

# the madness of crowds

**the madness of crowds** has captivated historians, psychologists, economists, and sociologists for centuries. This phenomenon describes how individual rationality can be lost when people come together in large groups, often leading to irrational behaviors, mass hysteria, and collective delusions. Whether in financial markets, political movements, or social trends, the madness of crowds has shaped societies in profound and sometimes unpredictable ways. In this article, we will explore the origins and definitions of the concept, analyze historical examples, consider psychological mechanisms, and examine its impact in contemporary culture. We will also discuss strategies to recognize and respond to crowd-driven phenomena, making this a comprehensive guide for anyone interested in understanding group dynamics and collective behavior. Read on to discover why the madness of crowds remains a relevant and fascinating topic in today's interconnected world.

- Origins and Definition of the Madness of Crowds
- Historical Examples of Crowd Madness
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## Origins and Definition of the Madness of Crowds

The term "madness of crowds" gained prominence in the 19th century, most notably through Charles Mackay's book, "Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds." It refers to the tendency of groups to act irrationally, often abandoning individual critical thinking in favor of collective emotion or excitement. This phenomenon can manifest during panics, speculative bubbles, or moments of mass enthusiasm. The madness of crowds is not limited to any one era or culture; it is a universal aspect of human social behavior, observed across history and societies.

Experts in psychology and sociology define the madness of crowds as a situation where normal decision-making processes are overridden by group pressure, causing individuals to act against their better judgment. This concept is closely related to herd mentality, collective delusions, and mass hysteria—terms that describe the power of the group to influence, distort, or amplify individual beliefs and actions.

# Historical Examples of Crowd Madness

Understanding the madness of crowds requires a look at history, where numerous events have demonstrated the destructive and transformative power of collective irrationality. These episodes often arise suddenly and can impact societies on a massive scale.

## The Tulip Mania

One of the earliest documented examples is the Dutch Tulip Mania of the 17th century. During this period, tulip bulbs became so highly sought after that their prices skyrocketed far beyond their intrinsic value. Driven by speculation and group enthusiasm, investors poured their savings into tulip futures, creating an unsustainable bubble. When it burst, fortunes were lost overnight, illustrating the dangers of crowd-driven market excess.

## The South Sea Bubble

In the early 18th century, the South Sea Bubble gripped Britain as investors flocked to buy shares in the South Sea Company, believing in exaggerated promises of wealth from overseas trade. As speculation grew, share prices soared, only to collapse dramatically when reality could not meet expectations. This event showcased how crowd psychology can override rational financial analysis.

## The Salem Witch Trials

Beyond finance, the madness of crowds has appeared in social and cultural contexts. The Salem Witch Trials of 1692 exemplify mass hysteria, where fear and rumor led to a collective belief in witchcraft. The community's panic resulted in wrongful accusations, convictions, and executions, highlighting the destructive power of crowd-induced fear and suspicion.

- The Dot-com Bubble (late 1990s)
- The Great Panic of 1837
- The French Revolution's Reign of Terror

## Psychological Mechanisms Behind Collective Behavior

The madness of crowds is rooted in several psychological mechanisms that drive individuals to conform to group behavior. These mechanisms are studied extensively in social psychology, helping to explain why people sometimes act irrationally in group settings.

## **Herd Mentality and Groupthink**

Herd mentality refers to the tendency of individuals to follow the majority, often without questioning the rationale behind collective actions. Groupthink, a related concept, describes the suppression of dissenting opinions within a group, leading to poor decision-making and a lack of critical evaluation. Both phenomena facilitate the spread of collective delusions and the escalation of crowd madness.

## **Social Contagion**

Social contagion is the rapid spread of ideas, emotions, or behaviors through a population. Whether it's panic buying in supermarkets or viral social trends, social contagion relies on the fact that people often look to others for cues on how to act, especially in uncertain situations. This amplifies the effects of crowd psychology, making it difficult to resist collective urges.

## **Loss of Individual Responsibility**

In crowds, individuals may feel a diminished sense of personal responsibility for their actions. This phenomenon, known as deindividuation, can lead to behaviors that would not occur in isolation, such as participating in riots or panic-driven financial speculation. The anonymity of the crowd emboldens individuals to act in ways they might otherwise avoid.

## **The Madness of Crowds in Financial Markets**

Financial markets are frequently cited as prime examples of the madness of crowds. Speculative bubbles and crashes often result from collective irrationality, with investors driven by fear, greed, and the belief that "everyone else is doing it."

## **Stock Market Bubbles**

Stock market bubbles occur when asset prices are inflated far beyond their intrinsic values, fueled by widespread optimism and herd behavior. When the bubble bursts, panic selling ensues, resulting in dramatic losses and market instability. Classic examples include the Dot-com Bubble and the Housing Bubble of 2008.

## **Panic Selling and Financial Crises**

The madness of crowds can trigger panic selling, where investors rush to liquidate assets, often

amplifying market downturns. Such behavior is driven by fear and uncertainty, leading to self-fulfilling prophecies as losses mount and confidence erodes.

1. The 1929 Wall Street Crash
2. The 1987 Black Monday
3. The 2008 Global Financial Crisis

## **Social Movements and Mass Hysteria**

The madness of crowds also plays a significant role in the rise and spread of social movements, mass panics, and collective delusions. These phenomena can shape political landscapes, influence cultural trends, and even alter the course of history.

### **Political Movements**

Political movements often gain momentum through the power of crowds, as shared emotions and beliefs lead to large-scale mobilization. While some movements drive positive change, others may devolve into fanaticism or extremism, fueled by crowd psychology rather than rational debate.

### **Mass Hysteria and Collective Delusions**

Mass hysteria refers to the spontaneous spread of fear or excitement among a population, resulting in irrational behavior. Examples include widespread panic over perceived threats, health scares, or social rumors. Collective delusions can persist for extended periods, shaping public opinion and behavior.

- Viral internet challenges
- Urban legends and rumors
- Public health panics

## **Contemporary Manifestations of Crowd Madness**

In today's digital age, the madness of crowds has found new platforms for expression. Social media,

online forums, and instant communication enable ideas, trends, and panics to spread faster and wider than ever before.

## **Social Media Virality**

Social media accelerates the spread of crowd-driven phenomena, with posts, videos, and memes reaching millions within hours. Viral trends often reflect collective emotions—whether joy, outrage, or fear—and can influence public discourse, consumer behavior, and even financial markets.

## **Digital Herding and Online Panics**

Digital herding occurs when online users follow popular opinions or trends en masse, sometimes ignoring factual information or critical thinking. Online panics, such as sudden stock market sell-offs or viral misinformation, are modern examples of the madness of crowds in action.

