

A Simple Solution to Complex Problems

SOLVABLE

ARNAUD CHEVALLIER ALBRECHT ENDERS



Praise for Solvable

'Central to business is problem solving, and the types of problems businesses face are increasingly complex and ill defined. To solve problems, we increasingly need therefore to think explicitly about the problem of how to best solve the problem and to hone our problem solving skills. The authors provide an accessible and pragmatic framework for doing so, covering the whole cycle of solving problems including framing, assessing, deciding, engaging, and implementing. It will be a welcome addition to any manager's armoury.'

Martin Reeves, Chairman, BCG Henderson Institute

'Solvable is an evidence-based guide to making good decisions. In an uncertain world, the essence of good decision making is informed reflection. This book walks the reader through the process of reflection – thinking about how we think about decisions, what to pay attention to, and how to bring the necessary resources together in doing so. Step by step, it lays out evidence-based processes for scoping the decision (and the problem to be solved), gathering information, making the decision and acting on it. Full of examples showing the good, the bad, and the ugly in modern decision making, Solvable builds the decision maker's confidence and competence. I am singing its praises to my students and colleagues!'

Denise M. Rousseau, H. J. Heinz II University Professor of Organizational Behavior and Public Policy; Director, Project on Evidence-based Organizational Practices, Heinz College and Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University

'Every manager strives to make good decisions for the organisation—yet, all too often biases, false assumptions or oversimplifications hamper their ability to do just that! By drawing on scientific insights and their vast personal experience, Chevallier and Enders guide you through three main steps (frame, explore, decide) that are indispensable for solving complex problems. In short: A 'must read' for current and aspiring managers!'

Marc Gruber, Professor of Entrepreneurship & Technology Commercialization, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

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- 2 Fine-tune your quest Improve your frame
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Part II EXPLORE Identify alternatives and criteria

- 4 Map the solution space Explore alternatives
- 5 Clarify what matters Explore criteria

Part III DECIDE Select the best on-balance solution

- 6 Choose your route Evaluate your alternatives
- 7 Align interdependent decisions
- 8 Win 'em over Convince effectively
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER READING ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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