

The Six Disciplines of Strategic Thinking

by Michael D. Watkins

"The Six Disciplines of Strategic Thinking" by Michael D. Watkins is a comprehensive guide aimed at enhancing the strategic thinking skills of leaders. Watkins presents a practical framework that includes six key disciplines: pattern recognition, systems perspective, mental agility, structured problem-solving, visioning, and political savvy. These disciplines help leaders recognize potential threats and opportunities, establish priorities, and mobilise their organisations to enact promising paths forward.

Watkins argues that strategic thinking is a crucial skill that can be developed through a mix of on-the-job experience and mental exercises, positioning it as essential for navigating today's constantly changing business environment. The book is designed to be accessible, providing a wealth of insights and tools for leaders at all levels to enhance their strategic thinking capabilities.

Why a Change Maker Should Read It:

- **Enhanced Foresight:** The book helps develop the ability to foresee market trends and potential disruptions, enabling proactive rather than reactive strategies.
- **Better Decision Making:** Offers tools and techniques to refine decision-making processes, crucial for maintaining competitive advantage.

- **Organisational Influence:** Learning and implementing these disciplines can significantly improve one's influence on organisational culture and strategy.

Reviews & Criticisms:

Reviews: Generally positive, with readers appreciating the practical frameworks and real-world applicability of the concepts discussed. It's praised for its clarity and usefulness in professional development.

Criticisms: Some critics argue that the book can be overly theoretical, with not enough emphasis on the complexities and unpredictability of real-world applications.