

URL: <https://ecorner.stanford.edu/clips/power-is-not-a-dirty-word/>

Deb Liu, CEO of Ancestry, observes that while lust for power is a problem, power in itself is a good thing — it's the way to leave an impact on the world. She encourages people to rethink power and make conscious choices about what to engage in while seeking influence.



## Transcript

- Growing up in a family, immigrant family, my dad was like, 00:00:05,340 "Put your head down, and get the job done," right? And you think that that's what is rewarded, but that is not at all what it's like in the workplace.. But let's touch on the word "power" for a second.. I actually say in the very beginning of the book, "Power is not a dirty word." It's actually the desire or the desire to take power from other people, that's actually what, you know, the lust for power is actually bad, but in and of itself, power itself is not a bad thing.. In fact, in the dictionary, power is the ability to influence and impact events and people.. Isn't that what you want in your daily life? And yet we corrupted this and say, "Well, it's narcissistic to want power." No, you actually wanna leave an impact on the world.. And, you know, the last chapter is really about what legacy you're leaving, and if you walk into a room and nothing happened and it was no different when you were there, why are you even there? Like, what impact did you leave on the world? If you join a company, you build a startup, but you didn't accomplish anything.. And so I think we need to turn this idea of power on its head and actually say, "We want everybody to have influence and impact on the world, and how can we do that in the best way possible without hurting others?" And I think a lot of the taking back your power is about coming into your own power, making a conscious choice of what you choose, what you choose to engage in, being intentional in the choices that you make, and rather than allowing kind of whatever happens to you happen to you, actually taking that back and saying, "I make these choices proactively"..