# EXPLORING STRATEGY

**TEXT AND CASES** 

**ELEVENTH EDITION** 

GERRY JOHNSON RICHARD WHITTINGTON KEVAN SCHOLES DUNCAN ANGWIN PATRICK REGNÉR





# WELCOME TO EXPLORING STRATEGY

**Strategy is a crucial subject.** It's about the development, success and failure of all kinds of organisations, from multinationals to entrepreneurial start-ups, from charities to government agencies, and many more. Strategy raises the big questions about these organisations – how they grow, how they innovate and how they change. As a manager of today or tomorrow, you will be involved in shaping, implementing or communicating these strategies.

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- Pursuing some of the recommended readings at the end of each chapter. They're specially selected
  as accessible and valuable sources that will enhance your learning and give you an extra edge in your
  course work.

We want *Exploring Strategy* to give you what you need: a comprehensive view of the subject, an ambition to put that into practice, and – of course – success in your studies. We hope that you'll be as excited by the key issues of strategy as we are!

So, read on and good luck!

Gerry Johnson Richard Whittington Kevan Scholes Duncan Angwin Patrick Regnér



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The case collection has been managed by Jason Evans, Clive Kerridge and Steve Pyle.

# EXPLORING STRATEGY TEXT AND CASES

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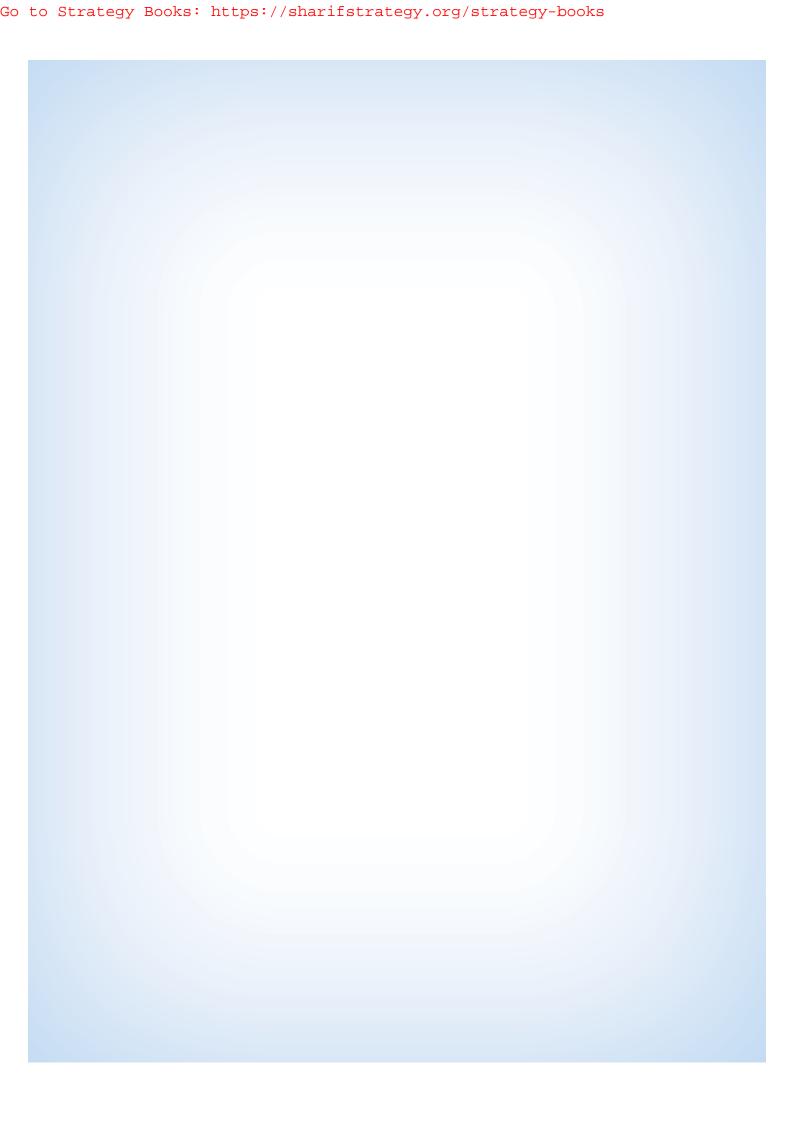
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### **PREFACE**

