# Managing the modern organization

Third edition



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### **Preface**

Systems, processes, functions, and contingencies are the backbone of modern management theory and practice. Previous editions of this book were built around these concepts, and the new edition continues the orientation. Our objective is still to integrate the proven, traditional, functional approach to managing with current developments in the contingency approach, systems theory, and the behavioral sciences. This framework permits us to discuss managing in systems terms, with regard to the external environment that influences the nature of organizational inputs and outputs. The relationship between the planning and controlling functions is one example of the use of this kind of analysis in our book. Another example is the interrelationship of goal setting, planning, and organizational design.

We consider managing a facilitating activity that allocates and utilizes resources, influences human action, and plans change in order effectively to accomplish rationally conceived goals. Managing consists, therefore, not of simply one activity, but of several distinct, though interrelated processes—planning, organizing, staffing, influencing, and controlling. The systems approach helps the student to understand the intricate relationships among these five processes and thus to visualize managing as a dynamic, unified activity. In addition, the contingency approach highlights the importance that situational factors have in determining effective managerial performance.

Our point of view enables us to incorporate in this book current developments in managing and in the behavioral sciences. Attention is given to sociology and psychology as they bear upon managing human resources. Thus leadership, group dynamics, and motivation are all appropriate subjects to treat within the framework we have selected. Moreover, quantitative tools and techniques can be included. We discuss such quantitative subjects as operations research, PERT, rational decision making, and financial controls. The level of our treatment is introductory, however, requiring a minimum of mathematical preparation.

This edition of *Managing the Modern Organization* retains its emphasis on the five basic managerial functions. These functions represent the essential elements of managing; they are what managers do. By weaving

the functional approach into a systems framework and buttressing it with contingency analysis, we strive to make management pertinent to the student of the late 1970s and early 1980s. One overwhelming fact of our society is that it is dominated by professional managers in such organizations as business firms, universities, hospitals, government departments, and social agencies. Our book therefore portrays management as a critical discipline and underscores the professional nature of the management field.

Many important changes have been made in this third edition of Managing the Modern Organization. First, we have integrated the concepts of systems and contingencies more thoroughly with the text material. We use these ideas as common themes throughout the wide span of subject matter covered in the text. Second, we try to present our subject in a dynamic mode. Therefore, we write about managing to convey the idea of people actively engaged in the critical job of running an organization. In order to emphasize the last point, we have written a new Chapter 1 called "Managing" to set the stage for the discussion of functions that follows. Third, a comprehensive revision and updating of all the existing chapters in the book has been accomplished. Major improvements over the previous edition have been achieved by adding material on organization design, performance appraisal, MBO, planned change, individual and small-group behavior, motivation and leadership, executive development, and organizational effectiveness. Included in the revision are new introductory and concluding chapters, and new chapters in the "Organizing" and "Influencing" Parts. Fourth, chapters on decision making and communicating have been separated from the managerial functions Parts in order to highlight their particular roles as significant linking activities. Fifth, every effort has been made to depict managing as an integrated process involving a logical progression of functions and objectives. This point of view is expressed as a diagram, repeated at each Part introduction, which shows readers where they have been, where they are now, and where they are going.

These and other improvements have been made to ensure that this book is an effective teaching and learning instrument. Our objective is to give beginning business and administration students the foundation necessary for advanced work in management, and for courses like marketing, finance, accounting, and public administration, which sometimes rely on a management orientation.

Theory, concepts, and illustrative examples of practice are fine starting points for building an understanding of managing. But they do not reflect the everyday organizational world entirely. Organizations have ways of taking turns and jumps that cannot be foreseen through abstractions alone. Very likely the sharpest insights into the challenges managers face come from the analysis of case studies based on organizational experiences.

This edition has many new cases. At the end of each discussion of a process is a number of short cases that enable students to apply to real situations the concepts covered in each Part of the book. Concluding the

book is a number of comprehensive cases describing complex situations and showing the interaction of all the managerial functions.

The cases reveal the interdisciplinary nature of management. In them are many contributions from the behavioral sciences, as well as many of the theoretical concepts discussed in the book. Close analysis of the case studies will demonstrate both the relevance and the limitations of theory. It will also reaffirm the importance of the human factor in managing and reemphasize the need for managers to utilize human resources effectively.

Two problems of language that we faced when writing the first two editions continued to bother us as we prepared this one. Throughout the text we use the term *subordinate* to designate a person who is below a manager in an organization's hierarchy. We make no qualitative judgment by our use of this word and certainly are not disparaging nonmanagerial people. The term should be understood to denote position, not worth. The other problem results from the lack of a pronoun in English that unambiguously refers to men and women together, making awkward "his or her" and "he or she" locutions unnecessary. Current authoritative publications, including those issued by the federal government, use the masculine pronoun even when a reference is to men and women. Nonetheless, we have for the most part attempted to avoid such language wherever possible.

A book of readings and a study guide are available for use with this third edition of *Managing the Modern Organization*. Patrick E. Connor has compiled and introduced a collection of articles drawn from current literature on management. The anthology *Dimensions in Modern Management* (2d edition) is coordinated chapter by chapter with this textbook. Douglas B. Simpson of California State University, Fresno, has prepared the Study Guide, which summarizes the key points of each chapter of *Managing the Modern Organization*, provides objective questions for review, and suggests discussion questions for individual and class use. The aim of the Study Guide is to maximize students' comprehension of and involvement in the subject of the textbook. *Dimensions in Modern Management* and the Study Guide, used in conjunction with *Managing the Modern Organization*, comprise a set of complementary materials designed to enhance the teaching and learning effectiveness of our book.

For instructors, Professor Simpson has also prepared an excellent instructor's manual which should be gratefully received by busy instructors and those new to the teaching of management. Professor Simpson has worked closely with us to provide a helpful and informative manual.

Our revision of the text has benefited from suggestions made by many individuals. Detailed analyses and reviews of the manuscript were prepared by Gabor Abou El Enein (Mankata State University, Minnesota), LaRue Hubbard (Glendale Community College, Arizona), and Michael J. Jedel (Georgia State University). Some users of the second edition kindly took the time to suggest ways to improve the third edition. They are George S. Abshier (Indiana State University), P. H. Anderson (University of Minnesota), Phil Anderson (Bowling Green University, Ohio), John C. Athanassiades

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T. H. W. G. S. P. E. C.

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