

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT

A Strategic Perspective



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INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT A Strategic Perspective



To TheoRishi and Tracy, with love

PREFACE



International Management: A Strategic Perspective is designed to be used as a textbook for a one-semester or one-quarter undergraduate course or as an introductory or background reading in graduate programs. The book consists of 12 chapters, but the coverage of topics is extensive with many student-centered exercises. These features provide the flexibility that an instructor needs to adapt the textbook content to fit the class schedule of either a semester or a quarter. Most students studying international management would have taken a prior course in management such as Principles of Management or Management of Organizational Behavior. This prerequisite is relevant as this textbook is written for the well-prepared student. The focus is on management and, even though it is acknowledged that in international business, finance and economics play critical roles, the treatment of these subjects is less detailed but nevertheless adequate for the reader to recognize and relate their relevance.

International Management: A Strategic Perspective is about how managers in firms, big or small, are affected by key environmental factors, such as politics and culture, and how they approach and resolve the differences and difficulties posed by international business opportunities and competition. The book presents a most up-to-date discussion of the contemporary managerial issues in international business and is firmly grounded in the twin dimensions of academic research and real-life business applications. Thus, the reader will find throughout the text a seamless transition between theory and practice with numerous current corporate examples drawn from countries, industries, and businesses around the world. These examples buttress scholarly findings while also illuminating successful or unsuccessful managerial practices. The writing is designed to keep the reader engaged in a dynamic subject, and a variety of end-of-chapter materials, including comprehensive case studies that have been extensively classroom tested, enable a deeper inquiry and analysis of the subject.

Scholars often debate the domains of international business and international management. International management is a subset of international business, the latter encompassing all aspects of doing business, which includes marketing, finance, accounting, and information systems, among others. In contrast, international management is much more focused, concentrating on the manager and the managerial functions of planning, organizing, controlling, and leading. Of course, the international firm and the manager do not function in a vacuum; the environment of international business in terms of laws, cultural mores, economic conditions, exchange rate changes, and so on affect the nature, scope, and consequences of managerial actions. Recognizing this distinctive nature of international management, this text takes the slant of how managers organize the firm to take advantage of various business opportunities at home and abroad, and what practices to adopt under what circumstances.

Many colleges and universities around the world are providing comprehensive educational programs that have a pronounced international thrust at both graduate and undergraduate levels to train people for positions in international firms, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. In the United States, the main accreditation organization for business schools, American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), requires a strong component of international business in the curriculum. University programs have become more sophisticated and include such features as foreign language proficiency, study abroad, international guided travel, executives-in-residence, and internships in international firms, in addition to extensive coursework. More and more firms are placing fresh college/university recruits into tracks designed to build them into global managers. Overseas appointments, which at one time came much later in one's career, now often come at the outset of careers. This textbook provides a student with a comprehensive overview of the key managerial issues that a firm engaged in international business has to address and how they are being addressed.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK

Throughout the book, the term *international firm* is used frequently. It is a generic and broad term used to describe any firm that is engaged in international business whether as exporters or importers, as licensors or licensees, as partners of strategic alliances or joint ventures, or as owners of businesses overseas. The reader will find the use of this term uncomplicated and effective in understanding the nature of management in the international arena. The term *multinational firm* is also used to refer to specific firms that are headquartered in one country and have operations in more than one country.

The 12 chapters in this book are presented in four parts. The following diagram presents the book's structure and the interrelationship among the topics. Both culture and politics constitute the external environment of international management and they affect the international firm and its sense of social and ethical responsibility. Internal to the firm is the main subject of strategy determination and formulation, which leads to selecting alternative or multiple methods of doing international business—trading (exporting and importing), licensing (and franchising), and equity/nonequity investments. Whatever form of business is selected, it gives rise to the attendant issues of organizing the firm in a way that the strategic goals are realized. Because management is also a matter of employing, motivating, and retaining employees to implement the work of the firm, the issues connected with both the managerial staff as well as the rank and file employees are discussed.

