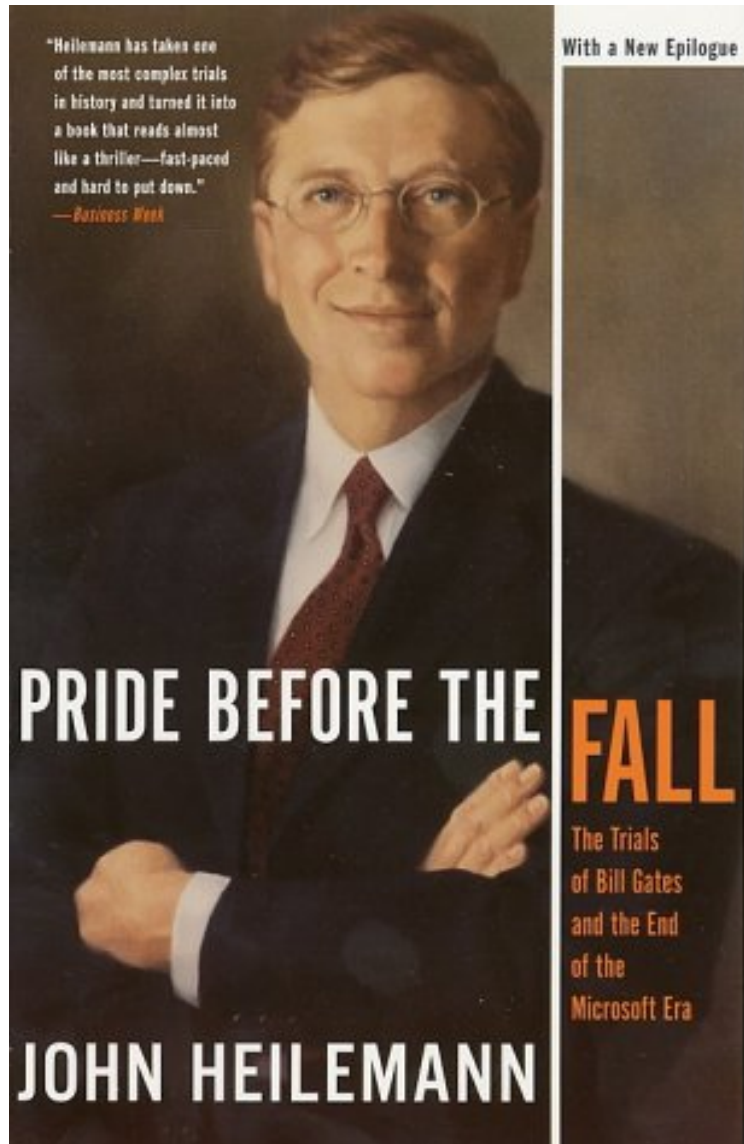


[Library ebook] Pride Before the Fall: The Trials of Bill Gates and the End of the Microsoft Era

Pride Before the Fall: The Trials of Bill Gates and the End of the Microsoft Era

John Heilemann

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John Heilemann : Pride Before the Fall: The Trials of Bill Gates and the End of the Microsoft Era before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pride Before the Fall: The Trials of Bill Gates and the End of the Microsoft Era:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on Microsoft anti-trust trialBy Kindle CustomerThis

book puts out a lot of factual information while keeping the read interesting. I've used this in a college ethics class, and most students liked it. I know of an attorney's office that used it to familiarize their staff with the case. The book is biased against Microsoft, but shows enough of their side that it doesn't come across as a shallow review. Lots of interviews keep the book interesting. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. very good, but very short
By A Customer
The good news: this is a very well-written, very readable, entertaining take on the trial. The book grabs you. The bad news: it's quite short, basically an expanded set of Wired magazine articles. I finished it all in two evenings, though they were two evenings devoted to the reading (as I said, it pulled me right in). 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Engrossing, thoroughly informative, very well-written
By Rebecca
This is an extraordinarily lucid, crisply-written account of the Microsoft trial and the circumstances leading up to it. Heilemann sets the scene with masterful depictions of the environment in Silicon Valley and especially at Microsoft, as well as of the various characters involved. Be aware, however, that this fascinating charting of Microsoft's rise to power and the complicated road to eventual government prosecution takes up almost 2/3 of the book. The subsequent trial scenes, while highly entertaining, may seem short by comparison. Heilemann covered the case as a reporter and interviewed practically all the major players. The result is a balanced, even tale in which Heilemann remains mostly objective but is still able to comment critically and insightfully on the happenings. The story, even with its high level of depth, is propelled quickly by Heilemann's sophisticated writing, replete with erudite metaphors and colorful quotations. Any recent books about the Microsoft case are handicapped to a certain degree because the appeals process is not over and a final remedy, yet to be determined. Still, this book provides an excellent foundation for understanding future developments in the case, as well as simply a great read. Heilemann truly makes the trial, and the world, of Microsoft, come alive.

