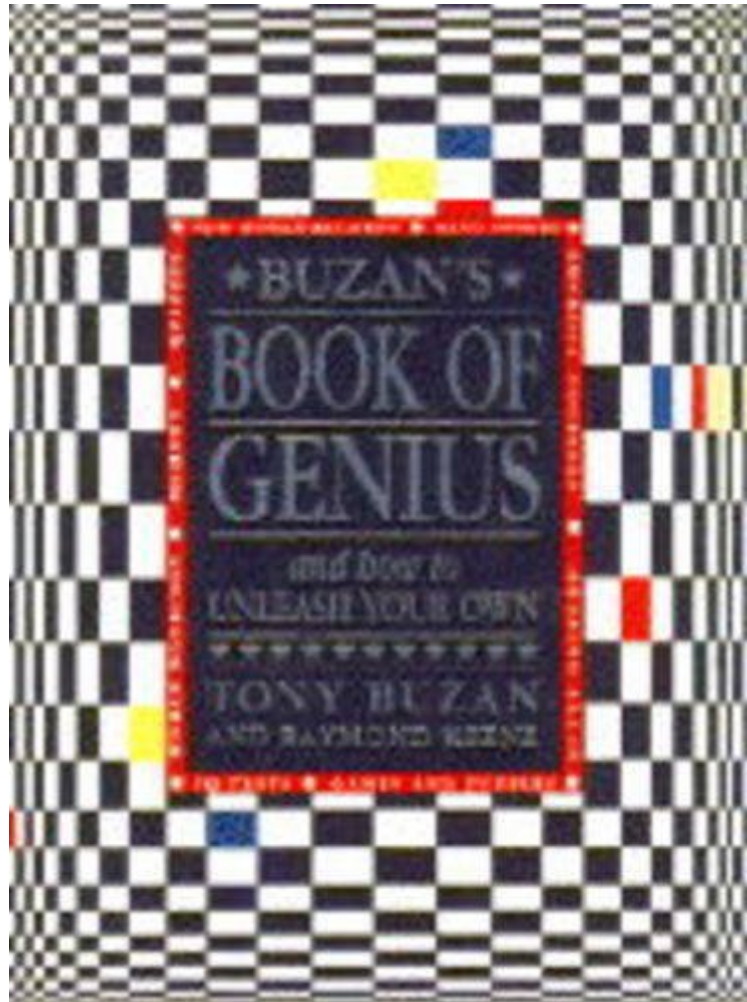


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Buzan's Book of Genius and How to Unleash Your Own

Tony Buzan, Raymond Keene

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Tony Buzan, Raymond Keene : Buzan's Book of Genius and How to Unleash Your Own before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buzan's Book of Genius and How to Unleash Your Own:

7 of 10 people found the following review helpful. There are now far better books on the topics coveredBy AbacusThis book covers two separate topics. The first one is a self help guide on how to develop your own cognitive faculties and creativity. The second one is a ranking of the greatest minds in the history of mankind including short biographies of these 100 luminaries. When this book was first published in 1994, those were ambitious undertakings. Since then far better books have been written on both subjects.On the self help brain improvement bit, there have been tens of books written on the subject that are far better than this one. Some of them have been written by Buzan himself. For my part, I like the ones written by Michael Gelb, including How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci: Seven

Steps to Genius Every Day and Discover Your Genius: How to Think Like History's Ten Most Revolutionary Minds. Gelb is the American successor of Buzan. He used the latter's foundation in terms of mindmapping and other related creativity tools. But, he has done a better job explaining and developing those methods than Buzan has. On ranking the 100 greatest minds of all time, Charles Murray's Human Accomplishment: The Pursuit of Excellence in the Arts and Sciences, 800 B.C. to 1950 does the same thing but 100 times better. Buzan comes up with strange and completely subjective parameters without any supporting data that do affect the quality of his ranking. As a case in point, Buzan ranks Muhammad Ali (the boxer!) as the 32nd greatest mind of all times. Other odd choices include Salvador Dali in 36th place, Walt Disney in 42nd place, and Maria Montessori in 54th place. All of these are way ahead of Carl Jung (63d), Stephen Hawking (64th), Galileo (65th), John Stuart Mill (90th), Rene Descartes (92nd), and Benedict de Spinoza (100th). You can't be serious. This ranking is laughable for someone who conveys himself to be an authority on the history of the greatest minds. Charles Murray methodology is so much more thorough, and scholarly credible. His results are coherent. In short, Murray's book renders the second part of Buzan's book completely obsolete. Within this second part of the book, you are just left with mildly interesting biographies on these personalities. But, you can get just as good or better info on those from any encyclopedias.

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