Part I discusses the environment of business today and the role of the manager in the international firm. The first three chapters set the stage for learning about specific firm behaviors.

Chapter 1 describes the place of the firm in today's international business environment, the growing importance of international management, and the characteristics of the successful manager. The material in the chapter serves as the foundation for learning about the managerial choices and skills required to make a firm function successfully in the international environment.

Chapters 2 and 3 expand on the environment of business by discussing the roles of national governments and national cultures. In Chapter 2, the focus is on the role of cul-

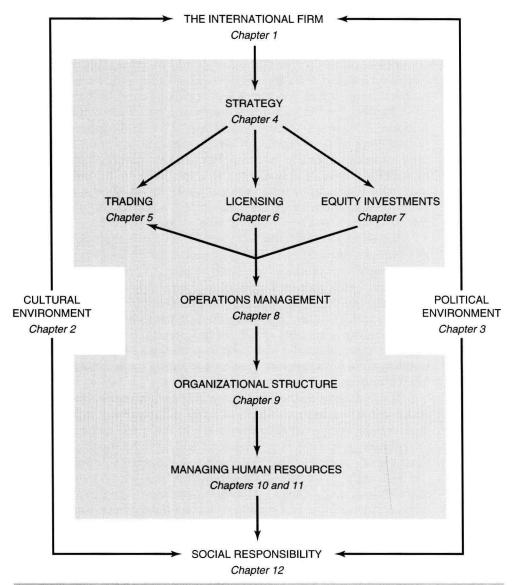


Diagram 1 Organization of the Book

ture in molding societies and business practices. Various paradigms on categorizing and understanding cultures are presented. In addition, the chapter illustrates how managers can adapt to specific cultural differences and successfully pursue the firm's strategic goals. Chapter 3 examines the demands that managers face from various sovereign governments with regard to running the business and the compromises they make. Because politics is a crucial factor in the environment of international business, the chapter looks at how managers anticipate, prepare for, and reduce, if not eliminate, the risk posed to their operations by a range of governmental activities.

Part II of the book focuses on the strategy formulation and foreign market entry choices. Four chapters examine these issues. The thrust of Chapter 4 is on how firms formulate their strategies to compete successfully. Two alternative strategies, one focusing on efficiency of the firm and the other on the firm responding to national differences, are examined in detail. The chapter also looks at some of the strategic issues faced by multinational firms such as developing and protecting core competencies of the firm.

Chapters 5, 6, and 7 study the management dimensions of various international business arrangements. The topic of Chapter 5 is exporting and importing with the latter including offshore sourcing. It also presents a discussion of trading companies. Chapter 6 examines licensing and franchising as international business activities and the managerial issues connected with them. In Chapter 7, the emphasis is on the management issues associated with ownership-related activities such as joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries. The chapter also discusses the strategic opportunities and the managerial challenges inherent in strategic alliances.

Part III looks at how the firm goes about organizing itself both in terms of creating its chain of value-adding activities as well as how it is set up in terms of departments, flow of authority, and locus of decision making. Chapter 8 examines the management of logistics issues, such as site selection for plant and facilities, the role of transportation, designing the operations process, and quality control. To run a business successfully and achieve its strategic goals, the firm has to be organized appropriately. Several alternative organizational structures are presented and evaluated in Chapter 9. The chapter also examines the issues of centralization and decentralization of decision making, the nature of the control system, and some of the mechanisms used by firms for enforcing control.

Part IV focuses on the subject of managing human resources in the international environment as well as on the issues of ethics and social responsibility. Chapters 10 and 11 deal with the human resource dimensions of international management. In Chapter 10, the emphasis is on recruiting, selecting, training, and compensating managers, especially those who are posted abroad. The chapter also looks at how firms deal with managers returning home after a period of duty abroad and the special circumstances of women managers. The material in Chapter 11 looks at the human resource aspects of the rank and file workers. An extensive discussion sorts out how the presence of labor unions among a work force complicates the managerial function. Labor unions in the home country historically have opposed overseas investment by firms seeing it as a threat to the continued employment of its members. Thus, managers have to deal with labor relations both in the home and the host country.

