

# Business works

Evaluating the top 150 business books of the past decade

 JAMES GREAVES





[www.jamesgreaves.me](http://www.jamesgreaves.me)



[linkedin.com/in/iamjamesgreaves](https://www.linkedin.com/in/iamjamesgreaves)



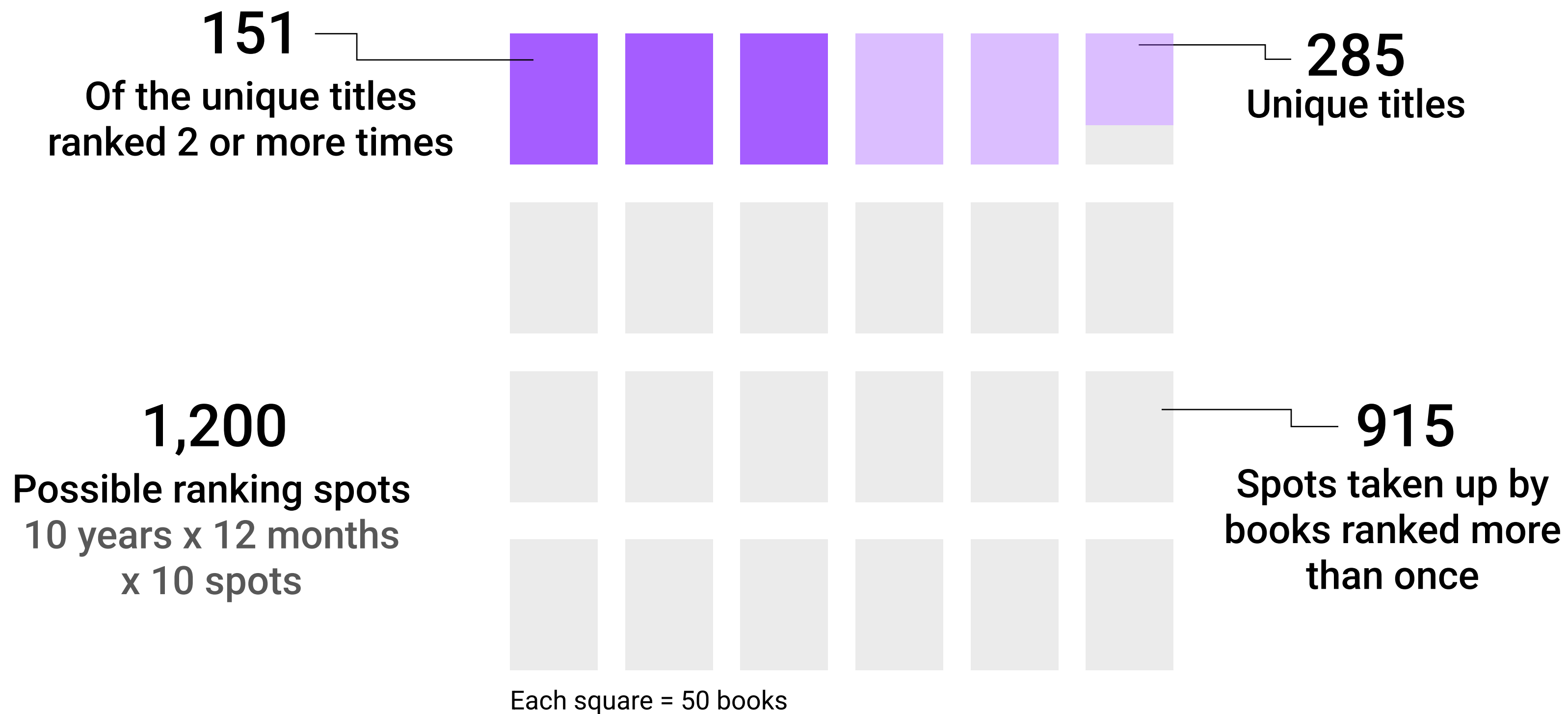
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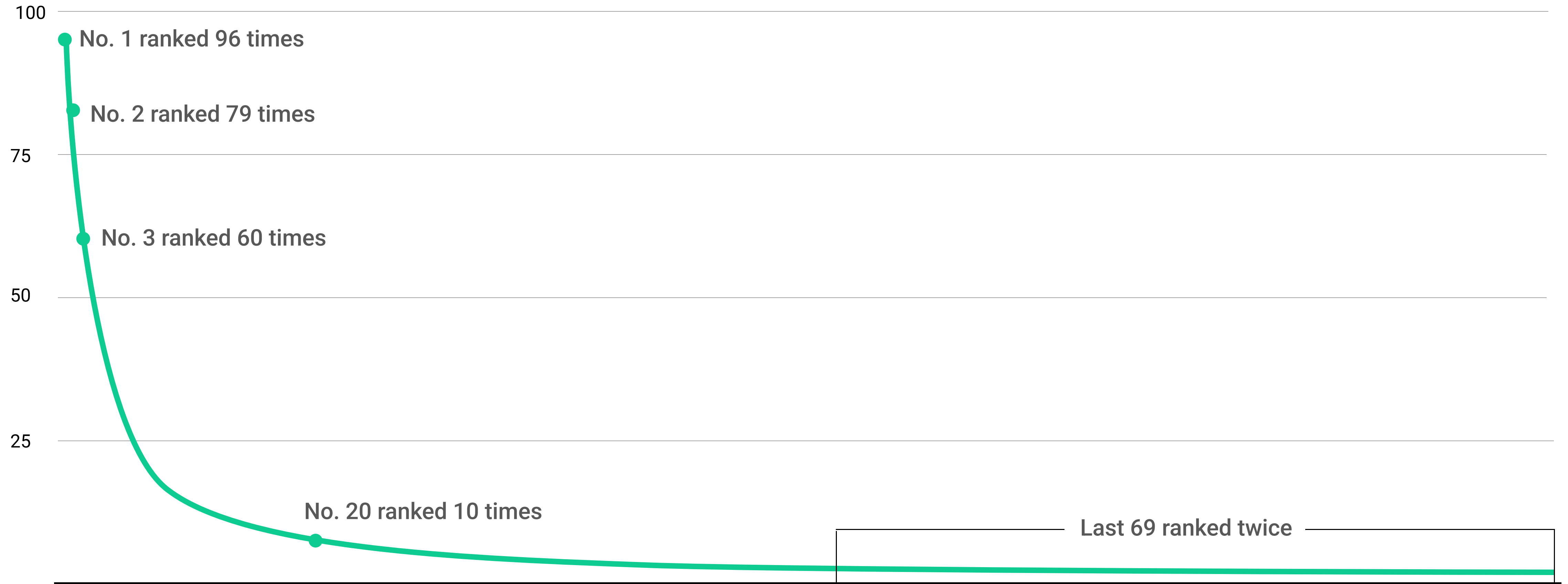
# I ranked the top 150 business books

