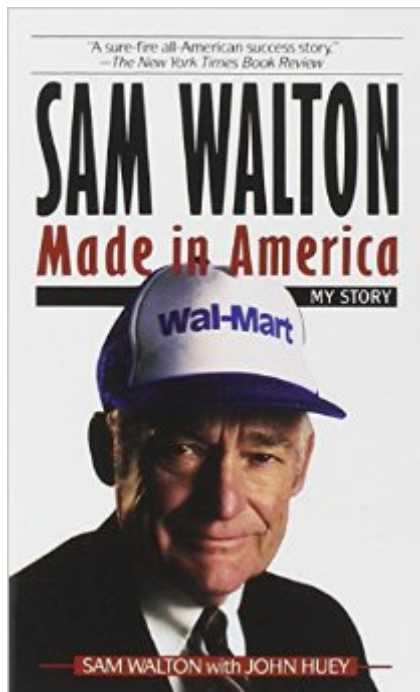


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Sam Walton: Made In America



Synopsis

Meet a genuine American folk hero cut from the homespun cloth of America's heartland: Sam Walton, who parlayed a single dime store in a hardscrabble cotton town into Wal-Mart, the largest retailer in the world. The undisputed merchant king of the late twentieth century, Sam never lost the common touch. Here, finally, inimitable words. Genuinely modest, but always sure of his ambitions and achievements. Sam shares his thinking in a candid, straight-from-the-shoulder style. In a story rich with anecdotes and the "rules of the road" of both Main Street and Wall Street, Sam Walton chronicles the inspiration, heart, and optimism that propelled him to lasso the American Dream.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The late Sam Walton was one of the shrewdest and richest merchants in America. Centered on the building of his Wal-Mart empire, his book, like fellow magnate Sandra Kurtzig's *CEO: Building a \$400 Million Company from Ground Up* (LJ 5/1/91), is light on biography. However, readers will enjoy the folksy narrative of the small-town millionaire who revolutionized retail distribution. Walton also addresses accusations against him, such as running the competition out of town. Coauthor Huey does a fine job of incorporating candid testimonials from family members and associates, who thought Walton's ideas were sometimes silly. Shortly after Walton's death, the book was given an overly sentimental postscript (a minor detraction) and rushed into print. Highly recommended for public and academic business collections.- Rebecca A. Smith, Harvard Business Sch. Lib.Copyright

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"[A] wise and inspiring autobiography--Walton tells his quietly fantastic story with conviction and makes no bones about his mistakes."-- San Francisco Chronicle
"It's a story about entrepreneurship, and risk, and hard work, and knowing where you want to go and being willing to do what it takes to get there. And it's a story about believing in your idea even when maybe some other folks don't, and about sticking to your guns."-- Sam Walton
"Here is an extraordinary success story about a man whose empire was built not with smoke and mirrors, but with good old-fashioned elbow grease."-- Detroit Free Press
"A sure-fire all-American success story."-- The New York Times Book Review

Great story very much personalized by Sam Walton telling the story of the beginning and history of Wal-Mart from its beginnings till his death. At the same time almost an Autobiography of Sam. Highly recommended reading especially if you like American business and are a devoted Capitalist.

Sam Walton was a man made for the business he built and he was wildly successful. Wal-Mart reflects his strategy of opening stores in small towns, beating the big-guys on price, supply and transportation. Walton was permanently looking into his competitor's stores, always anticipating their moves, and inclined to adopt innovations such as the computer and the satellite provided they would give him an advantage over the competition. He was named at some stage 'richest man in America' by Forbes magazine, an unlikely title since he was unassuming and sort of uninterested in fortunes. Except that money allowed him to donate abundantly from his own personal wealth to many wordy causes. This book is written in a direct and simple style and has the potential to carry you over. When I read the notes referent to Walton's death I wanted to cry for I thought I had lost a friend.

I do find the title ironic, but Walmart the company was truly made in small town America, Sam Walton starting out with just a few stores hired some smart people and created a model that worked around the country. There are a lot of great concepts in this book if you can uncover them, you could also find them in various business "guru" books. Walton's story is similar to those as Ray Kroc, or Walt Disney and many other entrepreneurs who were able to get a good idea and turn it into a good model with the help of some smart people, I really appreciate Walton's ability to realize

that there are a lot smarter people than him that can make his company great. One of the practices I loved that Sam kept bringing up was that he always said all his great ideas he copied from someone else (usually his competitor) I thought that was great, laugh every time I hear it.

