

# When Reason Goes on Holiday Leads Picks on Market Structure and Monetary History

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Marc Andreessen's detailed endorsement of *When Reason Goes on Holiday* was the clearest signal today. Brian Armstrong added two finance-focused books, and Jack Dorsey shared a direct but low-context YouTube recommendation.

### Strongest signal

Marc Andreessen's pick stood out because he explained exactly why he values it: he sees the book as a cautionary account of what happens when technical experts move into politics and social engineering [1].

#### *When Reason Goes on Holiday: Philosophers in Politics*

- **Content type:** Book [1]
- **Author/creator:** Nevin [1]
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source notes
- **Who recommended it:** Marc Andreessen [1]
- **Key takeaway:** Andreessen said the book shows what happens when experts stray from technical knowledge into politics and societal issues, and described it as a story of “unending catastrophe” [1]
- **Why it matters:** This recommendation came with a concrete lesson about the limits of domain expertise outside its home field [1]

“It’s just a story of what happens when experts in a certain domain decide to weigh in and become basically social engineers ... it’s just a story of just unending catastrophe.” [1]

## Brian Armstrong’s two finance-focused picks

Armstrong’s recommendations were shorter, but both were attached to clear learning areas: market microstructure and long-cycle monetary history [2].

### *Flash Boys*

- **Content type:** Book [2]
- **Author/creator:** Michael Lewis [2]
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source notes
- **Who recommended it:** Brian Armstrong [2]
- **Key takeaway:** He called it an interesting book on high-frequency trading, order books, arbitrage, and market dynamics [2]
- **Why it matters:** Armstrong tied it directly to the mechanics behind how trading venues work [2]

### *The Changing World Order*

- **Content type:** Book [2]
- **Author/creator:** Ray Dalio [2]
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source notes
- **Who recommended it:** Brian Armstrong [2]
- **Key takeaway:** He said the book was well researched and pointed to its historical treatment of empires, reserve currencies, and how they rise and fall [2]
- **Why it matters:** He mentioned it while discussing whether Bitcoin could become a world reserve currency, so the book served as historical context for monetary transitions [2]

## One direct video share from Jack Dorsey

### Title not specified in the source notes

- **Content type:** Video [3]
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source notes
- **Link/URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKx8xE8jJZs> [3]
- **Who recommended it:** Jack Dorsey [3]
- **Key takeaway:** Dorsey described it simply as “best and only” [3]
- **Why it matters:** The source adds almost no explanation, but the endorsement is unusually absolute and gives readers a direct resource to inspect [3]

## Pattern

Today’s signal leaned toward resources that help frame systems: one on expert overreach in politics, one on market structure, one on reserve-currency history, and one emphatic video share [1, 2, 3].

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## Sources

1. #386 – Marc Andreessen: Future of the Internet, Technology, and AI
2. #307 – Brian Armstrong: Coinbase, Cryptocurrency, and Government Regulation
3. X post by @jack