Of the past 10 years by the amount of times they were on the Times business list



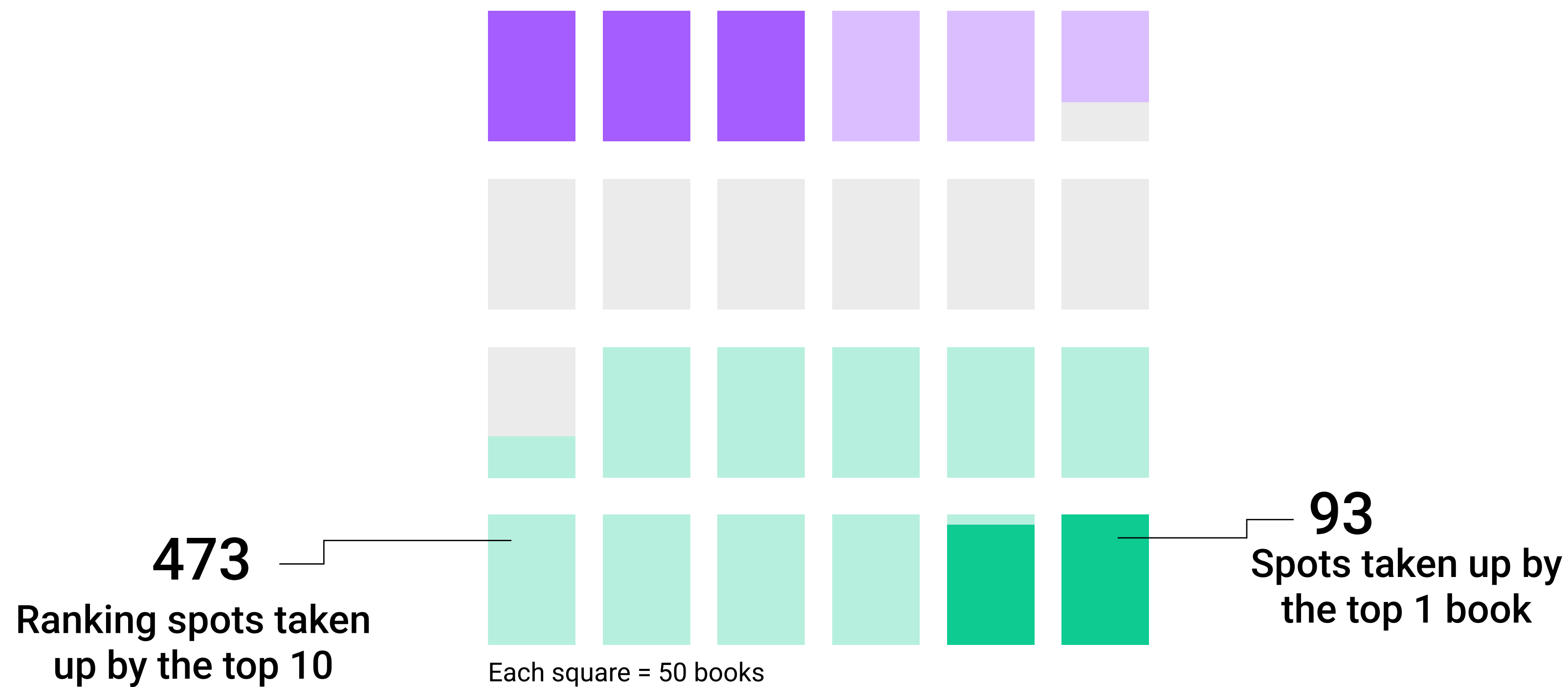
# The number of times ranked is exponential

