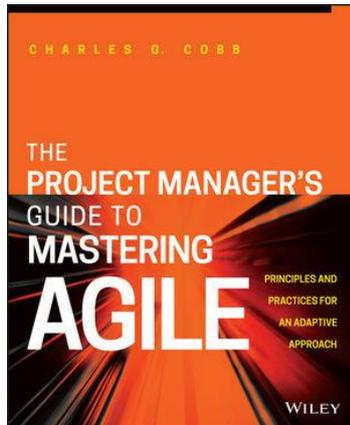


## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***The Project Manager's Guide to Mastering AGILE: Principles and Practices for an Adaptive Approach***

Author: **Charles G. Cobb** Publisher: Wiley

List Price: \$65.00 Format: soft cover; 403 pages

Publication Date: 2015 ISBN: 978-11-118-99104-6

Reviewer: **Rodger L. Martin, PMP, JD, MBA, BSEE**

Review Date: May 2015

### Introduction to the Book

The author presents a comprehensive, well-integrated and easy to follow book that can be used as a textbook in a graduate level Agile Project management course. The book is organized like a martial arts concept called “shu-ha-ri”. The “shu” phase is the “by the book” approach to understand the accepted rules of Agile. The “Ha” phase takes the concepts to a deeper understanding. The “Ri” phase gets the reader/student to the mastery stage enabling he/she to develop their own principles and practices for effective use of Agile project management.

### Overview of Book's Structure

The book is divided into six parts.

- Part 1 – Fundamentals of Agile
- Part 2 – Agile Project Management
- Part 3 – Making Agile Work for a Business
- Part 4 – Enterprise Level Agile Frameworks
- Part 5 – Case Studies
- Part 6 – Appendices

### Highlights: What's New in this Book?

Using the “Shu-Ha-Ri” approach, the author takes the reader from fundamentals to the challenges of scaling Agile in a distributed enterprise. Not only does it explain Agile concepts, but it leads the reader to higher levels of understanding the principles.

### Highlights: What I liked!

Six parts and 22 Chapters give the reader a comprehensive review of Agile as a project management approach. The case studies provide not only the successes but

the failures. The book shows the shortfalls in the plan-driven approach under adaptive conditions. It also identifies where Agile is deficient and needs some “traditional” approaches. Not every project is suitable for Agile, but the reader needs to know when to blend techniques to deliver a successful project. There are several tools on the market to scale Agile. Only one tool was presented, but they all have similarities. Properly implemented, Agile methodologies and traditional plan driven approaches can result in a hybrid methodology that can satisfy executive management’s need for visibility into how the money is being spent and controlled.

### **Shortfalls: What was Missing!**

No shortfalls. The author presents the basics and expands the concepts needed to scale Agile project management in a business enterprise.

### **Who might benefit from the Book?**

The book is designed as graduate level course so it provides a broad spectrum of material with analysis, questions and case studies. Use it to study for a PMP-ACP certificate or to implement Agile in a business environment. The academic and the practitioner both benefit from this book.

### **Conclusion**

Excellent resource material with thought provoking questions for discussion and review!

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For more about this book, go to: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118991044.html>

*Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [PMI Dallas Chapter](#). Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact [editor@peworldjournal.net](mailto:editor@peworldjournal.net).*

## About the Reviewer



### **Rodger Martin, JD, MBA, BSEE, PMP**

Texas, USA



**Rodger Martin** has a broad background in business, law, engineering and Project Management. He is a retired US Air Force officer with expertise in rockets and National Ranges. His work experiences include government, military, public corporations, small business consulting and high-tech non-profit organizations. For the last 12 years, he has worked on Document Management, Knowledge Management and Process Management/Modeling projects for commercial companies. He acquired his PMP certification in 2007. He is also a certified Mediator.

## About the Book's Author

**Charles G. Cobb** is president of Breakthrough Solutions, Inc, a consulting company that specializes in helping companies develop more effective enterprise-level Agile Implementations. He has published two prior books on Agile Project Management, written more than 50 articles and has been a guest speaker at many PMI and Agile event. As an adjunct professor at Boston University, he teaches Agile project Management courses. He has more than 30 years of experience..  
Include email address if desired.