

5. *The Tipping Point, especially Chapters Two, Five, and Seven*

Malcolm Gladwell, Abacus, 2015

Gladwell, a reporter, writing about how epidemics (very loosely defined) spread, offers scientific reasons why the natural size for a human community is approximately 150 (p. 177).

*Annie says, therefore, that a society larger than about 150, will naturally form subgroups. New large societies may arise in response to inspirational values, delivered by charismatic leaders. Over time, those values become routine and inflexible; rulers become distant from ruled; and the dynasty collapses. If subgroups no longer share common values, then a nation is ripe for fracture or re-set. Historians also tell us that the modern world appears ripe for a re-set, when compared with patterns from prior periods in history.*



Small Communities

Two other sections of Gladwell's book discuss the contagiousness of emotions (p. 86) and behaviors (pp. 224-5). A certain type of person sets an example that is followed, or "infects" people nearby with his or her mood.

*The next book can help someone explore extreme responsiveness, or "different" ways of viewing the world, in general.*