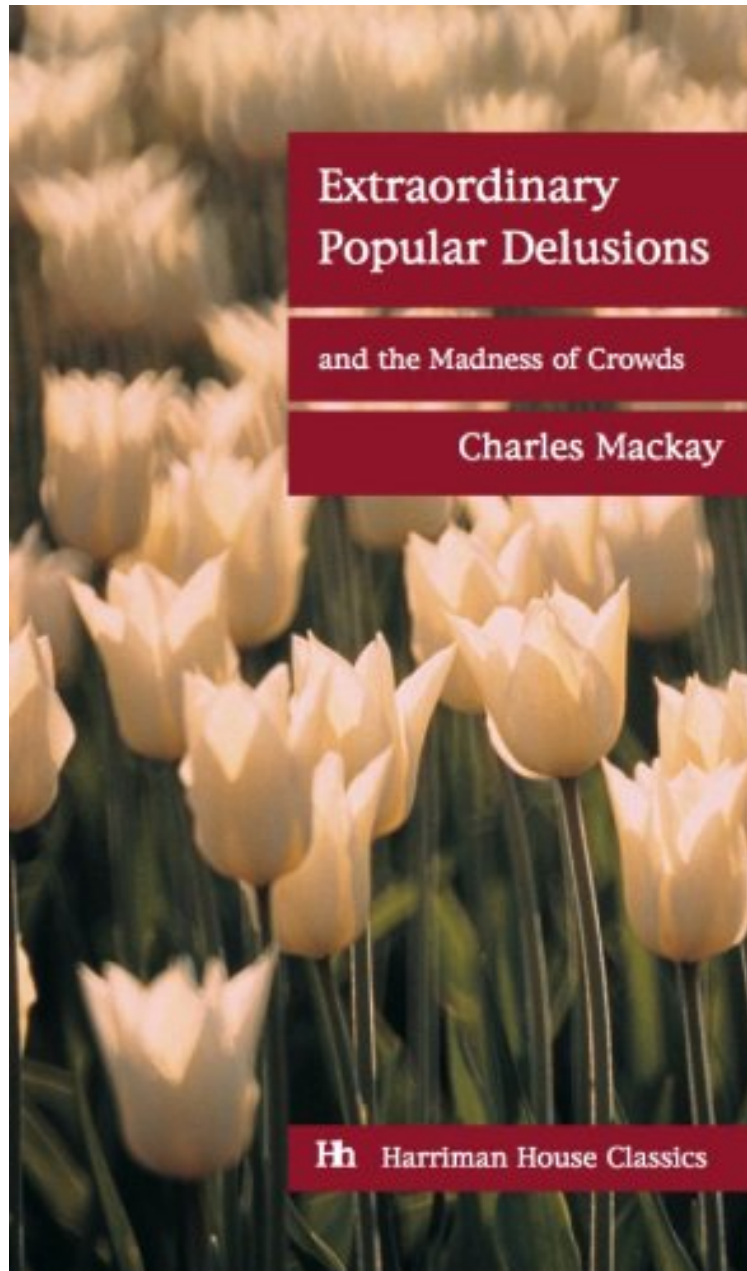


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Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds: Financial edition (Harriman House Classics)

Charles Mackay

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Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds: Financial edition (Harriman House Classics):

188 of 190 people found the following review helpful. Warning! Do Not Buy the WRONG Version of this Great Book By MyopinionA. Popular Delusions is a truly great book. B. But be careful which of the many offerings you buy. First off, many of the editions in are partial reprints of the original 1841 edition. Anything with 200 or so pages is badly incomplete. The book you want must have all 16 chapters. Second, most of the print editions, especially those claiming about 400-odd pages, are complete, but have type so small as to severely limit your reading pleasure. You must understand there is no copyright protection for the original English author so anyone can rip it off, and to make the most money many of these "artists" try to print as few literal pages as possible. The two editions I have bought (in 1967 at a bookstore and 2003 on), both published in London, have about 700 pages, including the dozen or so original hand illustrations. This is the print edition you want. Third, to solve the type-size problem, acquiring a Kindle edition can be a good answer. It can also be priced as cheaply as 99 cents or even 0. But beware of what it contains as well. When I clicked on the Kindle version of a complete 16-chapter print version (the one on which I am writing this review) it turned out that the free Kindle version was shorted to just a few chapters, which I was able to discover only after I downloaded it. Fourth, the completely independent book, Gustave Le Bon's "The Crowd", originally published in 1895 is equally worth reading. You'll love both books; make sure you actually enjoy them and get the whole things, as well. 20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Text is Essential; Choose the Edition You Buy Carefully By Imelda Classic text and very relevant today in light of the recent financial crisis. If you buy the CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; Reprint edition (October 22, 2013), beware that it has no pagination, making it impossible to cite to for academic work. I also note other reviews that comment on abridged editions by other publishers. So, beware. But the text is both priceless and timeless. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What is Hollywood waiting for? By The Real Bob Amazing how much of what's in this book still apply to today's world. The reason why this work still resonates (I believe) is because it speaks to human nature that seems pretty immutable over the centuries we've been around. Some may be put off by the old-world writing style. I wish someone in Hollywood would make a movie out of any of the stories told.

First published in 1841, *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* is often cited as the best book ever written about market psychology. This Harriman House edition includes Charles Mackay's account of the three infamous financial manias - John Law's Mississippi Scheme, the South Sea Bubble, and Tulipomania. Between the three of them, these historic episodes confirm that greed and fear have always been the driving forces of financial markets, and, furthermore, that being sensible and clever is no defence against the mesmeric allure of a popular craze with the wind behind it. In writing the history of the great financial manias, Charles Mackay proved himself a master chronicler of social as well as financial history. Blessed with a cast of characters that covered all the vices, gifted a passage of events which was inevitably heading for disaster, and with the benefit of hindsight, he produced a record that is at once a riveting thriller and absorbing historical document. A century and a half later, it is as vibrant and lurid as the day it was written. For modern-day investors, still reeling from the dotcom crash, the moral of the popular manias scarcely needs spelling out. When the next stock market bubble comes along, as it surely will, you are advised to recall the plight of some of the unfortunates on these pages, and avoid getting dragged under the wheels of the careering bandwagon yourself.