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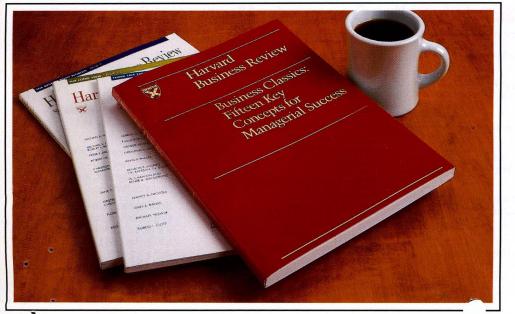
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By tracking every step of the order management cycle, managers can improve service and see where the company meets the customer.

Staple Yourself to an Order



by Benson P. Shapiro, V. Kasturi Rangan, and John I. Sviokla

It's fashionable today to talk of becoming "customer oriented." Or to focus on that moment of truth when customers experience the actual transaction that determines whether or not they are completely satisfied. Or to empower frontline workers so they can delight the customer with their initiative and spunk.

None of this advice, however, focuses on the real way to harness the customer's interests in the operation of a company. The simple truth is that every

Benson P. Shapiro, V. Kasturi (Kash) Rangan, and John J. Sviokla are professors at the Harvard Business School. Shapiro is researching order management, pricing, and corporate coordination. Rangan's focus is distribution management. Sviokla Mas studied how companies can apply computer technology profitably to create customer satisfaction. Harvard Business School Press will publish o series of reprinted articles by Shapiro and Sviokla, Seeking Customers and Keeping Customers, in 1992.

customer's experience is determined by a company's order management cycle (OMC): the ten steps, from planning to postsales service, that define a company's business system. The order management cycle offers managers the opportunity to look at their company through a customer's eyes, to see and experience transactions the way customers do. Managers who track each step of the OMC work their way through the company from the customer's angle rather than their own.

In the course of the order management cycle, every time the order is handled, the customer is handled. Every time the order sits unattended, the customer sits unattended. Paradoxically, the best way to be customer-oriented is to go beyond customers and products to the order, the moment of truth occurs at every step of the OMC, and every employee in the company who affects the OMC is the equivalent of a frontline worker. Ultimately, it is the order that con-

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MENTOR.

ALENT SCOUT.

DRAWINGS BY PAUL MEISEL

START PUSINESS KEVIEW

The New Era of Eurocapitalism



by Herbert A. Henzler

apitalism was born in Europe. But for nearly half a century, its most vigorous offshoots have flourished in the United States and Japan, while our economic performance has been lackluster. Or so the familiar litany goes. Despite our venerable commercial achievements—and the great European thinkers who defined the very institutions of capitalism-the continent that dominated world events for thousands of years seems to have fallen irretrievably behind.

First came the devastation of World War II and the enormous work of reconstruction in Europe, work that only government had the resources to undertake. Then in later years, as the United States and Japan prospered, we grappled with stagnant economics, high unemployment and social welfare costs, and an exaggerated fear of invasion by American business interests. Now, with the drive toward 1992 and the single market gaining momentum, other difficulties have arisen; we are Jagging badly in critical sectors like electronics, a new regulatory bursaucrace has emerged in Brussels, and

Herbert A. Henzler is chairman of McKinsey & Company's German offices. He is also Professor of International Management at Munich University. The answer is a network of specialists, not a single individual.

What Is a Global Manager?



In the early stages of its drive overseas, Coming Glass hired an American ex-ambassador to head up its international division. He had excellent contacts in the governments of many nations and could converse in several languages, but he was less familiar with Corning and its businesses. In contrast, ITT decided to set up a massive educational program to "globalize" all managers responsible for its worldwide telecommunications business—in essence, to replace its national specialists with global generalists.

Corning and ITT eventually realized they had taken wrong turns. Like many other companies organizing for worldwide operations in recent years, they found that an elite of jet-setters was often difficult to integrate into the corporate mainstream, nor did they need an international team of big-picture overseers to the exclusion of focused experts.

Success in today's international climate – a far cry from only a decade ago – demands highly specialized yet closely linked groups of global business managers, country or regional managers, and world-wide functional managers. This kind of organization characterizes a transnational rather than an old-line multinational, international, or global company. Transnationals integrate assets, resources,

and diverse people in operating units around the world. Through a flexible management process, in which business, country, and functional managers form a triad of different perspectives that balance one another, transnational companies can build three strategic capabilities:

- global-scale efficiency and competitiveness;
- ☐ national-level responsiveness and flexibility; and ☐ cross-market capacity to leverage learning on a worldwide basis.

While traditional organizations, structured along product or geographic lines, can hone one or another of these capabilities, they cannot cope with the challenge of all three at once. But an emerging group of transnational companies has begun to transform the classic hierarchy of headquarters

Christopher A. Battlett is a professor at the Hurvard Business School and chairman of the International Senior Management Program there. Sumantra Glosshal is a professor and Digital Equipment Research Fellow at INSEAD in Fountainebleau, France, Recent books by Bartlett and Ghoshal include Managing Across Borders: The Transnational Solution (Harvard Business School Press, 1989) and Transnational Management: Text, Cases, and Readings in Cross-Border Management (Irwin, 1992).

Rather than plundering the companies they now control, the corporate raiders of the 1980s are becoming models of management in the 1990s.

The "Barbarians" in the Boardroom



by George Ander

According to conventional wisdom, the corporate raiders and buy-out specialists who flourished in the 1980s were the antithesis of good managers. Their goals of realizing quick profits from the acquisition of major companies—frequently through rapid cost-cutting and the break-up of conglomerates—made them the bane of old-school corporate leaders. In the 1980s, we were told, the barbarians were at the gates. Long-ter n management, so it seemed, was being sacrificed o 1 the altar of short-term profits. Then in the past two years came the abatement of takeovers and, with the cessation of hostilities, a feeling of relief among top corporate managers who saw the more peaceful landscape as a return to business is usual.

But the "barbarians" have not retreated. Instead, many have simply moved into the boardroom. Many corporate acquirers of the 1980s now own large

stakes in major industrial companies, with every likelihood that they will remain big shareholders for an extended period. And rather than plundering the companies they now control, some of the previous era's takeover artists are assuming board seats and switching their emphasis to overseeing those companies. In this new role, the onetime raiders are defying expectations. Well in advance of General Motor's board's coup earlier this year, former corporate raiders, as directors, were taking similarly decisive and productive actions at the companies they now control. In a number of important respects, in fact, the "barbarians" are successfully implementing the asenda of the curus of good management.

George Anders is senior special writer at the Wall Street Journal and author of Merchants of Debt: KKR and the Mortgaging of American Business (Basic Books, 1992).

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