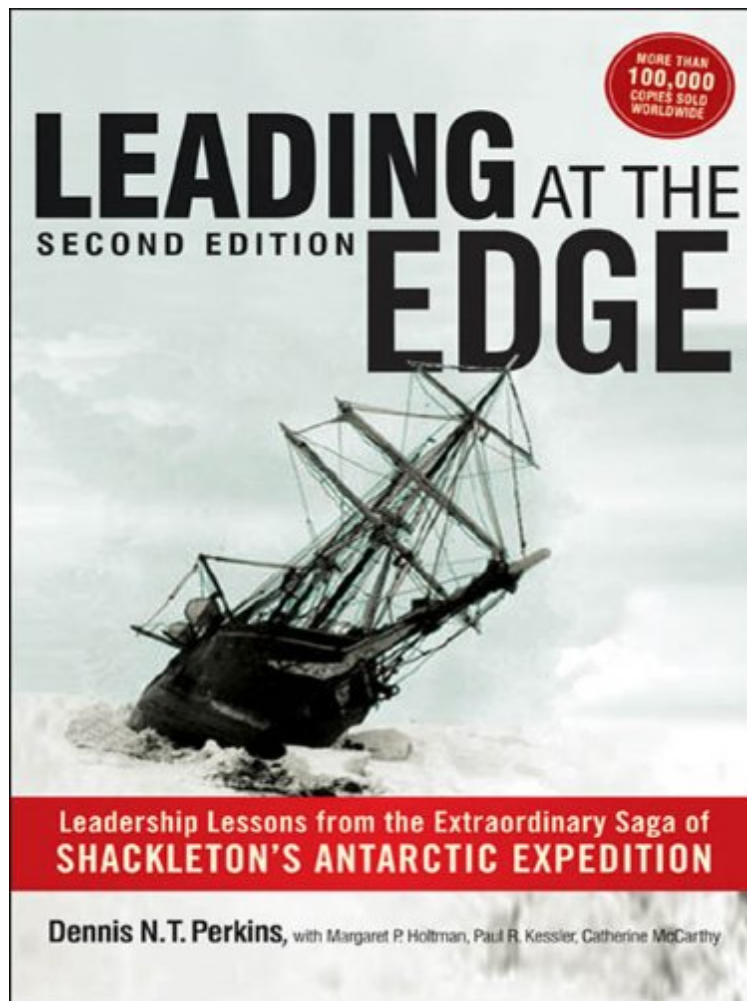


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Leading at The Edge: Leadership Lessons from the Extraordinary Saga of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition

DENNIS N.T. PERKINS

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DENNIS N.T. PERKINS : *Leading at The Edge: Leadership Lessons from the Extraordinary Saga of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition* before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Leading at The Edge: Leadership Lessons from the Extraordinary Saga of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good for large and middle size companies. By Jeff Dawson I downloaded this when I saw it revolved around the Shackleton Expedition. This is an excellent book for learning leadership skills for the corporate world. Not so for the small business company. I did find one or two ideas that might work for the company I'm currently with. However, as the last chapters came about, I felt the message was being lost. The first six or seven ideas were spot on. The book should have ended here and it would have been a home run.

Instead it continued on and the ideas started to become watered down, lessening the impact. I've many of these self-help, motivational, team-building works and for whatever reason, they seem to follow the same formula. My question is why? Why do they continue watering down the main message? Overall, it's a good read. The comparison of Shackleton's accomplishments in the harshest, most hopeless situations and how he managed his team were easily translated into today's world of corporations and middle size companies. Four stars

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Really good read on management during trying and ambiguous times. By Customer Although primarily directed at managers, this book contains timeless concepts that work well whether leading yourself, a team, or leading upwards and sideways. Although the pressure we face in the corporate world is not life threatening, it is nonetheless very real and at times intense. I believe that Perkins' ten principles are a great foundation on which to base leadership behavior. Well written and captivating, I have found this book to be an invaluable resource!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good book if you like the Endurance story. By Mark This is a good book that combines a good mix of telling the Shackleton story along with practical leadership insights. At first I was not sure I would like the book at all but I found the book gets better and better as it develops. Throughout the book the author draws insights from Ernest Shackleton's leadership of the Endurance expedition that illustrates them by pointing to business examples and this helps to tie everything back together. This is not my favorite book on leadership, and I would hesitate to recommend it unless the reader is interested in the story of the Endurance expedition.

