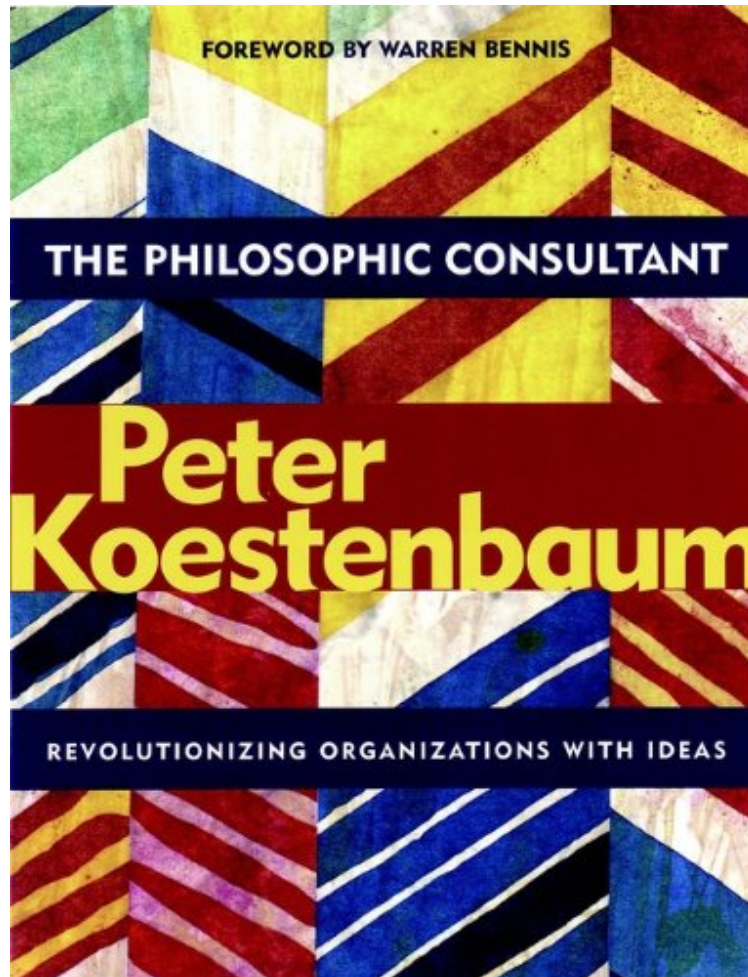


The Philosophic Consultant: Revolutionizing Organizations with Ideas

Peter Koestenbaum

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Peter Koestenbaum : The Philosophic Consultant: Revolutionizing Organizations with Ideas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Philosophic Consultant: Revolutionizing Organizations with Ideas:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Philosophy is EverywhereBy Leodis ScottI read a very critical response here about how the book simplifies the complexity of philosophy by somehow reconciling age-old questions. Actually, I recently conducted a formal review of the same book so I had to respond. I agree that the book does not explore philosophical claims or any philosophers with great depth- nor should it! The purpose was to revive philosophy as a relevant medium to address real world problems even in businesses. To ponder over the debates of philosophy in front of a general audience only distances and distracts them further. The message I gained from the book is that using the general points of philosophy, with its timeless concepts, can create thoughtful leaders and better

businesses. So, they can now form confidently defined purposes and missions. For that reason alone, philosophy earns its place among other solutions for performance. This book helps to advance this idea in a refreshing way.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Real Deal By constantine constantius This man has mastered the art of melding (seamlessly) classical philosophical ideas and cutting edge, practical business advice. Disregard the solitary negative review. This guy is both relevant and highly interesting and compelling. I have read his other stuff as well. Always of the highest quality. Like having your own private guru and Yoda. And I have always wanted to be a "Philosophical Consultant." It is kind of tantamount to being an existential investigator.⁴ of 7 people found the following review helpful. Where is Philosophy? By Panayotis ZAMAROS Let me start by reminding you of what philosopher Michael Oakeshott (1933, p. 1) has said: 'We seek in philosophy what wiser men would look for in a gospel, ...', but '... philosophy is without any direct bearing upon the practical conduct of life, and that it has certainly never offered its true followers anything which could be mistaken for a gospel'. ... 'Nearly always a philosopher hides a secret ambition, ... , and often it is that of the preacher. But we must learn not to follow the philosophers upon these holiday excursions.' "Experience and its Modes", Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. If so, we should not follow Koestenbaum upon the leadership excursion in this text, or if one chooses to do so, I suggest with caution! This is because the treatment of philosophy is poor, despite the fact that the approach to use philosophy in business is sound in itself, an approach that I personally favour and use - this induced me to purchase the text in the first place. This poor treatment is not only in terms of the philosophers cited and the references used, but more importantly in terms of the ideas used. The latter seem to be taken simply and purely for granted, especially when a number of concepts that include knowledge, reality, self, other, language, experience - all being management concerns - are high on the agenda of philosophical debate. For instance, the distinction between the 'inner universe' and the 'outer universe' after Plato (p. 31) leaving aside cases when such a distinction does not hold - with language and Wittgenstein for example. This treatment seems to connote a general strategy at play in this text, that of keeping language simple to make the text easily accessible to busy managers and business-people. Yet making language simple is one thing. Deciding upon contested concepts and ideas on behalf of others when such authority has not been given is to restrict choice. It is to fix concepts in the definitional form "X is ...". This seems to be for a clear purpose. To empower the (registered!) Leadership Diamond Model with the expectation that it 'will give individuals and organisations credibility in what they do and speed in getting to the high-leverage issues for effectively managing today's two bid business topics: "change" and "innovation"' (p. 7). Such a claim is however dogmatic, akin to guru preaching, to a gospel that stresses one side of the coin. It tends to undermine plural readings of issues and concerns. Fundamentally, it cannot conceive of the idea that the same premises from where Leadership Diamond Model is derived and which are expected to lead to business success, that is a changed self, can also be the cause for disillusion, intra-organisational conflict, and even bankruptcy. Note that this is not my gospel, but the simple description of my experience! Thus, only in the effort to understand such plural and varied events in a plural manner, as an approach to questioning and suggesting different answers to organisational problems and issues, can philosophy be of help to business and management (in making choice possible). Otherwise, philosophy ceases to exist. Overall, despite the interesting approach that seeks to use a philosophical premise from where business and management issues can be tackled, this text, in tending to transform hotly debated issues and concepts into philosophical lessons that have presumably been settled once and for all, undermines the very purpose of philosophy.

