

## Understanding Organizational Fitness

*Maurice Yolles, Paul Iles, Kaijun Guo*  
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**Maurice Yolles, Paul Iles, Kaijun Guo : Understanding Organizational Fitness** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Organizational Fitness:

The focus of this book has two dimensions: theoretical and empirical. The theoretical dimension is concerned with the fitness of an organization to satisfactorily address processes of transformational change. Such fitness, it will be argued, can be expressed in terms of the coherence (degree of integration) and pathology (condition of ill health) of the

organization being explored. In attempting to assess organizational fitness, a model that comes out of the field of Knowledge Cybernetics will be used and developed further as a strategic organizational map, and applied empirically. The empirical dimension centers on the specific situation of the banking industry in China as it is passing through transformational change. There is a great need for organizations there to guide their own changes in a way that enables them to improve themselves in a changing environment. A methodology that can assist organizations in the change process is Organization Development, an approach often used within a human resource development context, but it has some problems with dealing with such dramatic change. In this theory a new approach will be explored and developed to assess the fitness of an organization to pass through transformational change processes. The direction taken has enabled the theoretical approach adopted to be defined, and the design of the empirical work to emerge from reflections on the initial work undertaken. In particular our interests in this book are to (1) explain theory that is able to assess the fitness of organizations to pass through transformational change and (2) demonstrate how the theory can be applied as a measuring instrument to a detailed case study, exploring the Chinese State banking system.

About the Author Paul Iles is Professor of Human Resource Development at Liverpool John Moores University