Even within the top 150, there is a steep curve and a long tail



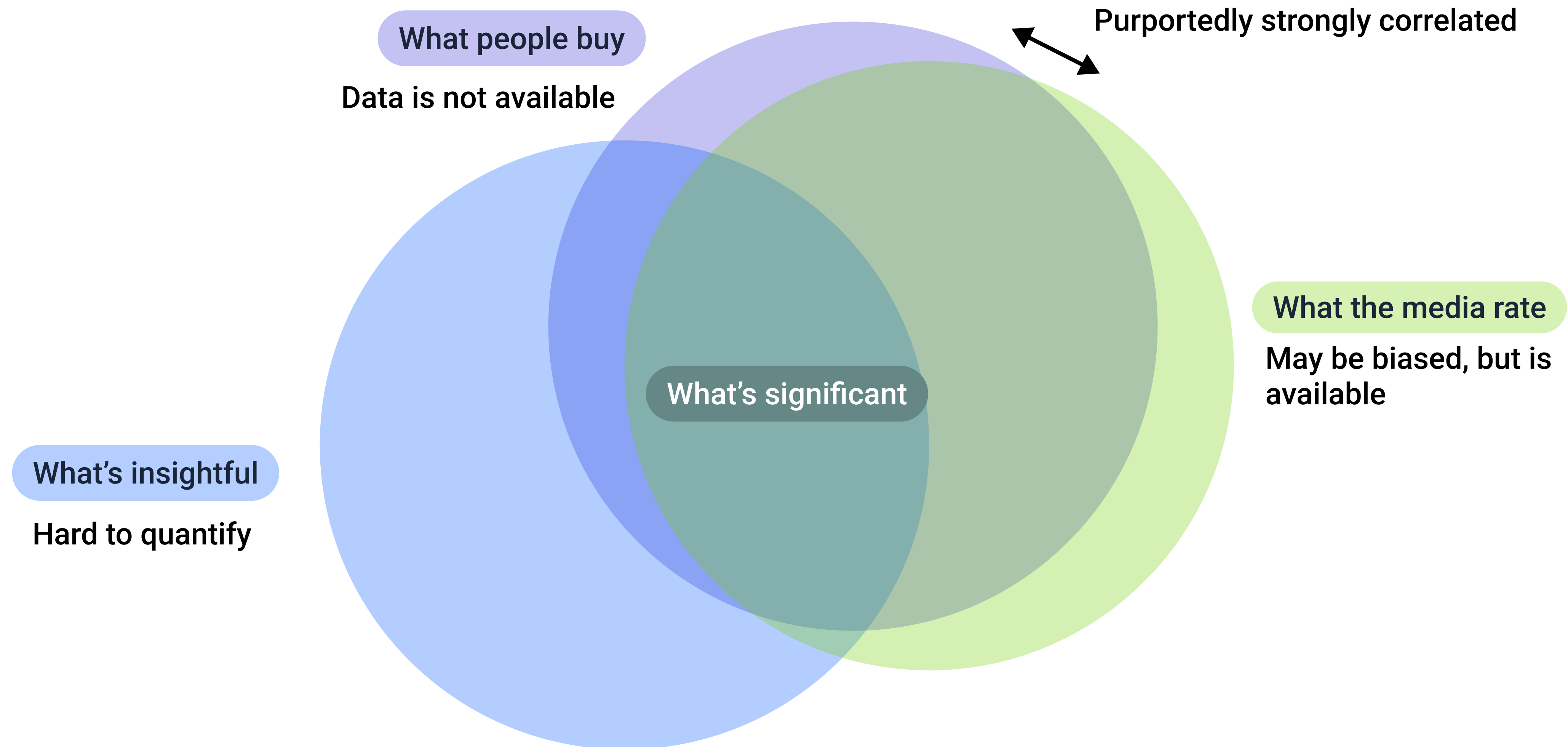
# The top 10 account for almost 50% of rankings

