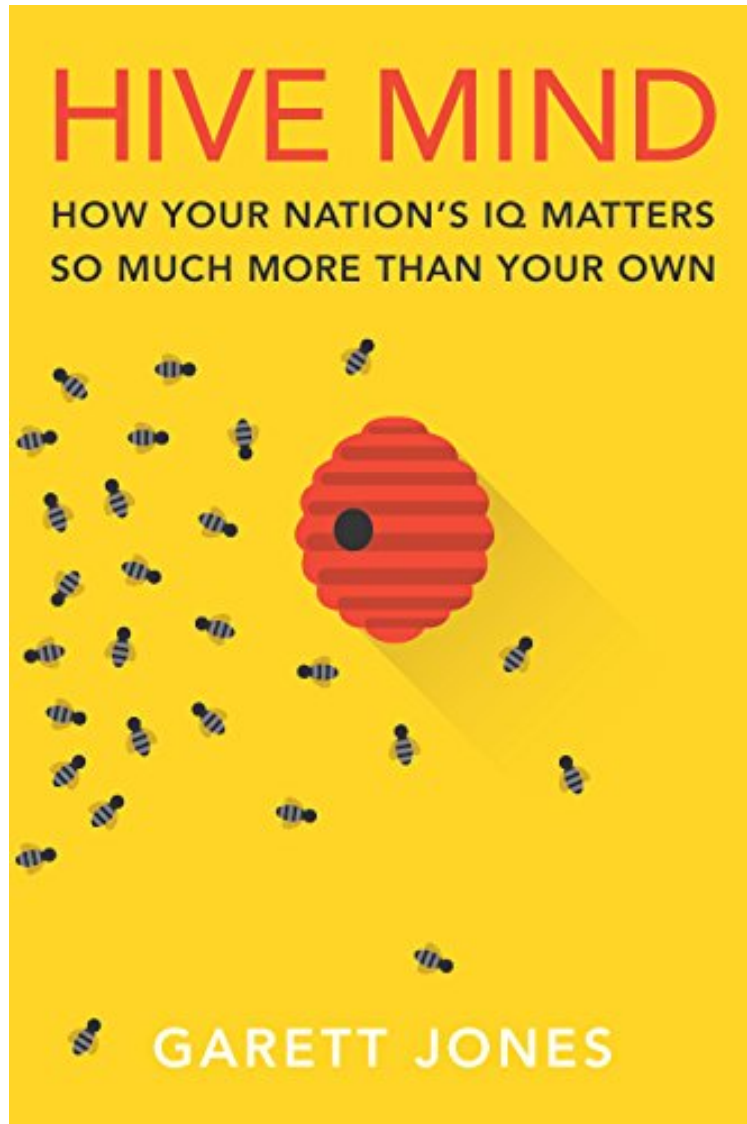


[Free pdf] Hive Mind: How Your Nation's IQ Matters So Much More Than Your Own

Hive Mind: How Your Nation's IQ Matters So Much More Than Your Own

Garett Jones

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Garett Jones : Hive Mind: How Your Nation's IQ Matters So Much More Than Your Own before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hive Mind: How Your Nation's IQ Matters So Much More Than Your Own:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. IQ matters. A lot. Both to you and your nation. By Robert Jacoby Let's just say it up front and get it out of the way: IQ matters. A lot. Both to you and your nation. There's much to like about this book. Jones does a great job of stating the case for the validity and importance of measuring IQ (the

