

[FREE] Consider: Harnessing the Power of Reflective Thinking In Your Organization

Consider: Harnessing the Power of Reflective Thinking In Your Organization

D. Forrester

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*"While the world seems to want you to go ever faster...it actually rewards you for being insightful and for doing work with meaning. I know it's hard to slow down to read this, but you should."—SETH GODIN, author of *Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?**

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HARNESSING *the* POWER
of
REFLECTIVE THINKING
IN YOUR ORGANIZATION

DANIEL PATRICK FORRESTER

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D. Forrester : Consider: Harnessing the Power of Reflective Thinking In Your Organization before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Consider: Harnessing the Power of Reflective Thinking In Your Organization:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Slow down for you and your organizational goodBy Chris MarshallOur western culture is built on a pace for manic speed with an insatiable appetite for increased production. 'More' and 'faster' are buzzwords tethered like a millstone around the neck of the American worker. Presently within

the fearful context of an eroding global economy and threat of unemployment, the typical worker feels the pressure to immerse themselves in greater output vocationally to prove their indispensability. We are a people driven towards innovation and efficiency and our best idea is faster, stronger and more. When someone can output this kind of idealized effort, we say they are a 'machine'. I thought we created 'machines' so that we didn't have to work so hard all the time and everywhere. The post World War II consumer marketing movement promised us the 'good life' of luxury, leisure and free time for our pleasure pursuits. In the words of Dr. Phil: "how's that workin' for ya?" With more time, more convenience and more space for constant communication and data-sharing, we created a monster, not a machine. We falsely believe that we control the monster, but increasingly it is the monster of muchness and manyness that in fact controls us? When does the carousel stop so we can get off? Perhaps a bigger question is, would we get off if we believed we had the choice to do so? What if what we want is not a machine, nor a monster, but rather simply just to be human again? This is the milieu where Daniel Patrick Forrester enters with his book, "Consider: Harnessing the Power of Reflective Thinking In Your Organization". This book was very timely for me to read at the onset of the season of Lent that I try to pay attention to each year to peel off the scales of inhumanity still stuck on me. Forrester lays out a sound argument that for organizations and individuals, if you don't take the time to reflect, think and wonder; then you are a train wreck waiting to happen. We type A's, like the hare, believe that speed and busyness will always win. This may finally be an idol that needs to die if we want to see a revolution of being human again. One of the sacred cows that Forrester filets is the misnomer of the idea of 'multi-tasking'. MRI's of the human brain through studies confirm for us "that our minds function best when pursuing only a single task". (15) The fallacy of trying to accomplish multiple crucial tasks at the same time is a recipe for doing none of them effectively nor thoughtfully. If your endgame is merely pragmatic, then just get it done. If your endgame is perpetual beauty/creativity/ingenuity/sustainable design/unique perspective or a thorough and nuanced plan; then turn your phone off and take time to think and reflect. Great book on slowing down for your and your organization's own good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Potent Remedy for "Data Mania" By Russell Pierson Daniel Forrester's new book, Consider: Harnessing the Power of Reflective Thinking In Your Organization, is well worth ... considering! With lucid, relevant examples snatched from the headlines, Forrester makes the compelling case that as the speed and volume of data has increased in the Internet Age, our bias toward action has led to colossal oversights, from the global economic crisis to the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf. He further offers practical ways to integrate small bits of time for reflection into the busiest workday, once more citing pertinent examples from Bill Gates to Colin Powell. It is these moments of reflective thinking that offer unparalleled capacity to connect the dots and find relationships, patterns and meaning in the data that otherwise continues to stream past with little interpretation. For the sake of your sanity and those you work and live with, do yourself a favor and "Consider." 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. In Pursuit of Excellence By Matt In 'Consider', Daniel does an amazing job of establishing the importance of think-time. Many of us strive to be excellent in both our professional and personal lives. As Daniel points out, excellence is extremely difficult if we allow ourselves to be governed by busyness. We all have 24 hours in our days. 'Consider' forces us to pay better attention to how we spend these hours in the context of what we're trying to achieve. Buy the book, apply its principles, and you will undoubtedly be better prepared to execute on the right things! Well done Daniel!

There's an intangible and invisible market place within our lives today where the products traded are four fold: attention, distraction, data and meaning. The stories and examples within Consider demonstrate that the best decisions, insights, ideas and outcomes result when we make sufficient time to think and reflect.

