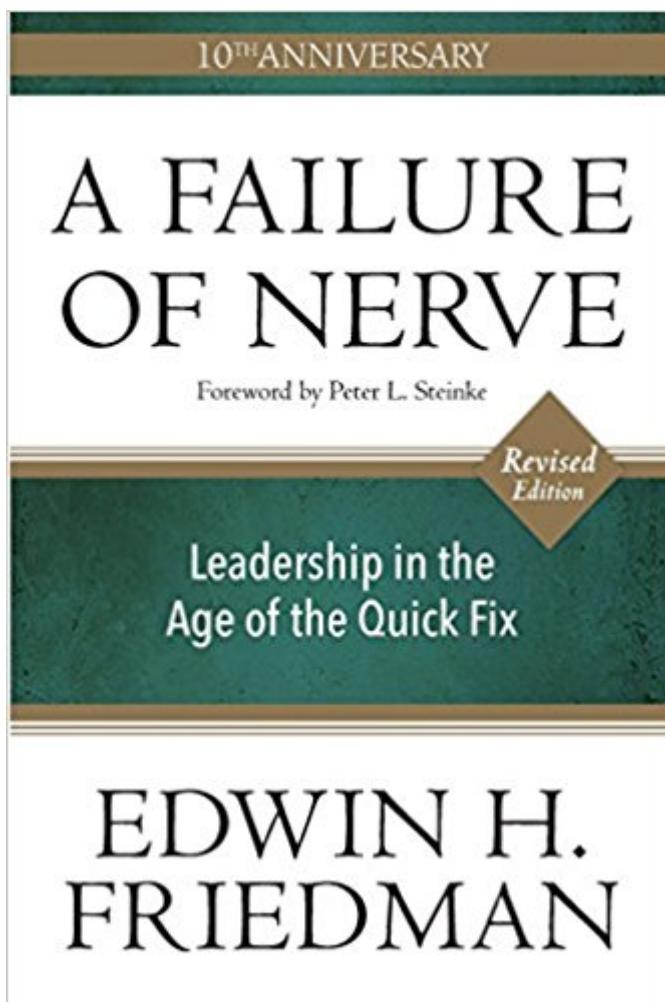


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# A Failure Of Nerve, Revised Edition: Leadership In The Age Of The Quick Fix



## Synopsis

Ten years after his death, Edwin Friedman's best-selling *A Failure of Nerve* continues to offer insights into leadership that are more urgently needed than ever, and this revised, anniversary edition is essential reading for all leaders, be they parents or presidents, corporate executives or educators, religious superiors or coaches, healers or generals, managers or clergy. Friedman was the first to tell us that all organizations have personalities, like families, and to apply the insights of family therapy to churches and synagogues, rectors and rabbis, politicians and teachers. His understandings about our regressed, "seatbelt society," oriented toward safety rather than adventure, help explain the sabotage that leaders constantly face today. Suspicious of the "quick fixes" and instant solutions that sweep through our culture only to give way to the next fad, he argued for strength and self-differentiation as the marks of true leadership. His formula for success is more maturity, not more data; stamina, not technique; and personal responsibility, not empathy. *A Failure of Nerve* was unfinished at the time of Friedman's death and originally published in a limited edition. This new edition cleans up some oversights in the original and brings his life-changing insights and challenges to a new generation of readers. Reading this book is like discovering an unpublished Beethoven sonata or a missing play of Shakespeare. Ed Friedman was one of our most brilliant, original, and provocative thinkers across the fields of therapy, ministry, and organizational leadership. - Professor William J. Doherty, Director, Marriage and Family Therapy Program, University of Minnesota

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The age that is upon us requires differentiated leadership that is willing to rise above the anxiety of the masses. We need leaders who will have the "capacity to understand and deal effectively" with the hive mind that is us. This is, in Friedman's words, 'the key to the kingdom.' I am grateful for this accessible new edition. --C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Edwin H. Friedman was an ordained rabbi and practicing family therapist. His ground-breaking volume *Generation to Generation*, which exposed the connections between emotional processes at home and at work in religious, educational, therapeutic, and business systems, has become a modern classic. In great demand as a consultant and public speaker throughout the country, he lived in Washington DC. He died in 1996.

This book was recommended to me and I consider myself of above-average intelligence. I am also educated beyond graduate school; and yet, it is lost on me.

Excellent product

A great book about leadership! If only more of our elected officials and company CEOs read this book and applied its wisdom and advice!

An authentic gem in the literature of leadership and growth. From my point of view as a psychotherapist and pastor in a diverse urban environment, Edwin Friedman provides a multitude of "ah-ha" moments for the leader who is searching for more substantive ways of thinking when it comes to living and leading well. Bravo!

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