



Strategies for Acceleration and Reinvention

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Key Points

- **Forget 100 day milestones - think in terms of 1,000 days instead**
- **Meet the 4 new Horsemen of the Apocalypse (one of them is Amazon)**
- **Read Team of Teams and watch *Betting on Zero***
- **What a 6th century (BC!) Chinese philosopher can teach us about living well today**

Acceleration

Donald Trump recently had a flurry of activity to try to demonstrate a successful first 100 days. Since FDR, commanders in chief have framed their first legislative sprint in office with this milestone in mind. While I understand the importance of focus, maybe we - presidents and non-presidents alike - should be taking a complementary approach.

We don't seem to have any trouble seeing the little picture these days: **we are forever consumed by the tyranny of our To Do Lists** (myself included). However, in the process the big picture often gets ignored.

Try having a **1,000 day calendar alongside your daily task list**. 1,000 days is roughly equivalent to 33 months or almost 3 years. That's about the right time horizon to get something really consequential - like writing a book or moving to Bali - done. **We often overestimate what we can accomplish in a day and underestimate what we can accomplish in a year (or three)**. So have a long-term calendar and **prioritize the important over the urgent**.

For more information on this idea, click [here](#)

Pop Philosophy

The 4 new Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Bill Gates made some news recently when he called for a tax on Robots. This is a trendy idea these days, as everyone from Tech CEOs to French presidential candidates are discussing ways to manage, if not mitigate, the seemingly inevitable impact of automation. Pick your pop culture reference — whether it's going to be the Singularity (techno-utopia) or Skynet (techno-dystopia), this is coming to a neighbourhood near you. As William Gibson puts it, “the future is already here; it's just not widely distributed yet.”

In my view there are 4 horsemen of the (potential) Apocalypse: in addition to **automation, algorithms, Amazon and soon auto-manufacturing (aka 3-D printing) are going to revolutionize the way we live and work in the coming years.**

Read more by clicking on this [link](#) (4 Minute Read)

Binge-Worthy

[Team of Teams: New Rules of Engagement for a Complex World](#) | **Stanley McChrystal and Chris Fussell (released 2015)**. This business book comes from the three star general and former commander of JSOC, the Joint Special Operations Command that oversees all Spec ops forces. McChrystal uses the case study of his 3 year fight against Al Qaeda in Iraq as a springboard to a persuasive argument; we need to reinvent organizations to be extraordinarily nimble and adaptive in order to overcome modern challenges. While the narrative leans on the General's experiences in Iraq, I found the lessons immensely thought-provoking - and it prompted me to re-think the design of the organization that I was running at the time.

The top take-away: **We need a network to defeat networks, whether they are networked enemies or networked problems.**

Binge Follow-Up: You might want to check out a **TEDx Talk** that I gave last March that built on the “Team of Teams” idea and applied it to leadership and (big) problem-solving: [“Why we need a Leadership Operating System now”](#)

Aural Stimulation: [The Knowledge Project Podcast](#). This is a new podcast series from my friend Shane Parrish, curator of the excellent [Farnam Street](#) blog. The formula for a successful podcast these days is tried and true: basically, interview excellent people. Shane accomplishes that in spades, but he distinguishes himself by in depth discussions with brilliant folks who you may not have heard of (yet). **A particularly outstanding episode was the recent interview with Naval Ravikant** (@Naval), founder and CEO of AngelList. It was so chock full of insights that I was thrilled to discover that Shane posted a transcript of the interview [here](#). *Warning:* it's a mini-book at 45 pages, but it might just be the best thing you read all month.

Must-see Doc: [Betting on Zero](#) You may not normally be drawn to documentaries describing arcane financial strategies such as “shorting” a stock, but trust me on this one. **This is what you get if [The Big Short](#) and [Going Clear](#) had a baby** - that is, an investigation of hedge fund manager Bill Ackman’s billion dollar bet against the multi-level marketing (read: pyramid scheme) company Herbalife.

Binge Follow-Up: [Inside Job](#). Still don’t understand the 2008 Financial crisis? Watch this and you will. While this is a documentary, it could double as a slow burn thriller because it meticulously describes just how stupid we all were to let this happen once - and, viewing from the vantage point of 2017, realize how little we’ve done from preventing it from happening again. *Warning:* this might make even the most hardened capitalist want to take up pitchforks and join the Occupy Wall Street movement.

A Final Thought to make you go “hmmm”

"If you are depressed, you are living in the past. If you are anxious, you are living in the future. If you are at peace, you are living in the present." ([Lao Tzu](#))

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Cheers,

Ion