

BUSINESS and **SOCIETY**

Corporate Strategy, Public Policy, Ethics

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BUSINESS and **SOCIETY**

Corporate Strategy, Public Policy, Ethics

Sixth Edition

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James E. Post

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McGraw-Hill Book Company

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PREFACE

We welcome readers—whether students, teachers, executives, or other interested persons—to use this book as a way of broadening and deepening their understanding of the ways business and society interact with each other. Our purpose is to clarify these relationships by describing their most prominent features, analyzing the issues that are typical of the business-and-society interface, and suggesting policy guidelines that may carry both business and society toward workable, livable, and mutually beneficial solutions.

Instructors, including those who have used previous editions and others who are looking for a fresh approach to the field, will be interested in knowing what changes have been made in this edition.

Two new chapters have been added. A new Chapter 4, Corporate Stakeholders and Public Issues, presents the concept of corporate stakeholders and shows how stakeholder management can be used to improve a company's overall performance. The new Chapter 15, Business and Media Relations, contains a thorough discussion of media relationships and responsibilities, including the media's impact on business and other groups in society.

All chapters have been thoroughly updated and revised. Chapters dealing with ideology, ecology and the environment, and international business have been reorganized, with a more effective presentation of these topics.

Six new case studies have been included, each one offering comprehensive coverage of current issues. All of these new cases have multiple themes but are focused on public policy dilemmas that business faces overseas, corporate takeovers, hazardous waste management and cleanup, marketing dilemmas of multinational corporations, doing business in South Africa, and environmental disasters. Four revised cases deal with the definition of corporate social responsibility, product recalls, public policy reforms affecting business, and plant closings. The case studies have been deliberately selected to illustrate examples of both effective and ineffective environmental management.

A new feature of this edition is a series of Critical Incidents that deal with topical issues. These Critical Incidents illustrate real-world events, pose decision-making situations for students, and provide practice in grappling with actual business problems.

The text contains **discussion of many current topics**, including insider trading, corporate mergers, drug testing, biotechnology, AIDS in the work-place, passive smoking, media images of business and social groups, free market developments in China, political action committees, chemical spills, Big Power politics, developments in South Africa, and many other similar issues of lasting importance.

With the addition of a **new coauthor**—**Professor James E. Post of Boston University**—this new edition places a heavy emphasis on **corporate strategic management**, and it continues the fifth edition's focus on **public policy** and **ethics**. In light of the growing international complexities of business, a **broad**, **geopolitical perspective** is employed, with examples of both United Statesbased and foreign-based corporations. **An analytic framework** that involves the use of new models and helpful diagrams continues the book's conceptual approach to business and society relationships.

For instructors who adopt the book for classroom use, a **completely revised instructor's manual** is available. It is now a practical guide that can be used before class to prepare teaching materials, class lecture notes, and in-class assignments. It contains teaching guides for each chapter and each case study, sample examinations, suggestions for in-class and out-of-class projects, a list of term paper topics, an audiovisual bibliography of films and cassettes, transparency masters of all figures in the book for use on an overhead projector, and other such teaching aids.

Acknowledgments

Writing a comprehensive textbook is a collaborative effort. The authors wish to express their gratitude for the assistance and support of many colleagues and friends who contributed ideas, reviewed the manuscript, conducted ancillary research, or helped otherwise to produce this book.

Underlying the entire structure of the book is a very comprehensive body of theory and research produced by many scholars during the past four decades. This body of literature now defines the major outlines and contains the central questions of the business-and-society field of inquiry. We are indebted to all of those scholars, past and present, who have helped build this structure of theory and research. Many of their ideas and insights may be found throughout this book.

A number of people made specific contributions to the book's content. John F. Mahon provided much of the information for the Superfund case study. James Weber prepared the case study on Bhopal and assisted in gathering information for other case studies and a number of text chapters. Michelle Poirier also conducted research and prepared materials for several chapters and case studies. Brenda Manning helped design the new format for the Instructor's Manual, and she wrote major portions of the manual and coordinated the authors' work on it.

We were helped by several faculty colleagues who reviewed portions of the manuscript and offered suggestions. They included James A. Craft, University of Pittsburgh; Robert B. Dickie, John F. Mahon, and Edwin A. Murray, Jr., all of Boston University; Paul Shrivastava, New York University; and Sandra A. Waddock, Boston College. A very special and valuable form of assistance was rendered by the following persons who reviewed and made suggestions for improvement in the book's overall plan: William Anthony, Florida State University; Oya Culpan, Pennsylvania State University (Capital Campus); David Flynn, State University of New York at Albany; Edwin C.

