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BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

The 6ixth Evolution: Managing Lives and Careers Through Convulsive Times

Larry G. Straub Archway (Feb 1, 2022) Softcover \$17.99 (260pp) 978-1-66571-480-8

Responding to contemporary economic strains, the ambitious business book The 6ixth Evolution proposes means of restoring macro systems—and of prospering despite economic convulsions.

Larry G. Straub's ambitious career guide *The 6ixth Evolution* suggests practices and techniques for navigating volatile but dynamic economic environments.

This tidy, four-part book begins by exploring macro environments, from their origins into the present. Responding to contemporary dysfunction within economic, political, and cultural environments, as well as the factors that led to such instability, the book proposes a model, the Promethean Framework, for responding to adverse economic shifts. The framework's components act as safeguards and guides for resetting and reviving one's personal and career lives. To flesh this out, Straub also introduces the 6e Thinking concept, which consists of tenets to equip individuals with the skills and strategies that they need to handle economic convulsions.

The book's recommendations are supported by real world references, as with its engaging interviews with those who navigated job loss. The interviewees, who belong to different age groups, discuss how they dealt with unemployment and reestablished or reinvented their careers. Practical suggestions are drawn from their experiences, such as to pursue the ideas and goals that one put on hold for work, and to budget and save as a safeguard. Straub also draws on his family's experiences, examining different phases of their family's business. Such tales illustrate how scenario planning, toughness and adaptability, and lifelong learning can be applied in real time.

The prose is coversational and familiar, helping to make complex discussions accessible. Even when it's addressing topics like globalization and social and cultural trends, the book remains approachable. All of its discussions are clear, and their relevance to the book's main objective of surviving economic convulsions is never in doubt. And to further help individuals gauge their abilities to navigate convulsive environments, the book includes an extensive survey with seventy-three questions whose results reveal inadequacies that need to be addressed, as well as an individual's capacity to face changes.

While it advises people through personal scenarios, as with its advice for building strong relationships and establishing networks for surviving economic changes, the book's proposals are also made applicable to large-scale political, economic, global, and social systems, too. It muses on issues like income inequality, as well as the gulf between powerful multinational corporations and entities and individuals who are less influential. These ambitious deviations include proposals to teach financial management in schools, and to put into place measures in place to ensure fiscal discipline. The book's greatest hope is that its recommendations could be used to prevent future economic declines, heal the political divide in the US, and ensure equity and justice.

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EDITH WAIRIMU (May 26, 2022)

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