



## Icarus in the Boardroom: The Fundamental Flaws in Corporate America and Where They Came from

By David Skeel

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2006. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 196 x 127 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Americans have always loved risktakers. Like the Icarus of ancient Greek lore, however, even the most talented entrepreneurs can overstep their bounds. All too often, the very qualities that make Icaran executives special- self-confidence, visionary insight, and extreme competitiveness-spur them to take misguided and even illegal chances. The Icaran failure of an ordinary entrepreneur isn t headline news. But put Icarus in the corporate boardroom and, as David Skeel vividly demonstrates, the ripple effects can be profound. Ever since the first large-scale corporations emerged in the nineteenth century, their ability to tap huge amounts of capital and the sheer number of lives they affect has meant that their executives play for far greater stakes. Excessive and sometimes fraudulent risks, competition, and the increasing size and complexity of organizations: these three factors have been at the heart of every corporate breakdown from 1873, when financial genius Jay Cooke collapsed, to the corporate scandals of the early 21st century. Compounding the scandals is an ongoing cat-and-mouse game between regulators efforts to police the three factors that lead...



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