

# THE TED\* LETTER™



By David Emerald

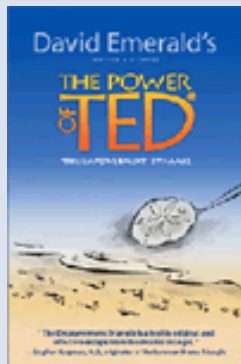
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[\(See the printer friendly pdf on the Power of TED\\* Website.\)](#)

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## What People are Saying about TED\*:

"I started reading your book a couple of weeks ago and at the same time I was going through some changes in my job. These were changes that I was not really ready for as I had to start working with a different group of people. I believe that The Power of TED\* helped me recover more quickly from 'the news'... Thank you for helping me through

## Is TED\* Cross-Cultural?

*"Drama... seems to be such a big part of the human experience... Much of humanity is sleepwalking through life - moving through the day firmly rooted in the Victim Orientation and not being aware of it. It accounts for much of the tragedy of the human experience."*

From Chapters 1 "Shift Happens" and 4 "The Victim Orientation" ([The Power of TED\\* - Revised & Updated](#))

As I write this issue of The TED\* Letter™, I am sitting in a hotel room in Brussels, Belgium, where I am serving as an executive coach for a global leadership program. And it is truly global. The participants span the planet: England, France, Belgium, South Africa, India, Thailand, Australia, and the United States.

I have been reflecting during the week on a question that is sometimes raised about TED\*: Is TED\* Cross-Cultural? The answer (I am confident) is absolutely yes!

While this global leadership program does not explicitly utilize The Empowerment Dynamic (TED), it does involve a very powerful 360-degree, multi-rater feedback tool, [The Leadership Circle Profile](#), which is built around the same Reactive (Victim) Orientation and Creative (**Creator**) Orientation found in *The Power of TED\**. (I will be writing more about the Profile in a future edition of this newsletter.)

The coaching conversations this week have again validated how the Orientations and the behaviors associated with them show up in various ways in all cultures. The Victim Orientation, with its problem-focused, anxiety-driven ways of reacting, is the "default orientation" of much of humanity. It shows up at every level of the human system: interpersonally, in families, in teams, in organizations, in - and between - countries and cultures.

Prior to the writing of *The Power of TED\**, the models and frameworks described in the book were presented to a number of "focus groups." One included a friend and participant from Nigeria who quickly confirmed the cross-cultural nature of the Dreaded Drama Triangle (DDT) - a fact he faces today in his witnessing the tragedies taking place in the Niger Delta and between rival sub-cultures in his beloved country.

The history of every culture is full of the toxic interplay between the DDT roles of Victims, Persecutors, and Rescuers.

this with your wonderful book! ”  
P.H.

“ I just want to say thank you...as a survivor of child abuse - I find that reading your book is bringing me the clarity I needed to become a "creator" instead of continuing as a "victim". Today I am feeling a little better about my journey into the future I am creating for myself... ”

With Gratitude,  
P.H.

“ Powerful and timely message in (the February) issue of TED\*. I am in awe of the gift that your work extends to a world crying out for relief from fear and scarcity. May you be blessed with a significant increase in global awareness about this beautiful gift you have to offer a world starving for its wisdom.” ”

Love,  
Jim A.

“ I read your book as soon as it arrived and so appreciated your story. It is dynamic and such a profound approach to life. For the next few days, I observed my interactions with friends and my husband... How empowering to have this tool! ”

Judy M.

“ I absolutely love and deeply appreciate this little gem of a book. It shares such a powerful and empowering message, with a loving, gentle, concise flow that keeps you wanting to learn more and more.

Thank you. ”  
Erica B.

“ The Empowerment Triangle is a highly original and effective escape from the Drama Triangle. ”  
Stephen Karpman, M.D., originator of the Karpman Drama Triangle

“ When practical advice meets profound, yet simple, explanations for human behavior, we can learn, change, and grow. The Power of TED\* does just this, and beautifully. ”  
Annie McKee

It's time to begin to write new cultural stories---(based upon the **Creative** Orientation and moving away from the Victim Orientation)!

