





InnovationQuality

The Value of the New

For further information on the authors and "InQ" go to www.steinbeis.de/inq

The website provides information on events revolving around the twin/coupled phenomenon of "innovation" and "quality." The site will also feature other "InQ" articles written by the authors, articles written by others to make their own additions or even point out inconsistencies, as well as examples of use and "diffusion" resulting from InQ events.

We view the website as a platform for documenting our experiments with InQ, and our hope (despite the opposition) is that this will, at the very least, again result in something incrementally new, for others and for us.

Impressum

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Foreword

Since as far back as the times of Heraclitus, it has been self-evident and nevertheless true, that nothing is more permanent and nothing is more inevitable than change. The rollercoasters of history, great and small – disasters, blessings, twists and turns, ruin, transition, truncation – the chronicles of time on this planet are full of such developments. Even supposedly "quieter times" are ultimately just phases filled with smaller ups and downs. Change is a constant, and, as such, an intrinsic part of every era and every major challenge. It is something that every being on this planet has always had to – and will always have to – come to terms with.

From the things people say and write these days, one could even think that modern society is confronted by a degree of change never witnessed by any generation before. One also has the impression that, for the first time in history, humankind is facing many unknowns, unlike anything ever previously encountered. Given the scale of political, social and cultural change, given the volume of disruptive invention and new insights, given the number of major natural and manmade disasters that humanity has experienced during its existence, this view of the world should at least be seen in relative terms. Every generation has its own challenges to face, and, as Konrad Lorenz also believed, one thing holds true for every generation: You have to see if you stand or fall.

Without a doubt, however, the rate of change has accelerated in recent decades and the world is (again) witnessing more instability and unpredictability. Without a doubt, people are now living (again) in times of change in which many things (in some areas, possibly all things) are unlike anything that previous generations encountered.

Our world of today seems to be always on the go and moving on to the next development. And as a result, businesses and whole economies have to strive and dare to make evolutionary or even revolutionary changes themselves. The ability and the willingness to innovate means being able to and wanting to allow new things to become a reality – a reality that creates value and thus also adds value. And it is this which dictates the fate of, not just an economy, but also business.