## **Recognizing and Responding to the Madness of Crowds**

Identifying and responding to crowd-driven phenomena is essential for individuals, businesses, and policymakers. Understanding the signs of collective irrationality can help prevent negative outcomes and encourage more rational decision-making.

## **Signs of Crowd Madness**

- Rapid, widespread adoption of new trends or beliefs
- Suppression of dissent or critical questioning
- Heightened emotional intensity within groups
- Escalation of behaviors without clear logic or evidence

## **Strategies for Prevention**

Effective strategies for countering the madness of crowds include promoting critical thinking, encouraging open debate, and maintaining transparency in decision-making processes. Education about crowd psychology and group dynamics can empower individuals to recognize and resist irrational collective behavior.

Organizations and governments can benefit from monitoring crowd sentiment, establishing clear

communication channels, and fostering environments where diverse perspectives are valued. These approaches help reduce the risks associated with crowd-driven phenomena.

## **Questions and Answers About the Madness of Crowds**

### **Q: What is the madness of crowds?**

A: The madness of crowds refers to the phenomenon where individuals in large groups act irrationally or abandon critical thinking, often resulting in mass hysteria, speculative bubbles, or collective delusions.

### **Q: Who popularized the concept of the madness of crowds?**

A: Charles Mackay popularized the concept with his 1841 book "Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds," which analyzed historical episodes of mass irrationality.

### **Q: What psychological factors contribute to the madness of crowds?**

A: Key psychological factors include herd mentality, groupthink, social contagion, and loss of individual responsibility, all of which drive people to follow group behavior rather than personal judgment.

### **Q: Can the madness of crowds have positive effects?**

A: While often associated with negative outcomes, crowd behavior can also drive positive social change, such as collective action for civil rights or disaster response, when guided by rational and inclusive leadership.

### **Q: How does social media influence the madness of crowds?**

A: Social media amplifies crowd phenomena by enabling rapid communication, spreading viral trends and misinformation, and encouraging digital herding where users follow popular opinions en masse.

### **Q: What are some famous financial bubbles related to crowd madness?**

A: Famous financial bubbles driven by crowd psychology include the Tulip Mania, South Sea Bubble, Dot-com Bubble, and the 2008 Housing Bubble.

## **Q: How can individuals recognize signs of crowd madness?**

A: Individuals can look for rapid trend adoption, emotional intensity, suppression of dissent, and escalation of behaviors without logical basis as signs of crowd madness.

## **Q: Is crowd madness limited to financial markets?**

A: No, crowd madness occurs in various domains, including politics, social movements, cultural trends, and even public health panics.

## **Q: What strategies can help prevent the negative impact of crowd madness?**

A: Strategies include promoting critical thinking, fostering open debate, maintaining transparency, and educating people about group psychology and dynamics.

## **Q: Why is understanding the madness of crowds important in today's world?**

A: Understanding the madness of crowds is crucial for making informed decisions, preventing collective irrationality, and navigating the challenges of mass communication and digital influence.

## **[The Madness Of Crowds](#)**

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## **The Madness of Crowds: Understanding Herd Mentality and Its Impact**

Have you ever found yourself doing something you wouldn't normally do, simply because everyone else was doing it? Perhaps joining a frenzied shopping rush, blindly following a trend, or even supporting a political candidate solely based on their popularity? If so, you've experienced firsthand the power of "the madness of crowds," a phenomenon explored by French sociologist Gustave Le Bon in his seminal work of the same name. This blog post delves into the psychology behind this compelling force, examining its causes, consequences, and how to navigate its potential pitfalls. We'll explore practical examples and provide strategies for making rational decisions even amidst

the pressures of collective behavior.

## **H2: Understanding the Psychology of the Crowd**

The "madness of crowds," also known as herd mentality or mob psychology, refers to the irrational behavior that can emerge when individuals become part of a large group. Le Bon argued that the anonymity and shared emotion within a crowd can lead to a loss of individual identity and rationality. Several key psychological factors contribute to this phenomenon:

**Deindividuation:** When immersed in a large crowd, individuals may feel a sense of anonymity, reducing their sense of personal responsibility. This can lead to impulsive and even antisocial behavior that they wouldn't exhibit alone.

**Social Contagion:** Emotions and behaviors can spread rapidly within a crowd like a contagious disease. One person's excitement, fear, or anger can quickly escalate, influencing the actions of others.

**Conformity:** Humans have a strong desire to fit in and be accepted by their peers. In a crowd, this desire can override individual judgment, leading people to adopt the beliefs and behaviors of the majority, even if they disagree privately.

**Suggestibility:** Crowds are often highly suggestible, easily influenced by charismatic leaders or powerful emotional appeals. This suggestibility can lead to irrational decision-making and impulsive actions.

## **H2: Examples of the Madness of Crowds in Action**

The power of herd mentality is evident in numerous historical and contemporary examples:

**Market Bubbles:** Speculative bubbles in the stock market or cryptocurrency markets often result from the collective irrational exuberance of investors, leading to inflated prices followed by inevitable crashes.

**Social Media Trends:** The rapid spread of viral trends and challenges on social media platforms highlights the contagious nature of ideas and behaviors within online communities.

**Political Polarization:** Groupthink and confirmation bias can lead to extreme political polarization, where individuals within opposing groups become increasingly entrenched in their beliefs, making rational discourse difficult.

**Riots and Panics:** The loss of individual identity and rationality in large crowds can lead to violent riots or panicked stampedes, as seen in historical events and even modern-day concert tragedies.



## **H2: Protecting Yourself from the Madness of Crowds**

While herd mentality is a powerful force, it's not insurmountable. Here are some strategies for making rational decisions even when surrounded by a crowd:

**Develop Critical Thinking Skills:** Learn to question assumptions, analyze information objectively, and resist the temptation to blindly follow the crowd.

**Cultivate Independent Thought:** Foster your own unique perspectives and avoid being overly influenced by social pressure.

**Be Mindful of Your Emotions:** Recognize how your own emotions can be influenced by the crowd and strive to maintain a sense of calm and objectivity.

**Seek Diverse Perspectives:** Engage with people who hold differing views to broaden your understanding and challenge your assumptions.

**Question Authority:** Don't blindly accept the opinions or directives of leaders or influencers, especially when they lack evidence or rationale.

