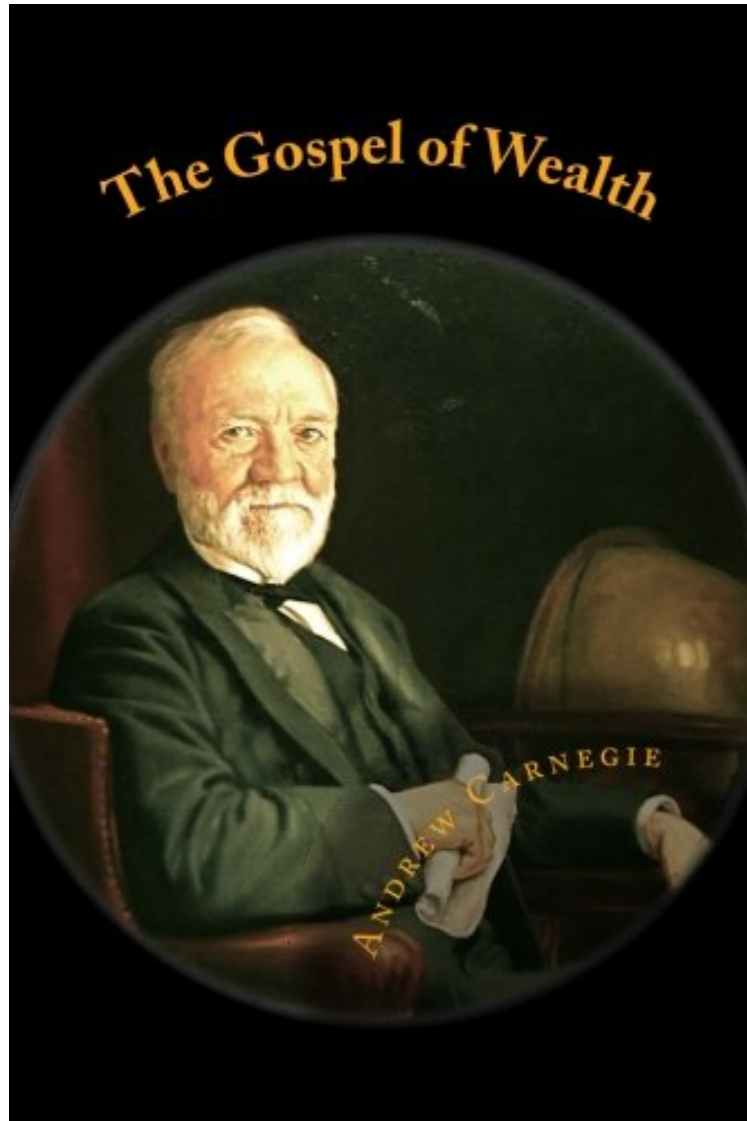


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## The Gospel of Wealth

*Andrew Carnegie*

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#52940 in Books 2014-10-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.21 x .8 x 6.14l, .14 #File Name: 150303304X34 pages | File size: 42.Mb

**Andrew Carnegie : The Gospel of Wealth** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gospel of Wealth:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Series of Essays on How to Handle Wealth That's as Prevalent Today More Than Ever By Alastair Browne Andrew Carnegie was a major steel industrialist in the late 1800s, up there with the Rockefellers and Vanderbilts. Carnegie established Carnegie Steel, which later became U.S. Steel. He retired in 1901 amassing a huge fortune, and then became a philanthropist. In doing so, he composed a series of essays on