The top book is ranked as many times as the bottom 93 combined



# So, why use this data?

We don't know the correlation to insight, but the Times strongly sets the agenda

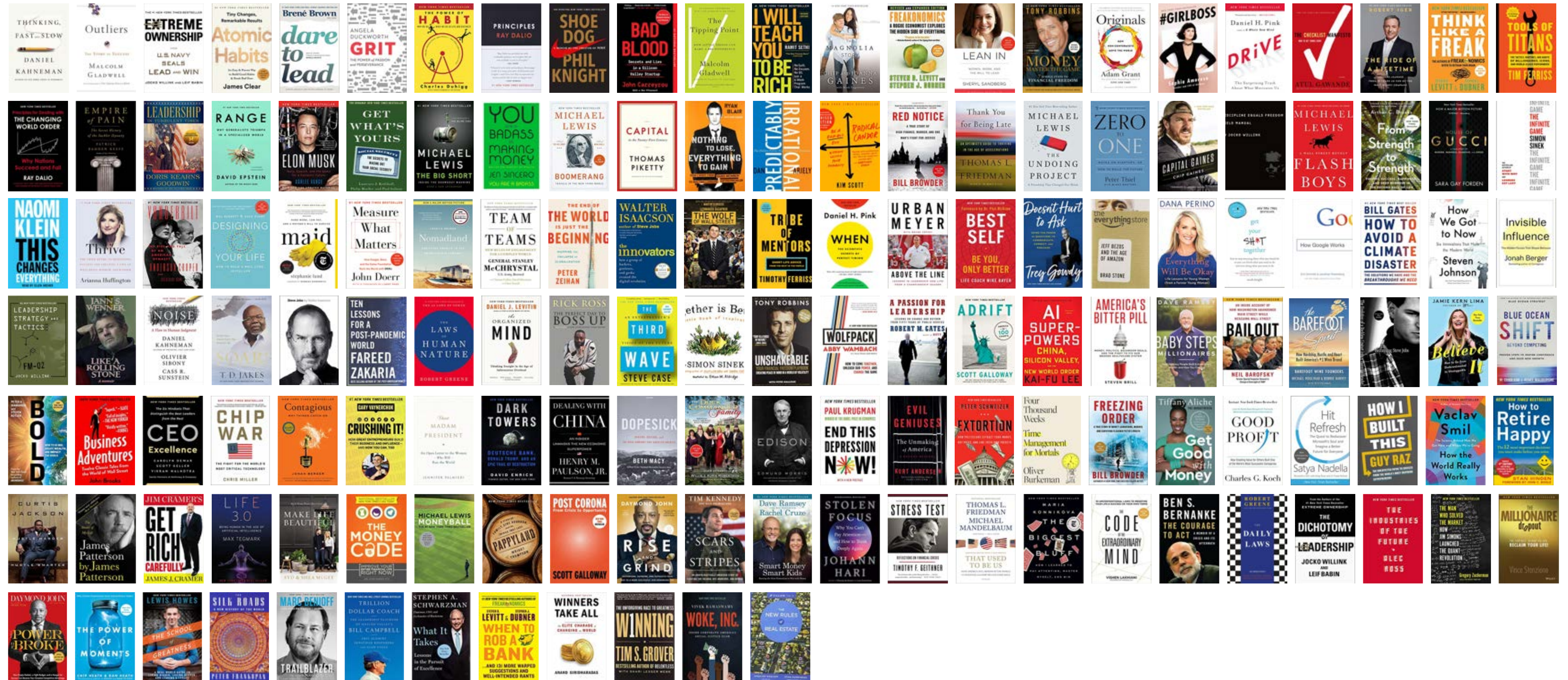


# Introducing the list



# The best business books of the past decade

Ranked 1 to 150 by the number of times they have appeared on the Times business list





