




SUPERHUBS: How the Financial Elite and their Networks Rule Our World

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A BLOOMBERG Best Book of the Year Winner, Silver Medal, Axiom Business Book Awards 2018
FOREWORD BY NOURIEL ROUBINI

SUPERHUBS is a rare, behind-the-scenes look at how the world's most powerful titans, the -superhubs- pull the levers of our global financial system. Combining insider's knowledge with principles of network science, Sandra Navidi offers a startling new perspective on how superhubs build their powerful networks and how their decisions impact all our lives. SUPERHUBS reveals what happens at the exclusive, invitation-only platforms - The World Economic Forum in Davos, the meetings of the International Monetary Fund, think-tank gatherings and exclusive galas. This is the most vivid portrait to date of the global elite: the bank CEOs, fund managers, billionaire financiers and politicians who, through their interlocking relationships and collective influence are transforming our increasingly fragile financial system, economy and society.

SUPERHUBS: How the Financial Elite and their Networks Rule Our World Details

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From Reader Review SUPERHUBS: How the Financial Elite and their Networks Rule Our World for online ebook

dimwig says

i read this a while ago and forgot to rate it i guess. no but i definitely reviewed it. i'm confused. anyway it's not very good.

Vamsi Sridhar says

Sup hubs is one of those books that takes you on a whirlwind tour to a rarefied world of the financial titans. The author, a quasi-superhub herself, indulges the reader by taking them to the familiar annual events that gets marked in one's calendar. The book opens describing the mother of all events – the annual gathering of heavyweights at the WEF-Davos One cannot, but wonder, on the constant namedropping that the author resorts to

" I crossed paths with Bill Gates, who gave me a friendly nod; IMF chief Christine Lagarde, who said hello; and private equity billionaire Steve Schwarzman, with whom I exchanged pleasantries." At the coat check, "where I replaced my messy boots with elegant dress shoes I ran into former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Larry Summers and Nobel Laureate Robert Shiller. "

The author uses the basis of network science to build on the behavior of networks, the strengths and weaknesses of powerful titans across the globe. She, however, does a good job on intertwining network science with human behavior – by introducing " Law of preferential attachment " all nodes prefer to attach to other nodes with the most connections, because a greater number of connections increases the chances of individual survival. The best-connected nodes at the center of networks are called 'superhub' . One interesting tit-bit comes in the form of Dunbar's number - According to "Dunbar's Number," our minds only have the cognitive capacity to retain approximately 150 true connections or relationships. This natural limitation makes access all the more valuable. The concept of Dunbar's Number is widely recognized in business circles, particularly in client-oriented professions.

The premise of the book makes the reader want to pick up the book. The author introduces just enough wordplay to keep the reader moving on, but frankly does little to scratch more to the core of the idea – survival & thriving through networking.

Jon Norimann says

Superhubs is mostly a insiders description of how things happen when the financial elite meet at their big organized events like the Bilderberger meetings. Navidi gives a fair description but there is little new info and nothing surprising.

At the end Navidi tries to draw some conclusions and vaguely suggest some improvements. This part is intentionally tentative and very weak. For instance Navidi doesn't mention the father of market economics

Adams Smit's strong views in the area. Instead Navidi seems to conclude these elite meetings are a modern problem, giving a strong indication that Navidi is no expert in the area. Indeed, Navidi is a lawyer, not an economist, an accusation she defends many others from in the text.

Superhubs ends up a redundant book. It only has some limited value for those suspecting there is alchemy or other weird things going on at these elite meetings.

K says

Another promising book on economics whose concepts could have easily been covered in an essay. Navidi devotes much of the book to name-dropping. Her treatment of the current dire circumstances in our financial economy is simplistic. She takes no interest in suggesting sophisticated answers to the problems she proclaims to understand so well.

Udhara De Silva says

Network theory meets anecdotes of Davos regulars, George Soros and central bank chiefs.

Daniel says

This book describe how 'superhubs'- the 0.01% live. They go to the same exclusive (and expensive) places, they come from the same Ivy League schools, they are mostly finance people who do deals with each other and who write books and set up think tanks and powerful conferences like Davos. They are all smart and hardworking. However what makes them powerful is the interactions with other people like them. They are able to raise funds, invest in charities and lobby for favourable rules from world leaders.

It is very well written, making me feel that I am also attending the various conferences, the cocktail parties, shaking hands with famous people like George Soros and Gordon Brown.

A few parts talk about the problems of the people: they cannot rest and must constantly travel to maintain those critical relationships. They can be cut off from the Hubs if they do something bad (like Strauss-Kahn). They cannot think different most of the time and they mostly exclude Non-white men. When they panic they panic together and can cause crises.

