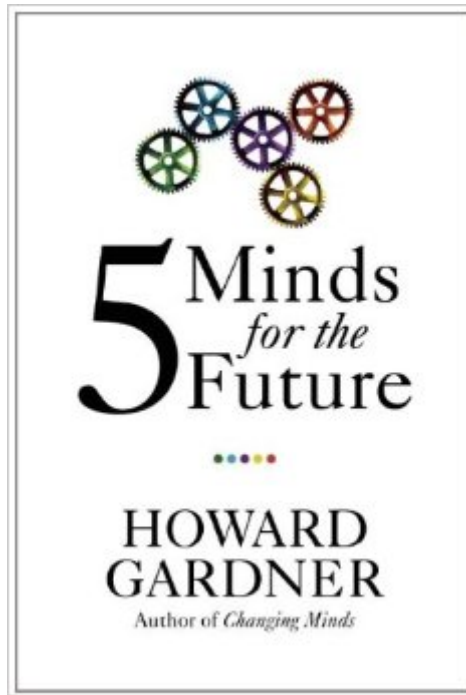


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Five Minds For The Future



Synopsis

We live in a time of relentless change. The only thing that's certain is that new challenges and opportunities will emerge that are virtually unimaginable today. How can we know which skills will be required to succeed? In *Five Minds for the Future*, bestselling author Howard Gardner shows how we will each need to master "five minds" that the fast-paced future will demand: The disciplined mind, to learn at least one profession, as well as the major thinking (science, math, history, etc.) behind it The synthesizing mind, to organize the massive amounts of information and communicate effectively to others The creating mind, to revel in unasked questions - and uncover new phenomena and insightful apt answers The respectful mind, to appreciate the differences between human beings - and understand and work with all persons The ethical mind, to fulfill one's responsibilities as both a worker and a citizen Without these "minds," we risk being overwhelmed by information, unable to succeed in the workplace, and incapable of the judgment needed to thrive both personally and professionally. Complete with a substantial new introduction, *Five Minds for the Future* provides valuable tools for those looking ahead to the next generation of leaders - and for all of us striving to excel in a complex world. Howard Gardner is cited by *Foreign Policy* magazine as one of the one hundred most influential public intellectuals in the world, and a MacArthur Fellowship recipient; is the Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

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Customer Reviews

I have read and reviewed all of Howard Gardner's previous books and consider this, his latest, to be the most valuable thus far. In it, he identifies and explains five separate but related combinations of cognitive abilities that are needed to "thrive in the world during eras to come...[cognitive abilities] which we should develop in the future." Gardner refers to them as "minds" but they are really mindsets. Mastery of each enables a person: 1. to know how to work steadily over time to improve skill and understanding; 2. to take information from disparate sources and make sense of it by understanding and evaluating that information objectively; 3. by building on discipline and synthesis, to break new ground; 4. by "recognizing that nowadays one can no longer remain within one's shell or one's home territory," to note and welcome differences between human individuals and between human groups so as to understand them and work effectively with them; 5. and finally, "proceeding on a level more abstract than the respectful mind," to reflect on the nature of one's work and the needs and desires of the society in which one lives. Gardner notes that the five "minds" he examines in this book are different from the eight or nine human intelligences that he examines in his earlier works. "Rather than being distinct computational capabilities, they are better thought of as broad uses of the mind that we can cultivate at school, in professions, or at the workplace." The "future" to which the title of this book refers is the future that awaits each of us. That is, Gardner is not a futurist in the sense that others such as Ossip K. Flechteim, Bertrand de Jouvenel, Dennis Gabor, Alvin Toffler, and Peter Schwartz are.

In case you haven't noticed, the world is going through a seismic change. No one can say what the human experiment will look like on the other side, but I think we may reasonably conclude this --- the badly educated will suffer. And by "suffer" I don't mean the old chart that shows you how much more a college graduate earns over the course of a lifetime than a high school grad. In this new world, a college graduate who lacks what Howard Gardner calls "multiple intelligences" will be in the same boat as the high school dropout collecting an hourly wage at Jiffy Lube. So a book that outlines the kind of smarts the future will require --- and reward --- automatically merits our attention. And we read more closely when the author is Howard Gardner, who has made a career of this subject at Harvard and collected a MacArthur Prize Fellowship along the way. Who needs the "five minds" that Gardner discusses in this brief (167 pages), jargon-free book? Well, you, for starters, because knowledge is expanding exponentially each year and if you are not actively engaged in some kind of lifelong learning, you are condemning yourself to the glue factory. And, of course, your kids, because as sure as "the children are our future," they must learn to survive in a world far more demanding than ours. So without conscious, continuing, multi-disciplinary education, it looks grim for

you and your kids. What "minds" does Gardner say you need to master? 1) The disciplined mind. Learn at least one discipline --- a ten-year process --- or you're "destined to march to someone else's tune." 2) The synthesizing mind.

I will admit it; I chose this book by its title as I was looking for some insight into the types of skills required of the next generation. Five minds for the future (FMFTF) projects the observation that there are five types of intelligence or Minds out there. This observation and the classification of these types of intelligence is Gardner's claim to fame. The types are: The Disciplined Mind - one that knows something and has mastery over a subject. Such mastery takes 10 years to develop. Here Gardner separates rote knowledge with being able to think deeply about what you are doing. This is a great point and one that more executives need to take into account as it is a major difference between people who are good individual contributors and those that make great managers. Gardner believes that the disciplines worth learning are by in large academic in nature, paying little attention to other disciplines or types of acquired knowledge. The Synthesizing Mind -- one who knows how to sort through information, identify similarities and trends and produce a big picture? Gardner points out that this skill is becoming more important given the flood of information and conflicting information that is the status quo of a modern connected society. The Creating Mind -- one who is able to generate new things, see from new perspectives and formulate new ideas. Here represents a reversal and a revolution as creativity was often suppressed in the past and reinforced with rote learning etc. Now Gardner points out that creativity is key to individual and societal survival. He also points out that it is possible to create creativity in individual - this is a significant departure from other work that believes creativity is an inherent rather than learned trait.

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