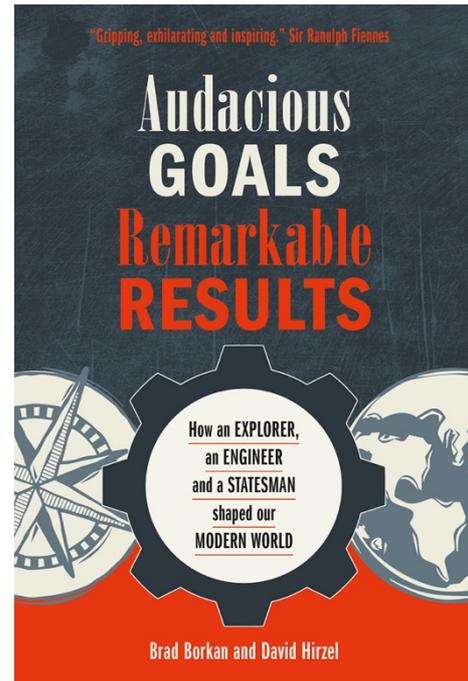


Audacious Goals Remarkable Results – Brad Borkan & David Hirzel, Terra Nova Press, 2021

Review by Stephen Scott-Fawcett, world-renowned polar historian, adventurer, and explorer. Stephen summited Everest twice and trekked to the South Pole.

I have met Brad Borkan and exchanged emails with David Hirzel on numerous occasions. If there is one word in the English language that sums up both these gentlemen, it is this – ‘enthusiastic’. Another word comes a close second – ‘energetic’.

So, it shouldn’t come as a surprise to any reader of their latest book that *Audacious Goals Remarkable Results* is shot through with what is rapidly becoming the authors’ trademark - high octane excitement in learning lessons from great people. Their subject matter here is three unique achievers in history – a remarkable engineer, politician, and explorer. We are introduced to Isambard Kingdom Brunel (now THAT’s a name to conjure with!), Theodore Roosevelt and Roald Amundsen.



What unites these three, seemingly disparate, characters is a common strand – that of high achievement, where success through adversity, focus over distraction and levels of energy beyond measure bear fruit. Brunel’s engineering prowess masterminded the Great Western Railway; Roosevelt’s political determination delivered the Panama Canal, and Amundsen’s polar prowess defeated the frozen clutches of the Northwest Passage and the South Pole. And these were only *some* of the achievements of these great men.

This engrossing book sets out to understand the contributions these men made in human history and recognises the valuable lessons we can learn from them and how we might translate such into our everyday lives.

The synopses of three great lives and their achievements so clearly described in this very readable and modest-size book is a wonderful history lesson in itself. However, we soon discover this is nothing more than a means to an end. That end is this – from all the great endeavours of these extraordinary individuals, leaders in their field, ten valuable and enduring lessons emerge. They are a kind of modern ‘Ten Commandments’ for success in life –

delivered by mortals and not the divine. These ten lessons from an accomplished engineer, a supreme statesman and explorer *par excellence* set the standard – a blueprint on how individuals and whole societies can improve, move forward, and find fulfilment and success.

As what are these ten lessons? (1) Think big; (2) Be patient; (3) Master the details; (4) Accept the attendant risks (physical, political, or financial); (5) Work as a team or partnership; (6) Accept failure along the way; (7) Continuously learn and adapt; (8) Find your passion; (9) Build on your successes and (10) Press on to the next great goal. These lessons should be followed not in isolation but as a homogenous whole.

As the book nears the end of its tale and the reader thinks the revelations are complete – not so. We are to learn, too, from the recent huge success of the NASA Mars Rover space programme. Inscribed on the parachute of the Mars Rover was a three-word code. Clever people set out to solve the riddle and with success. It read, *Dare mighty things*. This is our challenge in life. For my part, I challenge you to buy this enjoyable and deeply educational book. It is worth every penny/dime.

Stephen Scott-Fawcett FRGS
August 2021