

Metaprompting, systems thinking in music, and a patents-and-geography origin story for Hollywood

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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By Recommended Reading from Tech Founders • February 26, 2026

Three organic picks from tech leaders: a practical metaprompting episode, an article reframing Jimi Hendrix through systems thinking, and a history book recommended as context for how patents and geography shaped Hollywood’s origins.

Most compelling recommendation: metaprompting as a practical workflow upgrade

Lightcone Pod episode on “Metaprompting” (podcast episode)

- **Title:** “Metaprompting” (episode; exact episode title not specified in the post)
- **Content type:** Podcast episode (YouTube)
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the post
- **Link/URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DL82mGde6wo> ¹²
- **Who recommended it:** Garry Tan ³⁴
- **Key takeaway (as shared):** Tan defines **meta-prompting** as “using an LLM to generate, refine, and improve the very prompts you use to get work done” ⁵.
- **Why it matters:** This is a direct pointer to a reusable *process* (have the model improve your prompts) rather than a one-off prompt trick—useful

¹ post by @garrytan

² post by @garrytan

³ post by @garrytan

⁴ post by @garrytan

⁵ post by @garrytan

if you want more consistent results from LLM-based work ⁶.

Also worth saving

“Jimi Hendrix Was a Systems Engineer” (article)

- **Title:** “Jimi Hendrix Was a Systems Engineer” ⁷
- **Content type:** Article
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the post
- **Link/URL:** <https://spectrum.ieee.org/jimi-hendrix-systems-engineer> ⁸
- **Who recommended it:** Garry Tan ⁹¹⁰
- **Key takeaway (as shared):** Tan highlights the idea that Hendrix “precisely controlled modulation and feedback loops” ¹¹.
- **Why it matters:** A concise lens for thinking about creative output through **systems control** (modulation + feedback), rather than inspiration alone ¹².

An Empire of Their Own — Neil Gabler (book)

- **Title:** *An Empire of Their Own* ¹³
- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Neil Gabler ¹⁴
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source (context: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDHyjugKZhU>) ¹⁵
- **Who recommended it:** Balaji Srinivasan ¹⁶
- **Key takeaway (as shared):** In discussing why Hollywood started where it did, Srinivasan says it was **partly because Edison had patents in New Jersey and Hollywood was thousands of miles away**, and also because the region had desirable scenery (deserts, beaches, etc.) ¹⁷.
- **Why it matters:** It’s a concrete historical frame for how **patents and geography** can shape where an industry forms—and how non-technical constraints can influence innovation clusters ¹⁸.

⁶ post by @garrytan

⁷ post by @garrytan

⁸ post by @garrytan

⁹ post by @garrytan

¹⁰ post by @garrytan

¹¹ post by @garrytan

¹² post by @garrytan

¹³Britain Is In Managed Decline – Here’s The Radical Reset Plan with Balaji Srinivasan

¹⁴Britain Is In Managed Decline – Here’s The Radical Reset Plan with Balaji Srinivasan

¹⁵Britain Is In Managed Decline – Here’s The Radical Reset Plan with Balaji Srinivasan

¹⁶Britain Is In Managed Decline – Here’s The Radical Reset Plan with Balaji Srinivasan

¹⁷Britain Is In Managed Decline – Here’s The Radical Reset Plan with Balaji Srinivasan

¹⁸Britain Is In Managed Decline – Here’s The Radical Reset Plan with Balaji Srinivasan



Britain Is In Managed Decline – Here’s The Radical Reset Plan with Balaji Srinivasan (35:07)

Sources

1. post by @garrytan
2. post by @garrytan
3. post by @garrytan
4. Britain Is In Managed Decline – Here’s The Radical Reset Plan with Balaji Srinivasan