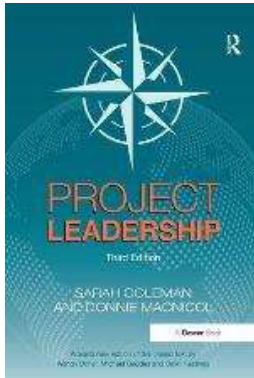


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## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Project Leadership, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition***  
Author: **Sarah Coleman and Donnie MacNicol**  
Publisher: GOWER  
List Price: \$54.95 Format: Soft cover, 318 pages  
Publication Date: 2016 ISBN: 978-1-4724-5280-1  
Reviewer: **John Holderman, PMP, MBA**  
Review Date: January 2017

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### Introduction

When I first picked up this book I thought it would be another book about general project management. The first chapter convinced me otherwise. Schools teach the mechanics of project management, most books describe tools and their use. This book goes far beyond the basics. It gets into the things that increase success, leadership.

The authors don't focus on strategy; they focus on building a strong self and more reliable capabilities. I applaud the authors on the quest to increase positive outcomes through true leadership.

### Overview of Book's Structure

This book has four parts. Part one: Project Leadership and the Project Leader define the difference between a project manager and a project leader. What leadership is, building and maintaining relationships.

Part two. Leading the project: talks about what it takes to lead a project from beginning to end. Part three. The Core: discusses the key parts of leadership in project management like vision and what relationships are important and the ever-present communication.

Part four. Building personal and organizational capability: Covey would have called this Sharpening the Saw. It's all about extending your range and improving the organization's abilities, which in-turn improves you.

### Highlights

I'm a sucker for personal assessments and this book hits you right up front with them. They briefly discuss emotional intelligence and leadership. The eight lookings assessment evaluates your current focus on eight directions a PM must pay

attention to: Upwards, downwards, forward, backwards, outwards, inwards, internally and externally.

The authors reference these assessments and their importance throughout the book. The root of this book is based in self-improvement and being able to lead people, which will ultimately ensure successful trajectory for your projects and your career.

### **Highlights: What I liked!**

The authors departed from the strategy of the mechanics of project management; this book is about leadership, not project management. It does talk about the important parts of the project management process but they provide tools to get beyond the mechanics.

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

Anyone in a leadership role could benefit from this book, not just project managers. This book would be a great textbook in business and leadership programs in college. Those who have been in a management role but want to increase production, improve business outcomes and those wanting to move in to executive roles.

I would suggest this book be read by the younger generation. Getting a good understanding of leadership and an early age is key to long term success. It's the "do it right the first time" kind of thing.

### **Conclusion**

It's about building strong skills in understanding, vision and the ability to apply these skills towards realistic goals. It was a nice departure from the norm. We need more understanding of leadership and this book delivers.

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For more about this book, go to: <https://www.routledge.com/Project-Leadership-3rd-Edition/Coleman-MacNicol/p/book/9781472452801>

*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



### **John Holderman**

Texas, USA



**John Holderman** has worked in project management since 1997 with his most recent work in program management controls and reporting. John has managed the global implementation of UNIX server farms used in telecommunications and large, complex telephone switching systems. As a member of a new product introduction team he guided deployment team readiness and working closely with engineering team to ensure the product or customer ready.

John has supported many global communications system deployments, has been an integral part of two electro-mechanical to digital telephone system conversions, authored policy documents for specialized teams, installation manuals, commissioning manuals and has created many of his own tools used to manage projects. John's technical background along with his international project management experience gives him a unique ability to very effectively manage highly complex technical projects.

John can be contacted at [jmholdermn@yahoo.com](mailto:jmholdermn@yahoo.com)