



The Gospel of Wealth: And Other Timely Essays

By Andrew Carnegie

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Andrew Carnegie 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; his 1889 book proclaiming "The Gospel of Wealth" called on the rich to use their wealth to improve society, and stimulated a wave of philanthropy. As early as 1868, at age 33, he drafted a memo to himself. He wrote: "...The amassing of wealth is one of the worse species of idolatry. No idol more debasing than the worship of money." In order to avoid degrading himself, he wrote in the same memo he would retire at age 35 to pursue the practice of philanthropic giving for "...the man who dies thus rich dies disgraced." However, he did not begin his philanthropic work in all earnest until 1881, with the gift of a library to his hometown of Dunfermline, Scotland.

Carnegie wrote "The Gospel of Wealth", an book in which he stated his belief that the rich should use their wealth to help enrich society.

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Editorial Review

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.

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Katherine Wilcoxon:

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