In the final chapter of this book, Chapter 12, the topic centers on the dilemmas posed by ethical choices in international operations and the exercise of social responsibility. The chapter also looks at how the international firm is affected by voluntary codes of conduct and how such firms try to influence host governments to avoid strict scrutiny of their practices.

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The Top Rated Graduate Programs in International Business, 2000

- Thunderbird Graduate School, Phoenix, AZ
- 2. University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- 3. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 4. Columbia University, New York, NY
- 5. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 6. New York University, New York, NY
- 7. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 8. Stanford University, Stanford, CA
- 9. University of California, Los Angeles, CA
- 10. University of California, Berkeley, CA
- 11. Duke University, Durham, NC

The 25 Best Employers in the United States (Firms with over 10,000 workers and with operations abroad), 2000

- CISCO, San Jose, CA, computer networking, www.cisco.com
- 2. Edward Jones, St. Louis, MO, brokerage, www.edwardjones.com
- 3. Charles Schwab, San Francisco, CA, brokerage, www.schwab.com
- 4. MBNA, Wilmington, DE, banking. www.mbnainternational.com
- 5. Pfizer, New York, NY, pharmaceutical. www.pfizer.com
- 6. Microsoft, Redmond, WA, computer software, www.microsoft.com
- 7. Continental Airlines, Houston, TX, airlines, www.continental.com
- 8. Enron, Houston, TX, energy, www.enron.com
- 9. Deloitte & Touche, Wilton, CT, consulting, www.us.deloitte.com
- Merck, Whitehouse Station, NJ, pharmaceutical, www.merck.com
- 11. Hewlett Packard, Palo Alto, CA, computer, www.hp.com
- 12. Lucent Technologies, Murray Hill, NJ, networking equipment, www.lucent.com

- 12. Georgetown University, Washington, DC
- 13. University of Southern California, San Diego, CA
- 14. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 15. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 16. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- 17. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- 18. University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 19. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- 20. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
- 21. University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI
- 22. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Source: U.S. News (www.usnews.com)

- 13. America On-Line, Dulles, TX, Internet communication, www.aol.com
- 14. Eli Lilly, Indianapolis, IN, pharmaceutical, www.lilly.com
- 15. Federal Express, Memphis, TX, package delivery, www.fedex.com
- 16. Capital One Financial, Falls Church, VA, finance, www.capitalone.com
- 17. Intel, Santa Clara, CA, computer chips, www.intel.com
- 18. Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ, pharmaceutical, www.jnj.com
- 19. Marriott International, Washington, DC, hospitality, www.marriott.com
- 20. American Express, New York, NY, finance, www.americanexpress.com
- 21. Dell Computer, Round Texas, TX, computer, www.dell.com
- 22. Lenscrafters, Cincinnati, OH, eye glass, www.lenscrafters.com
- 23. Sun Microsystems, Palo Alto, CA, computer systems, www.sun.com
- 24. Ernst & Young, New York, NY, consulting, www.ey.com
- Starbucks, Seattle, WA, coffee shop, www.starbucks.com

Source: Fortune (www.fortune.com)

CONTENTS

SI

PART I: THE SETTING OF INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT	1
CHAPTER 1 The International Firm and the Manager 1	
What Is International Management? 2	
Distinctive Features of International Management 4 Multiple Governments and Nationalism 4 International Financial Management 6 Cultural Differences 8 Competitive Strategy 8	
Growth in World Trade and Investment 9 Why Do Firms Trade and Invest Abroad? 13	
Environment of International Business 17 Resistance to Trade and Investment 20	
Forms of International Business 21 Emergence of E-commerce 22	
Internationalization of the Firm 23 Outward Versus Inward Perspective 25	
The International Business Manager 27	
Conclusions 31	
Appendix 1-1 Foreign Exchange Rates and Balance of Payments 39	
CHAPTER 2 Cultural Variables 42	
Defining Culture 43 Importance of Culture 45 Components of Culture 46	
Frameworks to Categorize National Cultures 48 Hofstede's Value Survey Model 48 Relevance of Hofstede's Findings 49 Cultural Orientations Framework 53 Trompenaars's Cultural Parameters 53 Country Clusters 55	
Organizational Culture 55 Managerial Philosophy Toward International Operations 59 Convergence Versus Divergence 60	
Communication 62 The Communication Model 64	
Negotiations 66 Preparing for International Negotiations 68	