We are delighted to offer this eleventh edition of *Exploring Strategy*. With sales of previous editions now well over one million, we believe we have a tried and tested product. Yet the strategy field is constantly changing. For this edition, therefore, we have introduced a new chapter, and thoroughly refreshed all the remaining chapters, with new concepts, new cases and new examples throughout. Here we would like to highlight four particular changes, while recalling some of the classic features of the book.

The eleventh edition's principal changes are:

- Extended coverage of the macro-environment. We now have a whole chapter on the
  macro-environment, allowing us to cover increasingly important nonmarket aspects of
  strategy, such as politics and regulation, and to provide students with the tools to analyse
  the mega-trends that will drive organisational strategy in the future.
- A new treatment of business models. We have developed the treatment of business models, important to students in a start-up culture of rapid technological change.
- Enhanced emphasis on entrepreneurship. As entrepreneurial opportunities become
  increasingly attractive to readers, we have raised the prominence of entrepreneurship,
  and introduced new materials on opportunity recognition and the entrepreneurial process.
- New 'Thinking Differently' sections. At the end of each chapter, we introduce new material designed to encourage students to approach issues from a different point of view to the conventional wisdom of the chapter itself: for example, using crowdsourcing to predict environmental change, or one force rather than five to analyse industries.

At the same time, *Exploring Strategy* retains its longstanding commitment to a comprehensive and real-world view of strategy. In particular, this entails a deep concern for:

- Process. We believe that the human processes of strategy, not only the economics of particular strategies, are central to achieving long-term organisational success. Throughout the book, we underline the importance of human processes, but in particular we devote Part III to processes of strategy formation, implementation and change.
- Practice. We conclude the book with a chapter on the practice of strategy (Chapter 16), focused on the practicalities of managing strategy. Throughout the book, we introduce concepts and techniques through practical illustrations and applications, rather than abstract descriptions. MyStrategyExperience simulation gives students a chance to apply the frameworks of the book to a dynamic, realistic simulation of strategy in the advertising industry (visit https://uk.pearson.com/higher-education-educators/products-and-services/course-resources-and-content/simulations.html).

Many people have helped us with the development of this new edition. Jason Evans, Clive Kerridge and Steve Pyle have led in coordinating the case collection. We have also consulted carefully with our Advisory Board, made up of experienced adopters of the book and other **PREFACE** 

leading academics in the field of strategy. Many other adopters of the book provide more informal advice and suggestions – many of whom we have had the pleasure of meeting at our annual teachers' workshops. This kind of feedback is invaluable and we hope you will keep the comments flowing. Also, our students and clients at Lancaster University, Oxford University, Oxford Brookes, Stockholm School of Economics, Sheffield Hallam and the many other places where we teach are a constant source of ideas and stimulus. We also gain from our links across the world, particularly in Austria, Ireland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the USA. Many contribute directly by providing case studies and illustrations and these are acknowledged in the text.

Finally, we thank those organisations that have been generous enough to be written up as case studies. We hope that those using the book will respect the wishes of the case study organisations and *not* contact them directly for further information.

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# **EXPLORING STRATEGY FEATURES**

This eleventh edition of *Exploring Strategy* builds on the established strengths of this best-selling textbook. A range of in-text features and supplementary features have been developed to enable you and your students to gain maximum added value from the teaching and learning of strategy.