Leonard, Indiana University–Purdue University at Fort Wayne; Thomas Martin, Southern Illinois University; and Janet Stern Soloman, Towson State University–Purdue, University at Fort Wayne; and Janet Stern Soloman, Towson State University.

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We deeply appreciate the willing support and encouragement of all these friends and colleagues whose skills and insights have enhanced the quality of the book.

We are pleased also to remind readers about the earlier contributions of Robert L. Blomstrom who was coauthor of the first four editions of the book.

William C. Frederick Keith Davis James E. Post

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

In this introduction, we wish to explain the overall design of the book, which is divided into four major parts. We have written the book so that it tells its story in a logical sequence. The book's "plot" is simple but profound: Business executives who wish to direct their companies in the successful pursuit of profits must take into consideration the broad social environment. Their decisions, policies, and actions—their plans for the present and the future—their strategies and tactics for achieving the company's goals—all of these must be undertaken in ways that include and integrate major elements of the social and political world surrounding company operations.

The *penalties* for failing to observe this simple precaution can be severe: A company's financial future can be jeopardized, its employees can lose their jobs, and much harm can be done to individuals and groups in society. On the other hand, the *rewards* of factoring environmental concerns into business decisions and policies can be great: Customer loyalty can be gained, thereby securing or expanding a company's share of the market; investors may be attracted to a company with a good record of social concern, thereby increasing invested capital; employee morale can be boosted, thus enhancing the firm's productivity by making people proud to work for the firm; company managers can enjoy larger amounts of influence in shaping public policies that affect business; and all employees from top to bottom can gain satisfaction from knowing that their company's social responsibilities and ethical obligations are a realistic part of daily work.

The book's central characters—the "heroes" and "heroines"—are the people who devote their professional lives to business careers. We make no distinctions based on social class, organizational rank, gender, race, national origin, color of skin, ethnic affiliation, religion, age, or physical and mental condition. The distinctive mark of the business professional is none of these. Rather, the essential trait is a knowledge of business combined with a high degree of skill in applying that knowledge to practical problems. Whether the business professional is an accountant, a personnel expert, a computer analyst, a manager, a financial specialist, a marketing research analyst, an industrial engineer, a lawyer specializing in business affairs, an executive secretary or an administrative assistant—all share a common heritage and an indispensable trait, namely, the ability to confront a problem and to search for a practical solution.

Combining the "plot" with the "central characters" produces the book's "narrative," which deals mainly with a complex range of business-and-

society relationships and issues. Some of these interactions are bumpy and controversial. Business and society do not always get along well with one another. Many social issues are highly charged with emotion. A few of them seem to pit business and society against one another in bitter struggles. The reasons for these difficulties are explained as the book's narrative proceeds.

Even though the business-and-society interface is sometimes scarred by the brickbats hurled by people on both sides, a strong "subplot" running through the entire book deals with the ability of business and society to cooperate smoothly. More often than not—and certainly more often than the general public realizes—business and society collaborate in solving problems that neither one acting alone could solve. These "social partnerships," as we call them, are the key to a more effective social role for business and are one way to increase socially responsible business actions.

A Road Map for Reading This Book

Figure 1 is a diagram showing the overall plan of the book and illustrating how each chapter fits into that plan.

The book's major focus is **The Socially Responsive Corporation**, which is shown at the top of the diagram. A socially responsive corporation has the ability to interact positively and humanely with people and groups in its social environment.

Chapters 1 through 9 in Part I, The Corporation in Society, and Part II, The Corporation and Government, describe various **Tools for Environmental Analysis and Corporate Strategic Planning.** These chapters identify for business leaders, corporate managers, public officials, and various groups in society the most effective ways to analyze and understand business-and-society problems. These approaches also enable corporations to plan strategically to attain their goals and to carry out their economic mission in society, while acting in socially responsible ways. The chapters in Parts I and II contain *the conceptual core* of the book. These concepts can be, and actually are, used by business corporations as tools to resolve business-and-society problems. The primary goal of Parts I and II is to identify these tools and to demonstrate how they can be used to analyze environmental problems facing business.

In Part III, Corporate Stakeholders, and Part IV, Managing in a Turbulent World, we apply the tools from Parts I and II to a broad range of business-and-society issues and problems. Specific **Corporate Stakeholders** are discussed in Chapters 7 through 15. Each of these stakeholders makes demands on business, thus requiring managers to develop strategies for coping with their demands and pressures.

