaders on product knowledge, end user customer focus, and a long-term view of the future that was more of the practice during America's "golden years" of prosperity. Was it perfect in those days? No, but this book gives a compelling story of the benefits of past practices. But what is the Puritan Gift of the title? It is a set of characteristics that "reached back to the earliest days of...Massachusetts and still colors the outlook for most citizens of the United States: 1. a conviction that the purpose of life, however vaguely conceived, was to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, [don't be mistaken into believing that this is a religious book by this "gift"] 2. an aptitude for the exercise of mechanical skills, 3. a moral outlook that subordinated the interests of individuals to the group, 4. and an ability to assemble, galvanize, and marshal financial, material and human resources to a single purpose and on a massive, or a lesser, scale." I highly recommend that you read this book - it will challenge your thinking, and probably give you new insight into effective management and leadership. And it will also challenge you a bit if you're a consultant (guilty!) and/or MBA (guilty!)."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent analysis of how America developed superior management methods...and then abandoned them.

By Customer From colonial roots to banking collapse, Hopper catalogs the evolution of American organizational management. With unflinching analysis, we learn how our advanced managerial methods emerged and were taught to the very economies that now threaten many of our markets. Recovering the truths in this book may help America preserve a legacy of innovative and ennobling industry.

The collapse of Lehman Brothers and other Wall Street institutions sent shock waves around the world. But this was just the beginning. Whole nations have been dragged to the brink of bankruptcy. Banks on both sides of the Atlantic have been nationalised. The stock market is out of control and the global economy is in meltdown. Financial experts and the media are clamouring to tell us that these events are unprecedented and unpredictable. But is this really true or should we all have seen it coming? The authors of *The Puritan Gift* saw the writing on the wall long ago. In this important book they offer a shocking expose acute; of the failures of the American financial system - as well as vital lessons for the future. Tracing the extraordinary development of the managerial culture that underpinned three centuries of American commercial triumph, *The Puritan Gift* shows how the current financial crisis has an old-fashioned cause: bad management. By distancing itself from the core values of innovation and discipline - the "gift" of the early Puritan settlers which underlay its past commercial and economic success - America sacrificed its future prosperity and security. Now America and indeed the whole world needs to re-discover this ethical bedrock in order to revive the international economy and reclaim the American Dream for a new generation.

"Kenneth Hopper is certainly one of the most eloquent, and credible voices being raised on this issue." --Robert Hayes, Harvard University