- Outstanding pedagogical features. Each chapter has clear learning outcomes, practical
  questions associated with real-life illustrations and examples which students can easily
  apply to what they have learnt.
- Flexibility of use. You can choose to use either the Text and Cases version of the book, or if you don't use longer cases (or have your own) the Text-only version. The provision of Thinking Differently sections, Commentaries and Strategy 'Lenses' allows you to dig deeper into the tensions and complexity of strategy.

The two versions are complemented by a concise version of the text, *Fundamentals of Strategy*, and instructors also have the option of further customising the text. Visit www.pearsoned.co.uk/CustomPublishing for more details.

- *Up-to-date materials*. As well as a new chapter on the macro-environment, we have fully revised the other chapters, incorporating new research and updating references so that you can easily access the latest research.
- Encouraging innovative and critical thinking. The Strategy Lenses and Commentaries
  are designed to encourage critical thinking, while each chapter ends with a Thinking
  Differently section, introducing students to new and distinctive approaches to key issues
  of the chapter.

Our 'three circles' framework – depicting the overlapping issues of strategic position, strategic choices and strategy in action – also challenges a simple linear, sequential view of the strategy process.

- Case and examples. A wide range of Illustrations, Case Examples and (in the Text and
  Cases version) longer Case Studies are fresh and engage with student interests and day-today experience. The majority of these are entirely new to this edition; we have extensively
  revised the remainder. Finally, we draw these examples from all over the world and use
  examples from the public and voluntary sectors as well as the private.
- *Teaching and learning support.* You and your students can access a wealth of resources detailed in the *Exploring Strategy* Online section that follows this.
- *Teachers' workshop.* We run an annual workshop to facilitate discussion of key challenges and solutions in the teaching of strategic management. Details of forthcoming workshops can be found at <a href="https://heuk.pearson.com/events.html">https://heuk.pearson.com/events.html</a>

# **EXPLORING STRATEGY ONLINE**

A wide range of supporting resources are available at: www.pearsoned.co.uk/johnson

#### For students

- Multiple choice questions that test your understanding of key content.
- Key concept audio summaries that you can download or listen to online.
- Video cases that show managers talking about strategic issues in their own organisations.
- Revision flashcards to help you prepare for your exams.
- A multi-lingual online glossary to help explain key concepts.
- Guidance on how to analyse a case study.
- Links to relevant sites on the web so you can explore more about the organisations featured in the case studies.
- Classic cases over 30 case studies from previous editions of the book.

#### For instructors

- An Instructor's Manual which provides a comprehensive set of teaching support, including guidance on the use of case studies and assignments, and advice on how to plan a programme using the text.
- PowerPoint slides, containing key information and figures from the book.
- Classic cases, from previous editions of the book.

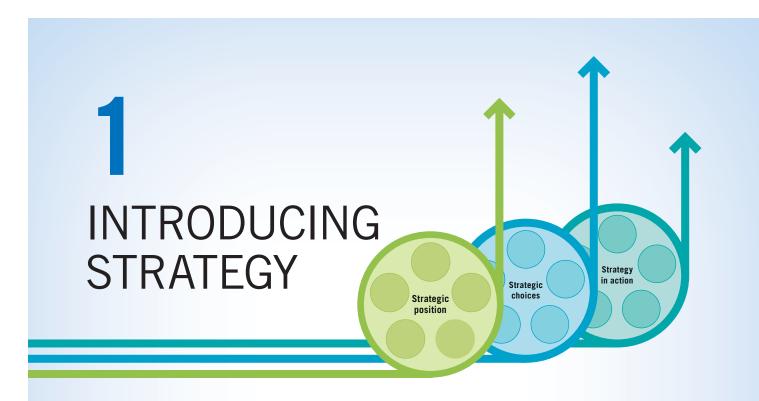
MyStrategyExperience is an engaging and rigorous simulation designed to bring together the theory and practice of strategy-making in the realistic environment of a dynamic organisation and industry. The simulation puts students on the board of directors in a global advertising agency and allows them to make a strategic analysis of the business, put together a business plan and then make a number of challenging decisions on the future strategy of the company.