how one should handle wealth once he has acquired it, the most famous of these being "The Gospel of Wealth," the title of this book. However, other essays are included, all relating to the same topic, so they are consistent with one another. The book would have been ideal for the people of "Occupy Wall Street," and by Facebook, I tried to recommend it. I hope, if and when the movement reemerges, they will take it into consideration. I highly recommend it. The very first thing I would like to point out is that this is NOT a Socialist doctrine, nor does it relate to that concept in any way, shape, or form. Those who feel that it has missed the point entirely. Those of every persuasion need to read this book. One might ask that if this is not Socialist, or Communist, then what is it? What you will find by reading this may surprise you. First of all, Carnegie warns of the rich spoiling their children, leaving them unearned wealth as inheritance, and leaving them their business simply because they are their children, but without any qualifications. The first can spoil and destroy them, not knowing what to do with their unearned wealth by basking in luxury. The second is that should he leave his children to head his established business, whatever it might be, they have a chance of destroying it by not knowing how to run it, and lacking the creativity to let it grow. The children must be educated and trained to run the business, to have an interest in it, and to want it to grow beyond what the founder, their fathers, have established. Also, children must learn the value of the dollar and earn their way up. If they are not qualified, the business, and wealth, should be left to someone else. A warning to the businessmen of today. The main topic here, though, is to use the wealth to benefit society as a whole, and this is needed today, in times of economic crisis and debts, more than ever. This does not mean giving money to any person who has his hand out. Carnegie did not believe in handouts, or a welfare state. Everyone, he believed, must work for a living, unless severely disabled. Carnegie did recommend giving to charities that help the less fortunate. He also advised to be selective about what charities to support. The book does warn against scams, and this is especially true today as it was back then. The way to use wealth to benefit society would be to contribute what society needs or could use to benefit the public. If a town doesn't have a library, one should donate and build one with his own money, not the government's. This could apply to community centers, public swimming pools, parks, walkways, bike paths, and today, since the government is short on cash, roads and bridges. By this, I mean that if a wealthy man owning a business or corporation lives in a small town that needs a new bridge or roadway or other form of infrastructure, perhaps he should donate and build it himself to benefit the town, rather than wait for the government to do it. This is a problem in our society today, depending on the government to supply all our needs, and this is why we are in such massive debt. Other ways are to build hospitals, invest in research and development in new technologies, and new products that will make society as a whole even more prosperous. Education is a major investment, in college and universities, as are new academic disciplines. Greed is no doubt prevalent in our society today, and that is a major problem. Many businessmen acquire unearned wealth at the expense of others, and hoard it away, only to acquire more. When taken into consideration, these people cannot even begin to spend the money they have, and they want more, more, more, only to let it sit on its ass. This is a big problem in this country and this explains our crisis. In other countries, many take the money and reinvest it. That is what we need to do if we are to get this country moving again. In spite of the debt, the U.S. has a lot of money, just sitting there in a vault doing nothing. Should all that money be reinvested in new industries, new technology, education, new products, this country as a whole would rise again as a major world power. This would also produce even more wealth. We are declining right now, but we have the money to pull us out if we use it wisely. This book, these essays were written in the early twentieth century, around 1910, but the book, and its meaning, is timeless. This is a book that should be in every business office, big and small, from Wall Street to Main Street. This book is truly a "Gospel of Wealth" for it warns of the dangers of wealth if used foolishly, but also extolls the benefits if used wisely. Andrew Carnegie's most famous contribution of his donations is the famous Carnegie Hall in New York City. He has also donated libraries to towns across the U.S., and pipe organs to churches all over the world, at their own request after hearing to one he donated in Scotland, when he retired. He also left an inheritance for his children to live out the rest of their lives comfortably, but stopped there. His grandchildren had to start over again, much to their benefit. This is a short book consisting of seven essays, but they all go together, as a few more essays from other compilations Carnegie has written. His works should be revived for all to read, for these are classics well worth reading, and remembering.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Pauper with Mental Illness Reads THE GOSPEL OF WEALTH By Biopsyche Andrew Carnegie was a saint; he made a lot of money legitimately and even more legitimately decided it was his (Christian) obligation to distribute his wealth to have-nots-- conspicuously in the bequeathal to libraries which dot the American continent (including this Louisville from which I write.) I read this book from the perspective of a pauper; while I do not have a great material wealth to distribute to a world, I have my poverty for its reasons. The take home message for me was: IF CARNEGIE CAN ASSUME THAT HIS RICHES ARE A GIFT, AND GIVE BACK, THEN I CAN GIVE THE GIFTS OF MY SITUATION TO A WORLD ALSO. What 'I have a lot of' is no-money and schizophrenia (the bane of my family); I can turn around this abundance in a responsible way and through responsible husbanding write my testament-in-blood to a perhaps less than loving world. So I thank Mr. Carnegie, and take home my message about how I must give back my gift (poverty and psychosis-management) as my GOSPEL, by the changes of change.--Vernon Lynn Stephens