intelligence quotient) and making correlations with a wide range of educational, occupational, economic, and behavioral variables. He does this in a clinical and dispassionate way, which is very helpful and refreshing, merely presenting findings from numerous studies over decades of time (from recent to 50 to nearly 100 years ago) from a range of sources (private and public military/government). The text is very plain and understandable, almost like an article in *Scientific American* or *The Economist*. He does address how to possibly increase IQ of nations over time (the Flynn effect) and why that's important. In other words, what state-level policies might be considered to improve quality of life for a country's citizens? It's a great question but he leaves others to answer because, as the book title says, he's merely making the claim that your nation's IQ matters more than your own IQ. In other words: Better to be a below-average IQ individual in a high-IQ nation than a high-IQ individual in a low-IQ nation. This is a short book, at 168 pages, and Jones does a very nice job of going through the scientific literature to show how IQ correlates (predicts) a range of things, including brain size, education, job performance, memory, patience, creativity, cooperation, political attitudes, pro-market attitudes, handling complexity, and on and on. For example, research shows that higher IQ people tend to be more: o patiento pro-market o cooperative o generous/pleasant o center or center-right in their political attitudes. Just from these five factors alone you can see a pattern forming already about a society built on mutual cooperation for everyone's benefit. All in all, because of these traits (and many more), higher IQ nations tend to be richer nations. The reverse obviously holds true. Fascinating stuff. The Notes, Bibliography (ten pages!), and Index are all thorough and helpful, especially if you, like me, enjoy doing your own sleuthing research online. Really helpful are the detailed indexing for entries like "IQ tests" and "IQ test scores." Here you can quickly find text for cross-country comparisons and IQ and its relationship to the wide variety of topics he covers. (To find these for yourself online, just search "IQ of nations".) The book did have its shortcomings, though. As I was reading I thought what Jones *didn't* include or talk about much or at all *just* as important and interesting. I found it odd that he would write a book about "IQ by countries" but not include much on very related (really, "intertwined") topics. Do your own sleuthing on such search terms like "IQ and race" (yes, there are differences; if race were merely a social construct, then why would race matter for stem cell or bone marrow transplants?) and "IQ and gender" (male geniuses outnumber female geniuses 7 to 1) and "IQ and genetics" (yes, IQ is very heritable) and "IQ and crime" and "IQ and inbreeding," for example, and you'll be surprised by what you learn. (If you use Google Chrome, the peer-reviewed research articles appear atop your search results under Scholarly Articles.) Jones ignores or barely touches on these topics, perhaps because of where the data leads. If you want a real eye opener, cross check UN estimates for Africa's population growth to 2100 with African nation's average IQs and the world Fragile State and Corruption Indices. An unsettling picture quickly begins to form. Jones likely left all of this information out of his book for how some people would think of these topics. It's a real shame that we can't discuss scientific data in public, which would inform our public policy, but I'll leave it at that. Like other reviewers, I find it very odd that Jones closes this book with a call for more immigration of low-skilled people into rich (high IQ) countries. I find his argument here to be the same "cheap, immigrant/migrant labor" argument that got us to this point in the U.S. (Maybe it's not so odd, though. Jones is a signatory to the 2005 Open Letter on Immigration.) During his research for this book Jones must have come across studies showing that a host of social pathologies (crime, drug abuse, illegitimacy, permanent welfare dependency) occur around/below the 75 IQ mark. He must know that. Anyone can find this information on the Internet from legitimate news and peer-reviewed scientific studies in less than 1 minute of searching. And, like most people, I define "public policy" as "policy" designed to help the "public"; specifically, the public of a community, state, nation. So why would a high-IQ country want to *import* low-IQ people when there are *plenty* of native low-IQ people to go around? And why focus on low-skilled workers, anyway? Why not try to bring in "the best and brightest"? Jones tries to explain it with his own theory that shows low-skilled immigration actually *helps* the rich (high IQ) nation. It's a little convoluted, he hems and haws a bit, and in the end it doesn't work for me. And I don't think it does for Jones, either. He's doing a delicate dance here, you can tell. Some reviewers have called Jones' concluding recommendation "counter-intuitive." I'll go ahead and just call it "dangerous" and "deceptive." I'm on board with rich (high-IQ) nations helping poor (low-IQ) nations, for moral and ethical reasons, but there are limited resources to go around; and, in the end, one of a nation's top priorities are to the safety and security of its own people. Just ask Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, or China. Still, all in all, this is an excellent book to get you started on the topic of IQ and why it matters so much in your own life, and in the lives of nations. May 30, 2017 update: Researchers find a 4 point drop in IQ in France over 10-yr period. A negative Flynn Effect in France, 1999 to 2008—9. Dutton and Lynn. *Intelligence*, Volume 51, July—August 2015, Pages 67—70. Review of findings at "The puzzle of falling French intelligence," James Thompson, December 5, 2015, *The Unz Review*. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nations, wealth, and Collective Intelligence By fenx1200 The premise of this book is that nations with the highest test scores are about eight times more prosperous than nations with the lowest test scores. This is really nothing new but can be obtained a priori, as well as nations that score the highest (Asians) and nations that score the lowest (Ghana). The *Hive Mind* is a reference to "collective intelligence." Intelligence is defined as the ability to handle complexity irrespective in the area in which it is measured. Countries with hi IQ's do the following: Save more money, are very cooperative, and have market-oriented policies with highly productive team-based technology. The also reveal the human tendency to

conform. The author makes some interesting correlations: national average test scores and national income per person is strong, and smarter people have bigger brains, contrary to what the social justice warriors espouse. You will also find that it is better hiring a new employee with an IQ test than references. The author then talks about IQ testing with the various IQ tests worldwide. The author spends a few chapters explaining why smarter people are more patient on average. East Asians have the highest test scores and accumulate net assets the world over, providing investment funds for countries like the United States. High SAT scores correlate with greater cooperation. Then the author talks about the economic impact of immigration. This is where I disagree with this premise. I do give the author credit for presenting this topic in a world where so many people are the victims of the nasty wealthy people. IQ is a touchy subject and the author stayed away from the biological aspects of IQ and race. Even though the latest studies show that 60 to 80 percent of IQ is hereditary (genetic). Overall the book is a general review of collective intelligence and the author sticks to the main premise. I would recommend this book if you want to get your feet wet in the IQ arena and its implication for nations of the world. It's a good introduction.

