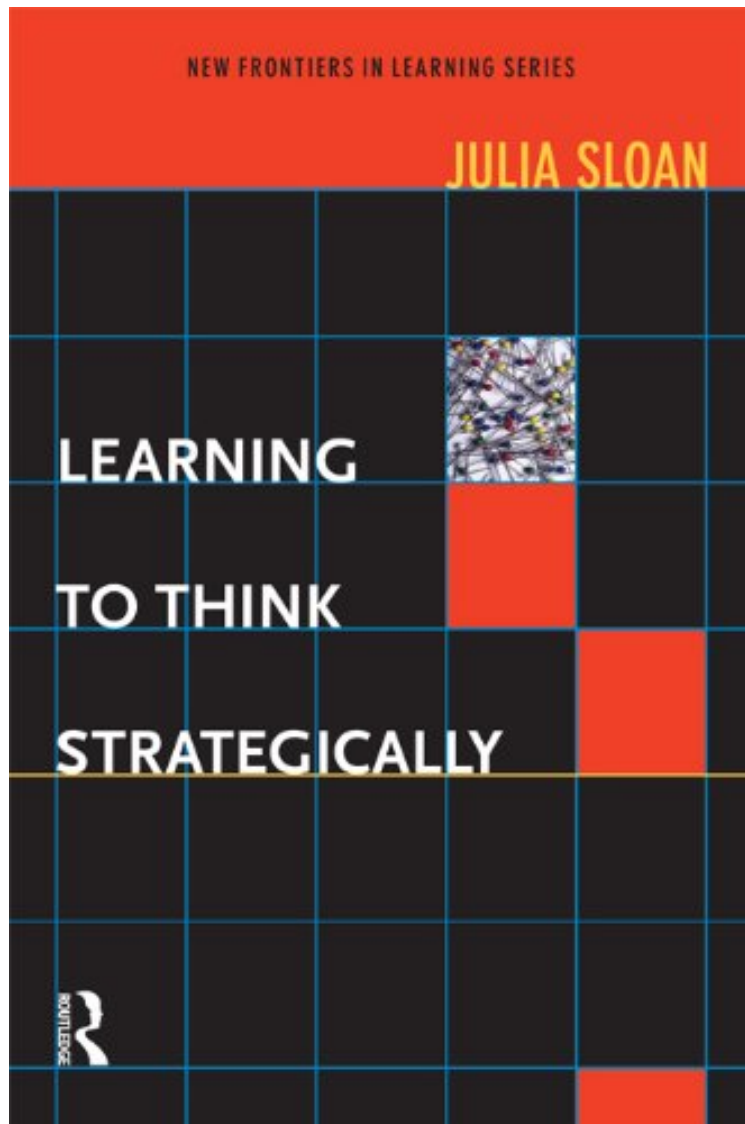


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Learning to Think Strategically (New Frontiers in Learning)

Julia Sloan

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Julia Sloan : Learning to Think Strategically (New Frontiers in Learning) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Learning to Think Strategically (New Frontiers in Learning):

33 of 34 people found the following review helpful. I Got One Valuable Information out of this BookBy Mat633I've got a desire for learning strategic thinking lately and decided to read books on this subject starting with the ones that get the best reviews. This book has got five star review (15 five stars + 1 four stars at this time). That's impressive. After reading it, however, I started to wonder how many of these five-star reviews are from friends and colleagues. At least two reviews reveal that they are fellow professors from Columbia University.I appreciate this book very much on

one thing--that is "strategic thinking can be learned." I am a poor strategic thinker, so I feel extremely encouraged. Other than that the rest of the book is very repetitive and sometimes so convoluted that it wants you to give up learning strategic thinking. In certain parts of the book, she goes on lengthy discussions on a simple concept such as "adaptation" or "reflection." I wonder how many people who gave it five-stars actually finished the book. You can see the shared highlights (on Kindle) at the beginning of the book and then not a single highlight for the rest of the book. By the end of the book, I was totally exhausted and thought about taking years of break before reading another book on strategic thinking. The book also serves as an infomercial for the author's executive consultant service. At times, I felt that the author might have intentionally made the strategic learning difficult so that the reader would hire her for consultation. As John Maxwell once said, "A scholar makes a simple thing complex, and a communicator makes a complex thing simple." After this book, I agree with him. So far the book I like most is "Strategic Project Management Made Simple: Practical Tools for Leaders and Teams. Even though it's more about management than thinking, you are forced to think strategically by practically dealing with the strategic management. For now, I am moving on to the next highly rated book, "Thinking Strategically: The Competitive Edge in Business, Politics, and Everyday Life." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Learning to think strategically By Steven Smolinsky This is an extremely clear, well thought out, and quite detailed walk through what is required to become an excellent strategic thinker. As a consultant in this field, I find this the best overview and explanation I have ever read. I highly recommend this book to anyone who needs to increase their or their organization's need to improve their strategy and the way they think about it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. not good By Customer not good

In *Learning to Think Strategically*, author Julia Sloan presents a previously unexamined account of the relationship between strategic thinking and the learning process involved; taking learning from the academic to the everyday. This book is an original primer on how successful strategists learn to think strategically. This authoritative book traces the history of strategy, differentiates strategic thinking from planning, describes the influence of culture, streamlines the roles of rationality and intuition, and identifies five key attributes for learning to think strategically. *Learning to Think Strategically* asserts that learning is the critical link to strategic thinking. Learning is a "conversion tool" that can transform thinking strategically into a sustainable competitive advantage.

