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Empowered: Unleash Your Employees, Energize Your Customers, and Transform Your Business

Josh Bernoff, Ted Schadler

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Josh Bernoff, Ted Schadler : Empowered: Unleash Your Employees, Energize Your Customers, and Transform Your Business before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empowered: Unleash Your Employees, Energize Your Customers, and Transform Your Business:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More FLAWs than an Uncelebrated HEROBy G TuckerIf nothing else, Empowered, Unleash Your Employees, Energize Your Customers, Transform Your Business has given the world

several new FLAWs (four letter acronym words). At last reckoning there were three: HERO, IDEA, and POST, but one of these was introduced in an earlier book, Groundswell. Empowered has given the world a lot more than that. My title is unfair perhaps, because I liked this book, and the further I read the more I liked it. You cannot read a business book these days that doesn't introduce a new acronym, and I have come to see it as a proxy for strong knowledge or good writing. Fortunately Bernoff and Schadler are both knowledgeable and good writers, so I wish they wouldn't resort to gimmicks. The best part of the book is the specific examples of real companies doing real projects, mostly Forrester customers. Empowered ties together many trends that, although I was aware of them individually, was not seeing them so closely interlinked. Social media (Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn), mobile computing, project management, information security, and the traditional roles of customer service are among the topics that are addressed. The hero of the story is, of course, the HERO, or highly empowered resourceful operatives who are dragging companies, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century. HERO means more than it seems. Imagine a 2-dimensional matrix forming a quadrant--yes this quadrant is in the book, but not until chapter 8. On the X-axis (from left to right) is empowerment. On the Y-axis (from bottom to top) is resourcefulness. At the bottom left of the quadrant are disenfranchised employees who are neither empowered nor resourceful, making approximately one-third of most companies. The next one-third of employees are those who are locked-down--empowered but not resourceful. The smallest percent, maybe one-eighth, are those who are the rogues who are resourceful but not empowered. The rest are HEROs. The goal of organizations, then is not to expand that quadrant as big as possible, but to get the best people into the HERO roles and to get the organization behind them. Easier said than done, but there is a lot of substance in Empowered to help on the journey. The book is divided roughly in half. Part one discusses HEROs and HERO projects in detail, including how they have saved organizations and how the lack of a HERO has led to substandard responses and embarrassing situations. Prominent here are the realities of social media and mobile technologies. Part two discusses actions organizations can take to enable the HERO. Similar themes run through the book, and this is not a collection of random blog posts. Part one did turn me off in many places. The author seemed to target me, an IT professional and my colleagues as the chief disablers of HERO behaviors. I hope that we can be forgiven. We understand as well as anyone the complexity behind modern businesses, and how frail it really is under the hood. We are the individuals whose heads get beat whenever a server crashes or data is compromised, regardless of whether we had anything to do with the initial implementation. We've been SOX'ed, mandated, legislated, and audited to death. A little more respect would be nice. Fortunately, the book delivers some more of that in part two. It recognizes some of the issues faced by IT and provides some guidance for IT professionals. It spends time on a couple IT leaders who have reached out to other business units to build creative and innovative solutions. Ultimately this is not about IT, but about the business leaders understanding the borders of the organization are no longer around its physical premise and its high-walled data centers. The borders around the organization are around its people. Employees and customers are using Twitter and YouTube, and the conduits for leakage is unfathomable. Employees have to exercise common sense and be professional. The emphasis of the Information Security office has to migrate from applying technical band-aids to engaging leaders and employees. It will happen, and I predict IT will be leaders in this process, not inhibitors.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Information To Help You Tap Into The Groundswell By Elmer Boutin "Unleash your employees, energize your customers, transform your business" are the promises on the cover of Empowered by Josh Bernoff and Ted Schadler. This book, a follow up to the highly informative Groundswell coauthored by Bernoff and Charlene Li, delivers just that - a way to use the social web to transform your business in this age of groundswell. The authors use case studies and personal experiences to help you work out plans to find and train the HEROes in your business, those Highly Energized and Resourceful Operatives who are willing to go beyond "business as usual" to take your business to a higher level. Perhaps "your" business isn't quite the appropriate way to write it - it's more like "their" business. As members of a team, HEROes have a stake in the success of the business they are a part of. This doesn't mean just using the groundswell for customers, either, because the groundswell can be used internally, too. The basis for any plan to harness groundswell technologies is based in the acronym "IDEA": Identify mass influencers Deliver groundswell customer service Empower customers Amplify the voice of your fans. This is often easier said than done. Thankfully Bernoff and Schadler provide a number of great examples to help give you ideas to put a plan together which will work for you, your team and your business. They even offer a tool to help you figure out if a project is worth taking on using the "EVE" score, the "Effort, Value Evaluation." I found this to be particularly helpful. Many times there are many good ideas floating around, but having a good way to evaluate them to separate the good from the great can be very handy. Another great tool provided in Empowered is the HERO Compact. This is a contract, so to speak, between the HEROes in a business, management and IT. It separates and balances authority, responsibilities and scopes of the three main areas of a HERO-powered business. While not a comprehensive contract, it does serve quite well as the framework for formal or informal agreements or memorandums of understanding within a business to help smooth out possible areas of contention between different groups. The last section of the book offers advice to those leading HEROes with ideas on how to equip, train and further empower them. This is key because HEROes are likely to be the kind of people who work and strive to do better. It's important that they be properly cared for and equipped or they will either quit putting forth the effort out of discouragement or

