

Fast Food Nation: Chapter 1 Summary

In "Founding Fathers", chapter one of Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation*, the author introduces the history of America's fast food industry. Unsuspecting readers would hardly believe its humble beginnings. Schlosser opens with Carl N. Karcher and his homely hotdog cart in Anaheim, California and works towards the McDonald brothers' innovative self-service restaurant blue-print. With the increasing popularity of the automobile, the fast food corporations of 20th century America are what the nation's economy is built on.

Carl N. Karcher is the little known founder of Carl's Jr., an international fast food chain. However, in the beginning, the CKE corporation was little more than a sole umbrella-ed stand among groves of orange trees. Wildly successful, especially post-World War II, Karcher expanded to a full size restaurant. Automobile corporations were covertly buying up all the railways in the area, ripping them out, and replacing them with roads and public bus systems, providing a constant stream of customers to his store. The roads had a similar effect on restaurants all around the country. Ambitious entrepreneurs opened drive-thrus on every corner, clawing at their piece of the American dream. Therefore, companies such as General Motors can be thanked for allowing fast food corporations to thrive.

However, one cannot neglect to mention the McDonalds brothers' significant contribution to the industry. McDonald's Famous Hamburgers was designed after Karcher's business model, though it did not remain this way for long. The two men quickly grew tired of the customer service aspect of the restaurant business. Expensive to upkeep and exhausting to keep up with, the idea of curbside delivery was too much. The Speedee Service System was the obvious solution, spreading like wild-fire through the country. Referred to as the self-service model, the McDonalds restaurant pulled people from their cars to inside registers. Food was delivered on inexpensive paper goods that could be thrown away. An assembly line style was adopted in the kitchen and, instantaneously, the fast food business had an efficient, inexpensive system that reaped major rewards. America's fast-food nation would have withered away if not for this essential invention.

In writing this chapter, and indeed, this book, Eric Schlosser was aiming for a specific audience. He was probably not attempting to entice upper class Americans, who tend to look down upon fast-food. Nor was he looking at the lowest class of society, who often has no choice but to purchase unhealthy but inexpensive food products. Rather, Schlosser was most likely attempting to reach middle class America. His main goal was to educate his audience on a topic with which they have a cursory understanding. While the typical American may dine at a fast food restaurant several times a week, many are probably not aware of the grass roots movement in California that started it all. Thus, Schlosser felt it was imperative to open his novel with a brief history of the fast food industry in America.

In order to reach this intended audience, Schlosser utilizes a host of literary devices. Primarily, he focuses on convincing the reader with factual information, or

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TD Snyder



Fast Food Nation Chapter Summaries:

Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Report on "**Fast Food Nation Chapter Summaries**"

In a global defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their ability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is actually awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Fast Food Nation Chapter Summaries**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve into the book's central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound affect on the souls of its readers.

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