Every person with whom I have met this week has affirmed and sees the value of the **Creator** Orientation and how it is, in the long run, a more resourceful and effective way of being. In *The Power of TED\**, the outcome-focused, passion-powered process of taking baby steps in the **Creator** Orientation provides the context for an upgrade in the stories we are co-writing through how we live our lives - no matter the culture that surrounds us.

However, it is not sufficient to merely say that the roles and relationships that TED fosters translate in all cultures in the same ways. **How** The Empowerment Dynamic, and the roles of **Creator**, Challenger and Coach are expressed **does** vary and consideration of the cultural context is critical.

The role of **Creator** is probably the most consistent of these three roles across cultures. Focusing on outcomes and choosing one's response to life experiences is a way of being.

On the other hand, how a conscious constructive Challenger provokes or evokes learning and growth can vary widely. In some cultures, a Challenger may be very direct and very blunt, while still conveying the learning intent behind their actions. In other cultures, the Challenger may be much more subtle and suggestive in their approach.

The way in which a Coach frames their questions and supports others in envisioning outcomes, discerning current reality, and committing to baby steps may also vary in different cultural contexts. The variations can range from "leading" and closed (yes/no) inquiries to very open explorations of dreams, desires and daring baby steps.

Discovering and describing the nuances and variety of ways in which the **Creator** Orientation and the TED roles and dynamics manifest in different cultures promises to be interesting and exciting. Yet this way of being and developing more resourceful and effective relationships is, indeed, cross-cultural in its essence!

Founder, Teleos Leadership Institute and co author *Becoming a Resonant Leader*, *Resonant Leadership*, and *Primal Leadership*

“ Conscious relationships begin with conscious individuals. Being a Creator in one's own life is the heart and soul of The Power of TED\*. This powerful little book points the way toward a hugely fulfilling life of empowering relationships - at work, at home, in the whole of your life. ”

Gay Hendricks, Ph.D. and Kathlyn Hendricks, Ph.D.

Authors of *Conscious Loving* (among many books) and co-founders of The Hendricks Institute

“ Knowing the characteristics of the Dreaded Drama Triangle (DDT) and its creative alternative, The Empowerment Dynamic (TED\*) is remarkably transformative. It's impossible for me to overstate my enthusiasm for this book! ”

Brian Johnson

Founder of PhilosophersNotes & Zadz/  
Gaia.com

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## Putting TED\* into Practice: What is Your Culture?

Describe one or more of the following "cultures" in which you live or have lived:

- Intimate Relationship(s)
- Family
- Community (Local and/or Regional)
- National
- Heritage (if different from your current nationality)



In what ways do you - or could you - express yourself as a Creator, as a Challenger, and as a Coach in each of these cultures?

Notice the commonalities in all these "cultures" and declare one baby step that you could do today to move your personal operation system closer to the Outcome Orientation and further away from the Victim Orientation.

Bon Voyage until next time!

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## TED\* Sightings

This section features links to people and places where TED\* is showing up on the internet and in the world.

I had the pleasure last month to be interviewed by Greg Voisen, which is now available on his website: [Inside Personal Growth](#).

Greg is definitely a compassionate Creator. Not only has he created Inside Personal Growth, he is also the founder of a non-profit called, "[Compassionate Communications](#)". His **Compassionate Communications** program is a simple and meaningful way to connect patients in need with people who care - one healing card at a time.

This unique blend of technology and heartfelt compassion brings messages of hope to those who need it most. In partnership with Hallmark Cards, Compassionate Communications has created an easy way to connect with someone who could use encouragement and support. Go to [www.CompassionateCommunications.com](http://www.CompassionateCommunications.com), to choose a charity and select (5) patients who you would like to send a note of encouragement too. (There are adults and children.) Select the cards for each patient and then they will send to you, via the mail, your personal "Compassionate Communications Care Kit". Included in your kit will be the 5 Hallmark cards you chose and 5 return postcards, all pre-addressed and stamped. You then write a personal note of inspiration and encouragement to your selected patients and drop them in them in the mail. A portion of your fee goes to the charity you selected.

Greg, thanks for the interview and for being a Compassionate Creator!

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To the Creator in you!

*David Emerald*

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