For the 100th anniversary of the Race to the South Pole, a fresh look at what Shackleton's legendary Antarctic adventure can teach us about true leadership. Stranded in the frozen Antarctic sea for nearly two years, Sir Ernest Shackleton and his team of 27 polar explorers endured extreme temperatures, hazardous ice, dwindling food, and complete isolation. Despite these seemingly insurmountable obstacles, the group remained cohesive, congenial, and mercifully alive—a fact that speaks not just to luck but to an unparalleled feat of leadership. Drawing on this amazing story, *Leading at The Edge* demonstrates the importance of a strong leader in times of adversity, uncertainty, and change. The book reveals 10 timeless leadership lessons that show readers how to:

- Instill optimism while staying grounded in reality
- Have the courage to step up to risks worth taking
- Consistently reinforce the team message
- Set a personal example
- Find something to celebrate and something to laugh about
- Never give up.

Part adventure tale, part leadership guide, the second edition features additional lessons, new case studies of the strategies in action, tools to uncover and resolve conflicts, and expanded resources. An updated epilogue compares the leadership styles of the famous polar explorers Shackleton, Amundsen, and Scott. Today's leaders have much to learn from this gripping account of survival against all odds. *Leading at The Edge* will help them bring order to chaos—and achieve success in the face of adversity.

From Publishers Weekly Although their experiences may sometimes seem torturous, most managers aren't facing dangerous or life-threatening conditions. Even so, argues consultant Perkins, they would do well to learn from both triumphant and failed expeditions. A former Marine lieutenant, Perkins introduces 10 key concepts he believes are essential to productive leadership with lively anecdotes from the adverse but ultimately successful expedition to the South Pole led by Ernest Shackleton in 1914 (his entire crew survived on the ice with almost no supplies or hope for rescue after their ship drifted off course and was crushed), which he contrasts with a disastrous Canadian expedition launched at almost the same time. Among the principles in the book's first half: "Minimize status differences and insist on courtesy and mutual respect"; "Take care of yourself, maintain your stamina and let go of your guilt"; "Set a personal example with visible, memorable symbols and behaviors." He also suggests that managers can benefit by keeping an "expedition log" in which they write about their current work situations. The second half of the book consists of four business case studies, including one of Malden Mills, a family-owned company that remained open despite fires that virtually shut down its operations. General readers are likely to find these studies less compelling, though experienced executives may identify with some of the management issues. (May) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "After having read a dozen or two leadership books over the past decade, this book stands out...The author does an exceptional job" --Suite101 "Interpretation of Shackleton's strategies is relatable to today's leaders showing that leadership skills transcend time." --Yahoo Voices "The lessons are powerful, the real world examples revealing and the book worthy of much discussion and thought." --Hike Bike and Travel "tells the story of survival, and along the way points out how Shackleton's leadership made a difference. This is what makes this book such a compelling read." --MindConnection "succeeds in crafting a true leadership guide for the 21st century." --Risk Management magazine "The lessons are not just about leadership, but about life, persistence and the extraordinary resilience." --A Slice of Leadership "book will change the way you think about and approach leadership in a crisis situation" --Blog Business World "there are many leadership lessons to be learned from Shackleton's amazing adventure." --ABA Banking Journal From the Back Cover In December of 1914, the British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Sir Ernest Shackleton, sailed from the island of South Georgia in

the Southern Ocean. Its goal: the first overland crossing of Antarctica. Soon trapped in a prison of solid pack ice, the crew became engaged in a legendary fight against brutal cold, impenetrable ice, dwindling food, and complete isolation. Despite these seemingly insurmountable obstacles, the team remained cohesive, congenial, and mercifully alive - a fact that speaks not just to luck but to an unparalleled feat of leadership. Part adventure tale, part leadership guide, *Leading at The Edge* demonstrates the power of strong leadership in times of adversity, uncertainty, and change. This engaging and practical book reveals Ten Strategies for Success, illustrating how leaders can: Instill optimism while staying grounded in reality; Have the courage to step up to risks worth taking; Consistently reinforce the team message; Set a personal example; Find something to celebrate and something to laugh about; Never give up - always another move! The second edition features new case studies highlighting the strategies in action, tools to uncover and resolve conflicts, and expanded resources. An updated epilogue compares Shackleton's leadership style with that of famed polar explorers Roald Amundsen and Robert Scott, and offers insights into how their contrasting approaches led to strikingly different outcomes. Today's leaders have much to learn from this gripping account of survival against all odds. *Leading at The Edge* will help them navigate the rough waters of any turbulent environment and achieve success in the face of adversity. DENNIS N. T. PERKINS, Ph.D., is Chief Executive Officer of The Syncretics Group, a consulting firm dedicated to effective leadership in demanding environments. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he served as a Marine company commander and later a faculty member of the Yale School of Management. He has taken his passion for *The Edge to Antarctica*, where he retraced Shackleton's journey, and now resides in Madison, Connecticut. MARGARET P. HOLTMAN, PAUL R. KESSLER, and CATHERINE McCARTHY, Ph.D., are consultants specializing in leadership, coaching, and team development.