How do we keep manufacturing jobs in the USA?… Declare WAR!!!!

The bottom line is this…the wealth created over the past 300+ years in the USA is the direct result of our ability to convert our vast resources into products that people want to buy. Historically we have been the very best at doing this in the world. From the Springfield Manufacturing Company to Cisco Systems we have dominated the world with innovation, technical, manufacturing and distribution expertise…our vast production ability turned the tide in World War I and II. We even turned back the tide of the Soviet Union. We are now leading the war on terrorism and we will win it. It is this creation of wealth that has made us the great nation that we are and has given us the standard of living that is the envy of the world.

Even the management tools that almost every manufacturer embraces today, MRPII/ERP, JIT/Lean, Six Sigma were all invented here in the good old US of A.

It's now time to turn our attention to the War for Jobs. This is a war that will not be won by just being competitive. Jobs will continue to migrate into areas where the products/services can be produced at a lower cost…

Everyone…that's right…everyone must fight this war. We must get serious about eliminating the waste in our companies. A value added to non-value added ratio of 5% to 95% in the typical product/service delivery system is not competitive. What this means, is that only 5% of the time we are doing something that the customer feels is value added. It's no wonder that they go looking elsewhere!

The identification and then the elimination of waste and the minimization of cost added activities must be at the heart of our crusade. Every effort must be focused on reducing the TIME that it takes us to do everything. By becoming obsessive about time, it forces you to look at everything that you do, and question is this even necessary, is there a better way to do it, should someone else be doing this …

The very best tool for identifying the waste, cost added activities and the time that your processes take is Value Stream Mapping.

The very best way to launch the first salvo in the War for Jobs is to Value Stream Map your most critical processes…and then fix them quickly (30-60-90 days).

This won't make you competitive…It will make you dominate.