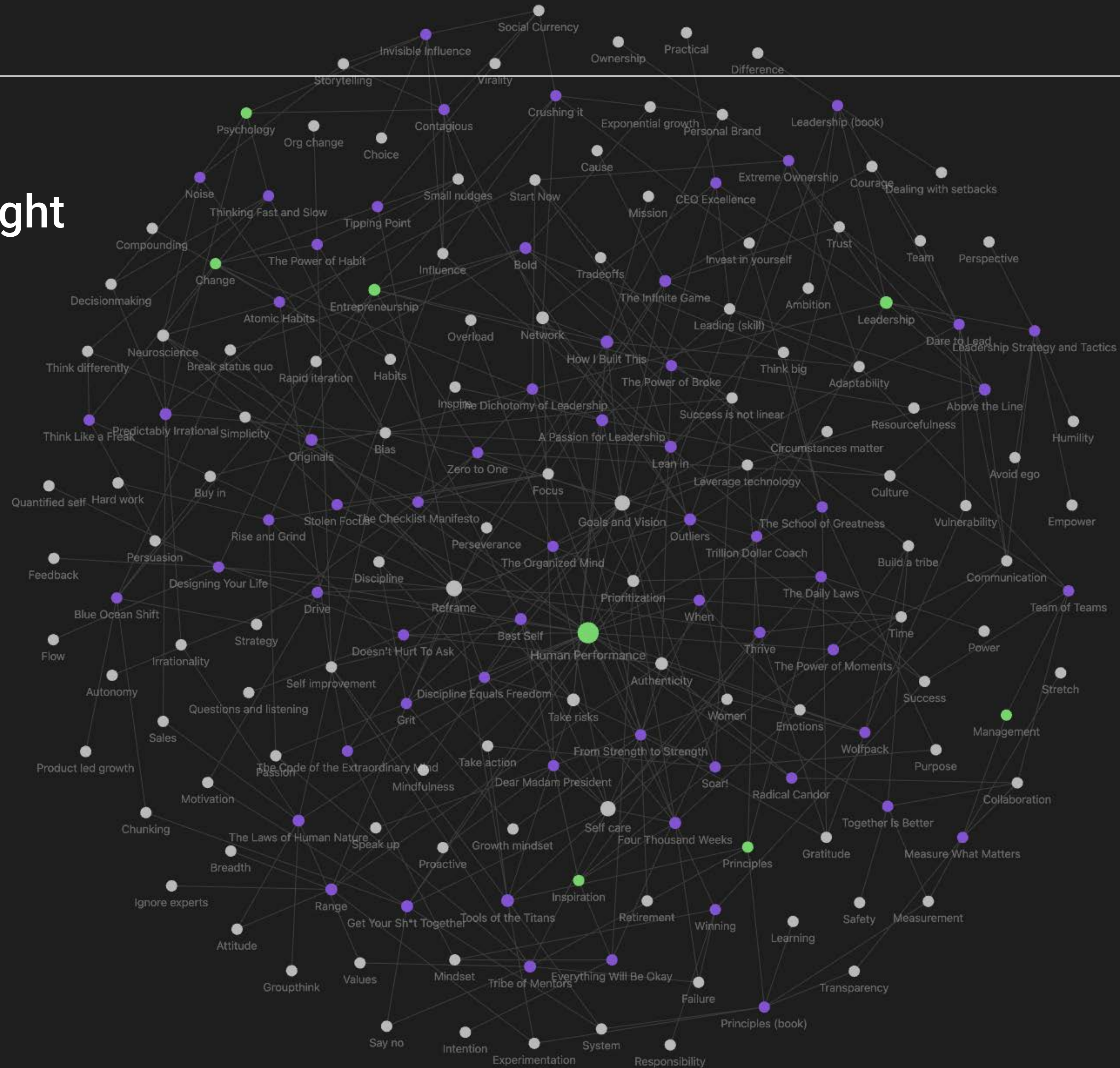
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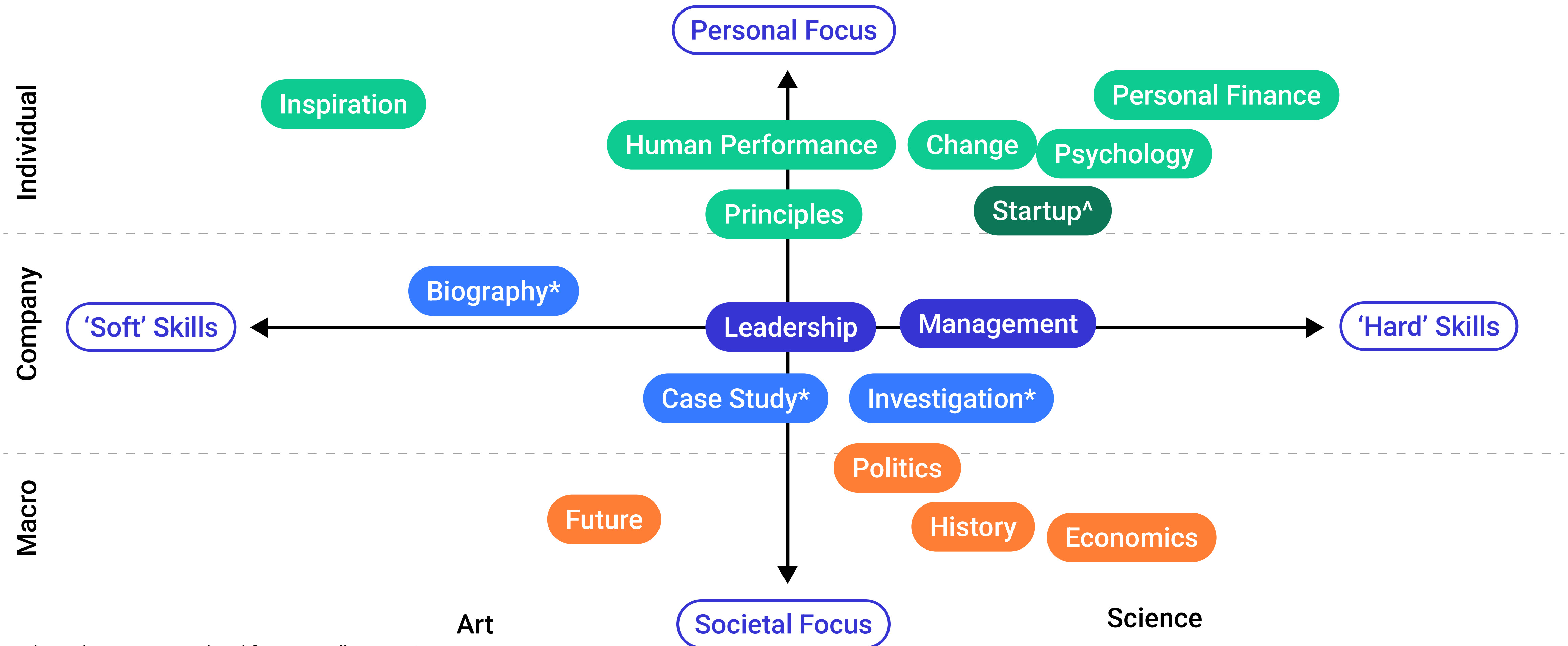
# I used AI To mine for insight





# When we sort them by focus and type

It becomes much clearer how broad "business" is. We need to refine further.

