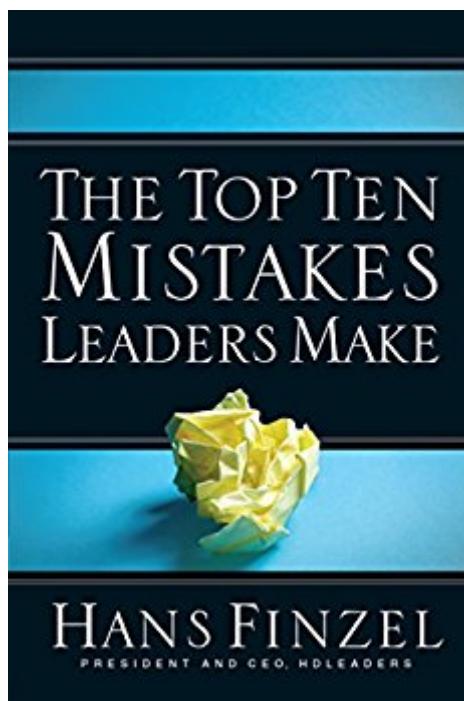


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The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make



Synopsis

Although leadership is the hot topic on conference agendas and book tours, most people who find themselves in positions of leadership have little or no training for the role. They simply continue to make the same old mistakes. With additional and newly updated material, this leadership classic reveals the most common errors that leaders consistently make—regardless of training or age—and the way to stop these bad habits from undermining their positive talents and accomplishments. Whether you are leading a company, a ministry, a Girl Scout troop, or your family, *The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make* is a must-read for anyone who wants to lead others effectively. "If you're like me, you've grown weary of the published cookie-cutter approaches on how to lead effectively. And so has Hans Finzel. He drills to the core of the current issues on effective leadership."—Charles R. Swindoll, author and president of Dallas Theological Seminary "This is one of the most practical books on leadership I have in my own library. If you are serious about becoming a better leader, you will want to read this book."—John C. Maxwell, author, speaker, and founder of the INJOY Group

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Customer Reviews

Finzel's book was written in '94, well before Kotter's "What Leaders Really Do" (written in '99) & Collins' "Good to Great" (written in '01). Finzel "outs" the most immediate perils to any leader's reign (top 10) & did so prior to the market research that Kotter & Collins offer. Kotter & Collins provide the data that supports Finzel's book, but Finzel's text is to the point & more eloquent. Pay special attention to mistakes #2 & 8. In today's corporate culture, not fitting the culture is a deal killer.

Hans Finzel makes the case that poor leadership habits are often the byproduct of observing others' poor leadership habits. This book suggests a concise list of such habits for leaders to dissect and change, with anecdotal examples as well as clear action items that can be implemented tomorrow morning. Generally, Dr. Finzel solves his Top Ten list of mistakes using the strategies of servant leadership (the basis of the author's own success in church leadership), and he supports his writing with Biblical quotes and his own view on modeling one's actions after Christ's. However, Finzel generally delivers plain-spoken, well-explained concepts that can be employed in most companies and organizations. Whatever your religion, his strategies embrace a positive, ethical approach to leadership that has been glaringly absent in many corporate American cultures in recent years. This title probably didn't make a bestseller list, but it is a hidden gem for both established and emerging leaders who wish to prevent or improve upon common poor habits -- a refreshing change of pace from the mainstream best-sellers. For the price, it belongs in your leadership library.

Do not be fooled by size or the title of this book. Small which makes for a quick read and an excellent reference guide. The points that are developed are not rocket science stuff but points that are faced regularly. I have been in leadership positions for over 30 years and truly enjoyed this style of writing. He points out the mistakes and before you know it you are on knees confessing that you have done the same. I especially liked the chapters on "Dirty Delegation" and how it takes the wind out of the sail from any project. Leaders make this error in the name of getting things done. Another favorite of mine is, "Communication Chaos". This sole, small, simple chapter has changed how we communicate in our corporation. More info, relevant info, important info; info; info and more info. This chapter alone has increased our atmosphere of teamwork and productivity. This is a must read for every executive in your company.

This book was written in 1994 and yet when I picked up a copy to read recently it presents concepts absolutely essential to today's corporate environment. This is all the more remarkable considering that his original audience for his book were those in leadership positions in the church. Thus, throughout the book are both organizational and spiritual concepts. The book is divided neatly into ten chapters, each dealing with a "mistake" and providing the counter examples of how these leadership issues can be reversed to allow for more growth within the organization and better leadership. The titles of the ten chapters are themselves fascinating and excellent at describing the leadership mistakes. They include; The top-down attitude; Putting paperwork before people work; The absence of affirmation; No room for mavericks; Dictatorship in decision-making; Dirt delegation; Communication chaos; Missing the clues of corporate culture; Success without successors; Failure to focus on the future. Each of these chapters presents some outstanding insights into how leaders fail to make the most of their people, and get results. One in particular is always the challenge of leadership in most corporations, the "No room for mavericks" describes how the most creative, and insightful of employees are often forced to comply with the inside-the-box thinking of the organizations current status. Of course, without "mavericks" many companies simply fade out of existence, and many others become a shadow of what they once were. Yet today inside many corporations are leaders so focused on compliance and control, that they may control away their futures, and drive those who are innovative away to other places. This book is simple, straightforward, and completely accurate. Very highly recommended, as nearly every chapter could be a book in itself.

Simply put, if I had to choose only ONE book on leadership to have, this would be it. One, Finzel's book is power-packed and very too-the-point. He wastes little time with redundant examples, but chooses them carefully to illustrate his points. Hence, two, this is a quick read. Three, it is one worth re-reading, and then savoring.

I purchased the book 'TOP TEN MISTAKES...' and then waited a year to read it. I wish I had read this book that instant. This is one of those paperbacks that is short, concise, and Full of information; useful stuff with some examples. As soon as I had finished the book, I found a way to recommend it to MY boss.

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