



A Little Book of F-laws: 13 Common Sins of Management

Russell L. Ackoff, Herbert J. Addison, Sally Bibb

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This subversive little book contains 13 of Russell Ackoff's "Management f-Laws". They give you a taste of his ironic take on how organizations really work, not how they think that they work. These epigrams are unspoken laws and unconventional wisdoms of management exposed to full daylight as the management flaws they actually are. Some f-Laws are downright funny; others bemuse; all provoke in one way or another. At worst, they elicit denial or anger. At best, they evince recognition followed by a desire to think profoundly about the inevitability of change. And thus, the need to know how to change. The book will touch a nerve with any manager and offers important lessons for the better running of any organization - as well as being a good read and a delightful present. Dip into it, and on any of its pages you will find something to laugh or argue about but, above all, to take on board. Making us laugh is its most obvious strength. But it is bound to be a lot more than funny, for Russell Ackoff has been around for a long time and, when it comes to organizations, he knows what he is talking about. At the grand age of 87, he is known internationally for his pioneering work on Systems Thinking. He continues to rank highly in the list of the Top 50 Business Brains and is affectionately known to many in the Systems Thinking community as the 'Dean'. Ackoff's work in research, consulting and education has involved hundreds of corporations and many governmental agencies in the US and abroad. He has authored or co-authored 20 books and published over 150 articles. He has taught hundreds of leaders, aspiring managers and Systems Thinkers the meaning of learning.

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