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# Lasting Contribution: How to Think, Plan, and Act to Accomplish Meaningful Work

*Tad Waddington*

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"Highly recommended for anyone looking for answers to life's most intriguing questions, brought to you by a uniquely talented guide, in a book you won't be able to put down. Should be required reading for every senior executive everywhere in the world."

— JAMES E. SCHRAGER, CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND STRATEGY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO


## Lasting Contribution

How to Think, Plan, and Act  
to Accomplish Meaningful Work



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**Tad Waddington : Lasting Contribution: How to Think, Plan, and Act to Accomplish Meaningful Work** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lasting Contribution: How to Think, Plan, and Act to Accomplish Meaningful Work:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Thoroughly Underwhelmed By John HSaw some really great reviews for this book. Maybe I just had the wrong expectations. The best way to describe this book is that it's about the theory

of doing something -- not actually about doing something. I was thinking it would be something like 'Getting things done' in the way that it would provide some sort of framework for acting, choosing between actions, etc. I read half the book thinking I was still on the introduction before I realized the rest of the book was reinforcing the first half. It's super short, too. Which might be a good thing, but probably 1/3 of the book is quotations and references to other works, authors, or notable people from history. There just isn't anything in here that you could pull out and act on. I don't see this influencing anything I would ever do in the future. The whole book can basically be summed up in: "why are you doing something? how are you going to do it? what are you going to use to do it?" I do not recommend this book to anyone looking to make a Lasting Contribution. Disclaimer: I read the first half and skimmed the second half after realizing I was wasting time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Endured, not Enjoyed By John P. Seipp There are books that one reads because one can't put them down, that one treasures and recommends and revisits and learns profound lessons from. Then there are books that one reads because one paid good money for them, the final page is a relief, and will never be thought of again. This book is the latter. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's just what I want By yinhong The writer interpreted classic philosophy in a very modern and interesting way. worth read twice! especially for young people now.

A powerful dose of wisdom in a concise package, *Lasting Contribution* is filled with profound and effective advice on how to make the kinds of contributions that matter; to work, to organizations, to communities; that really matter. Drawing from such varied sources as Aristotle, Sun Tzu, Victor Frankl, and Confucius, this book marshals insights that touch on information theory, sociology, Zen, psychology, art history, management theory, and other fields. Waddington's deft ability to illuminate his ideas using colorful examples; everything from the Titanic and Santa Claus to skateboarding and Oprah's shoes; make the book as engaging as it is wise and thoughtful. Above all, *Lasting Contribution* offers different benefits to different readers: insightful tips for a better work performance for those looking to improve their careers; practical life-applications for those grappling with high philosophical ideas; and food for thought for anyone seeking to enrich their lives generally.

A must read for anyone who wants their decisions to have purpose and impact. -- Bradley Kolar, CLO, University of Chicago Hospitals By tying together intellectual principles and pragmatic effectiveness in such commonsense terms, Tad Waddington has produced a work worth reading, rereading, and pondering. -- Timothy C. Wong, Professor of Chinese, Arizona State University Tad Waddington has pulled together the great thoughts from the great thinkers who worried about why we are here, what we are supposed to be doing, and how best to get on with it. These are big, tough questions but they are tackled, in an amazingly compact and thought-provoking way, so that everyone can arrive at their own answers. Waddington has a special gift that allows you to see his thoughts clearly at work--yet he provides plenty of space for you to compare your ideas with history's best. -- James E. Schrage, Clinical Professor of Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago Tad Waddington is an erudite and engaging writer. He uses the concepts of ancient Greek philosophy along with insightful modern quotations and anecdotes to show how people can shape their strivings into enduring contributions to humanity. -- Frank Schmidt, Ralph L. Sheets Professor, Department of Management and Organizations, University of Iowa Yeats reflected upon his intellectual life and found it "a preparation for something that never happens." Waddington offers us a contrast - a reflection upon preparation for what is happening. -- Ted Hayes, PhD, Principal Research Scientist, The Gallup Organization From the Publisher *Lasting Contribution* won a National Best Books 2007 Award and Kirkus said, "A self-help guide that assembles scholarly and scientific material to illustrate why things happen, why people act and how those people can plan actions that make a difference. Unlike the average motivational guru who seems to have read a single book--the one he or she has just written--Waddington has read them all, so readers will learn what ancient thinkers, religious leaders, modern scientists and rival motivational guides teach about human behavior. ... A thought-provoking work that bears rereading." From the Inside Flap *Does Your Work Matter?* *Lasting Contribution* is for everyone interested in finding out how your work can truly make a difference. This profound little book demonstrates how to create meaning in your life, take sophisticated action, manage your career, and make a lasting contribution to the world. Tad Waddington synthesizes the thought of Aristotle, Sun Tzu, Gouml;del, Frankl, Confucius, and many others. He draws insights from information theory, sociology, Zen, psychology, the history of art, management theory, the philosophy of science, and a dozen other fields. Using the Titanic, avatars, Santa Claus, skateboarding, muses, cocktail parties, Oprah's shoes, and an array of other vivid examples to make its points clear, *Lasting Contribution* is both enjoyable and deeply thought-provoking.