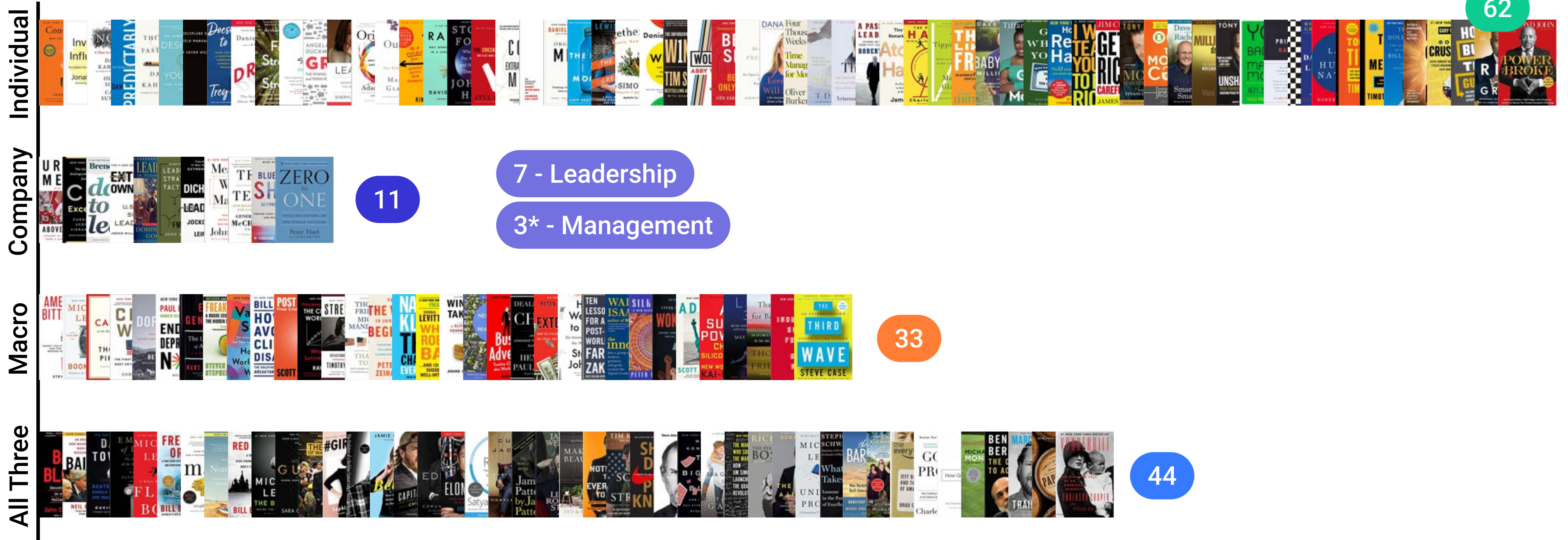


\* These three are general and fit across all categories  
 ^ Initially I had startup as "company" but 5 of the 6 were about individual 'hustle'