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I feel like this is way overpriced By Donny V Nothing wrong with service. I'm actually a little

upset at the price point for this. I feel like this is way overpriced! I have nothing against the material, but this book is tiny! It's about the size of my hand and only 24 pages long. You can knock it out in 30 min easy. Maybe I missed it, but I didn't realize it was going to be like that. Again nothing wrong with service, just price.

Andrew Carnegie (November 25, 1835 August 11, 1919) was a Scottish American industrialist who led the enormous expansion of the American steel industry in the late 19th century. He was also one of the highest profile philanthropists of his era and had given away almost 90 percent amounting to, in 1919, \$350 million (in 2014, \$4.76 billion) of his fortune to charities and foundations by the time of his death. His 1889 article proclaiming "The Gospel of Wealth" called on the rich to use their wealth to improve society, and stimulated a wave of philanthropy. Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, and emigrated to the United States with his very poor parents in 1848. Carnegie started as a telegrapher and by the 1860s had investments in railroads, railroad sleeping cars, bridges and oil derricks. He accumulated further wealth as a bond salesman raising money for American enterprise in Europe. He built Pittsburgh's Carnegie Steel Company, which he sold to J.P. Morgan in 1901 for \$480 million (in 2014, \$13.6 billion), creating the U.S. Steel Corporation. Carnegie devoted the remainder of his life to large-scale philanthropy, with special emphasis on local libraries, world peace, education and scientific research. With the fortune he made from business, he built Carnegie Hall, and founded the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Carnegie Institution for Science, Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, Carnegie Hero Fund, Carnegie Mellon University and the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, among others. His life has often been referred to as a true "rags to riches" story. Carnegie spent his last years as a philanthropist. From 1901 forward, public attention was turned from the shrewd business acumen which had enabled Carnegie to accumulate such a fortune, to the public-spirited way in which he devoted himself to utilizing it on philanthropic projects. He had written about his views on social subjects and the responsibilities of great wealth in *Triumphant Democracy* (1886) and *Gospel of Wealth* (1889). Carnegie bought Skibo Castle in Scotland, and made his home partly there and partly in New York. He then devoted his life to providing the capital for purposes of public interest and social and educational advancement. He was a powerful supporter of the movement for spelling reform as a means of promoting the spread of the English language. Among his many philanthropic efforts, the establishment of public libraries throughout the United States, Britain, Canada and other English-speaking countries was especially prominent. In this special driving interest and project of his he was inspired by a visit and tour he made with Mr. Enoch Pratt (1808-1896), formerly of Massachusetts but who made his fortune in Baltimore and ran his various mercantile and financial businesses very thriftily. Pratt in turn had been inspired and helped by his friend and fellow Bay Stater, George Peabody, (1795-1869) who also had made his fortune in the "Monumental City" of Baltimore before moving to New York and London to expand his empire as the richest man in America before the Civil War.

From the Inside Flap  
Carnegie's classic essay about the responsibilities of those of great means to use their wealth for the good of society.  
About the Author  
Andrew Carnegie began working in the steel mills of Pittsburgh at the age of 12. As an adult, he became the owner of Carnegie Steel Company. After it was sold, the company became U.S. Steel and Carnegie became one of the wealthiest men of his day. He spent the rest of his life giving his vast wealth to help build libraries throughout the world, and fund other worthwhile social projects.