

Best Practice: Leadership Fit for the Future

How does new leadership succeed in companies? 10 expert contributions

Simone Janson (ed.)

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Introduction: Information, Experiences of Success, Inspiration - you'll find all that in this Book

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Safe and confident in dealing with power and status: Effective through eye-level! // By Dr. Cornelia Topf

To be respected, to have influence, to be respected, "to apply something" - who didn't want that? Whoever has many options for action is more powerful than someone who has no or only a few. But how do you get there? And isn't power often something bad?

Who wants to shape, needs power

Often I am confronted in coaching with the reservations that many people have against power: that power is something evil, something that you exploit and abuse - so you better keep away from it.

Power helps to enforce your own goals. And those who communicate at eye level can negotiate more constructively. Often enough only a subjective perceived balance of power for it. Freelancer is negotiating with multinational corporation - where do you go here to power balance, you will ask. The answer: all a matter of attitude!

Also in social relations

What many people do not see: In order to have influence in a social relationship, in order to enforce one's will against the reluctance of others, in order to weight our own interests more than the others, we need power.

When it comes to shaping the future according to one's own ideas and solving many other challenging tasks, one needs personal resources and often also financial, relationships, status, in short: power.

Knowledge is power!

Often the way to eye level leads over the knowledge. Knowledge is power knowing nothing does not matter, says mockingly the vernacular. This is obviously a saying of the powerless.

If we are not dictators, despots, or emperors personally, we need knowledge.

Invest in the right people

But that alone is not enough if we are not able to make ourselves and our knowledge accessible to the "right" people in powerful networks of relationships.

Whoever invests in these "generally also reaps returns in the form of access and opportunities," writes Dagmar Deckstein in the SZ in her review of the book "Die Fromel der Macht" by Harald Katzmair and Harald Mahrer.

Powerlessness does not make you happy

You do not want to prevail against the reluctance of others? You perceive this as an abuse of power? But powerlessness is much worse, literally and figuratively. Because most of the time we wake up from this

Fainting just not in the arms of a prince or a princess, but annoy us about the fact that of all times we have pulled the short straw, we have not considered, once again the stupid others were preferred

We decide for ourselves!

And often it is not just the others, the circumstances, the life as such, the economy, the political weather or a Chinese butterfly that are to blame, but we alone.

We decide for ourselves whether we want to gain power and status, or rather want to be pushed back and forth as discretionary mass. And we also decide for ourselves how to use power: for our own or others' benefit. Cynical and selfrighteous or as a means of problem solving.

What makes a sovereign driver?

At the beginning is the consideration: Prefer to steer the bus on the driver's seat, determine the direction and speed or rather ride in the last row? What makes a sovereign driver?

Is it physical or mental superiority, my specialized knowledge, my high organizational ability, my social competence? Or do I tend to take advantage of power structures and create fear among the subjugated?

Only when you have clarified these questions for yourself, you can take the second step: How do I achieve power or how do I make more powerful?

Always have a plan B in your pocket

In principle, trust in the quality of one's own performance and products, in one's own ability, ie, self-confidence and self-assurance in the classical sense, continue to help.

Above all, the "Best Alternative To The Negotiated Agreement", the BATNA, helps. As a power factor, it "makes" it more independent and therefore stronger.