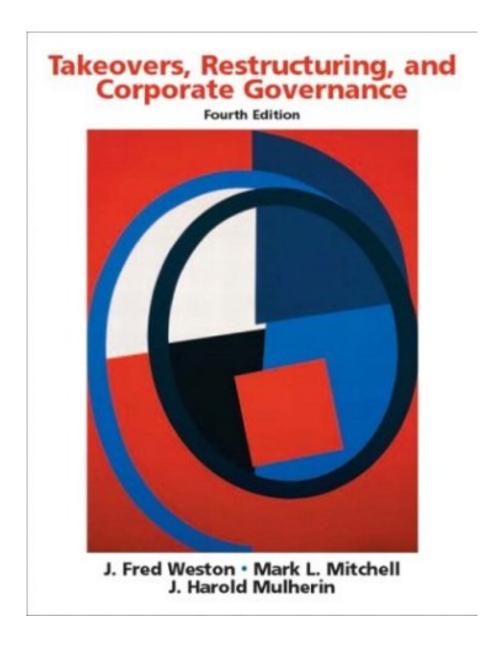


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From the Back Cover

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- Provides conceptual discussion on why mergers take place
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Powerful, long-term change forces have been driving M&A activity in recent decades. Foremost is

technological change, impacting every industry. Changes in transportation and communications produced the internationalization of markets. The globalization of competition and its increased intensity produced deregulation in airlines, financial services, telecommunications, and even the traditional electrical and other public utilities industries. But the massive change forces also have impacted the pharmaceutical, chemical, auto, tire, and petroleum industries. Ways of doing business will continue to change. The forms of competition will continue to multiply, and the intensity of competition will continue to increase. Relations with suppliers, workers, consumers, and other stakeholders will continue to evolve. These forces are not likely to diminish in the years ahead.

Other developments have become superimposed on the longer-term trends. An economic downturn began in early 2000. Chain reactions set in. Slowing economies always impact the durable goods industries the most adversely. Strong new growth sectors were severely stunted. The promising Internet industries came to a virtual standstill. The world telecommunications industry was battered by overinvestment and overcapacity, resulting in a collapse of profit margins. Stock market values were shattered. Large stock price declines took place in industry leaders such as Intel, Cisco, Oracle, Sun Microsystems, IBM, and even Microsoft. These problems were aggravated by geopolitical developments. International terrorism was signaled by the September 11, 2001, tragedy. Political tensions in the Middle East, India-Pakistan, Russia-Chechnya, and so on continued.

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Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Subject... Boring Book

By Paul Ireland

The subject of this book is quite interesting and the knowledgable authors add many insights into the field of Mergers and Aquisitions. However, the book is poorly written and designed. Simply opening the book will show colorless pages and bland figures that perfectly reflect the tone and content within. There is also a surprising number of spelling mistakes and grammatical errors (something I should not expect if I'm paying over \$100 for a book).

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

I expected more

By Kim Dalio

Considering the reputation of the primary author, I found the book to be ponderous to read and seemingly focused more on what the authors wanted to discuss than what might be really useful to students and those practicing M&A. The authors should have sought a more appropriate balance between theory and practice. This tome is weighted in favor of theory. It seems to spend more time addressing societal issues and issues of government policy than addressing the mechanics of how to plan for and implement transactions. In fact, only the last few pages of the book deal superficially with an approach to doing M&A.

The book also assumes substantial knowledge of accounting, finance and economics on the part of the reader. The dearth of examples also hinders the readers ability to readily understand how to apply complex concepts explained in torturous paragraphs of prose. It would have been helpful to use more illustrations to communicate concepts that are difficult for those of us that don't have Phds to understand.

Thankfully, there are other books that are far more helpful in explaining both theory and application of M&A. I have found Mckinsey's book on Measuring and Managing Valuation to be a much better guide to understanding how to apply complex valuation techniques. Integration methodology is well explained in Marks and Clemente's Winning at Mergers. For an excellent detailed overview of M&A, see Depamphlis Mergers Acquisitions and Other Restructuring or Weston's other, more recent book on M&A.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Broad coverage but lacks focus

By A Customer

Three cheers (stars) for Weston's attempt to cover a vast subject in less than 500 pages of manuscript. My criticism is precisely that: the book skims the surface of a multitude of issues, providing tremendous overview and perspective, but little focus on specific topics.

Rather than a narrative like many books on this subject, Weston uses the layout of a university text book. This has pluses and minuses. At best, it gives the reader an opportunity to see the range of issues in a single framework; at worst, one comes away with little discussion of specific topics. For example, what insight can be gained from a single page discussion of such diverse and complex issues as CAPM, Porter's Five Forces and financial restructuring?

Clearly this book is for the MBA student with background understanding or the practioner who wants to see the wide array of issues in perspective. Nonetheless, I do find this a superior reference book: there are case discussions of all the recent and significant deals (through 1998), both US and European. Here, Weston provides more insight than Wasserstein's "Big Deal" by giving academic perspective and context to many headline M&A deals.

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