## **H2: The Importance of Individuality in a Collective World**

The "madness of crowds" underscores the importance of individual responsibility and critical thinking in a world increasingly influenced by collective behavior. By understanding the psychological mechanisms at play, we can better navigate the pressures of conformity and make informed decisions that align with our own values and beliefs. It's crucial to remember that while the crowd can be a powerful force, the power of individual thought remains a crucial antidote to its potential dangers.

## **Conclusion**

The phenomenon of "the madness of crowds" is a complex interplay of psychological factors that can lead to irrational and often harmful behaviors. By understanding the underlying mechanisms—deindividuation, social contagion, conformity, and suggestibility—we can arm ourselves with the tools to resist the pull of collective irrationality. Cultivating critical thinking, independent thought, and emotional awareness are essential in navigating the complexities of group dynamics and making rational choices in a world often swayed by the masses. Remember, individuality is not a weakness, but a strength that can help us avoid the pitfalls of herd mentality and build a more rational and informed society.

# FAQs

1. Is it always bad to follow the crowd? Not necessarily. In some situations, following the crowd can be beneficial, such as evacuating a burning building or following safety instructions. The key is to use your judgment and not blindly follow without considering the situation.
2. How can I recognize when I'm being influenced by herd mentality? Pay attention to your own feelings and thoughts. If you find yourself doing something against your better judgment simply because others are doing it, you might be experiencing herd mentality.
3. Can herd mentality be positive? While often associated with negative outcomes, herd mentality can sometimes drive positive social change. For example, collective action can lead to social movements and positive societal shifts.
4. What role does social media play in the madness of crowds? Social media amplifies the effects of herd mentality by creating echo chambers and reinforcing existing biases. The rapid spread of information and emotions can lead to widespread misinformation and irrational behavior.
5. Are there any historical examples of positive collective action that overcame the potential negatives of herd behavior? Yes, the Civil Rights Movement is a good example. While there were instances of mob mentality within the movement, its overall success demonstrates the power of collective action guided by strong ethical principles and leadership that fostered critical thinking and individual agency.

**the madness of crowds: The Madness of Crowds** Douglas Murray, 2019-09-17 THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER A Times and Sunday Times Book of the Year Updated with a new afterword by the author 'Douglas Murray fights the good fight for freedom of speech ... A truthful look at today's most divisive issues' - Jordan B. Peterson '[Murray's] latest book is beyond brilliant and should be read, must be read, by everyone' - Richard Dawkins Are we living through the great derangement of our times? In *The Madness of Crowds* Douglas Murray investigates the dangers of 'woke' culture and the rise of identity politics. In lively, razor-sharp prose he examines the most controversial issues of our moment: sexuality, gender, technology and race, with interludes on the Marxist foundations of 'wokeness', the impact of tech and how, in an increasingly online culture, we must relearn the ability to forgive. One of the few writers who dares to counter the prevailing view and question the dramatic changes in our society - from gender reassignment for children to the impact of transgender rights on women - Murray's penetrating book, now published with a new afterword taking account of the book's reception and responding to the worldwide Black Lives Matter protests, clears a path of sanity through the fog of our modern predicament.

**the madness of crowds: The Madness of Crowds** Louise Penny, 2022-05-24 Chief Inspector Armand Gamache finds his holiday with his family interrupted by a simple request: to provide security for what promises to be a non-event. A visiting Professor of Statistics will be giving a lecture at the nearby university. When a murder is committed it falls to Chief Inspector, his second-in-command Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and their team to investigate the crime as well as this extraordinary popular delusion.

**the madness of crowds: Rumor, Fear and the Madness of Crowds** J.P. Chaplin, 2015-10-21 Originally published by Ballantine Books, New York, in 1959.

**the madness of crowds: The Wisdom of Crowds** Joe Abercrombie, 2021-09-14 Concluding the AGE OF MADNESS trilogy, *THE WISDOM OF CROWDS* brings the series which is

revolutionising fantasy to its stunning conclusion. . . Chaos. Fury. Destruction. The Great Change is upon us . . . Some say that to change the world you must first burn it down. Now that belief will be tested in the crucible of revolution: the Breakers and Burners have seized the levers of power, the smoke of riots has replaced the smog of industry, and all must submit to the wisdom of crowds. With nothing left to lose, Citizen Brock is determined to become a new hero for the new age, while Citizeness Savine must turn her talents from profit to survival before she can claw her way to redemption. Orso will find that when the world is turned upside down, no one is lower than a monarch. And in the bloody North, Rikke and her fragile Protectorate are running out of allies . . . while Black Calder gathers his forces and plots his vengeance. The banks have fallen, the sun of the Union has been torn down, and in the darkness behind the scenes, the threads of the Weaver's ruthless plan are slowly being drawn together . . .

**the madness of crowds: Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds** Charles Mackay, 1852 Excerpt from Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions, Vol. 2 A forest huge of spears and thronging helms Appeared, and serried shields, in thick array. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

**the madness of crowds: *The Delusions of Crowds*** William J. Bernstein, 2021-02-23 This “disturbing yet fascinating” exploration of mass mania through the ages explains the biological and psychological roots of irrationality (Kirkus Reviews). From time immemorial, contagious narratives have spread through susceptible groups—with enormous, often disastrous, consequences. Inspired by Charles Mackay’s nineteenth-century classic *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*, neurologist and author William Bernstein examines mass delusion through the lens of current scientific research in *The Delusions of Crowds*. Bernstein tells the stories of dramatic religious and financial mania in western society over the last five hundred years—from the Anabaptist Madness of the 1530s to the dangerous End-Times beliefs that pervade today’s polarized America; and from the South Sea Bubble to the Enron scandal and dot com bubbles. Through Bernstein’s supple prose, the participants are as colorful as their “desire to improve one’s well-being in this life or the next.” Bernstein’s chronicles reveal the huge cost and alarming implications of mass mania. He observes that if we can absorb the history and biology of this all-too-human phenomenon, we can recognize it more readily in our own time, and avoid its frequently dire impact.

**the madness of crowds: *The Strange Death of Europe*** Douglas Murray, 2017-05-04 THE SUNDAY TIMES NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER A WATERSTONES POLITICS PAPERBACK OF THE YEAR, 2018 *The Strange Death of Europe* is a highly personal account of a continent and culture caught in the act of suicide. Declining birth-rates, mass immigration and cultivated self-distrust and self-hatred have come together to make Europeans unable to argue for themselves and incapable of resisting their own comprehensive change as a society. This book is not only an analysis of demographic and political realities, but also an eyewitness account of a continent in self-destruct mode. It includes reporting from across the entire continent, from the places where migrants land to the places they end up, from the people who appear to welcome them in to the places which cannot accept them. Told from this first-hand perspective, and backed with impressive research and evidence, the book addresses the disappointing failure of multiculturalism, Angela Merkel's U-turn on migration, the lack of repatriation and the Western fixation on guilt. Murray travels to Berlin, Paris, Scandinavia, Lampedusa and Greece to uncover the malaise at the very heart of the European culture, and to hear the stories of those who have arrived in Europe from far away. In each chapter he also takes a step back to look at the bigger issues which lie behind a continent's death-wish, answering the question of why anyone, let alone an entire civilisation, would do this to themselves?