(more likely) move on to somewhere else where their HERO attitude and work will be better put to use. I recommend this book to anyone who is looking to tap into the groundswell to invigorate marketing and other business processes. Perhaps you have some HEROes in your business already and you just don't "get" them. Here's a great guide to help you understand where they're coming from and how you can help them - and even become a HERO yourself. If you have not yet read Groundswell you may want to read it first. Although Empowered stands on its own, you'll probably get a lot more out of it if you read Groundswell first. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A manual for catching up to the "empowered" world

By J. Moravec I enjoyed John Bernoff's previous book, Groundswell: Winning in a World Transformed by Social Technologies, co-authored with Charlene Li, so I looked forward to Empowered. In Groundswell, Li and Bernoff write on how to integrate professional activities (and the activities of the organization you work with) into 21st century-relevant frameworks. In a way, it is a roadmap for transforming organizations from industrial to knowledge and innovation-based social frameworks that value personal knowledge and expertise. Empowered builds on these ideas a bit further, focusing on new media and how they impact traditional businesses. Specifically, the book focuses on what they term HEROes: "highly empowered and resourceful operatives" -- geeks and other social media savvy people that can help an enterprise navigate the Groundswell. The concept is simple. Rather than trying to manage your technological and social media footprints at the enterprise level, business managers should work to attend to their employees' and customers' use of novel technologies. Whereas disgruntled employees and customers can use social media (i.e., Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, blogs, etc.) to do harm to a company's reputation (intentionally or non-intentionally) with relative ease, companies likewise need to learn how to leverage social media to build their brand images. Empowered is more of a manual with suggestions than clear answers on how to cope with social media -- and, given the rapid rate of evolution of these technologies, the authors' less-prescriptive pathway is welcome. What the book lacks, however, are game changing perspectives on how to lead in the world of the Groundswell. In other words, the text seems geared toward organizations that are trying to catch up rather than those that are leading social futures. In a world of expanding knowmadic and do-it-yourself opportunities, this book is likely to leave organizational leaders scratching their heads, wondering how they will possibly keep up with their employees. Can they keep up in an "empowered" world?

It's the new normal. Now all of your employees are Twittering away and friending clients on Facebook. Not to mention customers--who feel obligated to update your Wikipedia entry with product complaints. In this new world, dealing with empowered employees and customers -- Insurgents -- is only going to get more challenging. Employees are using this technology in the workplace and customers are using it in the marketplace, and neither obey the rules you set up. This chaos is your future as a manager. You could try to shut it down and shut it off. Or you can harness it and reap the business benefits. According to Josh Bernoff and Ted Schadler of Forrester Research (the organization that brought you Groundswell), your defense against insurgents is to enable them. At its heart, this is a book about how to scale the management of insurgency, both the innovation of insurgent employees and the energy of insurgent customers. The key is a process Forrester calls E Triple S, for the four elements of managing insurgents effectively: empowering, selecting, scaling, and socializing. While it's based in current trends, the core concept of Managing Insurgents -- that the next management and innovation challenge is harnessing individuals empowered by mobile, social, and connected technology -- is a new idea. In the wake of Groundswell, dozens of social-technology-for-business books cropped up. And there are plenty of books on improving your customer service. But there's no serious business book about management, marketing, and innovation in the throes of this trend. When Insurgency hits, it will be perceived not just as a sequel to Groundswell but as the start of a new management philosophy.

"hellip; is a well-written, useful guide to how companies can empower their employees." - Ad Age "If the future sounds scary, Empowered describes it in reasonable, even methodical terms. The book Empowered is a milestone for where things are headed, both for the business manager and the IT manager." - InformationWeek "hellip; this book is a practical explanation of how social influence marketing, which is having your customers create customers for you ndash; works! Loaded with lots of easy to understand cases, this is an information packed book demonstrating that social technology has become universal." Chief Executive