Broad Environmental Management Challenges that are typical of today's turbulent world are analyzed in Chapters 15 through 18. A high degree of social sophistication and management skill is needed by business managers if their companies are to find acceptable ways to deal with such problems. It is here that one sees the difficulties, as well as the opportunities, of knowing and applying the tools of environmental analysis (from Parts I and II) to complex situations. We should mention that the overlap that includes Chap-

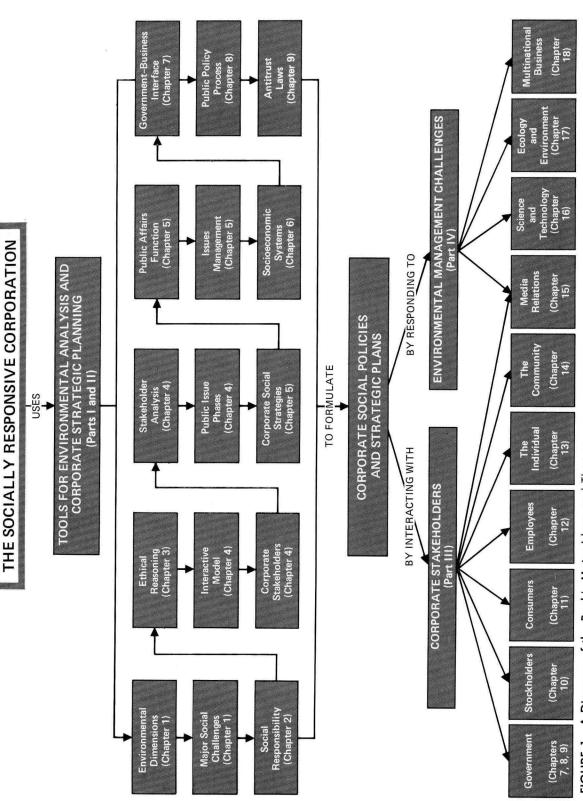


FIGURE 1 A Diagram of the Book's Major Ideas and Themes.

ter 15's topic, the media, as both a corporate stakeholder and as a management challenge is deliberate.

Figure 1, by itself, can only suggest the bare outlines of socially responsive corporate behavior and what is required to produce it. The outline can be filled in and a greater understanding can be achieved after reading and mastering the entire book. However, this chart can be used as an orienting guide and road map while reading the book. It will enable the reader to see where she or he is at as one reads the separate chapters. It can be especially helpful in grasping the relation of any one chapter to the book's overall themes. We hope readers will use it for these purposes. Looking at the diagram each time a new chapter is started would be a wise step for anyone. Figure 1 is reproduced again in Chapter 19, where a summary and overview of the entire book are presented.

A Special Note to Instructors

Although the book is designed to unfold its story chapter by chapter, we realize that many instructors prefer to cover specific topics in other sequences or to omit some topics altogether. For that reason, the chapters are written to stand alone as independent units that can be assigned in any preferred order. Cross references to related subject matter appear in some of the chapters, although such guides are written to serve as helpful linkages rather than to impose an arbitrary order of presentation. We do believe that the book's first five chapters will have a maximum effect if read relatively early. The final chapter can be used either as a summary of the book's major themes, which can be read at the conclusion of the course, or as an introductory overview at the beginning.

The ten case studies that appear at the end of the book are not included in Figure 1 because each case study has been written deliberately so that it includes more than one theme or issue. Therefore, the cases are not anchored to one particular location within the book's narrative but can be assigned at several different points depending on the instructor's preference.

The Critical Incident that appears at the end of each chapter is intended to pose a problem requiring a decision or the formulation of a policy related to the topic of that chapter. These Critical Incidents can be used instead of the longer case studies, or they can be assigned as a practice vehicle before assigning the case studies.

A Note for All Readers

Readers of this book have our assurance that we have tried to present a balanced, even-handed picture of business and society relationships. While no one can be perfectly neutral on controversial issues, it is possible and desirable to present both sides, to show the consequences of each argument, and to provide references to other materials that develop the arguments in greater detail. This approach and philosophy have guided the design and writing of each chapter of the book.

The authors make no secret of their commitment to the major theme of the text, namely, that socially responsive corporations are good for society and good for business. But our experience as teachers has taught us that there are many valid ways to define and approach business-and-society problems. Each student's viewpoints and beliefs deserve to be heard, examined, and put to the test of argumentation. We like to think that we have learned as much or more from our students as they have learned from us. We hope all readers will find something here that can enrich their personal and professional lives.

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