In *The Philosophic Consultant*, acclaimed business consultant, philosopher, and author Peter Koestenbaum links deep insights of philosophy with practical business issues. Throughout this one-of-a-kind resource, Koestenbaum shows consultants and human resource practitioners how they can foster philosophical leadership within their organizations to positively affect the business environment. The book promises tangible results-- credibility, trust, and thoughtful attention-- and demonstrates how to apply philosophy, share knowledge with others, and use this newfound thoughtfulness to achieve bottom-line results.

"Offers plenty of thought provoking guidelines you can use in thinking about ethics in your workplace." (Business Times, December 2002) "Global business is an arena where human beings are facing tremendous challenges, and yet, the importance of authentic leadership in business had long been deserving the deeper approach it now finally gets with Peter Koestenbaum's work, an approach which should free the creative leadership in those willing to take advantage of it. Nothing is more liberating for me as a business leader than to be able to leave behind the useless simplistic how-to recipes I have been used to get from consultants, and learn to consciously deal with the hard truths of business from an adult perspective, recognize my subjectivity, dare to look for the right questions to ask when things get 'stuck,' accept to walk the tightrope in polar situations where a problem does not have any definitive solution, face the consequences of tough decisions, and throughout all of these maintain integrity and hope." — Michael Cimmet, Electronic Data Systems, President for Latin America "We live at a time that requires of leaders both competence and authenticity. We face both business issues and character issues. In becoming a leader, all of us must display both wisdom and business skills. What Peter Koestenbaum does in *The Philosophic Consultant* is

not only to integrate wisdom into leadership, which is what you would expect of a philosopher, but he is also very pragmatic and applies this new thinking directly to the crucial strategic marketing needs. Something that is essential for a company's very survival." —Dan Werbin, president and CEO, Volvo Cars of North America, LLC

"The Philosophic Consultant redefines the way managers must think about their organizations, people and markets to be successful both in business and in life. It calls each of us to understand that ethics in life and in business may be your most important concerns. By helping the reader focus on implementation decisions, choices, and commitment, Peter Koestenbaum points the way for responsible and effective managements in a world where trust seems to be challenged on every front." —Otis W. Baskin, Ph.D., special advisor to the president and CEO of the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate School of Business, International, professor of management, and former dean, Graziadio School of Business Management, Pepperdine University

"After a decade of often excessive superficiality in management theory and practice, Peter Koestenbaum's refreshing book *The Philosophic Consultant* provides answers for leaders and organizations in search of deeper meanings. The author's philosophical roots are clearly visible in the new work on enlarging the dimensions of leadership. His most significant insights are: the importance of freedom; the choice to be ethical; and the acknowledgment of our boundaries." —Tomas Sattelberger, executive vice president product and service, member of the board of Lufthansa German Airlines, vice president of the European foundation for management development

From the Back Cover
In *The Philosophic Consultant*, acclaimed business consultant, philosopher, and author Peter Koestenbaum links deep insights of philosophy with practical business issues. Throughout this one-of-a-kind resource, Koestenbaum shows consultants and human resource practitioners how they can foster philosophical leadership within their organizations to positively affect the business environment. The book promises tangible results—credibility, trust, and thoughtful attention—and demonstrates how to apply philosophy, share knowledge with others, and use this newfound thoughtfulness to achieve bottom-line results.

People are Talking About *The Philosophic Consultant* "Every once in a while, a book comes along that illuminates the darkness of our time. This is the book for our time." —from the foreword by Warren Bennis

"The complexity and fragility of our life at the beginning of the 21st Century can only be mastered by a new world ethos. Peter Koestenbaum's new book provides the basic philosophical concept for meeting this challenge!" —Professor Klaus Schwab, founder and president, World Economic Forum, Geneva, Switzerland

"Peter Koestenbaum's latest book provides important insights into the fundamental drivers of leadership. For all of us in this complicated, challenging, and volatile business world, it provides a deep understanding of the key success factors in our personal and business lives." —John Devine, vice chairman and CFO, General Motors Corporation

"Peter Koestenbaum has written an important book that looks beneath the cosmetic surface of leadership to probe some of the deeper issues of leading and living. The subjects he addresses are not new. They are some of the timeless issues of human existence. Yet, Peter manages to make them fresh and relevant especially for the traditional business reader who may have substituted accounting for philosophy in college. More than any contemporary writer, Peter Koestenbaum makes classical philosophy accessible and actionable for anxious executives. The subtitle is not overstated, this is a blueprint for revolutionizing organizations and the people who lead them." —Robert M. Fulmer, distinguished visiting professor, Graziadio School of Business, Pepperdine University and academic director, Duke Corporate Education