

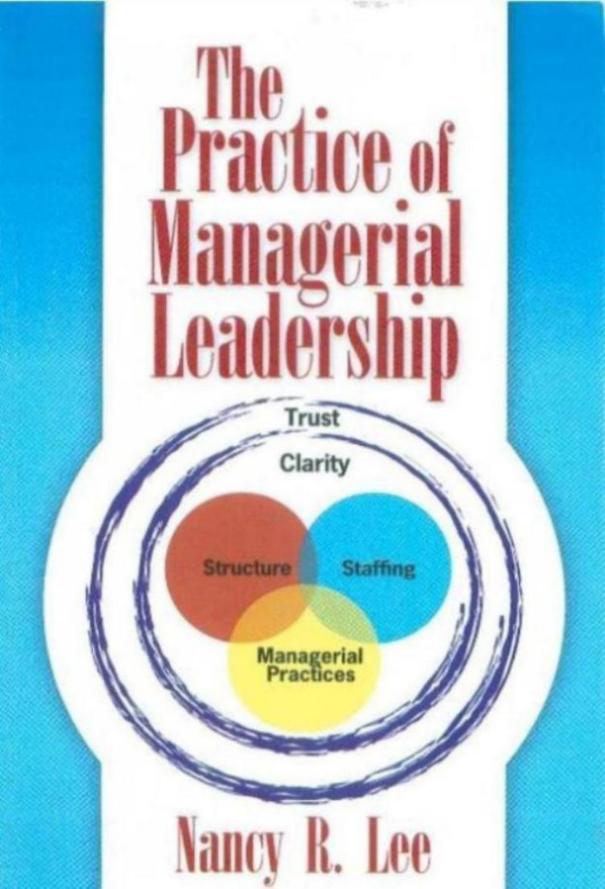


Readings in Global Organization Design Book excerpts

The Practice of Managerial Leadership

By Nancy R. Lee

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The Practice of Managerial Leadership

Nancy R. Lee

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This book is dedicated to Elliott Jaques, friend, mentor, visionary

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Preface

Shortly after he returned from his service as a psychiatrist in the Canadian Army in World War II, Elliott Jaques became one of a pioneering group of psychiatrists and psychologists at the Tavistock Institute in London. Their military experience led them into innovations in organizations.

Jacques was consulting in the Glacier Metals Company when an employee asked him why it was that workers like him were paid by the hour while the executives drew an annual salary. That question aroused Jaques' curiosity and led him to start investigating the possible replies. His search led to a 50-year creative quest that became a major rethinking of human capability and organizational structure.

Jaques' investigation took him into many parts of the world. A major learning experience was his consultation with Rio Tinto Zinc, a mining company in Australia. The chief executive of that company, Rod Carnegie, quickly grasped the import of Jaques' inquiry. Together they fostered extensive consultation in that company which resulted in a systematic refinement of Jaques' thinking and the profitable reorganization of that minerals giant. Meanwhile he was also consulting with private and governmental organizations in Great Britain and did extensive work with the United States Army. Together these efforts, his writings, and the stimulation of working with companies in different countries fostered his conceptualization of human effort in organizations.

His thinking was a monumental reformulation of the basis of human capacity and organizational structure, reflected in twenty books and scores of articles.

Jaques not only posited eight different levels of conceptual thinking among human beings but also elaborated the curves of that thinking over an adult lifetime. In turn, his conceptualization gave rise to a new logic for organizational structure, an area that had previously had no logic for organizational leadership and accountability.

His work early on aroused my own curiosity and I invited him to join me in weeklong seminars I was conducting for the Levinson Institute. I also introduced him to several of the companies I was working with in the United States and South America. Executives quickly discovered his sophistication about their organizational lives. However, it soon became apparent that their re-thinking would have to go beyond slogans, clichés and traditional practices to become familiar with Jaques' formulations. Once they grasped his creative logic, they recognized that his thinking was far beyond what was in the management textbooks.