Motivation 70	
Leadership and Decision Making 72	
Preparing for Cross-Cultural Management 75	
Conclusions 77	
CHAPTER 3 Management of Political Risk 84	
The Interaction Between Politics and Business 85	
Defining Political Risk 86	
Sources of Risk 86 Home Country 88 Host Country 90 Third Countries 91	
Why Does Political Risk Arise? 91 Macro and Micro Risks 92	
Impact of Political Risk on the Firm 93 Transfer Risks 93 Operational Risks 94 Ownership Risks 94	
Risk-Prone Firms 95	
Risk-Prone Countries 97	
Forecasting Risk 99 External Agencies 99 In-House Analysis 100 Forecasting Techniques 100 Reliability and Usefulness of Forecasting Techniques 102	
Corporate Strategies to Avoid and Reduce Risk 103 Timing the Investment 103 Negotiating a Favorable Environment 104 Defensive Strategy 106 Integrative Strategy 108 Protecting the Subsidiary 109 Coalition Building 110 Exit Strategy 112	
Crisis Management 112 Kidnapping 113	
Conclusions 116	
PART II: MANAGING UNDER DIFFERENT ENTRY METHODS	125
CHAPTER 4 Strategy Formulation and Implementation 125	
What Is Strategy? 126 Role of Management 126 Strategy in International Business 127	
Strategy Formulation 129 The Dynamic External Environment 129	

Various Strategic Choices 130 Evolutionary Approach 130 Low Cost and Differentiation 131 Global Strategy 132 Multinational or Multidomestic Strategy 139
Transition from Multidomestic to Global Strategy 141
Elements of Successful Strategies 142 Revolutionary Thinking 142 Innovation 144 Core Competence 149 Information Technology 152
Implementation of Strategy 152 Strategic Tasks 154 Organizational Structure 154 Integrating Operations 156 Strategy-Making Process 156
Conclusions 157
CHAPTER 5 Exporting and Importing 164
The Global Trading Environment 165 E-commerce 166 Limitations to Trade 167
Strategic Purposes for Exporting and Importing Analysis of Opportunities 169 Management Contract 171 Characteristics of the Firm 173
Managerial Issues in Exporting and Importing Selecting Countries 173 Product Adaptation 179 Choice of Channels 181 Pricing Strategies 188
Financial Issues in Exporting and Importing 193 Foreign Exchange Rates 193 Real Exchange Rates 194 Trade Financing 194
Barter and Countertrade Arrangements 196
Conclusions 198
CHAPTER 6 Licensing and Franchising 204
Licensing 205 Importance of Royalties and License Fees 206 Royalty 207 Licensing and Firm Strategy 208 Reasons for Licensing 208 Disadvantages of Licensing 209
Technology Licensing 211

