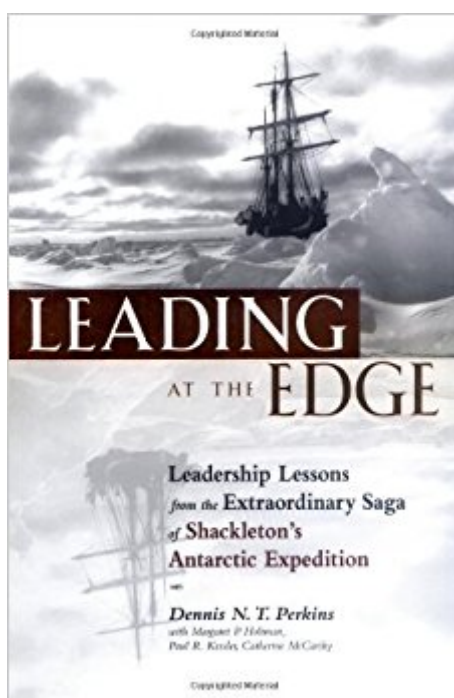


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Leading At The Edge : Leadership Lessons From The Extraordinary Saga Of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition



Synopsis

Part adventure story, part leadership guide, this intriguing book examines Shackleton's legendary Antarctic expedition through the lens of business--to reveal a set of powerful strategies for corporate leaders. In the chronicles of extraordinary adventures and against-the-odds survival, nothing compares to the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his team of South Pole explorers. Stranded in the frozen sea for nearly two years, they endured extreme temperatures, hazardous ice, dwindling food, complete isolation, and perpetual blackness. Yet, despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles, the group remained cohesive, congenial, and mercifully alive--a fact that speaks not just to luck but to an unparalleled feat in leadership. Now, for the first time ever, *Leading at the Edge* draws on this amazing story to reveal the power of effective organizational leadership under conditions of uncertainty, ambiguity, and rapid change. The book uncovers 10 lessons-- complete with stirring examples from the Shackleton expedition, as well as contemporary business case studies of the strategies in action--on what it takes to be a great leader. Readers learn how to:

- * Set a personal example with vivid symbols and behaviors
- * Instill optimism while staying grounded in reality
- * Reinforce the team message constantly
- * Find something to celebrate and something to laugh about
- * Have the courage to take big risks, and more.

For managers and executives who feel stressed out or stretched thin, these memorable strategies will help bring order to chaos--and success in the face of the most daunting adversity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although their experiences may sometimes seem torturous, most managers aren't facing dangerous

or life-threatening conditions. Even so, argues consultant Perkins, they would do well to learn from both triumphant and failed expeditions. A former Marine lieutenant, Perkins introduces 10 key concepts he believes are essential to productive leadership with lively anecdotes from the adverse but ultimately successful expedition to the South Pole led by Ernest Shackleton in 1914 (his entire crew survived on the ice with almost no supplies or hope for rescue after their ship drifted off course and was crushed), which he contrasts with a disastrous Canadian expedition launched at almost the same time. Among the principles in the book's first half: "Minimize status differences and insist on courtesy and mutual respect

...should be read by anyone who aspires to the mantle of leadership. -- National Post, May 25, 2000
Perkins has distilled 10 principles from [Shackleton's] survival experiences he offers them as a guide for business leadership at the edge. -- The New York Times, May 28, 2000

I downloaded this when I saw it revolved around the Shackelford Expedition. This is an excellent book for learning leadership skills for the corporate world. Not so for the small business company. I did find one or two ideas that might work for the company I'm currently with. However, as the last chapters came about, I felt the message was being lost. The first six or seven ideas were spot on. The book should have ended here and it would have been a home run. Instead it continued on and the ideas started to become watered down, lessening the impact. I've seen many of these self-help, motivational, team-building works and for whatever reason, they seem to follow the same formula. My question is why? Why do they continue watering down the main message? Overall, it's a good read. The comparison of Shackelford's accomplishments in the harshest, most hopeless situations and how he managed his team were easily translated into today's world of corporations and middle size companies. Four stars

Although primarily directed at managers, this book contains timeless concepts that work well whether leading yourself, a team, or leading upwards and sideways. Although the pressure we face in the corporate world is not life threatening, it is nonetheless very real and at times intense. I believe that Perkins's ten principles are a great foundation on which to base leadership behavior. Well written and captivating, I have found this book to be an invaluable resource!

This is a good book that combines a good mix of telling the Shackleton story along with practical leadership insights. At first I was not sure I would like the book at all but I found the book gets better and better as it develops. Throughout the book the author draws insights from Ernest Shackleton's leadership of the Endurance expedition that illustrates them by pointing to business examples and this helps to tie everything back together. This is not my favorite book on leadership, and I would hesitate to recommend it unless the reader is interested in the story of the Endurance expedition.

A fantastic text based on an epic journey. The history of Shackleton's ill-fated expedition is a sharp contrast to the modern view which epitomizes personal liberty as the highest virtue. This book features vignettes from an expedition faced with nearly insurmountable odds that highlight the difficult choices faced by Shackleton and his men. In the face of adversity, they managed to endure, though not without cost. Perhaps the most moving part of the narrative is knowing that, after he and a few of his men made it (barely) to the safety of a remote whaling outpost, he insisted on mounting numerous rescue attempts for his other stranded crew-mates until they were successfully extracted. I highly recommend this book to anyone, whether or not you are involved in business management. As a father, I found many of the examples and stories inspirational, and I have shared them with my children to teach them the virtues of perseverance and the responsibilities of leadership.

Application in the real world is clear and works for almost any real world leadership situation. A great read to add to those striving for more good leadership examples

as a teacher of maritime leadership, a lifelong interested in leadership structures and generally things nautical, this is the finest book on leadership I have ever read, next to the Bible. I use Mr. Perkins books in all my leadership lectures.

Dennis was interviewed about this book on FoxNews, and he was captivating with his story of Shackleton and what he learned of leadership. Perkins has applicable background, in Vietnam and management consulting and teaching which make this book doubly fascinating. I found his style and wit so easy to read and yet remember the points being made. There are many one can take away from this and use, however two that stand out in my mind are: great leaders don't enter knowing everything, e.g. Shackleton had never even slept in a sleeping bag before, much is learned; second, in At Edge experiences, overcome uncertainty with structure and distractions. So much more could

be said about this excellent contribution to leadership. It is well structured with Shackleton's lessons first, then biz cases which are each unique and contribute to illustrations of these leadership lessons. After each section there is reflection, while at the book's end, more intense follow-up excercies and resources to be pursued. One great leadership adventure!

Great book

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