21 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

This is an excellent book. It serves both as an introduction to ... By Mark

This is an excellent book. It serves both as an introduction to the study of IQ and human capital and as an insightful, original, and extremely accessible exploration of some of the most important issues facing modern economies. Garett Jones begins with the puzzle that IQ has a modest effect on an individual's earnings but a nation's average IQ strongly predicts per capita GDP. The explanation of this finding is the heart of the book. Drawing on research from psychology, economics and other fields, Jones shows that human capital (as measured by test scores) has several important effects on how economies perform ranging from higher savings rates to better politics and more cooperative social norms and institutions. He then shows why human capital matters most in those sectors of the economy that economists label O-Ring, where a tiny mistake can have a disproportionate affect on output. As these sectors of the economy are an increasingly important source of economic growth understanding how to build and preserve a high human capital workforce is of critical importance. Remarkably I would recommend the book to any intelligent reader. It requires no-background knowledge of either economics or IQ research (and indeed serves as a nice introduction to both). Furthermore, it is extremely readable. Yet despite its apparent simplicity and accessibility, it contains many novel insights and PhD economists and researchers in development and growth economics would also learn a tremendous amount from reading it. [In the interests of full disclosure, Garett is my colleague at George Mason's Public Choice Center.]

Over the last few decades, economists and psychologists have quietly documented the many ways in which a person's IQ matters. But, research suggests that a nation's IQ matters so much more. As Garett Jones argues in *Hive Mind*, modest differences in national IQ can explain most cross-country inequalities. Whereas IQ scores do a moderately good job of predicting individual wages, information processing power, and brain size, a country's average score is a much stronger bellwether of its overall prosperity. Drawing on an expansive array of research from psychology, economics, management, and political science, Jones argues that intelligence and cognitive skill are significantly more important on a national level than on an individual one because they have "positive spillovers." On average, people who do better on standardized tests are more patient, more cooperative, and have better memories. As a result, these qualities—and others necessary to take on the complexity of a modern economy—become more prevalent in a society as national test scores rise. What's more, when we are surrounded by slightly more patient, informed, and cooperative neighbors we take on these qualities a bit more ourselves. In other words, the worker bees in every nation create a "hive mind" with a power all its own. Once the hive is established, each individual has only a tiny impact on his or her own life. Jones makes the case that, through better nutrition and schooling, we can raise IQ, thereby fostering higher savings rates, more productive teams, and more effective bureaucracies. After demonstrating how test scores that matter little for individuals can mean a world of difference for nations, the book leaves readers with policy-oriented conclusions and hopeful speculation: Whether we lift up the bottom through changing the nature of work, institutional improvements, or freer immigration, it is possible that this period of massive global inequality will be a short season by the standards of human history if we raise our global IQ.

"For over 100 years, we've neglected the importance of national differences in our cognitive progress; this book is a welcome antidote and an eye opener." (James R. Flynn University of Otago)

"Those of us who live in the world's richest countries like to believe that it is our own intellect and ingenuity that accounts for our success. But what if our own intelligence matters less than the average skill of the country in which we live? *Hive Mind* offers a bracing account of why some countries are so rich while others are so poor, and how we might foster more cooperative and, ultimately, more prosperous societies." (Reihan Salam Executive Editor, *National*)

"As someone who is routinely baffled by the prolixity of economics texts, I found it hugely refreshing to read Jones's clear, engaging prose . . . [*Hive Mind*] is enormously more accessible and enjoyable than previous books on national IQ differences." (Stuart J. Ritchie *Intelligence*)

"Whereas individuals' IQs are less strongly related to their performance, the relationship between national averages of IQ and performance indicators such as gross domestic product is robust. But, the beneficial indicators are not limited to economic statistics; they include better public health, higher levels of education and skills, patience,

prudence and a willingness to save for the future Jones concludes his book with the challenge to discover underlying factors that enhance a wide range of cognitive skills. RECOMMENDED." (E.L. Whalen CHOICE)"Garett Jones' Hive Mind is the very best introduction to a simple truth: The smarts of the people around you are way more important than you think. Much of our world is shaped by this fact, which no one has talked about?until now." (Tyler Cowen, Professor of Economics George Mason University)"On balance this is a notable text?perhaps 2016's most important economics book, both for the development specialist and the general reader." (Fred Thompson Governance)About the AuthorGarett Jones is Associate Professor of Economics at the Center for Study of Public Choice, George Mason University. Garett's research and commentary have appeared in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Forbes, and Businessweek.