Assessing a Firm's Capabilities 129

Trademark Licensing 212 Key Strategic Decisions 216 Implementing a Trademark Licensing Program 218 Potential Problems 219 Licensing Agents 219
Franchising 219 Types of Franchising 221 Reasons for the Popularity of Franchising 222 Selecting Markets 223 Other Key Issues in Franchising 223
Managerial Issues in Licensing/Franchising Selecting the Licensor (or Licensee) 224 Negotiating the License Agreement 227 Administering the Agreement 227 Terminating the Agreement 228
Components of a Licensing Agreement 228
Comparing Licensing, Trademark Licensing, and Franchising 230
International Litigation 230 Alternative Dispute Resolution Techniques 232 Protecting Patents and Trademarks 232
Conclusions 234
CHAPTER 7 Strategic Alliances and Equity Investments 247
Definitions 248
The Move to Alliances and Foreign Investment 249 Choice of Countries 250
Reasons for Forming Strategic Alliances and Joint Ventures Requirements for Forming Strategic Alliances 253 Creating a Strategic Alliance 256
Equity Joint Ventures 256 Extent of Equity Ownership 258 Negotiating the Joint Venture 259 Managing the Joint Venture 261 Successful Joint Ventures 264 Failure of Joint Ventures 266
Life Cycle of Alliances 269
The Alliance Manager: What Does It Take? 270
NA II O 10 1 11 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
Wholly Owned Subsidiaries 272 Reasons for 100 Percent Ownership 272 Drawbacks to 100 Percent Ownership 274
Reasons for 100 Percent Ownership 272
Reasons for 100 Percent Ownership 272 Drawbacks to 100 Percent Ownership 274 Conclusions 276
Reasons for 100 Percent Ownership 272 Drawbacks to 100 Percent Ownership 274

Location of Facilities

Labor Factors

286

287

Access to Markets 289 Communications Infrastructure 290 Taxes and Incentive Programs 291 Foreign Exchange Rates 292 Regulatory Regime and Political Stability 292 Quality of Life 293 Transportation 293 Site Specific Factors 294 Evaluating Location Alternatives 294 Strategic Role of Overseas Facilities 297	
Different Types of Facilities 297	
Research and Development Activities 299	
Capacity and Plant Size 303	
Value Chain Analysis 305	
Global Sourcing 307 Typology of Outsourcing 307 Determinants of Sourcing 308 Popularity of Offshore Sourcing 308 Caution About Offshore Outsourcing 309 Role of Suppliers 310	
Logistics and Supply Chain Management 311 Role of Government 312 Need for Intermediaries 313	
Just-in-Time Production 315	
Quality 315 International Quality Awards 316 International Standards Organization 317 Conclusions 318	
CHAPTER 9 Organizational Design and Control 325	
Defining Organizational Structure 326	
Evolution of an Organization's Structure 326	
Determinants of Structure 327	
Types of Organizational Structures 330 Business Units 330 Simple Structure 330 Functional Structure 330 International Division Structure 332 Product Structure 332 Geographical Structure 334 Mixed or Hybrid Structure 336 Matrix Structure 338 New Types of Organizational Structures 340	
Organizational Restructuring 344 Recasting Business Structures 345	
Centralized Versus Decentralized Decision Making	348

Changing Role of Headquarters 350 Factors Determining Centralization and Decentralization 351 Control and Control Mechanisms 353 Creating Effective Control Systems 354 Types of Control 355 Communication Systems 357 Reintroducing Control 360 Conclusions 361
PART IV: MANAGING EMPLOYEES AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY 367
CHAPTER 10 Human Resource Management 367
Role of the Human Resource Department 368
Employment Laws 370 Immigration 371
Recruitment and Selection for Overseas Positions 371 Inpatriate Managers 373 Women Managers 374
Choice of Sources of Managers 375 Home Country Nationals 376 Host Country Nationals 376 Third Country Nationals 377 Changing Patterns of Staffing 377
Method of Selecting Managers for Overseas Assignments 379
Characteristics of the Successful Expatriate 379
Failure in Overseas Assignments 381 Dual Career Couples 382 Culture Shock 383
Cross-Cultural Training 384 Tung's Framework 385 Mendenhall and Oddou Framework 386 Black and Mendenhall's Comprehensive Model 387
Performance Evaluation 387
Repatriation Issues 390
Compensation 393 Negotiation 393 Localization 394 Balance Sheet 394 Lump Sum 395 Cafeteria 395
Additional Components of a Compensation Package 396 Income Taxes 397 Problems with Differential Compensation Systems 397
Management Development 399 Teamwork 400 Cultural Transformation 400