As students set and implement strategy, they will see the impact of their decisions on financial and non-financial measures of performance within the simulated company. Your students will need to balance strategic opportunities with inherent risk thus gaining knowledge and insights relevant to their strategic studies.

For more information, contact your local sales representative or visit <a href="https://uk.pearson.com/higher-education-educators/products-and-services/course-resources-and-content/simulations.html">https://uk.pearson.com/higher-education-educators/products-and-services/course-resources-and-content/simulations.html</a>

Follow the authors' latest comments on the strategy issues of this book at https://twitter.com/ExploreStrategy

## EXPLORING STRATEGY



#### **Learning outcomes**

After reading this chapter you should be able to:

- Summarise the strategy of an organisation in a 'strategy statement'.
- Distinguish between corporate, business and functional strategies.
- Identify key issues for an organisation's strategy according to the *Exploring Strategy Framework*.
- Understand different people's roles in strategy work.
- Appreciate the importance of different *organisational contexts*, *academic disciplines* and *theoretical lenses* to practical strategy analysis.

#### **Key terms**

business-level strategy p.11

corporate-level strategy p.10

**Exploring Strategy Framework** p.11

functional strategies p.11

mission statement p.7

objectives p.8

statements of corporate values p.8

strategic choices p.13

strategic position p.12

strategy p.4

strategy in action p.14

strategy lenses p.21

strategy statements p.8

three-horizons framework p.6

vision statement p.8

INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Claudia, a junior at a leading firm of strategy consultants, had just arrived with two senior colleagues at the headquarters of a medium-sized company considering its next strategic move. The CEO began the meeting by outlining the business the company was in and some of the history behind the firm's significant success in European markets. The recent entry into Europe of new aggressive competitors threatened their performance and the Board was wondering whether the company should globalise. The CEO then asked how the consultants might approach this problem. The consulting partner explained they would carry out a systematic strategic analysis of the company's situation and Claudia knew this would be her responsibility – to gather and analyse appropriate data. She would need to understand how the company had been so successful to date, the challenge posed by competitors and the broader opportunities and threats from the wider environment. She knew she could access key company executives to understand what resources, processes and people were supporting the current strategy and also what might support international expansion. She would have to consider the direction in which the business might expand, the methods of expansion that might be most appropriate as well as other strategic options. Through this analysis, she would hope to inform the CEO's decision about what the strategy for the company might be and perhaps gain further work to help implement a strategic direction.

The problem presented by the CEO to the consultants is one of strategy. It is concerned with key issues for the future of the organisation. For instance, how should the company compete in the future with aggressive new entrants? What growth options are there for the company? If going global is a good strategy, what would be the optimal method to achieve this outcome and what might be the resourcing implications? All of these strategy questions are vital to the future survival of the organisation.

Strategy questions naturally concern entrepreneurs and senior managers at the top of their organisations. But these questions matter more widely. Middle managers also have to understand the strategic direction of their organisations, both to know how to get top management support for their initiatives and to explain their organisation's strategy to the people they are responsible for. Anybody looking for a management-track job needs to be ready to discuss strategy with their potential employer. Indeed, anybody taking a job should first be confident that their new employer's strategy is actually viable. There are even specialist career opportunities in strategy, for example like Claudia, as a strategy consultant or as an in-house strategic planner, often key roles for fast-track young managers.

This book takes a broad approach to strategy, looking at both the economics of strategy and the people side of managing strategy in practice. It is a book about 'Exploring', because the real world of strategy rarely offers obvious answers. In strategy, it is typically important to explore several options, probing each one carefully before making choices. The book is also relevant to any kind of organisation responsible for its own direction into the future. Thus the book refers to large private-sector multinationals and small entrepreneurial startups; to public-sector organisations such as schools and hospitals; and to not-for-profits such as charities or sports clubs. Strategy matters to almost all organisations, and to everybody working in them.