## The 20th Century's Twenty Most Important Works of Non-Fiction

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As with the MIBYs, "most important" doesn't mean "most significant" or "most influential". It simply means: The most important books for cultivating erudition.

Classics like Wittgenstein's "Tractatus", Quine's "From A Logical Point of View", Adorno's "The Culture Industry", Polyani's "The Great Transformation", Schumpeter's "Capitalism, Socialism, & Democracy", Parfid's "Reasons & Persons", Arendt's "The Origins of Totalitarianism", Marcuse's "One Dimensional Man", Becker's "The Birth & Death of Meaning", Said's "Orientalism", Postmann's "Amusing Ourselves To Death", Hoffman's "The True Believer", Halberstam's "The Best & The Brightest", King's "Why We Can't Wait", Arrow's "Social Choice & Individual Values", Sen's "Development As Freedom", and Bloom's "The Invention of the Human" almost made the cut. However I figured that a "Top 40" list may be a bit much for people looking for a limited syllabus.

The following list may be treated as "Books To Read Before You Die" for those seeking edification.

## The 20 Most Important Non-Fiction Books Of The 20th Century:

(listed in order of publication)

Economy & Society –Max Weber

The General Theory of Employment, Interest, & Money –J. Maynard Keynes

The Power Elite –C. Wright Mills

The Affluent Society – John Kenneth Galbraith

The Logic Of Scientific Discovery –Karl Popper

The Structure of Scientific Revolutions –Thomas Kuhn

Anti-Intellectualism In American Life -Richard Hofstadter

For Reasons of State –Noam Chomsky

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The Denial of Death - Ernest Becker

A Theory of Justice -John Rawls

Sociobiology -E.O. Wilson

The Selfish Gene - Richard Dawkins

The Gnostic Gospels – Elain Pagels

Godel, Escher, Bach – Douglas Hofstadter

Ethics Without God -Kai Nielson

Consciousness Explained – Daniel C. Dennett

The Sources of Social Power - Michael Mann

**Deterring Democracy** –Noam Chomsky

The Origins of Order -Stuart Kauffman

Darwin's Dangerous Idea - Daniel C. Dennett

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