# How to Build Thick Institutions: A Guide for Leaders and Changemakers





## How to Build a Thick Institution: Organizational Lessons from a Championship High School Football

**Program** by W. George Scarlett

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.3 out of 5

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In a world that is constantly changing, it is more important than ever to have strong and resilient institutions. Institutions are the bedrock of our society. They provide us with stability, security, and a sense of belonging. They also play a vital role in our economy, our education system, and our healthcare system.

Unfortunately, many of our institutions are facing challenges. They are underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed. They are also struggling to keep up with the pace of change. As a result, they are becoming less effective at meeting the needs of the people they serve.

In his new book, *How to Build Thick Institutions*, author and leadership expert David Bornstein argues that we need to rethink the way we build institutions. We need to move away from the old model of thin institutions, which are characterized by a top-down hierarchy, a focus on compliance, and a lack of innovation. Instead, we need to build thick institutions, which are characterized by a distributed leadership model, a culture of collaboration, and a commitment to innovation.

Thick institutions are more resilient, more effective, and more responsive to the needs of the people they serve. They are also more likely to attract and retain top talent. In his book, Bornstein provides a roadmap for building thick institutions. He shares stories of successful institutions from around the world, and he offers practical advice on how to create a culture of innovation, collaboration, and accountability.

If you are a leader or a changemaker, this book is essential reading. It will help you build strong and resilient institutions that can withstand the challenges of the 21st century.

### **Benefits of Building Thick Institutions**

- Increased resilience
- Improved effectiveness
- Greater responsiveness to the needs of the people they serve
- Increased ability to attract and retain top talent

#### **How to Build Thick Institutions**

In his book, Bornstein outlines seven key principles for building thick institutions:

- Start with a clear mission and vision. What is the purpose of your institution? What are you trying to achieve? Once you have a clear sense of your mission and vision, you can develop a plan for how to achieve your goals.
- Create a culture of collaboration. Thick institutions are characterized by a culture of collaboration. This means that everyone in the institution works together to achieve the common goal. There is no room for silos or turf wars.
- 3. **Distribute leadership.** In thick institutions, leadership is not concentrated at the top. Instead, it is distributed throughout the

organization. This allows for more creativity and innovation, and it also helps to ensure that the institution is responsive to the needs of the people it serves.

- 4. Focus on outcomes, not outputs. Thick institutions focus on outcomes, not outputs. This means that they are concerned with the impact of their work, not just with the number of activities they complete.
- 5. **Be adaptable and innovative.** Thick institutions are adaptable and innovative. They are constantly looking for new ways to improve their work and to meet the needs of the people they serve. They are not afraid to take risks and to try new things.
- 6. Measure and improve. Thick institutions measure their progress and use data to improve their work. They are constantly looking for ways to do things better. They are also willing to make changes when necessary.
- 7. **Build relationships.** Thick institutions build relationships with other organizations and with the people they serve. They understand that they are part of a larger community, and they work to build strong partnerships.

Building thick institutions is not easy, but it is essential for the future of our society. By following the principles outlined in this book, you can help build strong and resilient institutions that can withstand the challenges of the 21st century.

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