Jaques, with the help of his wife, Kathryn Cason, and the author of this book, Nancy Lee, continued to refine his thinking about levels of conceptual ability and even began to extend his thinking to understanding how animals differed in their capacity to grasp complexity.

Because his work required his audiences and his readers to make a radical change in their customary thinking about organizations and managers, many were reluctant to undertake that change for themselves and others and gave up on the possibility of introducing his concepts into their organizations.

In short, Jaques' work requires readers to take the necessary time to grasp his innovation. It also requires radical change in how executives are chosen and companies are organized. Like all new thinking his work necessitates testing the applications in one's own organization.

But grasping complexity need not be an overwhelming task. In this book Nancy Lee, herself an organizational consultant long immersed in Jaques' conceptualization efforts, has made his thinking much easier to grasp. That, in turn, should make this volume highly useful to executives, consultants and graduate students who seek to make organizations more effective.

Harry Levinson, Ph.D. Chairman Emeritus, The Levinson Institute Emeritus Harvard Medical School, Clinical Professor of Psychology

Introduction to "The practice of managerial leadership"

The material in this book describes the comprehensive set of concepts, principles, practices and procedures for the practice of managerial leadership called Requisite Organization. These ideas are logical and consistent and have been developed over more than 55 years by Dr. Elliott Jaques and his colleagues in 15 countries. The ideas have been tested and put into practice throughout the world through continuing consulting research work.

Dr. Jaques chose the term 'requisite' to describe this integrated theory of how organizations work best because requisite means 'as required by the nature of things'. The ideas contained in Requisite Organization theory and practice flow from the nature of things—the nature of people, the nature of work and the nature of the relationship between the two.

Organizations exist to get work done in order to achieve their goals. Achieving organizational goals requires an organization that is appropriately structured, competent individuals at each organizational level, and procedures and practices that facilitate the work. This book deals with organizations that employ people—managerial hierarchies where accountability is delegated down through the organization from the owners/board members. People are employed within these managerial hierarchies as individuals (not as teams or as partners) to do the work required.

The material that follows is largely focused on the role of the manager because that is where most of the guidelines are needed in order to accomplish the work of the organization. It is the work of managers that determines the results achieved with the available resources. Requisite practices enable decisive, accountable, value-adding managerial leadership throughout the organization. There is also information on the roles and accountabilities of non-managerial subordinates. Each employee needs to understand fully his or her own role and the organization's structure and practices. All of the principles in Requisite Organization are intended to enhance trust between employees in the organization and between employees and the organization.

Trust and understanding are further enhanced in Requisite Organization by the explicit definition of commonly used business terms. These terms are generally ill-defined and ambiguous. Clearly describing requisite practices and procedures in a consistent language that everyone understands provides clarity about what should be done and how to do it.

This book is written for managers at all levels in organizations. It is meant to introduce the material contained in Dr. Jaques' books, *Social Power and the CEO* and *Requisite Organization: A Total System for Effective Managerial Organization and Managerial Leadership for the 21st Century*, as well as his series of seven video tapes about Requisite Organization. The chapters in the book are organized in a manner similar to the videotapes so that they can be used together, if desired.

Chapter One describes the Basic Concepts. Chapter Two deals with Human Capability, Chapter Three describes Working Relationships and Chapter Four discusses the Organization Structure required to establish work and functions at the right level in the organization. Chapter Five explains Management Practices and Chapters Six and Seven are case studies that illustrate the process of implementing requisite managerial leadership in two different organizations. Dr. Jaques edited the first five chapters of this book for accuracy in explaining his ideas.

The theory and concepts in this book are set out as a series of propositions to be considered. The use of these Requisite Organization principles in the practice of managerial leadership results in increased productivity and profitability and provides employees with the opportunity to use their capabilities as fully as possible in a healthy environment conducive to personal growth.



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The Global Organization Design Society is a not-for-profit corporation registered in Ontario, Canada to promote the following objective:

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