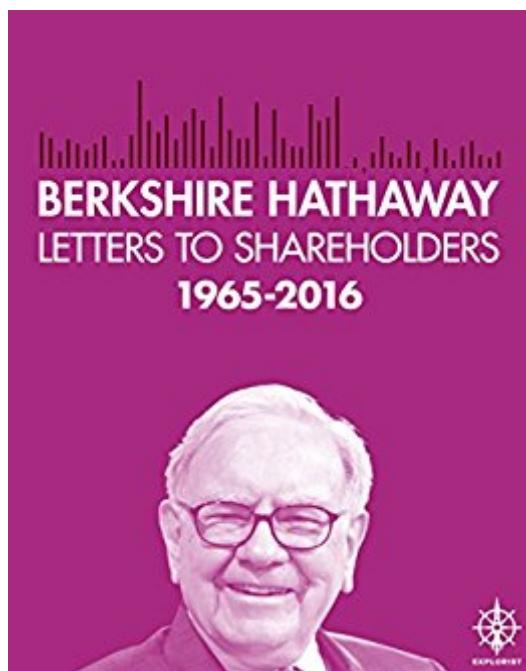


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# Berkshire Hathaway Letters To Shareholders, 2016



## **Synopsis**

Warren E. Buffett first took control of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., a small textile company, in April of 1965. A share changed hands for around \$18 at the time. Fifty-two letters to shareholders later, the same share traded for \$244,121, compounding investor capital at just over 20% per year—<sup>1</sup> a multiplier of 13,562 times. This book compiles the full, un-edited versions of every one of Warren Buffett's letters to the shareholders from 1965 to 2016, including 1965-1976 letters not available on Berkshire's website. In addition to providing an astounding case study on Berkshire's success, Buffett shows an incredible willingness to share his methods and act as a teacher to his many students. There are hundreds of books about Buffett's life, advice, and methods. These are his actual letters -- word for word -- a "lesson plan" of his views on business and investing. You can find most of the letters for free on Berkshire's website, but this compiles them into a well-designed, easily readable format.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I believe it was Einstein who said (something to the effect of) "If you

can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough. Well, nobody explains investing as simply as Warren Buffet. His letters to the Berkshire Hathaway shareholders are a collection of his thoughts on investing over the years. It's a bit like watching a biopic movie in which you see the making of a legend. And Buffet's legend lies in making sense of the seemingly complex and intellectually taxing task of investing. This is one of those books that should be read more than once. I did. And it's easy to do so because of WB's usual witty and colorful prose. If you're an investor in any sense of the word, this is a must-read. I know that term "must-read" is thrown around a lot. But a first-hand account of the evolution of the investing philosophy of the most successful investor of the 20th century? Yes, that's a must-read.

Warren Buffett, of course, is a financial icon. This collection of annual shareholder statements provides intimate insight into the evolution of his financial, managerial and philosophical development. Naturally, it is highly redundant; there are lots of tables. Nevertheless, it evinces a giant of a man who confronts conflicts between profits and worker security, shareholder rights versus community wellbeing, and the tensions between hands-off managerial autonomy versus top-down authority--all revealed with marvelous, pithy, insightful senses of self-reflection and humor. It's certainly not for everyone; but it's hard to imagine how better to learn what it takes to become one of the world's richest men.

Though I have an MBA from one of the best business schools in the world, I can say this book is an MBA. Seriously, you could build an entire MBA curriculum around the principles and processes he talks about in these shareholder letters. Those it's a cliche to say it should be "require reading", I think it should be required reading for aspiring business leaders.

This a really timely book. I looked at different years that stood out to me to see what the man said about that moment. He tells what he considers his failures -- and his successes. Then, at times, he follows up with a continuation of those situations and stories. It's an interesting time line for his businesses.

If you're an investor, you need this book. Keep reading the section in the 2011 Letter to Shareholders where Buffett talks about why he and Charlie hope IBM's stock price languishes for a

few years. Read it over and over until it makes sense to you. When it finally sinks in, it will be as if you've earned a degree from Buffett College. An amazing collection from an amazing investor. These are all available for free on the Berkshire Hathaway website, but for three bucks? Come on... :)

If you read it carefully there are many useful tips for investors in this book. Patience and humility, a willingness to learn from mistakes, all this translates into Buffet's reputation as "the world's greatest investor"(which he would smile at, whilst wondering why other people are so dumb).

Although most of these letters are available on the Berkshire site, I recommend the Kindle version for convenience and completeness. The letters are a must read for anyone attempting to invest money. In this book Warren Buffett explains his thought processes when assessing whether to invest. These letter elucidate how his thought processes changed over time. They are full of humorous quips and quotes that drive the points home.

A true gem! I love this book or the collection of letters to shareholders. It reassured me how I should be looking at the investments. It also gave me insight on how insurance business was run and makes me think how those big guys think when they write policies. Also I learned Warren Buffet is very well read and intelligent from the letters he has written to his shareholders. Thank you!!

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