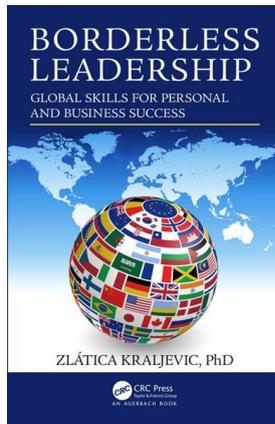


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Borderless Leadership: Global Skills for Personal and Business Success***

Author: **Zlatica Kraljevic**

Publisher: CRC Press

List Price: \$62.96 Format: Hardcover, 224 pages

Publication Date: May 2018 ISBN: 9781138591493

Reviewer: **Dr. Charles Y. Chen, PMP**

Review Date: August 2018

Introduction

Studies consistently show how international partnerships between organizations fail, mostly to the lack of trust among people at all levels of the organization. This is also seen in leading and managing a multi-national team. After all, ignoring culture sensitivities raises imperceptible barriers that kill trust and relationships that otherwise may have been fruitful. *Borderless Leadership* describes the five-step methodology to develop the right mindset in how we see the world. Using real-life examples, the author illustrates how one can build the trust and rapport with strangers of a different nationality and culture background and establish the kind of relationships that help the business.

This is a timely book not only because the Western world looks at the fast-growing emerging markets as future profitable opportunities, but also the western workplace has become more heterogeneous. Understanding the differences that exists between the ways that the West and other cultures conduct business is ever more important.

Overview of Book's Structure

This 9 chapter book is divided into five parts: awareness, understanding, knowledge, internalization, and practice. Each part discusses a new skill required to better understand the multi-national surroundings in the world that we live in today. The five parts are summarized as follows:

- Awareness represents the impact of the transformation of the global market in the last two decades on traditional business. The author discusses techniques of how to look upon others as individuals with interest and needs likely to be very similar to your own, even though he / she may be of a different nationality.

- Understanding describes how the world has changed from the 20th to the 21st century. The author offers the benefits of capturing the essence of the realities, interests, and needs of those you meet.
- Knowledge advances a new approach to seeing the world so as to enhance your decision making skills. The author points out the negative impact of our own personal false bias and misconception of others, and how to mitigate them via reasoning.
- Internalization exemplifies how leaders can effectively apply their updated view of the world to achieve success in a multinational marketplace.
- Practice describes a wide range of real-life situations that the author experiences visiting a foreign country.

Highlights

The author draws upon her decades of international business experience and distilled it into a five-step paradigm of business skills and practices. The book provides concrete and compelling examples of business successes and failures in light of this paradigm. Most importantly, Dr. Kraljevic highlights the changing global dynamics and challenges facing leaders today. For example, one of the primary barriers to developing trust and rapport with foreign nationals is our lack of familiarity with other culture and the apprehension and anxiety associated with the unfamiliar. This is also true in a heterogeneous workplace where the team is composed of multi-national members all with a different cultural background.

The book highlights the advantages of understanding the interconnectivity that exists among the people of the world. Indeed, this understanding will make it easier to understand what drives them when making personal or business decisions. The business and personal skills presented in *Borderless Leadership* are essential tools for succeeding in today's global business climate, as well as in one's own personal life.

Highlights: What I liked!

I appreciate the author's five-step model as it illustrates how leaders and companies can use new idea and tools to increase understanding of their surroundings. While this book is written for leaders and companies focus on the nuisances of international business, the same principle applies domestically when dealing with new market segments or leading a multi-cultural team. Indeed, the illustrative examples of the successes and failures of Fortune 500 companies (Walmart, the Home Depot, Best Buy, GE, among others) in their international market plays solidify the lessons and concepts taught in this book.

This book is also filled with checklists (such as Ten Checklists for Planning and Execution) and tables such as Ten Tenets for Business Perspective and Survival.

These will serve well as valuable references as they enable beginners to avoid common pitfalls and seasoned executives to recognize their own mistakes.

Who might benefit from the Book?

This is a fast paced easy to read book that distills decades of global experience into usable and necessary guidance for today's world. While this is a book perfect for those in international business, it is also important for program managers and project leaders who are leading a diverse multi-national team. It's full of real-life examples, relevant observations and meaningful tips on how to navigate today's complex world. This is indeed a fast-paced educational book.

Conclusion

When entering an emerging market or working with a global team, an executive should not myopically approach it with the western world norms and mindset. The executive would, of course, want to understand the various cultures and adapt to them. Sounds simple and intuitive, right? But intuitive things often allude us.

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.crcpress.com/Borderless-Leadership-Global-Skills-for-Personal-and-Business-Success/Kraljevic/p/book/9781138591493>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [PMI Dallas Chapter](#). Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@peworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



Dr. Charles Y. Chen

Texas, USA



Dr. Charles Y. Chen, PMP has had the privilege of leading teams of engineers and scientists to transform ideas into viable products. His career began at Northrop Grumman, initially as a systems engineer and then as a program manager, he led matrixed teams of engineers to innovate, mature, and produce new electronic sensor technologies and algorithms. Energetics Incorporated introduced Charlie to the world of management consulting. Initially as a director then as the Chief Strategy Officer, he led teams to help clients transition ideas developed in the laboratory to the marketplace, overcoming the so-called valley of death. At Hover Energy, Dr. Chen led the key activities to build a new wind turbine designed for the urban environment. He is currently an Engineering Fellow and a member of the Chief Technologist's Technical Staff at the Raytheon Company.

Dr. Chen received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University. He received his Executive Education from University of Chicago Booth School of Business. As a PMP, he looks forward to leading his next team to achieve the impossible.

Email address:

doccychen@gmail.com.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/charlesychenphd/>