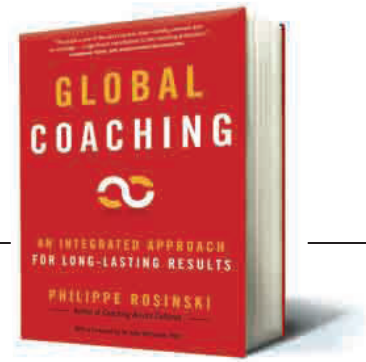


International Perspectives

An integrated approach to global coaching



I made an assumption when choosing *Global Coaching* by Philippe Rosinski as the book to review for this issue of *choice*. My assumption was that the focus of the book would be on coaching in different cultures. I imagined something akin to a ‘coaching geography lesson’!

I had some basis for this assumption, as the author’s previous book is titled *Coaching Across Cultures*. While *Global Coaching* does include cross-cultural coaching, its focus is so much bigger. This is one book that should be on the shelf of coaches interested in expanding their view (and skills) of our profession.

At the heart of this book is the premise that coaching brings positive change into our world. I don’t know about you, but it is that belief that had me leave a lucrative job and dedicate my life to working as a coach.

Rosinski states his view right from the start, on page one of the introduction: “We all have an important role to play in precluding damage and in making the world a better place for everyone, including the future generations. However, to do our part we will need to transform ourselves.”

Global Coaching covers a broad spectrum of ideas and coaching situations and is centered on exploring six perspectives the author has identified as particularly useful. He lays them out in chapter one and the bulk of the book is an exploration and explanation of these six perspectives and the importance of taking a holistic approach to living our lives well.

This is not a light book by any measure. There are many graphs, facts, figures and footnotes included. Much

ground is covered and some of that ground requires both reading and reflecting time. For the sake of this review I bring you a snapshot of each of the perspectives to give you an idea of the book’s tone and Rosinski’s knowledge and passion as he illuminates a path for us to come together around something positive.

Here is an overview of the six perspectives with a quote from each chapter:

Spiritual

“Materialism and spirituality can and should be integrated if people and organizations are to thrive.”

Cultural

“To systematically integrate culture into coaching, we need a language

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with which to talk about culture, a vocabulary to describe cultural characteristics.”

Political

“The notion of constructive politics is consistent with the basic values of coaching.”

Psychological

“As coaches, we don’t need to spend time understanding why others communicate in a certain fashion; we can focus instead on how we communicate.”

Managerial

“Managers can become more effective at empowering subordinates

simply by becoming aware of their leadership styles.”

Physical

“I find that lightness and laughter help coaches enjoy and benefit from the coaching process. As global coaches we need to cultivate a light heart.”

The last section of the book ties it all together. Reality is multifaceted and Rosinski reveals how the various perspectives are interconnected.

I found each perspective interesting and full of knowledge, inspirational ideas and applicable examples that made the information something I could relate to and understand, even though my coach-

ing niche is very different. Rosinski uses his own coaching experience with real clients to illustrate his points, which for me is one of the most valuable qualities of this book.

Global Coaching is a big-concept book that takes time and a willingness to let go of your assumptions in order to fully understand. What’s the pay-off? You will see and experience the coaching profession in a bigger context. This book reminded me that my passion for my work as a coach goes beyond the joy of working with my clients. It puts the struggles I have faced building a business and my own personal journey as a coach into a new perspective – a global perspective. ●