He ends with two visions of Europe – one hopeful, one pessimistic – which paint a picture of Europe in crisis and offer a choice as to what, if anything, we can do next.

**the madness of crowds:** *Woke* Titania McGrath, 2019-03-07 'The book everyone's talking about' The Times (Book of the Year) 'Titania McGrath is a genius' Spectator (Book of the Year) 'Beautiful classic satire' Ricky Gervais 'Hilarious . . . the most artful form of subtle parody' Joe Rogan 'Just as Bridget Jones was the embodiment of the anxiety-ridden Nineties feminist, a creation whose diary entries encapsulated all our hopes, fears and failures, so Titania McGrath is her millennial successor, a girl every bit as lost and confused, every bit as accurately observed - and equally, catastrophically, hilarious.' Sarah Vine, Daily Mail In *Woke*, Titania McGrath demonstrates how everybody can play their part in the pursuit of social justice. As a millennial icon on the forefront of online activism, Titania is uniquely placed to guide her readers through the often bewildering array of terminology and concepts that constitute twenty-first-century 'wokeness'. These new ideas often leave the general public bemused, particularly if they don't read the Guardian. Being woke is actually much easier than people think. As Titania demonstrates, anyone can be an activist. By simply adding a rainbow flag to your Facebook profile, or calling out an elderly person who doesn't understand what 'non-binary' means, you can change the world for the better. Indeed, social media has now made it possible to show how virtuous you are without having to do anything at all. Timely and indispensable, Titania's step-by-step guide will help you to become the woke person you need to be in an increasingly progressive world. In a non-patronising manner, Titania will explain why you are wrong about everything and how to become more like her.

**the madness of crowds: Cynical Theories** Helen Pluckrose, James A. Lindsay, 2020-05-05 Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly Bestseller! Times, Sunday Times, and Financial Times Book-of-the-Year Selection! Have you heard that language is violence and that science is sexist? Have you read that certain people shouldn't practice yoga or cook Chinese food? Or been told that being obese is healthy, that there is no such thing as biological sex, or that only white people can be racist? Are you confused by these ideas, and do you wonder how they have managed so quickly to challenge the very logic of Western society? In this probing and intrepid volume, Helen Pluckrose and James Lindsay document the evolution of the dogma that informs these ideas, from its coarse origins in French postmodernism to its refinement within activist academic fields. Today this dogma is recognizable as much by its effects, such as cancel culture and social-media dogpiles, as by its tenets, which are all too often embraced as axiomatic in mainstream media: knowledge is a social construct; science and reason are tools of oppression; all human interactions are sites of oppressive power play; and language is dangerous. As Pluckrose and Lindsay warn, the unchecked proliferation of these anti-Enlightenment beliefs present a threat not only to liberal democracy but also to modernity itself. While acknowledging the need to challenge the complacency of those who think a just society has been fully achieved, Pluckrose and Lindsay break down how this often-radical activist scholarship does far more harm than good, not least to those marginalized communities it claims to champion. They also detail its alarmingly inconsistent and illiberal ethics. Only through a proper understanding of the evolution of these ideas, they conclude, can those who value science, reason, and consistently liberal ethics successfully challenge this harmful and authoritarian orthodoxy—in the academy, in culture, and beyond.

**the madness of crowds: Extraordinary Popular Delusions and The Madness of Crowds** Charles Mackay, 2023-05-24 This is the full unabridged edition that includes all three volumes. In this book, Charles Mackay discusses the irrational behaviors of crowds in the economy, war and magic. He gives several different examples of market bubbles such as the Mississippi Scheme and the infamous Tulip Mania in the Netherlands. Ever since it was written, Investors have used it as a guide to help identify boom and bust cycles. *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and The Madness of Crowds* has had an important influence on economists in understanding of crowd psychology and feedback loops.

**the madness of crowds: Madness in Crowds** Denis Kitchen, Violet Kitchen, 2020-10-06 An oversized hardcover monograph on the cartoonist and graphic artist Harrison Cady, the master of

creatures, contraptions and crowd scenes.

**the madness of crowds:** The Crowd & Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds Gustave Lebon, Charles Mackay, 2007-02 In this book, Charles Mackay discusses the irrational behaviors of crowds in the economy, war and magic. He gives several different examples of market bubbles, such as the Mississippi Scheme and the infamous Tulip Mania in the Netherlands. Ever since it was written, investors have used it as a guide to help identify boom and bust cycles. Extraordinary Popular Delusions and The Madness of Crowds has had an important influence on economists in understanding of crowd psychology and feedback loops.

**the madness of crowds:** How to be a Conservative Roger Scruton, 2014-09-11 Roger Scruton's How to be a Conservative presents the case for modern conservatism not in the terms of an elegy but rather as a practical example of how to live as a conservative despite the pressures to live otherwise. As he writes, the book 'is not about what we have lost, but about what we have retained, and how to hold on to it'. In this witty and frank account, Scruton draws on his years of experience as a counter-cultural presence in public life. He examines the truths in Nationalism, Socialism, Capitalism, Liberalism, Multiculturalism, Environmentalism, Internationalism and finally Conservatism. The book concludes on a personal note, with 'a valediction forbidding mourning but admitting loss'.

**the madness of crowds:** The Madness of Crowds Douglas Murray, 2019-09-17 THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER A Times and Sunday Times Book of the Year Updated with a new afterword by the author 'Douglas Murray fights the good fight for freedom of speech ... A truthful look at today's most divisive issues' - Jordan B. Peterson '[Murray's] latest book is beyond brilliant and should be read, must be read, by everyone' - Richard Dawkins Are we living through the great derangement of our times? In The Madness of Crowds Douglas Murray investigates the dangers of 'woke' culture and the rise of identity politics. In lively, razor-sharp prose he examines the most controversial issues of our moment: sexuality, gender, technology and race, with interludes on the Marxist foundations of 'wokeness', the impact of tech and how, in an increasingly online culture, we must relearn the ability to forgive. One of the few writers who dares to counter the prevailing view and question the dramatic changes in our society - from gender reassignment for children to the impact of transgender rights on women - Murray's penetrating book, now published with a new afterword taking account of the book's reception and responding to the worldwide Black Lives Matter protests, clears a path of sanity through the fog of our modern predicament.