Unfortunately even though some solutions were proposed in the last part of the book, it sounded very general, like 'we must all try to do the right thing'. She thinks that regulation is useless, that it just shift deals underground where regulation does not hold. If that is the case, the repeal of the Glass-Steagal would not have been considered to have contributed to the 2008 financial crisis.

Elin says

One of those curious and random reading. Did I enjoy reading it? I think it was an interesting book, a very well written book. What i mean by that, reading from the first chapter, you can tell that it was written by

someone who attended such prestige education and mingle around those 'super' institution with lots of lots exposure on unconventional diction, those 'GRE' words. But somehow, yet it feels more of a light non academic reading, so anyone with none economics degree like myself, are able to thoroughly follow it. At once, I feel like reading through a woman's diary? more of a travelling journal from those 'james bond's movie' with those big names of the world (although as non-american, for sure I have no clue who are they, but ..who cares?! still, All of those 'meeting with Putin' story and many other stories alike were everyone's fantasy or daydreaming, right? I dont know if it is really weird to dream of being part of such elite circles. Well, at the end, i feel like, this book confirm those 'controversy' theory about the 'lucky few' who control the world, and if we are reflecting it back to ourselves, than simply we must understand 'our way of dreaming and limit'. I guess at least this is what i feel :) Sad but true...Go try to read it and find by yourself that we are just a mere no one when it comes to how the finance world works!

Oleksandr Potapov says

Firstly I was quite skeptical about the book, not because of the loud title "How the Financial Elite and their Networks Rule Our World", but also owing to first 5 chapters of describing these 'elite' and the luxury way these people live, it seemed to me like superficial work. But I decided to finish it and make the final decision after. To make a long story short - I did like this book, I would rate it 4.5. Why? There are several reasons I'd like to mention.

1. The book is very concrete. Sandra offers a look from a person, who knows mostly all the people she is writing about, not only knows but does have relationships with them. It allowed me as a reader to look from the inside to this network.
2. She looks on both sides of the medal, not only benefits of being a SUPERHUB, but also the price they pay. The significant part of the book is devoted to the 'backstage'. This allowed me to understand the priorities and value system which characterizes people, who manage billions of dollars in assets. "This is a status game, which causes a lot of addictions and CEOs in gold handcuffs are completely absorbed by the effort to stay on top" - from the book.
3. Also, she talks a lot about the absence of women at the top of the financial world, the reasons and consequences of these. "Women are often excluded from the networks because they do not have their own and do not have mentors" - from the book
4. She also talks about reasons to be excluded from the networks. What happened to Ex-IMF Head Dominique Strauss-Cann.

To sum up I did like the book. It is not very deep, but due to a delicate and detailed description of the interaction within the influential networks, the reader himself can draw conclusions about the importance of building your own social networks. It was a great book for me to get to know more about networking, its importance, character, and power.

Jay says

Lifestyles of the financial rich and famous. Eye opening, but in that kind of way. You get behind the scenes descriptions of top financial meetings like Davos and Bilderberg. Item that stuck in my head (since I was listening to this audiobook while on a treadmill): top financiers must be very fit to attract others into their "super-hub" of relationships. I found more of the writing focused on the celebrity, and much less on the academics of networks than I would have expected. This is much more readable because of this. I'd consider it an example of "pop international finance" in that you learn a bit about how top financial executives work while also learning about how their social lives work. In that Robin Leach kind of way, this has some

fascinating content.

John Coughlan says

"Veni naVidi Vici" as Julius Caesar nearly once wrote.

I found Superhubs a fascinating and intriguing read.

Ms Navidi takes us on a tour of top finance titans all the way to the elevated environment of Davos. She must possess superlative professional skills and quite some personality to earn the trust and respect of such economic behemoths as George Soros and Nouriel Roubini.

The first half of the book came across as a very balanced objective appraisal of global financial workings influenced by the superhubs. In the second-half Ms Navidi introduced a more personal perspective of the lives and motivations of these financial fulcra. It is a testament to her objectivity that her writing did not strike me in any way as excusatory despite her familiarity with the subject.

Elliot Richards says

This is networking the high finance way; I thought it was fascinating to read of the concept of a superhub and its nodes in familiar networking terms. Seeing the relationships, how everything was connected and interdependent, is very interesting. And whilst these concepts can be applied to general networking, it's not something I've really thought about as a node or hub. Seeing the high finance topology is especially intriguing because of the power, influence and opportunity.

I really enjoyed this book, though I thought it faltered somewhat in the last chapter and felt unfocused. Since I don't work in finance I sometimes found the list of names of billionaires at events felt like name dropping/name checking and didn't think it was necessary and certainly not for my benefit as a reader. Otherwise I thought the book was clear and focused, and a joy to read.

May Ling says

Nothing memorable

Syed Gilani says

A facsinating story of World Economic Forum Culture.