Critically acclaimed from coast to coast, *Pride Before the Fall* is the definitive account of the trial that shook an economy: *United States v. Microsoft*. Award-winning journalist John Heilemann uncovers the explosive truth behind the headlines: how the high-tech kingpins Bill Gates had tried to destroy, together with a motley crew of anonymous crusaders, worked in secret to help the government take down the most powerful empire of the information age. As colorful and riveting as a detective novel, *Pride Before the Fall* is an unforgettable tale of human ambition and human frailty—a timely saga of arrogance, hubris, ruthlessness, and revenge.

.com Like other "totemic firms" of recent years, Microsoft attained astounding power and profitability in stunningly short order—along with a slew of rivals who desperately wanted it broken into less threatening pieces. Few really believed it would happen when the U.S. Department of Justice first began looking into its operations, however, which made the eventual judgment against the company even more significant. "The humbling of Microsoft is the last great business story of the 20th century and the first great riddle of the 21st," writes John Heilemann in *Pride Before the Fall*, his insightful examination of the epic antitrust battle that began as a Wired magazine cover story. "There are fancier ways of putting it," he adds, "but the riddle is: how did it happen?" In the pages that follow, Heilemann examines the behind-the-scenes machinations that drove *United States v. Microsoft*, based largely on exclusive interviews he conducted with Bill Gates and his top lieutenants, Justice Department prosecutor Joel Klein, special trial counsel (and lead Democratic Florida recount litigator) David Boies, Intel chief Andy Grove, Sun Microsystems' Scott McNealy, and various "unknown soldiers" who arguably played the biggest role of all. With Microsoft's future still uncertain, *Pride* helps reset the tone in a case that will shape our high-tech future. --Howard Rothman
From Publishers Weekly
HNavigating the myriad twists and turns of the landmark antitrust suit against Microsoft, Heilemann forges a gripping, breakneck account of contemporary law applied to business conduct, peopled with rival visionaries, guardians of the public interest and brilliant trial lawyers. A former staff writer for the *New Yorker* and the *Economist*, Heilemann covered the case as a special correspondent for *Wired* in November; this is an expanded version of that extensive article. Having gained the trust of almost every major player, Heilemann vividly depicts the adversaries and their positions. In July 2000, Bill Gates told him, "We believe that what we've done is absolutely pro-competitive, and it's our right to stick up for that." Joel Klein, the Justice Department's assistant attorney general during the trial, is equally forthcoming: "What we found in Microsoft was a serious pattern of practices and behavior that... was predatory, lawless, and indefensible." Heilemann's insight into the legal process and his analysis of Gates's videotaped deposition, overseen by chief government counsel David Boies (now representing Vice-President Gore on ballot issues), are themselves worth the price of admission. Wherever readers' sympathies lie, Heilemann's careful timeline illuminates the points at which the case could have been settled. With journalistic panache, Heilemann explicates the reasons that both sides chose to await the ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals in spring 2001. (Jan. 23) Forecast: A major marketing campaign including national print and broadcast coverage as well as author appearances in West Coast cities will raise this title's profile. Display alongside *U.S. v. Microsoft: The Inside Story of the Landmark Case* by New York Times reporters Joel Brinkley and Steve Lohr could draw people to both titles, with the edge probably going to Heilemann's book. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. One of the top ten business books of

2001 (Business Week)