**the madness of crowds:** The Wisdom of Crowds James Surowiecki, 2005-08-16 In this fascinating book, New Yorker business columnist James Surowiecki explores a deceptively simple idea: Large groups of people are smarter than an elite few, no matter how brilliant—better at solving problems, fostering innovation, coming to wise decisions, even predicting the future. With boundless erudition and in delightfully clear prose, Surowiecki ranges across fields as diverse as popular culture, psychology, ant biology, behavioral economics, artificial intelligence, military history, and politics to show how this simple idea offers important lessons for how we live our lives, select our leaders, run our companies, and think about our world.

**the madness of crowds:** The Company John Micklethwait, Adrian Wooldridge, 2005-01-11 Chosen by BusinessWeek as One of the Top Ten Business Books of the Year With apologies to Hegel, Marx, and Lenin, the basic unit of modern society is neither the state, nor the commune, nor the party; it is the company. From this bold premise, John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge chart the rise of one of history's great catalysts for good and evil. In a "fast-paced and well-written" work (Forbes), the authors reveal how innovations such as limitations on liability have permitted companies to rival religions and even states in importance, governing the flow of wealth and controlling human affairs—all while being largely exempt from the rules that govern our lives. The Company is that rare, remarkable book that fills a major gap we scarcely knew existed. With it, we are better able to make sense of the past four centuries, as well as the events of today.

**the madness of crowds:** Untitled Abercrombie 4 Of 4 Joe Abercrombie, 2021-09-14 Concluding the AGE OF MADNESS trilogy, THE WISDOM OF CROWDS brings the series which is

revolutionising fantasy to its stunning conclusion. . .Chaos. Fury. Destruction.The Great Change is upon us . . .Some say that to change the world you must first burn it down. Now that belief will be tested in the crucible of revolution: the Breakers and Burners have seized the levers of power, the smoke of riots has replaced the smog of industry, and all must submit to the wisdom of crowds.With nothing left to lose, Citizen Brock is determined to become a new hero for the new age, while Citizeness Savine must turn her talents from profit to survival before she can claw her way to redemption. Orso will find that when the world is turned upside down, no one is lower than a monarch. And in the bloody North, Rikke and her fragile Protectorate are running out of allies . . . while Black Calder gathers his forces and plots his vengeance.The banks have fallen, the sun of the Union has been torn down, and in the darkness behind the scenes, the threads of the Weaver's ruthless plan are slowly being drawn together . . .Joe Abercrombie is doing some terrific work - George R. R. Martin'No one writes with the seismic scope or primal intensity of Joe Abercrombie' Pierce Brown'Delightfully twisted and evil' The Guardian'Witty, Bloody and fun' Nicholas Eames'A vivid and jolting tale' Robin Hobb

**the madness of crowds:** *Confusion de Confusiones [1688]* José de la Vega, 2022-11-08 This book is the first that describes the practices of any stock exchange; it makes evident a high development of practices, with puts, calls, pools, and manipulations; and it appeared as early as the seventeenth century. Not inappropriately the stock exchange described is that of Amsterdam, a city which at the date of the volume's publication —1688 — was still the leading financial center of the world. The book, to be sure, is hardly a systematic account of the institution; the author pursued moral, philosophical, and rhetorical objectives, and, while saying a lot that seems now to be of little value, manages somehow to leave unsaid a great deal that would be of interest for us. Nevertheless, it represents, even in its peculiar form, a really important source of information about the stock exchange, and indeed about the Dutch business world of that period.

**the madness of crowds: Markets, Mobs & Mayhem** Robert Menschel, 2002-10-01 In this fascinating tour through cultural, global, economic, and business history, icon of the financial world Robert Menschel explores the phenomenon of crowd psychology and its effects on business and culture. Explaining how crowd psychology creates market bubbles and irrational exuberance, Menschel mines world history—from the rise of the Nazis in Germany, to the fanatical love of brands, to the Dutch tulip craze of the seventeenth century, to America's 1990s Internet bubble—to reveal how the behavior of crowds negatively affects the business world. Championing the causes of individuality and common sense, *Markets, Mobs & Mayhem* offers real wisdom for investors who want to keep their wits when everyone else is losing theirs.

**the madness of crowds: The Parasitic Mind** Gad Saad, 2020-10-06 Read this book, strengthen your resolve, and help us all return to reason. —JORDAN PETERSON The West's commitment to freedom, reason, and true liberalism have become endangered by a series of viral forces in our society today. Renowned host of the popular YouTube show "The SAAD Truth", Dr. Gad Saad exposes how an epidemic of idea pathogens are spreading like a virus and killing common sense in the West. Serving as a powerful follow-up to Jordan Peterson's book *12 Rules for Life* Dr. Saad unpacks what is really happening in progressive safe zones, why we need to be paying more attention to these trends, and what we must do to stop the spread of dangerous thinking. A professor at Concordia University who has witnessed this troubling epidemic first-hand, Dr. Saad dissects a multitude of these concerning forces (corrupt thought patterns, belief systems, attitudes, etc.) that have given rise to a stifling political correctness in our society and how these have created serious consequences that must be remedied-before it's too late.

**the madness of crowds: The Surprising Power of Liberating Structures** Henri Lipmanowicz, Keith McCandless, 2014-10-28 Smart leaders know that they would greatly increase productivity and innovation if only they could get everyone fully engaged. So do professors, facilitators and all changemakers. The challenge is how. *Liberating Structures* are novel, practical and no-nonsense methods to help you accomplish this goal with groups of any size. Prepare to be surprised by how simple and easy they are for anyone to use. This book shows you how with detailed descriptions for

putting them into practice plus tips on how to get started and traps to avoid. It takes the design and facilitation methods experts use and puts them within reach of anyone in any organization or initiative, from the frontline to the C-suite. Part One: The Hidden Structure of Engagement will ground you with the conceptual framework and vocabulary of Liberating Structures. It contrasts Liberating Structures with conventional methods and shows the benefits of using them to transform the way people collaborate, learn, and discover solutions together. Part Two: Getting Started and Beyond offers guidelines for experimenting in a wide range of applications from small group interactions to system-wide initiatives: meetings, projects, problem solving, change initiatives, product launches, strategy development, etc. Part Three: Stories from the Field illustrates the endless possibilities Liberating Structures offer with stories from users around the world, in all types of organizations -- from healthcare to academic to military to global business enterprises, from judicial and legislative environments to R&D. Part Four: The Field Guide for Including, Engaging, and Unleashing Everyone describes how to use each of the 33 Liberating Structures with step-by-step explanations of what to do and what to expect. Discover today what Liberating Structures can do for you, without expensive investments, complicated training, or difficult restructuring. Liberate everyone's contributions -- all it takes is the determination to experiment.

