

## Abundance Discussion Questions

1. What do you think of the vision of the future in the introduction? Is this a future you want?
2. P 15. “Too often, the right sees only the imagined glories of the past, and the left sees only the injustices of the present....What is often missing from both sides is a clearly articulated vision of the future and how it differs from the present. This book is a sketch of, and argument for, one such vision.” Do you agree with the analysis and does the book provide what is promised?
3. In chapter 2 the authors focus on housing supply. What impediments to building housing do they identify? Are zoning and environmental challenges the only issues? Do the authors offer solutions to these impediments?
4. The authors focus on urban growth. What is the significance of this for rural America?
5. What did you think of the authors’ description of the cause of homelessness? What are the remedies based on the causes identified?
6. At p. 157 the authors say “Bias against novelty, risk, and edgy thinking is a tragedy, because the most important breakthroughs in scientific history are often wild surprise that emerge from bizarre obsessions.” Do you agree? The authors have suggestions on pp.166-168 for some solutions. Do you agree with these suggestions?
7. The last sentence of the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter “Deploy” reads “In the next generation, the US needs a plan to build what it invents.” Many of the criticisms of this book have focused on the failure of the authors to address the problem of monopolies and anti-competitive corporations and their contribution to the huge income disparities in this country. This criticism is particularly addressed to this chapter. Do you agree?

8. The authors describe their theory of abundance as follows: To have the future we want, we need to build and invent more of what we need. That's it. That's the thesis. It reads, even to us, as too simple" (page 4). In the conclusion, the authors revisit this theme of simplicity: "Abundance reorients politics around a fresh provocation: Can we solve our problems with supply? Many valuable questions bloom from this deceptively simple prompt" (page 219). Does the book convince you that focusing on increasing supply (housing, energy, healthcare) is the primary solution to America's current challenges?
9. What problems may not be addressed by focusing on supply?
10. The authors claim that Abundance is a new political order. Do you agree? How is it different from the New Deal?

Your evaluation:

1. Disliked, couldn't get into
2. OK, but nothing special
3. Liked, a good read
4. Really liked
5. Loved it, fabulous