"Daniel Forrester has truly identified the biggest leadership problem we face today. The flood of data and the ease of communications afforded us by 21st Century technology have led to snap decision making without the careful thought or processing necessary for us to make quality decisions. Speed and action have replaced well thought out strategic thinking. Daniel provides a valuable guide on how to strategically think and analyze before we act. This first rate book is a must read for leaders in every facet of our society." - General Anthony C. Zinni USMC (Retired) "While technological improvements make it easier to both act and act quickly, this powerful book reminds us about the value of reflection. Invest the time to read this wonderful work. Your professional and personal actions will be that much more impactful when they are informed by its insights on thoughtfulness." - Mark Zupan, Dean and Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Simon School of Business, University of Rochester "THINK and be spared - egregious mistakes, widespread second guessing, and embarrassing contrition. That is the simple and powerful message from Daniel Forrester who has extensively probed the storm and drang of management. Technologies abundant harvest of information affords priceless opportunities for reflection to improve the quality of decisions, if not squandered by a Pavlovian urge towards instantaneous response. Our cultural bias toward action limits critical thinking to less than 10% of our day's activity. Yet thoughtful analysis can spawn great ideas and prevent bad things from happening." - John F. Budd, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Omega Group "Daniel Forrester has sliced through the paradox of our time: while the world seems to want you to go ever faster and keep up with ever more, it actually rewards you for being insightful and for doing work with meaning. I know it's hard to slow down to read this, but you should." -

Seth Godin, author of *Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?* "CONSIDER buying this book; then buy it, read it, and live it. Daniel Forrester has done a terrific job of laying out the problems, pitfalls and disasters of today's action-driven, 24/7, email-overloaded workplace - and offers breath-catching reporting and proven examples of the value and rewards of reflection and THINK TIME. Based on in-depth research and personal interviews with many of America's top business, social, military, and cultural leaders; CONSIDER will change how you work, how you run your business, how you live your life." - Dennis Wholey, Host and Executive Producer, PBS-TV's THIS IS AMERICA and author of *The Courage to Change and Why Do I Keep Doing That?* "Daniel Forrester singles out what is potentially the largest opportunity for corporations and governments of our time: the power of deep reflection at all levels of the organization. Through persuasive and insightful examples he provides evidence that more and better think time is a value creating proposition. He also contributes useful recommendations to actually implement think time habits in your organizations. Anyone in the corporate world should read this book; it may transform your company." - Sergio A. Pernice, MBA Director and Professor of Organizational Design and Financial Engineering and Risk Management, UCEMA Business School, Argentina "In a very readable interesting book Daniel Forrester captures the essence of an organization's power to grow and prosper in both good and bad times. If you are serious about growing your organization in these turbulent times do yourself a favor; Buy, read and act on Daniel Forrester's recommendations." - Peggie O'Neill, Co-Founder and Former Director of Loyalty Management University, Host of *Passionate Leaders Powerful People* (TV Show), and Director of *Prayer Power Worldwide* "Forrester's book practices what it preaches by taking you - slowly and with great care - inside the pauses, downtimes and sheer zoning-outs that trigger most creative thinking. Better yet, Daniel provides ample ammunition for anybody looking to listen to that inner voice that says, "I just don't know and NEED to think about this longer!" A great book for a time in which too many of us pull back from the data deluge, clinging to unshakable beliefs instead of exercising our minds. Bottom line: free your time and the rest will follow." - Thomas P.M. Barnett, Author and strategist "Dan Forrester makes a point that is so incredible, it defies belief. Put simply, CEO's and other topmost management executives spend so little time thinking. The irony is that this state of affairs is understandable. CEOs are activist; they do things. But many of the things they do would produce greater results if they spent more time thinking before they take action. Best of all, he shows how to do it: a disciplined approach to the totality of the management function - think first, then act." - Harold Burson, Founder Chairman, Burson-Marsteller About the Author DANIEL PATRICK FORRESTER Strategist and management consultant with over fifteen years experience leading complex strategy and technology evolution engagements for senior executives from Fortune 100 and 500 companies, and federal government organizations. He is currently a Director and Executive within Sapient Government Services, a subsidiary of Sapient Corporation.