**the madness of crowds: Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds (Harriman Definitive Edition)** Charles Mackay, Russell Napier, 2018-12-03 Charles MacKay's groundbreaking examination of a staggering variety of popular delusions, crazes and mass follies is presented here in full with no abridgements. The text concentrates on a wide variety of phenomena which had occurred over the centuries prior to this book's publication in 1841. Mackay begins by examining economic bubbles, such as the infamous Tulipomania, wherein Dutch tulips rocketed in value amid claims they could be substituted for actual currency. As we progress further, the scope of the book broadens into several more exotic fields of mass self-deception. Mackay turns his attention to the witch hunts of the 17th and 18th centuries, the practice of alchemy, the phenomena of haunted houses, the vast and varied practices of fortune telling and the search for the philosopher's stone, to name but a handful of subjects. Today, Extraordinary Popular Delusions and The Madness of Crowds is distinguished as an expansive, well-researched and somewhat eccentric work of social history.

**the madness of crowds: Neoconservatism** Douglas Murray, Associate Professor of English Douglas Murray, 2010-06-29 Neo conservatism: Why We Need It is a defense of the most controversial political philosophy of our era. Douglas Murray takes a fresh look at the movement that replaced Great-Society liberalism, helped Ronald Reagan bring down the Wall, and provided the intellectual rationale for the Bush administration's War on Terror. While others are blaming it for foreign policy failures and, more extremely, attacking it as a "Jewish cabal," Murray argues that the West needs Neo conservatism more than ever. In addition to explaining what Neo conservatism is and where it came from, he argues that this American-born response to the failed policies of the 1960s is the best approach to foreign affairs not only for the United States but also for Britain and the West as well.

**the madness of crowds: Somewhere Becoming Rain** Clive James, 2019-10-09 Clive James is a life-long admirer of the work of Philip Larkin. Somewhere Becoming Rain gathers all of James's writing on this towering literary figure of the twentieth century, together with extra material now published for the first time. The greatness of Larkin's poetry continues to be obscured by the opprobrium attaching to his personal life and his private opinions. James writes about Larkin's poems, his novels, his jazz and literary criticism; he also considers the two major biographies, Larkin's letters and even his portrayal on stage in order to chart the extreme and, he argues, largely misguided equivocations about Larkin's reputation in the years since his death. Through this joyous and perceptive book, Larkin's genius is delineated and celebrated. James argues that Larkin's poems, adored by discriminating readers for over half a century, could only have been the product of his reticent, diffident, flawed, and all-too-human personality. Erudite and entertaining in equal measure, Somewhere Becoming Rain is a love letter from one of the world's best living writers to

one of its most cherished poets.

**the madness of crowds: Nervous States** William Davies, 2018-09-20 A dazzlingly original analysis of how emotions shape the times we are living in by one of Britain's most exciting thinkers 'A masterpiece' New York Times 'Insightful and well-written' Yuval Noah Harari, author of *Sapiens* How have feelings come to shape the world around us? Why has politics become so fractious and warlike? What might the future hold? In this bold and compelling exploration of our new political reality, William Davies reveals how feelings have come to reshape our world. Drawing on history, philosophy, psychology and economics, *Nervous States* is an essential guide to the turbulent times we are living through.

**the madness of crowds: All the Devils Are Here** Louise Penny, 2020-09-01 'She makes most of her competitors seem like wannabes' THE TIMES 'Louise Penny is one of the greatest crime writers of our times' DENISE MINA Louise Penny's much loved hero confronts a dark plot lurking beneath the elegant facades of Paris - lose yourself in the breathtaking new crime thriller by the #1 bestselling author \_\_\_\_\_ On their first night in Paris, the Gamaches gather for a family dinner with Armand's godfather, the billionaire Stephen Horowitz. But the evening ends in horror when Stephen is knocked down and critically injured in what Armand is convinced is no accident, but a deliberate attempt on an elderly man's life. When a strange key is found in Stephen's possession it sends Armand on a desperate search for the truth that will take him from the top of the Tour Eiffel, to the bowels of the Paris Archives. And as Armand begins to uncover the secrets his godfather has kept hidden for decades, he finds himself ensnared in a web of lies and deceit that threatens to destroy everything - and everyone - he holds dear. For even the City of Light casts long shadows. And in that darkness devils hide . . . \_\_\_\_\_ Praise for the award-winning Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series: 'Gamache has become to Canada what Hercule Poirot is to Belgium' The New York Times 'The series is deep and grand and altogether extraordinary . . . Miraculous' Washington Post 'Fascinating characters, a twisty plot and wonderful surprise endings' Ann Cleeves 'Supremely satisfying' Observer

**the madness of crowds: How the Light Gets In** Louise Penny, 2013-08-27 How the Light Gets In is the ninth Chief Inspector Gamache Novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Louise Penny. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in. —Leonard Cohen Christmas is approaching, and in Québec it's a time of dazzling snowfalls, bright lights, and gatherings with friends in front of blazing hearths. But shadows are falling on the usually festive season for Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. Most of his best agents have left the Homicide Department, his old friend and lieutenant Jean-Guy Beauvoir hasn't spoken to him in months, and hostile forces are lining up against him. When Gamache receives a message from Myrna Landers that a longtime friend has failed to arrive for Christmas in the village of Three Pines, he welcomes the chance to get away from the city. Mystified by Myrna's reluctance to reveal her friend's name, Gamache soon discovers the missing woman was once one of the most famous people not just in North America, but in the world, and now goes unrecognized by virtually everyone except the mad, brilliant poet Ruth Zardo. As events come to a head, Gamache is drawn ever deeper into the world of Three Pines. Increasingly, he is not only investigating the disappearance of Myrna's friend but also seeking a safe place for himself and his still-loyal colleagues. Is there peace to be found even in Three Pines, and at what cost to Gamache and the people he holds dear? One of Publishers Weekly's Best Mystery/Thriller Books of 2013 One of The Washington Post's Top 10 Books of the Year An NPR Best Book of 2013

