



## Reading Picks for the Pandemic Housebound

*Private-equity investment professionals list books they have been reading during the coronavirus pandemic*

By Preeti Singh

Updated May 1, 2020

Busy investment professionals have found themselves squeezing together their work lives and their home lives, juggling schedules for themselves and their families, cooking, working out and even relaxing with a book.

For some, the coronavirus pandemic has put the brakes on travel, perhaps leaving a little more time for a favored read. Ever curious, we wanted to know which books won out with readers.

Here are selected responses:

### **“The Splendid and the Vile”**

By Erik Larson

Chosen by Paul Carbone, Pritzker Private Capital president and managing partner

An account of U.K. Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s leadership during the Battle of Britain in 1940. “A fantastic read and very appropriate for today’s challenging times,” Mr. Carbone said.

### **“Morality: A Natural History”**

By Roger V. Moseley

Chosen by Steve Moseley, Alaska Permanent Fund Corp. deputy chief investment officer and head of alternative investments

Written by Mr. Moseley’s father, a retired surgeon and mountaineer, the book draws a connection between the development of morality and the forces that have influenced humanity’s well-being.

### **“Principles: Life and Work”**

By Ray Dalio

Chosen by Laurie Martin, Connecticut Retirement Plans and Trust Funds chief investment officer

The founder of the world’s largest hedge fund, Bridgewater Associates in Westport, Conn., lays down ways to make decisions, meet challenges and build strong teams.

**“The Culture Code”**

By Daniel Coyle

Chosen by Mark Steed, Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System chief investment officer

An examination of how highly successful teams function and how they are built, with examples ranging from U.S. Special Forces units to comedy troupes and pro sports champions. “So far it’s the best book I’ve read on what makes great groups,” Mr. Steed said.

**“Killers of the Flower Moon”**

By David Grann

Chosen by John Bradley, Florida State Board of Administration senior investment officer

An investigation into a series of killings targeting members of the newly oil-rich Osage Nation in 1920s Oklahoma, the FBI’s attempts to unravel the crimes and a retired Texas Ranger who helped expose an underlying conspiracy.

**“White Noise”**

By Don DeLillo

Chosen by Tom Masthay, Texas Municipal Retirement System director of private equity Described as “timely” by Mr. Masthay, the postmodern novel deals with themes of separation, consumerism, technological threats and environmental disaster.

**“1776”**

By David McCullough

Chosen by Yup Kim, Alaska Permanent Fund Corp. senior portfolio manager, private equity and special opportunities

The historian tells the story of colonial Americans from many walks of life who fought for independence from the British crown.

**“Weapons of Math Destruction”**

By Cathy O’Neil

Chosen by Mark Evans, Connecticut Retirement Plans and Trust Funds principal investment officer

A data scientist shows how theoretically neutral mathematical models and algorithms can play critical roles in society and can also magnify inequality and undermine democracy.

**“Thinking, Fast and Slow”**

By Daniel Kahneman

Chosen by Wes Bradle, Florida State Board of Administration senior portfolio manager

A psychologist explains how fast, intuitive and emotional thinking and slower, more logical and deliberative thought shape decision making, and offers ways to avoid the pitfalls of both modes.

## **“Dune”**

By Frank Herbert

Chosen by Peter Teneriello, Texas Municipal Retirement System investment analyst

A novel set on the desert planet Arrakis depicts the struggle by suppressed inhabitants to throw off colonial rule, partly by mastering monstrous creatures that bore through the sand.

Not everyone said their reading habits have changed, virus or no.

“After reading all day via my work iPad, work iPhone and work laptop, I’m done,” said Darren Foreman, director of private equity at the Pennsylvania Public School Employees’ Retirement System. “My home gym, two dogs and family all help in this regard.”