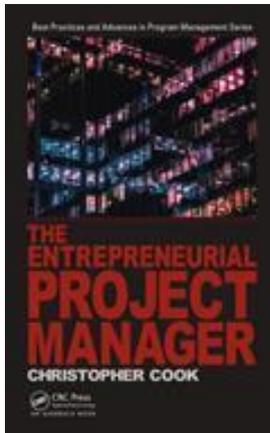


## PM WORLD Book Review



Book Title: **The Entrepreneurial Project Manager: Best Practices and Advances in Project Management Series**

Author: **Christopher Cross**

Publisher: CRC Press / Auerbach Publications

List Price: \$69.95                      Format: Hard Cover, 196 pages

Publication Date: August 2017    ISBN: 9781498782357

Reviewer: **Rohit Tammana**

Review Date: 10/2017

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### Introduction

Decisions are an integral part of a project manager and this book takes an interesting view of how Stoicism and Taoism can help navigate the complex decision making and judgement involved for every project manager. It is unfortunate that philosophy has not been made integral to fields like engineering, business etc. This book beautifully ties philosophy with project management and the lessons are very valuable even if you are not a project manager. Having an entrepreneurial mindset coupled with the frameworks established under aforementioned philosophies will help establish a powerful tool to handle any situation.

### Overview of Book's Structure

The chapter contents of the book flow in an efficient manner. It starts off by describing the traditional mindset of every project manager and an organization. It highlights the wasteful efforts which managers tend to make in the real world. The examples chosen to explain are not limited to organization, but also to sports etc. which make the reading more engaging. How do you challenge the status quo, the "best practices" that don't remain the best if not revisited often, the mental techniques on how to frame and redirect thoughts effectively are discussed.

The organizational strategy section talks about how leadership qualities are essential to execute a business strategy and how leaders act as influencers for an organization. It talks about the common organizational mistakes and how to avoid them. How to perceive challenges as opportunities and how to go about exploiting them, how to freeze-thaw ones challenges, ask better questions and an engaging conversation are central to any project manager and this section hits the mark.

The optimistic pessimistic approach and the art of saying no, decisions making based on information, how to skim information, communicate with the team are discussed with various frameworks throughout the rest of the book.

## **Highlights**

Stoicism: The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way - Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

This is a very profound quote that summarizes any life struggle. We need to acknowledge any problem in life and such problems should motivate one to move forward and create a new path. This will teach you to embrace problems that any entrepreneur will encounter. In a project manager's role, obstacles are encountered every day. If you accept the problem and take necessary actions despite setbacks, this opens up a whole new perspective on being successful.

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

I specifically liked the Stoicism and Taoism phrases and its contextual application explained to various scenarios. I also like the summary of various books the author read and the key take away from those readings.

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

The book applies to all levels of experience irrespective of the industry. If you are a project manager or a team member – this book is definitely a read for you. Adaptation is the key to a successful project manager and this book takes the unique approach on how to invest in yourself, develop an entrepreneurial mindset, develop high performance teams, overcoming resistance and increase your power to influence outcomes.

## **Conclusion**

Successful project manager capabilities are not derived from destiny, but are rather from perseverance. Project managers need to have a growth mindset and need to keep re-investing in the skills. The book definitely makes you question "Where am I now and what can I do to be successful". This book should also definitely inspires everyone to read Marcus Aurelius' Meditations to further develop insights on how reach his/her highest potential.

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.crcpress.com/The-Entrepreneurial-Project-Manager/Cook/p/book/9781498782357>

*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).*

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## About the Reviewer



### **Rohit Tammana**

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**Rohit Tammana** is a senior lead project manager specializing in business strategic development and execution, new product introduction, project financials and P&L oversight. He has successfully planned, launched and managed several new products, and led highly effective R&D teams. He has also spearheaded various operational improvements to drive productivity, reduce costs and improve operational ratios and has a track record of providing client-centric services with deep knowledge of firm's strengths and capabilities. Rohit has a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in mechanical engineering and a MBA in Information and Operation Management. Email address: [Rohit.tammana@gmail.com](mailto:Rohit.tammana@gmail.com)