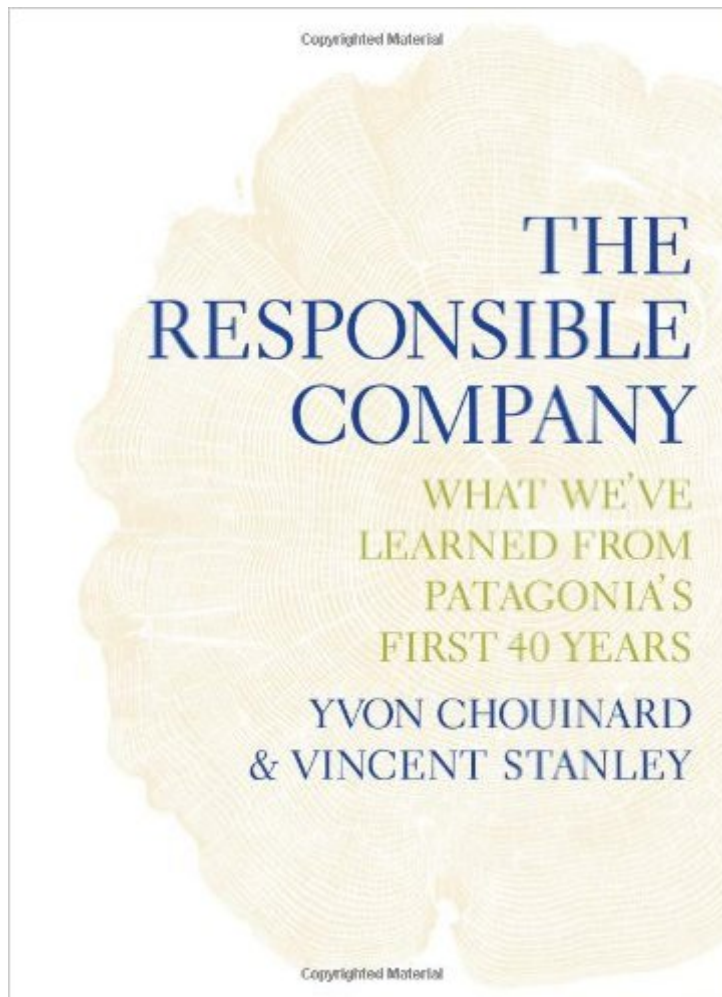


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The Responsible Company: What We've Learned From Patagonia's First 40 Years



Synopsis

The Responsible Company, by Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia, and Vincent Stanley, co-editor of its Footprint Chronicles, draw on their 40 years' experience at Patagonia and knowledge of current efforts by other companies to articulate the elements of responsible business for our time. Patagonia, named by Fortune in 2007 as the coolest company on the planet, has earned a reputation as much for its ground-breaking environmental and social practices as for the quality of its clothes. In this exceptionally frank account, Chouinard and Stanley recount how the company and its culture gained the confidence, by step and misstep, to make its work progressively more responsible, and to ultimately share its discoveries with companies as large as Wal-Mart or as small as the corner bakery. In plain, compelling prose, the authors describe the current impact of manufacturing and commerce on the planet's natural systems and human communities, and how that impact now forces business to change its ways. The Responsible Company shows companies how to reduce the harm they cause, improve the quality of their business, and provide the kind of meaningful work everyone seeks. It concludes with specific, practical steps every business can undertake, as well as advice on what to do, in what order. This is the first book to show companies how to thread their way through economic sea change and slow the drift toward ecological bankruptcy. Its advice is simple but powerful: reduce your environmental footprint (and its skyrocketing cost), make legitimate products that last, reclaim deep knowledge of your business and its supply chain to make the most of opportunities in the years to come, and earn the trust you'll need by treating your workers, customers and communities with respect.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Patagonia Books; 1st edition (May 25, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0980122783

ISBN-13: 978-0980122787

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (48 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #58,280 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Business & Money

> Industries > Fashion & Textile #75 in Books > Business & Money > Economics >

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Customer Reviews

The Responsible Company is like the Elements of Style, that basic guide to writing that has served so many writers and readers. In beautifully written, clean prose, it boils down the basics of responsibility to employees, customers and the planet. There is another way to do business besides the quick profit and the scorched earth policy of so many corporations. There is another way to do business and survive as a business. Even make a profit. I recommend this book especially to people who do not read business books, whose inclination might be toward literary essays or novels. It's a great read and you will know so much more about the realities of the business world, and the often agonizing decisions Patagonia had to make to get to where it is now: a company trying to earn the right to call itself responsible.

Truly inspiring. A must read for those starting out in business as well as those who are already established. This book shows there is a way to run a business, make a profit, and still sleep well at night knowing you are doing the right thing for the earth.

The Responsible Company is surprisingly hard to put down and the antidote to all the discouraging news about corporate America. Simple in concept, it describes clearly and succinctly why we need to revamp our collective business practice before the planet's resources run out, then provides practical checklists for how to go about it. The authors draw on their own experiences at Patagonia, describing some of the moments that "stunned them into consciousness", and also bring news of other companies who have come to the table--DuPont, Nike, and Wal-Mart among them--and some of the surprising and heartening coalitions they've formed. The writing is excellent, the voice that of someone you'd be happy to find yourself seated next to at an interesting dinner party. Despite the credibility of Patagonia--I always think of them as a company that tries to "walk the walk"--the tone is one of humility; there's an inherent conflict between making and selling products that consume resources and create waste and acting responsibly, and Chouinard and Stanley acknowledge it and are candid about how far Patagonia or anyone else is from achieving real sustainability. Still, it's a hopeful book, one I wish everyone would read.

A book about business (and the environment) that is enjoyable to read! It is beautifully written, optimistic, and entertaining. I couldn't put it down and was truly inspired and empowered.

This is a very beautiful book. Its honest, truthful and compelling. Patagonia is teaching us how to run

a business and be profitable while staying true to our core values and commitment to save the world. Similar to what Atul Gawande did with his *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right* Patagonia gives us actual steps to move onward leading a green change in both, our companies and personal lives. This is how a company should be led. The book inspires and is an eye opener. It's an absolute must.

Yvon Chouinard, the founder of Patagonia, presents a model for companies to run their businesses today and into the future. He shows us how Patagonia creates innovative products, does minimal or no harm to the environment, creates meaningful jobs, earns the trust of its workers and the community, and builds a strong bottom line. It is simple, makes sense, and is being adopted by big companies who recognize its wisdom.

Great book! This book showed me that you can be environmentally conscious and still run a successful business. If you are more interested in the author watch *180 degree South* (excellent movie too).

As I was forced to read this book for a class I had low expectations. I was very surprised on how much I learned from such a short read. This book isn't just about how successful Patagonia is it speaks a lot of truth about their mistakes and them working toward sustainability. Chapter two is quite eye opening. Worth your time.

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