Truly a great read as a businessman, entrepreneur, or even just as an American. Sam is very honest throughout the book. It's obvious that he is very prideful about what he built with Wal-Mart. It gave me an entirely new appreciation of the brand and what it took to get there. It's also a quick read which is nice. Most importantly, I highlighted quite a few passages that will help me in building and growing my own business(es). So, thanks, Sam! What strikes me most is that it is clear that Sam's passion for Wal-Mart was all about competition and the desire to build something great. It had absolutely nothing to do with money. And that's why all the money never screwed up his judgement.

This is what I found in Sam's book. Sam said working people achieve anything when given an opportunity and incentive to do their best. He valued your dollar, so you will have a surplus. His two rules, "We sell for less * satisfaction guaranteed," it can't work without quality and price. A slow 5'9" but his teams played as a team to win the Missouri football and basketball finals. WalMart came far and fast as associates and managers rebuild their relationship weekly. "I'm a maverick and enjoy a little anarchy. If you want people in the store, take care of the customers. For that you take care of the associates. We pick good people, give them maximum authority and responsibility. Now 85% are stockholders as real partners. It's all a family concept." The discounter principle: the less you can charge the more you earn, and the more profit you have to share with associates for a strong Walmart. The most important contact ever made in the store is between associates and satisfied, loyal customers. No one feels sorry for vendors, they know what they can sell for, and WalMart wants that bottom price. All buying is planned and done together. On buying trips, expenses can't exceed 1% of purchases. The free market system is good for business and good for the people. Customers and associates have a relationship, just as associates and managers have a relationship. Any communication breakdown will harm that balance. The associates are inseparably involved in the business of WalMart. No one is invisible. Everyone on the team makes a difference. Unions cause separation by their natural function and so, are divisive. Job security lasts only as long as the customer is satisfied. WalMart associates build strong value for themselves in many ways and keep us headed in the right direction. They focus on what the customer wants, then make sure it's there. Honestly helping each other started in 1962, profit-sharing began in 1971. Big

WalMart thinks small, even concerning egos. They promise, when customers are within 10 feet, to smile, look them in the eye and greet."Every right has a responsibility; every opportunity an obligation; every possession a duty. John D Rockefeller jr.Many American-made items are not competitive on quality or price. Much is from unrealistic, inflexible, unproductive union wages.Passionately commit, share, encourage, communicate, appreciate, celebrate, listen, exceed the expected, control expenses and swim upstream. Servant leaders are real people in a free market to improve quality of life by a focus on what people need and want, measured through performance. The more you give the more you get.I've met many good people that enjoy working there that really like helping people. 3 sisters from Guatemala on Soderquist scholarships received BA's, are now US citizens. Many Central Americans are on scholarship, as are Associate children and each store has one.P.S. . Also see Don Soderquist's excellent book,The Wal-Mart Way: The Inside Story of the Success of the World's Largest CompanyandÃ Â And the excellent Wal-Mart Revolution: How Big-Box Stores Benefit Consumers, Workers, and the EconomyÃ Â , by the American Enterprise Institute.

Invaluable for those of us that became aware of Wal-Mart only after it was huge. Fascinating to hear about the earliest days of the business, competing against the store down the street in some very small towns.Besides hard work and talent, this book shows that Sam's key to success was his "always on" researching of the competition and the fact that he was never afraid to borrow their best ideas.And he flew his own little plane to check out possible new store locations from 5,000 feet, a nice trick.

It is a very good Book written by a very Unique man. Sam walton went on to build the largest Discount store of our modern times with his philosophies of saving to the last dime,hard work and extreme humbleness. He was an eloquent man and if you have ever watched the Donal Duck series then I would compare him with our modern days Scrooge McDuck (The uncle of Donald Duck) with a big Heart for his charity causes. He is a man committed to his unique passion,devoted to his family and I hope that this book will offer as much value as it can to as many people as it can.

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