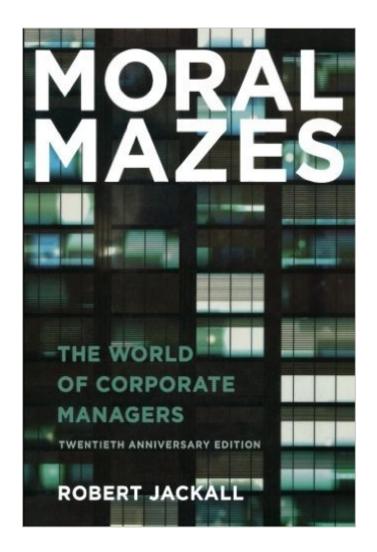
The book was found

# Moral Mazes: The World Of Corporate Managers





## Synopsis

This classic study of ethics in business presents an eye-opening account of how corporate managers think the world works, and how big organizations shape moral consciousness. Robert Jackall takes the reader inside a topsy-turvy world where hard work does not necessarily lead to success, but sharp talk, self-promotion, powerful patrons, and sheer luck might. What sort of everyday rules-in-use do people play by when there are no fixed standards to explain why some succeed and others fail? In the words of one corporate manager, those rules boil down to this maxim: "What is right in the corporation is what the guy above you wants from you. That's what morality is in the corporation." This brilliant, disturbing, funny look at the ethos of the corporate world presents compelling real life stories of the men and women charged with running the businesses of America. This anniversary edition includes an afterword by the author linking the themes of Moral Mazes to the financial tsunami that engulfed the world economy in 2008.

### **Book Information**

Paperback: 320 pages Publisher: Oxford University Press; 20th Anniversary ed. edition (December 8, 2009) Language: English ISBN-10: 0199729883 ISBN-13: 978-0199729883 Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.9 x 6.1 inches Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (17 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #651,739 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in Books > Business & Money > Management & Leadership > Consolidation & Merger #291 in Books > Textbooks > Business & Finance > Business Ethics #915 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Ethics

#### **Customer Reviews**

"Moral Mazes" is an extensive, award-winning and highly accurate sociological portrait of life in the modern corporation, an academic precursor, so to speak, of the "Dilbert" cartoon strip. Unlike many other writers on this topic, Jackall doesn't resort to Marxist rants, but rather, compares modern corporate culture to the "Protestant" work ethic most Americans are raised into.Jackall's inquiry, based on in-depth interviews with managers themselves, is broad in scope, and it is hard to generalize. Within about 200 pages, he covers the social circles of the corporation, cronyism, bad

decisionmaking and public relations, to name a few. He discovers that corporations, at the upper levels at least, resemble a king's court more than a meritocratic organization. The essential work of a manager is not "management" or "leadership," but constantly making the right friends and adopting the correct posture. Anyone who has worked in such a setting, or knows people in such a field, will be able to relate instantly, although it can be argued that Jackall did not need to spend years of ethnographic research to reach this conclusion. This book is not for everyone, as Jackall must conclude that "ethics" as practiced by managers is nothing more than "survival" and ambition for one's own "advantage." While such a diagnosis may seem harsh, it is difficult to rationally explain recent events in the marketplace, such as the Enron scandal, without concluding that corporate executives have a moral compass that differs from that of the everyday person.Contrary to what a layman may think, Jackall makes no moral judgments of his own, although readers most certainly will. The title itself can be misinterpreted by people not familiar with sociology.

Robert Jackall is a sociologist by profession, currently teaching at Williams College. His book was originally published in the late â ^80â ™s, based on his research of corporate life which was conducted earlier in the decade. It has recently been reissued, most fittingly so, as a â œtwentieth anniversary edition, a • with an additional 20 page chapter entitled a combined market and the Great Recession.â • In this chapter Jackall demonstrates how many of the characteristics of corporate life, in particular, the expedient and contextual value systems, that he identified in the early â ^80â ™s were operative in both causing the â œfinancial meltdownâ • of 2008, as well as in the reaction to it. He credits a noble predecessor, C. Wright Mills, for originating the phrase â corganized irresponsibilityâ • in describing corporate life, which certainly was most operative in the explanations for the financial disaster: no one was responsible, it was a â œTsunami,â • and we had no idea it was coming. In the introduction to his original book, Jackall states that his objective is to answer the following question: â œWhat rules do people fashion to interact with one another when they feel that, instead of ability, talent, and dedicated service to an organization, politics, adroit talk, luck, connections, and self-promotion are the real sorters of people into sheep and goats?â • For a work by a sociologist, his is a bit of an outlier: no tables or graphs to bolster a â œscientific, quantitative approach.â • And I think it is all the better for it. He lays out his methodology at the beginning, and admits that the vast majority of corporations that he approached refused to let him conduct his research.

#### Download to continue reading...

Moral Mazes: The World of Corporate Managers Corporate Finance: Corporate Finance Guide To

Understanding Corporate Finance With Strategies For Business Owners For Utilizing Corporate Finance Including ... Finance Business, Theory And Practice) Corporate Value Creation: An Operations Framework for Nonfinancial Managers (Wiley Corporate F&A) Amazing Mazes! Into the Fantastic World of Kindergarten Mazes Financial Management for Nurse Managers and Executives, 4e (Finkler, Financial Management for Nurse Managers and Executives) Mastering Automotive Digital Marketing: A training guide for Dealer Principals, General Managers, and Digital Marketing Managers Amazing Mazes: Mind Bending Mazes for Ages 6-60 Dinosaur Mazes for Days! A Pre-Historic Ton of Mazes for All Activity Book Mazes And Monsters: Awesome Mazes For Kids Seek and Find Bible Mazes: Seek and Find Bible Story Mazes Mazes For Toddlers: Brainy Kids Love Mazes! Child's Play Mazes: Animal Adventure Mazes Mazes For Preschoolers: Brain Tickling Mazes and Simple Puzzles Mazes For Boys: Groovy Mazes and Puzzles Boys Will Love Mazes For Kids Age 6: Medium Difficulty Mazes Mazes For Kids Age 9: Mazes Here and There! Mazes For Kindergarten: Cute Kids Love Mazes Amazing Magic Mazes: Haunted Castle Mazes: A Spooky Adventure (Magic Color Books) Corporate Valuation: A Guide for Managers and Investors (Book Only) CORPORATE IDENTITY 4 (Graphis Corporate Identity) (v. 4)

<u>Dmca</u>