**the madness of crowds: Kingdom of the Blind** Louise Penny, 2018-11-27 'A wonderful addition to a fantastic series' ELLY GRIFFITHS 'This gloriously shocking book grips from the very first page' DENISE MINA The entrancing crime thriller featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, from number one New York Times bestselling author Louise Penny \*\*\*\*\* When Armand Gamache receives a letter inviting him to an abandoned farmhouse outside of Three Pines, the former head of the Sûreté du Québec discovers that a complete stranger has named him as an executor of her will. The bequests are so wildly unlikely that he suspects the woman must have been delusional - until a body is found. But it isn't the only menace Gamache is facing. The investigation into the events that



led to his suspension delves deeper, and he takes increasingly desperate measures to rectify previous actions. As he does, Gamache begins to see his own blind spots - and the terrible things hiding there . . . \_\_\_\_\_ Praise for the award-winning Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series: 'One of the most interesting detectives in crime fiction' The Times 'Fascinating characters, a twisty plot and wonderful surprise endings' Ann Cleeves 'Wonderfully satisfying' Kate Mosse 'Louise Penny is one of the greatest crime writers of our times' Denise Mina 'Supremely satisfying' Observer 'Gamache has become to Canada what Hercule Poirot is to Belgium' The New York Times 'The series is deep and grand and altogether extraordinary . . . Miraculous' Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_ This edition contains bonus extra content from Louise Penny, including a map of Three Pines

**the madness of crowds:** *A Better Man* Louise Penny, 2019-08-27 "'A Better Man,' with its mix of meteorological suspense, psychological insight and criminal pursuit, is arguably the best book yet in an outstanding, original oeuvre." —Tom Nolan, The Wall Street Journal Enchanting... one of his most ennobling missions. —Marilyn Stasio, New York Times Book Review Catastrophic spring flooding, blistering attacks in the media, and a mysterious disappearance greet Chief Inspector Armand Gamache as he returns to the Sûreté du Québec in the latest novel by #1 New York Times bestselling author Louise Penny. It's Gamache's first day back as head of the homicide department, a job he temporarily shares with his previous second-in-command, Jean-Guy Beauvoir. Flood waters are rising across the province. In the middle of the turmoil a father approaches Gamache, pleading for help in finding his daughter. As crisis piles upon crisis, Gamache tries to hold off the encroaching chaos, and realizes the search for Vivienne Godin should be abandoned. But with a daughter of his own, he finds himself developing a profound, and perhaps unwise, empathy for her distraught father. Increasingly hounded by the question, how would you feel..., he resumes the search. As the rivers rise, and the social media onslaught against Gamache becomes crueler, a body is discovered. And in the tumult, mistakes are made. In the next novel in this "constantly surprising series that deepens and darkens as it evolves" (New York Times Book Review), Gamache must face a horrific possibility, and a burning question. What would you do if your child's killer walked free?

**the madness of crowds:** *Agent-Based Models of Social Life* Michael Laver, 2020-04-16 Social interactions are rich, complex, and dynamic. One way to understand these is to model interactions that fascinate us. Some of the more realistic and powerful models are computer simulations. Simple, elegant and powerful, tools are available in user-friendly free software to help you design, build and run your own models of social interactions that intrigue you, and do this on the most basic laptop computer. Focusing on a well-known model of housing segregation, this Element is about how to unleash that power, setting out the fundamentals of what is now known as 'agent based modeling'.

**the madness of crowds:** *The Widowmaker* Hannah Morrissey, 2022-12-06 A wealthy family shrouded in scandal; a detective tasked with solving an impossible cold case; and a woman with a dark past collide in Hannah Morrissey's stunning new Black Harbor mystery, *The Widowmaker*. Ever since business mogul Clive Reynolds disappeared twenty years ago, the name Reynolds has become synonymous with murder and mystery. And now, lured by a cryptic note, down-on-her-luck photographer Morgan Mori returns home to Black Harbor and into the web of their family secrets and double lives. The same night she photographs the Reynolds holiday get-together, Morgan becomes witness to a homicide of a cop that triggers the discovery of a long-buried clue. This could finally be the thing to crack open the chilling cold case, and Investigator Ryan Hudson has a chance to prove himself as lead detective. If only he could stop letting his need to solve his partner's recent murder distract him. But as Morgan exposes her own dark demons, could her sordid history be the key to unlocking more than one mystery?

**the madness of crowds:** *Encyclopaedia Britannica* Hugh Chisholm, 1910 This eleventh edition was developed during the encyclopaedia's transition from a British to an American publication. Some of its articles were written by the best-known scholars of the time and it is considered to be a landmark encyclopaedia for scholarship and literary style.

**the madness of crowds:** *Glass Houses* Louise Penny, 2017-08-29 An instant New York Times Bestseller and August 2017 LibraryReads pick! "Penny's absorbing, intricately plotted 13th

Gamache novel proves she only gets better at pursuing dark truths with compassion and grace.” —PEOPLE “Louise Penny wrote the book on escapist mysteries.” —The New York Times Book Review “You won't want Louise Penny's latest to end....Any plot summary of Penny's novels inevitably falls short of conveying the dark magic of this series.... It takes nerve and skill — as well as heart — to write mysteries like this. ‘Glass Houses,’ along with many of the other Gamache books, is so compelling that, for the space of reading it, you may well feel that much of what's going on in the world outside the novel is ‘just noise.’” —Maureen Corrigan, The Washington Post When a mysterious figure appears in Three Pines one cold November day, Armand Gamache and the rest of the villagers are at first curious. Then wary. Through rain and sleet, the figure stands unmoving, staring ahead. From the moment its shadow falls over the village, Gamache, now Chief Superintendent of the Sûreté du Québec, suspects the creature has deep roots and a dark purpose. Yet he does nothing. What can he do? Only watch and wait. And hope his mounting fears are not realized. But when the figure vanishes overnight and a body is discovered, it falls to Gamache to discover if a debt has been paid or levied. Months later, on a steamy July day as the trial for the accused begins in Montréal, Chief Superintendent Gamache continues to struggle with actions he set in motion that bitter November, from which there is no going back. More than the accused is on trial. Gamache's own conscience is standing in judgment. In Glass Houses, her latest utterly gripping book, number-one New York Times bestselling author Louise Penny shatters the conventions of the crime novel to explore what Gandhi called the court of conscience. A court that supersedes all others.

