



# Literature Review 17 November 2010

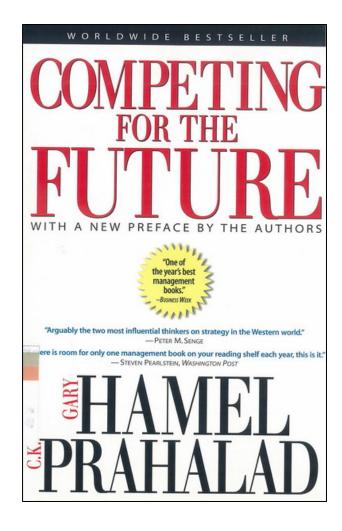
## Competing for the Future By Gary Hamel & C.K. Prahalad

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Agenda

- Getting off the Treadmill
- Core Competencies
- Corporate Genetics
- Genetic Variety
- Denominator Management
- Strategic Architecture





## Getting off the Treadmill

Which response better describes TMA?

- 1. Which issue absorbs more of senior management's attention?
  - a. Reengineering Core Processes
  - b. Regenerating Core Strategies



Getting off the Treadmill, continued

Which response better describes TMA?

- 2. What are we better at?
  - a. Improving Operational Efficiency
  - b. Creating Fundamentally New Businesses



Getting off the Treadmill, continued

Which response better describes TMA?

- 3. To what extent are senior managers working on the present or designing the future?
  - a. Mostly Present
  - b. Mostly Future



#### Core Competency

- Set of skills and technologies that enables a company to provide a particular benefit to customers.
- To be considered a core competency:
  - 1. Must create customer value
  - 2. Must differentiate company from competitors
  - 3. Must be extendible to other products or services



#### Core Competency, continued

- Examples:
  - Toyota's "just in time" lean production system
  - Apple's innovative design and technology
  - Google's ranking algorithm
- What is TMA's core competency?



### **Corporate Genetics**

- Set of biases, assumptions, presuppositions about:
  - Industry's structure
  - Who the competition is/isn't
  - What customers want/don't want
  - Which technologies are/aren't viable
- Does TMA have a particular genetic code?



#### Corporate Genetics, continued

#### **Dangers of Corporate Genetics**

- 1. Individuals may forget why they believe what they believe
- 2. Managers may come to believe that what they don't know isn't worth knowing
- Yesterday's "good ideas" become today's "policy guidelines" and tomorrow's "mandates"



Genetic Variety

• Protects against the dangers of corporate genetics



## Genetic Variety, continued

Authors asked twenty officers in a U.S. company how many of them had:

- 1. Spent their entire career in one industry
- 2. Worked for only one company during their careers
- 3. Reached the top through the sales and marketing function
- 4. Never worked for more than five years consecutively outside of the U.S.



## Genetic Variety, continued

- Almost all hands went up to all four questions
- Without genetic variety, it's difficult for companies to compete with new, nontraditional competitors
- Does TMA have genetic variety?
- As a government agency, is this relevant to us?



#### Denominator Management

- ROI and similar measurements involve:
  - Numerator: net income
  - Denominator: investment, net assets, staff headcount
- Raising numerator is hard; it requires
  - Anticipating changes in customer needs
  - Investing in and building new competencies
- Cutting denominator is a shortcut:
  - Involves cutting resources, not leveraging resources
  - Raises productivity <u>temporarily</u>



## Denominator Management, continued

- What experience have you had with denominator management?
  - Been laid off?
  - Been in a company whose practice was to manage the denominator?



#### Strategic Architecture

- Typically about 20 years
- High-level blueprint for:
  - Deploying new functionalities
  - Acquiring new competencies
  - Reconfiguring customer interface
- Tells what must be done, but not how
  - Apple's SA: to acquire knowledge about cell phones
  - Led to strategic plan describing <u>how</u> to create iPhone



## Strategic Architecture, continued

- Does TMA have a strategic architecture?
- Does PE&TMB?



## Questions for Discussion

- How relevant are these topics to a government agency versus a private-sector company?
- What experience have you had in your careers with these topics?
- Any other questions?