

# Autoresearch, Outside-Tech Founder Books, and Foundational Reads on Intelligence

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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## Autoresearch, Outside-Tech Founder Books, and Foundational Reads on Intelligence

*By Recommended Reading from Tech Founders • March 9, 2026*

The lead pick is Andrej Karpathy's autoresearch repo, which Tobi Lütke says delivered both concrete model gains and faster learning. The rest of today's list clusters around Qasar Younis's outside-tech reading stack plus two foundational texts on intelligence and cyberspace.

### Most compelling recommendation: *autoresearch*

This stands out because it comes with both a concrete operating model and a reported result. Andrej Karpathy's *autoresearch* packages a minimal, single-GPU LLM training core into a self-contained repo; Tobi Lütke says adapting the approach to his qmd query-expansion model produced a +19% score on a 0.8B model, above his previous 1.6B model, after 37 experiments in 8 hours<sup>1234</sup>.

#### *autoresearch*

- **Content type:** GitHub repo / code resource
- **Author/creator:** Andrej Karpathy<sup>5</sup>
- **Link/URL:** [github.com/karpathy/autoresearch](https://github.com/karpathy/autoresearch)<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> post by @karpathy

<sup>2</sup> post by @karpathy

<sup>3</sup> post by @karpathy

<sup>4</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>5</sup> post by @karpathy

<sup>6</sup> post by @karpathy

- **Who recommended it:** Tobi Lütke, who shared his results after adapting the setup to his own model work <sup>78</sup>
- **Key takeaway:** The human iterates on the prompt while the AI agent iterates on the training code in an autonomous git loop, searching for better architectures, optimizers, and hyperparameters via repeated short training runs <sup>910</sup>
- **Why it matters:** Lütke says the setup beat his previous baseline on a smaller model, already built a better reranker, and was valuable as a learning tool in its own right <sup>111213</sup>

“I learned more from that than months of following ml researchers.”

<sup>14</sup>

## Qasar Younis’s founder reading stack

Younis’s strongest meta-recommendation is to read old, time-filtered books across history, business, and society rather than low-quality new content. He argues that broader reading makes founders more well rounded and helps them build better products <sup>1516</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>8</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>9</sup> post by @karpathy

<sup>10</sup> post by @karpathy

<sup>11</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>12</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>13</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>14</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>15</sup>The most successful AI company you’ve never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>16</sup>The most successful AI company you’ve never heard of | Qasar Younis



*The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis (59:15)*

***The Emperor of All Maladies***

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Siddhartha Mukherjee <sup>17</sup>
- **Who recommended it:** Qasar Younis <sup>18</sup>
- **Key takeaway:** He says it changes how you think, and treats that shift in framing as the test of great material <sup>19</sup>
- **Why it matters:** It shows the kind of non-tech book Younis values: one that changes your worldview rather than offering a direct startup tactic <sup>2021</sup>

***SPQR***

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Mary Beard <sup>22</sup>
- **Who recommended it:** Qasar Younis <sup>23</sup>

<sup>17</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>18</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>19</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>20</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>21</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>22</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>23</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

- **Key takeaway:** He picked it after realizing he did not know Roman history well and uses books like this to fill important gaps in knowledge <sup>24</sup>
- **Why it matters:** It turns his broader heuristic into something actionable: identify an area you do not understand, then read the best book in that space <sup>25</sup>

### *Made in America*

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Sam Walton <sup>26</sup>
- **Who recommended it:** Qasar Younis <sup>27</sup>
- **Key takeaway:** Younis calls it an unbelievable book and notes that Walton wrote it on his deathbed <sup>28</sup>
- **Why it matters:** It is one of the durable business histories he elevates over low-quality content, consistent with his view that founders should spend scarce reading time on books that have already survived time's filter <sup>29,30</sup>

### *House of Huawei*

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Qasar Younis, who says his company recently read it together <sup>31</sup>
- **Key takeaway:** He calls it a really great, interesting book and pairs it with admiration for Huawei as a company that makes great technology <sup>32</sup>
- **Why it matters:** It was strong enough to become a company read, making it a useful organizational case study rather than just a personal pick <sup>33</sup>

### *Guns, Germs, and Steel / Collapse*

- **Content type:** Books
- **Author/creator:** Jared Diamond <sup>34</sup>
- **Who recommended them:** Qasar Younis <sup>35</sup>

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<sup>26</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>27</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>28</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>29</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>30</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

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<sup>32</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>33</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>34</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>35</sup>The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis

- **Key takeaway:** He places both near the top of his list and calls them fantastic <sup>36</sup>
- **Why it matters:** They are clear examples of the non-tech, time-tested books he thinks founders should choose over lower-quality content <sup>3738</sup>

## Two worldview reads on intelligence and the internet

### *What is Intelligence?*

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source material
- **Link/URL:** [mitpress.mit.edu/9780262049955/what-is-intelligence/](http://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262049955/what-is-intelligence/) <sup>39</sup>
- **Who recommended it:** Tobi Lütke <sup>40</sup>
- **Key takeaway:** Lütke calls it a great book while agreeing with the claim that computer science is becoming an explanation of how the world works, like physics, biology, and chemistry <sup>4142</sup>
- **Why it matters:** The recommendation is attached to a broad framing of computing as foundational knowledge, not just a useful craft <sup>4344</sup>

### *A Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace*

- **Content type:** Manifesto / article
- **Author/creator:** John Perry Barlow <sup>45</sup>
- **Link/URL:** [eff.org/cyberspace-independence](http://eff.org/cyberspace-independence) <sup>46</sup>
- **Who recommended it:** Matt Mullenweg <sup>47</sup>
- **Key takeaway:** Mullenweg says it is an apt time to revisit the text roughly 30 years later and praises its poetry <sup>48</sup>
- **Why it matters:** It is an explicit recommendation to go back to an older primary text, not just commentary about the internet <sup>4950</sup>

“Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel... You have no sovereignty where we gather.” <sup>51</sup>

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<sup>37</sup>The most successful AI company you’ve never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>38</sup>The most successful AI company you’ve never heard of | Qasar Younis

<sup>39</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>40</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>41</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>42</sup> post by @witbrock

<sup>43</sup> post by @tobi

<sup>44</sup> post by @witbrock

<sup>45</sup> post by @photomatt

<sup>46</sup> post by @photomatt

<sup>47</sup> post by @photomatt

<sup>48</sup> post by @photomatt

<sup>49</sup> post by @photomatt

<sup>50</sup> post by @photomatt

<sup>51</sup> post by @photomatt

## Pattern across today's recommendations

The common thread is a bias toward foundations over novelty: Younis tells founders to read old books, Mullenweg revives a 30-year-old internet text, Lütke links intelligence to computing as a basic explanatory lens, and his strongest practical pick is a stripped-down repo that exposes the mechanics of model research <sup>52535455</sup>.

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### Sources

1. post by @karpathy
2. post by @tobi
3. The most successful AI company you've never heard of | Qasar Younis
4. post by @tobi
5. post by @witbrock
6. post by @photomatt

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