# The books are heavily focused on individuals

Only eleven books on “company” and of those only 3 on strategy or management

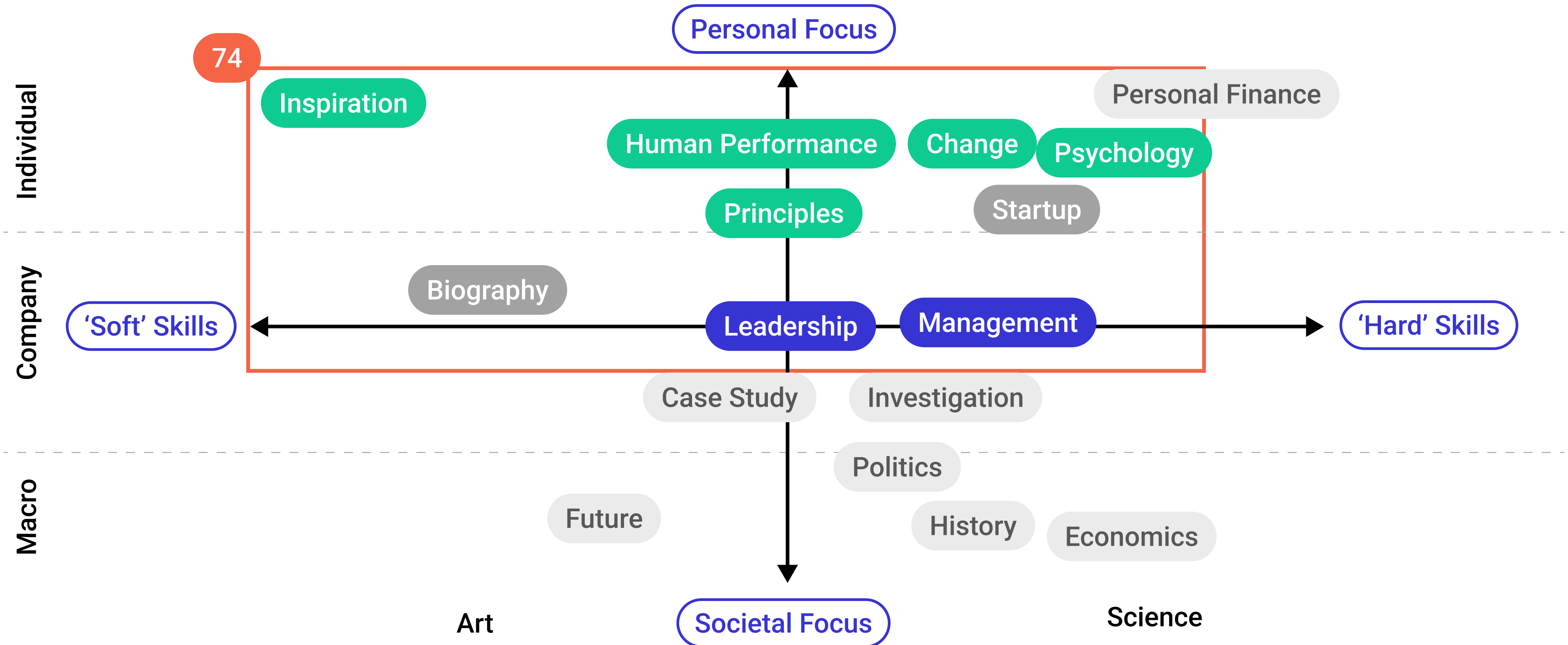


\* Plus one startup book “Zero to One” that was about entrepreneurship



# Let's focus on "core" business books

Only 50% of books are clearly about how to work, lead, manage, or grow a business



(Although all are relevant, the remaining 50% are case studies, or specific skills like managing your personal finances or building a startup by focusing on your social media presence.)



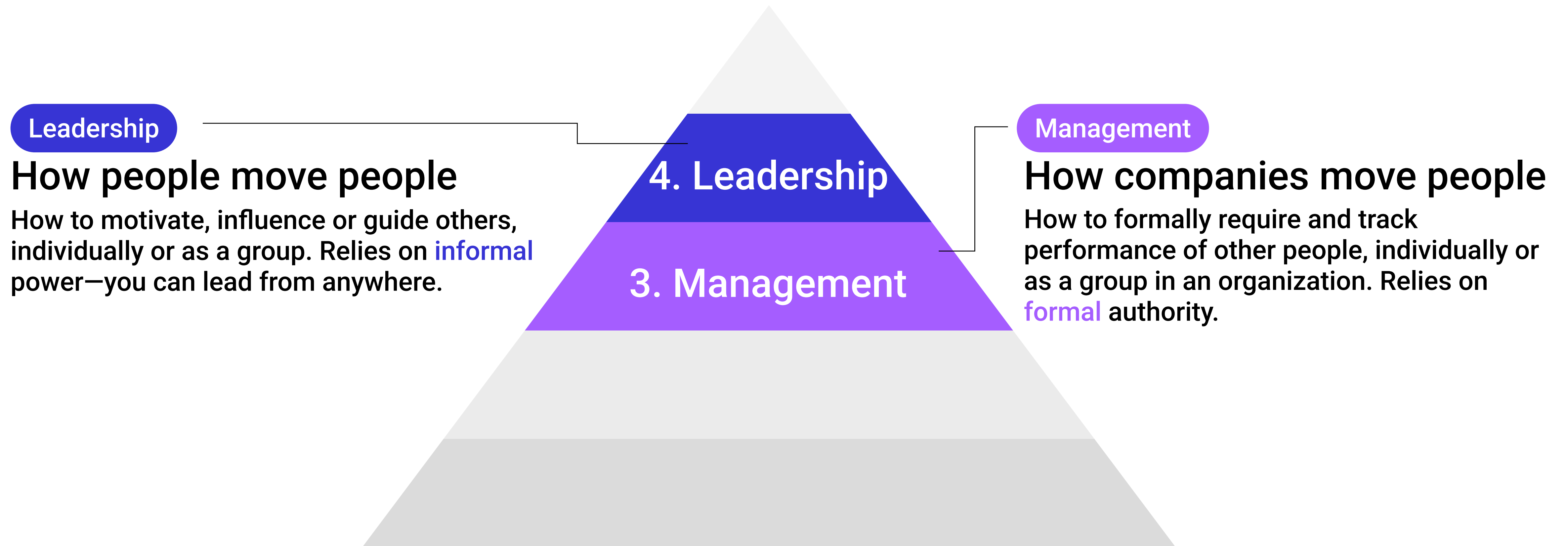
# Within that 50% the key subsets are Neuroscience, thinking differently, working together and leading





# The lack of management books is striking

Management is lower on the hierarchy of business skills. Leadership has a bigger impact and is vital, but not if core management is missing.