**the madness of crowds: The War on the West** Douglas Murray, 2023-03-02 SUNDAY TIMES NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER 'The most important book of the year' Daily Mail The brilliant and provocative new book from one of the world's foremost political writers 'The anti-Western revisionists have been out in force in recent years. It is high time that we revise them in turn...' In The War on the West, international bestselling author Douglas Murray asks: if the history of humankind is one of slavery, conquest, prejudice, genocide and exploitation, why are only Western nations taking the blame for it? It's become perfectly acceptable to celebrate the contributions of non-Western cultures, but discussing their flaws and crimes is called hate speech. What's more it has become acceptable to discuss the flaws and crimes of Western culture, but celebrating their contributions is also called hate speech. Some of this is a much-needed reckoning; however, some is part of a larger international attack on reason, democracy, science, progress and the citizens of the West by dishonest scholars, hatemongers, hostile nations and human-rights abusers hoping to distract from their ongoing villainy. In The War on the West, Douglas Murray shows the ways in which many well-meaning people have been lured into polarisation by lies, and shows how far the world's most crucial political debates have been hijacked across Europe and America. Propelled by an incisive deconstruction of inconsistent arguments and hypocritical activism, The War on the West is an essential and urgent polemic that cements Murray's status as one of the world's foremost political writers.

**the madness of crowds: Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds** Charles MacKay, 2012-12-10 Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds is a history of popular folly by Charles Mackay. The book chronicles its targets in three parts: National Delusions, Peculiar Follies, and Philosophical Delusions. Learn why intelligent people do amazingly stupid things when caught up in speculative edevorse. The subjects of Mackay's debunking include alchemy, beards (influence of politics and religion on), witch-hunts, crusades, and duels. Present day writers on economics, such as Andrew Tobias, laud the three chapters on economic bubbles.

**the madness of crowds: Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds and Confusión de Confusiones** Martin S. Fridson, 1995-12-29 The market never ceases to befuddle and beguile. These twovenerable works are fixtures on the short lists for most valuablebooks on the securities markets, and investors continue to cherishthem. -From the Introduction by Martin S. Fridson ManagingDirector, Merrill Lynch & Co. Author of InvestmentIllusions Exploring the sometimes hilarious, sometimes devastating impact ofcrowd

behavior and trading trickery on the financial markets, this book brilliantly combines two all-time investment classics. *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and Confusions* take us from Tulipmania in 1634—when tulips actually traded at a higher price than gold—to the South Sea bubble of 1720, and beyond. Securities analyst and author Martin Fridson guides you on a quirky, entertaining, and intriguing journey back through time. Chosen by the Financial Times as Two of the Ten Best Books Ever Written on Investment Critical Praise . . . This is the most important book ever written about crowd psychology and, by extension, about financial markets. A serious student of the markets and even anyone interested in the extremes of human behavior should read this book! -Ron Insana, CNBC In combining 'Extraordinary' with 'Confusion,' the result is not extraordinary confusion. Instead, with clarity, the book sears into modern investor minds the dangers of following the crowd. -Greg Heberlein, The Seattle Times You will see between its staid lines (written in ye olde English and as ponderable as Buddha's navel) that, despite what the media says, nothing really important has changed in the financial markets in centuries. -Kenneth L. Fisher, Forbes

**the madness of crowds: Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds** Charles Mackay, 2024-02-02 *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds: Insights into Historical Hysteria* *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* by Charles Mackay: Delve into the fascinating exploration of human psychology and financial folly with *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* by Charles Mackay. Unravel the historical tales of irrational exuberance, speculative bubbles, and collective madness that have shaped the course of financial history. Mackay's keen observations provide timeless insights into the peculiar behaviors that grip societies in the throes of fervor and folly. Why This Book? *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* serves as a compelling mirror to human nature, reflecting the patterns of mass hysteria and irrational behavior that transcend time. It's a riveting journey through the annals of financial history, offering valuable lessons for contemporary readers. Charles Mackay, a Scottish journalist and author, remains a guiding voice in the exploration of collective delusions. *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* stands as a testament to Mackay's insightful scrutiny of human behavior.

**the madness of crowds: Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds** Charles Mackay, 2011-02-02 First published in 1841, *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* is often cited as the best book ever written about market psychology. This Harriman House edition includes Charles Mackay's account of the three infamous financial manias - John Law's Mississippi Scheme, the South Sea Bubble, and Tulipomania. Between the three of them, these historic episodes confirm that greed and fear have always been the driving forces of financial markets, and, furthermore, that being sensible and clever is no defence against the mesmeric allure of a popular craze with the wind behind it. In writing the history of the great financial manias, Charles Mackay proved himself a master chronicler of social as well as financial history. Blessed with a cast of characters that covered all the vices, gifted a passage of events which was inevitably heading for disaster, and with the benefit of hindsight, he produced a record that is at once a riveting thriller and absorbing historical document. A century and a half later, it is as vibrant and lurid as the day it was written. For modern-day investors, still reeling from the dotcom crash, the moral of the popular manias scarcely needs spelling out. When the next stock market bubble comes along, as it surely will, you are advised to recall the plight of some of the unfortunates on these pages, and avoid getting dragged under the wheels of the careering bandwagon yourself.

**the madness of crowds: Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds** (Complete Edition: Volume 1-3) Charles Mackay, 2023-11-11 *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* is a study of crowd psychology by Scottish journalist Charles Mackay. The subjects of Mackay's debunking include witchcraft, alchemy, crusades, duels, economic bubbles, fortune-telling, haunted houses, the Drummer of Tedworth, the influence of politics and religion on the shapes of beards and hair, magnetizers (influence of imagination in curing disease), murder through poisoning, prophecies, popular admiration of great thieves, popular follies of great cities,

and relics. Contents: Volume 1: National Delusions: The Mississippi Scheme The South Sea Bubble The Tulipomania Relics Modern Prophecies Popular Admiration for Great Thieves Influence of Politics and Religion on the Hair and Beard Duels and Ordeals The Love of the Marvellous and the Disbelief of the True Popular Follies in Great Cities Old Price Riots The Thugs, or Phansigars Volume 2: Peculiar Follies: The Crusades The Witch Mania The Slow Poisoners Haunted Houses Volume 3: Philosophical Delusions : The Alchemysts Fortune Telling The Magnetisers

**the madness of crowds:** *Selections from 'Extraordinary Popular Delusions' and 'The Madness of Crowds'* Charles Mackay, 2022-06-15 This selection, first published in 1973, compiles a fascinating study of crowd psychology as it examines the moral epidemics and fits of madness that have bewitched the cities of Europe and their citizens from the dark ages to modern times. Among the selections are tales of thieves and poisoners, demons and poltergeists mingled with all the crazes, fantasies, divinations and prophecies that have stunned the critical faculties.

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