

The 48 Laws of Power Book Summary, by Robert Greene

by Allen Cheng

<https://www.allencheng.com/the-48-laws-of-power-summary-robert-greene/>

Want to learn the ideas in The 48 Laws of Power better than ever? Read the world's #1 book summary of The 48 Laws of Power by Robert Greene here.

Read a brief 1-Page Summary or watch video summaries curated by our expert team. Note: this book guide is not affiliated with or endorsed by the publisher or author, and we always encourage you to purchase and read the full book.

Video Summaries of The 48 Laws of Power

We've scoured the Internet for the very best videos on The 48 Laws of Power, from high-quality videos summaries to interviews or commentary by Robert Greene.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLg5mA5H1QI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6REYffqUko>

1-Page Summary of The 48 Laws of Power

Overview

The 48 Laws of Power is a self-help book that teaches readers how to gain and maintain power by using the lessons from historical figures.

Power comes from the relationships between people. Powerful people must appear to be honest and trustworthy, eliminate doubt in their abilities, and use tactics that give them an advantage over others. They need to understand timing and adapt quickly to changing situations. When seeking power, one should mirror the actions of those they want to control or limit their options for action. The powerful also need a relationship with audiences by creating spectacles that feed into their needs for entertainment and fantasy.

There are many people who have acquired power in the past. Some of them did it by being sneaky and manipulative, while others were more honest about their intentions. There are also generals from ancient times, as well as famous con artists and entertainers who use different strategies to become powerful.

The laws of power can be used in a reverse manner if the situation demands it. For example, while appearing unintelligent is usually best for manipulating someone, intimidating them with intelligence may accomplish what feigned ignorance could not.

Key Takeaways

If you want to increase your power, you should get people to come to you rather than going after them. Make sure they never become independent of you and don't trust anyone who is unlucky or frequently has problems. Never outshine your superiors.

Those who want power should use the courtier's ability to flatter and help others. They should be able to avoid isolation, while appealing to other people's self-interest when asking for help.

Appearances are important to the powerful, so they must never be jealous of anyone else or try to take their place. Instead, the powerful should act like royalty and make it seem like everything comes easily for them. They also need to keep a good reputation while instilling fear in others. The powerful can use selective honesty by blaming others and pretending that they're more naive than those they wish to manipulate; acting more friendly than usual; gaining information from people by being friends with them; imitating other people's behavior in order to conceal radical ideas; and not showing up when there is work to do until after everyone has left (or at least waiting around for everyone else). Secrecy preserves power because it conceals intentions, making it harder for opponents to predict what will happen next. Power can also be cultivated through timing decisions correctly so that results maximize benefits. People who want power should learn how adaptable they can be when necessary—they should become shapeless so that no one knows exactly what kind of person they are or what kind of thing will offend them most—and give up some control temporarily if necessary as long as doing so helps gain time or resources later on. Strategies which benefit the powerful include mirroring an opponent's actions, attacking where the enemy is weakest, remaining calm while angering someone else, tailoring attacks specifically against each target rather than using general attacks such as name-calling, planning all the way through any campaign instead of just reacting once something happens without thinking about consequences first, winning by action rather than arguing about why something would work better, totally eliminating enemies instead of trying only halfheartedly.

Powerful people attract followers who need to be managed. They are more concerned with maintaining their status and power than persuading others logically. The powerful spend their own money, accept nothing for free, and look down on anything they cannot have in order to maintain their power. The best way to achieve power is through the manipulation of others into doing one's work for them.

Like this book summary? Visit www.allencheng.com for more.