# How does this trend fit with the past?

A quick scan of the most influential books of the 90s shows a focus on management

The biggest books of the 90s are about organizations: management and strategy



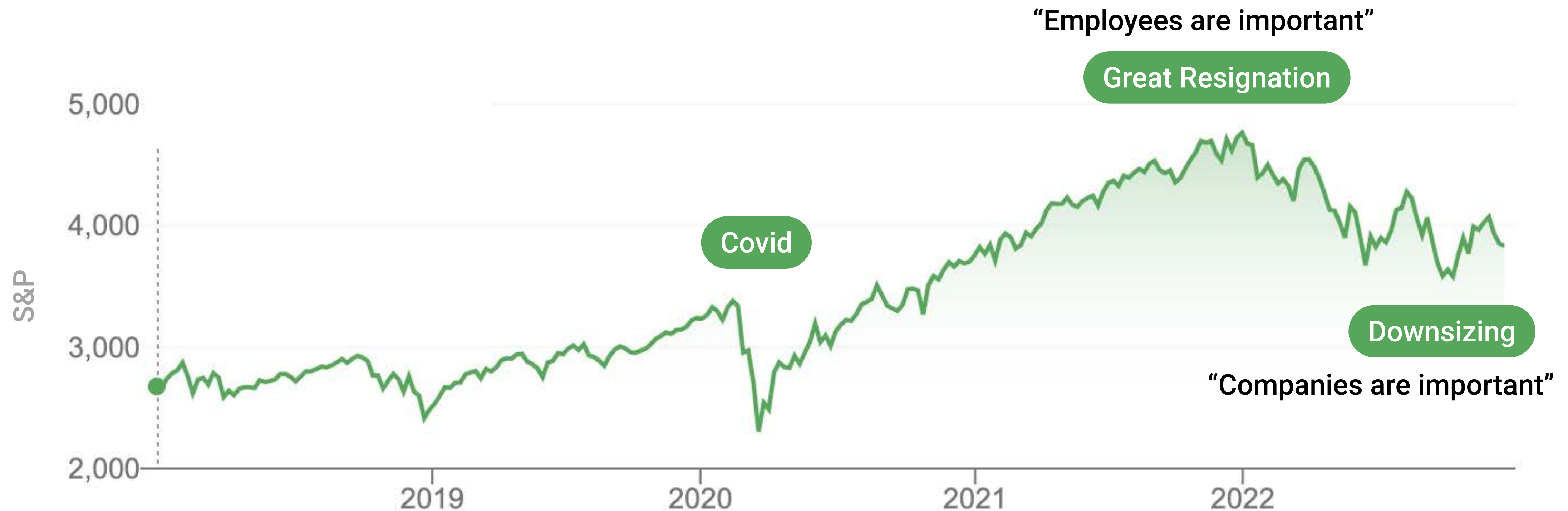
The biggest books of the past 10 years are about individuals: brain science and habits





# Will the next wave of books revert back?

A period of retrenchment may cause leaders to focus on efficiency over personal growth and potential





# Even the world's best companies are badly run

## Today's companies are inefficient and entitled. Have we forgotten how to manage?

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Beatrice Nolan Aug 1, 2022, 8:52 AM



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### Gaming pioneer and Facebook VR leader resigns, blasts company on way out



UPDATED ON: DECEMBER 19, 2022 / 7:56 AM / AP



BERKELEY -- A prominent video game creator who helped lead Facebook's expansion into virtual reality has resigned from the social networking service's corporate parent after becoming disillusioned with the way the technology is being managed.

John Carmack cut his ties with Meta Platforms, a holding company created last year by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, in a Friday letter that vented his frustration as he stepped down as an executive consultant in virtual reality.

"There is no way to sugar coat this; I think our organization is operating at half the effectiveness that would make me happy," Carmack wrote in the letter, which he shared on Facebook. ""Some may scoff and contend we are doing just fine, but others will laugh and say, 'Half? Ha! I'm at quarter efficiency!'"



# How to tell if your org is out of balance

There are telltale symptoms of imbalances between leadership and management

Too much

**Management**

Too little **leadership**

1. Lack of creativity and innovation
2. Silo thinking and operations
3. Growth of political fiefdoms
4. Poor employee wellbeing
5. Corporate excess not checked

Too much

**Leadership**

Too little **management**

1. Lack of efficiency
2. Confused or unclear priorities
3. Focus on short-term over long
4. Controversial change is impossible
5. Poor performance not managed



End of Part One

**What other questions should we  
be asking this dataset?**

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