Three decades ago competitiveness was unheard-of; today it has taken the world by storm. But what is it? And will it last? In Top Class Competitors Stéphane Garelli - professor at IMD business school where he is also head of the World Competitiveness Centre, professor at the University of Lausanne, and former managing director of the World Economic Forum - defines competitiveness as the ability of a nation, company or individual to manage a set of disparate competencies to achieve prosperity. For instance, along with traditional policies a nation must tackle education and security to sustain economic development. Companies must manage soft issues such as brands to beat the competition. And individuals must reinvent themselves to survive. These fields of research did not exist until recently - now, competitiveness makes the link.

Top Class Competitors is a journey through the brave new world of competitiveness. What are its historical origins? How does it impact the management of a nation? How do companies thrive on it in an international environment? What is the impact on work structures and value systems? Above all, is there a competitiveness mindset? Exploring how competitiveness works, Stéphane Garelli shows why competitiveness is the most powerful tool available to unleash new levels of prosperity for nations, profit for companies and success for people.
Stéphane Garelli is a world authority on competitiveness, having pioneered work in the field for 25 years. He is a professor at the Institute of Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he heads the World Competitiveness Centre, and also an associate professor at the University of Lausanne where he teaches competitiveness of enterprises and nations. He was managing director of the World Economic Forum and director of its well-known Davos Annual Meetings for many years. Besides his academic career he has worked closely with several large global enterprises, in particular as a special advisor to Hewlett-Packard in Europe. He is also closely involved with public management and politics, having been an elected member of the Constitutional Assembly of his local state in Switzerland. He is a member of numerous international institutions and boards, regularly speaks at major conferences on competitiveness, and is chairman of the Swiss newspaper *Le Temps*. 