"Julia Sloan lays out in a comprehensive manner how strategic thinking can be learned. This book, therefore, is a must read for all organizations and executives who genuinely consider human capital as not only a valuable asset but the most significant competitive differentiator in today's constantly changing and extremely challenging global arena." -- Raj Tatta, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP "Sloan has written a superb book that should be on the required reading list for every business school. It offers a compelling argument to avoid over-reliance on linear thinking, formal planning rituals and simple exhortations to "think out of the box," in favor of a process that results in truly innovative strategic thinking. Sloan is exceptionally clear in her analysis of the underlying drivers of this process. She makes an important contribution to understanding the development of breakthrough business strategies."-- Willie Pietersen, Professor, The Practice of Management, Columbia Business School "This book opens new horizons to strategy development as it invites intuition, cultural and social dimensions into the decision making process. It contests the conventional, unidimensional, facts-and-figure based, retrospective logic as the core strategic discipline, and instead, integrates the important "soft" aspects of a successful strategic thinking approach. Dr. Sloan strongly advocates for the development of strategic thinking as an essential asset of corporate human capital. The worldwide transcultural experience of Dr. Sloan, combined with sound research, a critical discussion of standard strategic literature, as well as sensitivity for the complex and subtle approach to strategic thinking, offers a new perspective for both students and business executives. An indispensable roadmap for everyone willing to learn strategic thinking."- Karl Nigl, CEO Raiffeisen, Austria "Julia Sloan's book offers convincing evidence that sharp strategic thinking is not a miraculous gift of a few but a complex, multi-faceted process, which can be learned systematically. In an increasingly competitive business environment where the ability to develop distinct, adaptive strategies is a basic requirement for sustainable success, this book is highly recommended reading for students as well as executives and consultants interested in a new, comprehensive approach to strategic thinking."--Marcus Sieberer, Partner, McKinsey Company, Inc. From the Back Cover *Business/Human Resources Learning to Think Strategically* Julia Sloan "Sloan has written a superb book that should be on the required reading list for every business school. It offers a compelling argument to avoid over-reliance on linear thinking, formal planning rituals and simple exhortations to 'think out of the box', in favor of a process that results in truly innovative strategic thinking. Sloan is exceptionally clear in her analysis of the underlying drivers of this process. She makes an important contribution to understanding the development of breakthrough business strategies." - Willie Pietersen, Professor, The Practice of Management, Columbia Business School "Julia Sloan lays out in a comprehensive manner how strategic thinking can be learned. Therefore, this is a must read for all organizations and executives who genuinely consider human capital as not only a valuable asset but the most significant competitive differentiator in today's constantly changing and extremely challenging global arena." - Raj

Tatta, Partner, Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP" This book opens new horizons to strategy development by including intuition, cultural and social dimensions in the decision making process. It contests conventional logic as the core strategic discipline, and instead, integrates the important "soft" aspects of a successful strategic thinking approach. Based on her trans-cultural business experience, Dr. Sloan combines sound research, a critical discussion of standard strategic literature, and a sensitivity for the complexity of strategic thinking. This book offers a new perspective for both students and business executives and is an indispensable roadmap for everyone willing to learn strategic thinking." - Karl Nigl, Former CEO, Raiffeisen Ware, Austria AG" Julia Sloan's book offers convincing evidence that sharp strategic thinking is not a miraculous gift of a few but a complex, multi-faceted process, which can be learned systematically. In an increasingly competitive business environment where the ability to develop distinct, adaptive strategies is a basic requirement for success, this book is highly recommended reading for students, executives and consultants interested in a new, comprehensive approach to strategic thinking." - Marcus Sieberer, Partner, McKinsey Company, Inc. In *Learning to Think Strategically*, author Julia Sloan presents an unexamined account of the relationship between strategic thinking and the learning process involved - taking learning from the academic to the everyday. This book is an original primer on how successful strategists learn to think strategically. This authoritative book traces the history of strategy, differentiates strategic thinking from planning, describes the influence of culture, streamlines the roles of rationality and intuition, and identifies five key attributes for learning to think strategically. *Learning to Think Strategically* asserts that learning is the critical link to strategic thinking. Learning is a "conversion tool" that can transform thinking strategically into a sustainable competitive advantage. Julia Sloan is founder of Sloan International, an executive development firm in New York, NY.