PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: ***Harvard Business Review Project Management Handbook: How to Launch, Lead, and Sponsor Successful Projects*** [1]

Author: **Antonio Nieto-Rodriguez**

Publisher: Harvard Business Review Publishing

List Price: $50.00   Format: Hardcover, 330 pages

Publication Date: 2021   ISBN: 9781647821265

Reviewer: A.W. Schultz   Review Date: May 2023

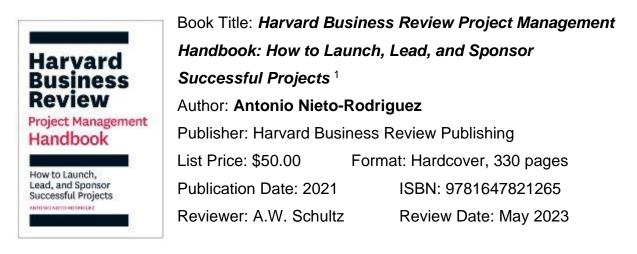## Introduction

This book offers leading techniques to maximize efficiency and maintain control over projects. It gives the framework and tools in a step-by-step guideline to help those looking to learn about project management or those interested in best practice used in project management.

Overview of Book's Structure

This book on project management provides readers with a comprehensive guide that includes various tools and best practices. It offers step-by-step instructions on essential tasks and responsibilities that contribute to successful project completion. Additionally, the book features numerous short stories that support the author's perspectives on each topic. The authors have cleverly divided the book into sections, making it easy for readers to navigate as a handbook, rather than a novel.

Highlights

This book is divided into four parts, each providing the reader with explanations and examples to support their understanding. The first part covers the fundamentals of starting a project, while the second part highlights the importance of establishing a strong foundation for the project. This includes identifying the right people, such as sponsors, stakeholders, and resources, as well as determining the type of project, whether it is Traditional, Agile, or Hybrid. The third part focuses on developing leadership, prioritization, and structure-building competencies. The fourth part delves

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into the latest innovations and disruptors in project management. Finally, the authors ties everything together that the design and early planning stages are crucial for the success of any project.

Highlights: What I liked!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and filled it with annotations. I found the section on page three particularly fascinating, which discusses how the success of companies like Ford, Apple, Boeing, and GE hinged on the outcome of their major projects. The book also highlights management gurus such as Frederick Taylor, Henry Ford, and Peter Drucker, who played a crucial role in making these projects successful. The importance of continually developing new products and efficient project management is emphasized throughout the book. I found the checklist on page 105 for selecting the right sponsor to be especially useful for new project managers. Additionally, the DICE framework is a valuable tool for measuring project duration, integrity, team commitment, and individual effort. The author's insights on the future, including the impact of COVID-19, climate change, and the need for exceptional leadership, were also thought-provoking.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Whether you are looking to learn about project management, a seasoned manager wanting to improve your project's success or a student preparing for the PMI exam, this book is worth having. For anyone that is studying for the PMP, after the PMBOK Guide, this needs to be the next book to buy.

Conclusion

As a project manager, it's essential to always keep this book within reach. Its best practices can help you enhance project planning, manage risks, engage stakeholders, and improve overall project success rates. The Handbook provides you with the tools and techniques you need to navigate project complexities and achieve desired outcomes efficiently. With this book, you can gain a profound understanding of project management principles, tools, and techniques, equipping you to initiate, plan, execute, monitor, control, and close projects effectively. This knowledge can boost your performance and effectiveness as a project manager.

For more about this book, go to: https://store.hbr.org/product/harvard-business-review-project-management-handbook-how-to-launch-lead-and-sponsor-successful-projects/10494

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A.W. Schultz is the founder and principal consultant at AW Schultz Engineering and Training. He is a recognized thought leader on maintenance work management, an entrepreneur, an Amazon best-selling author, a sought-after strategist, and a consultant with global engagements.

With over 25 years of experience in maintenance and reliability, he is routinely called upon to offer guidance to senior executives and those in the maintenance and reliability community to improve their organizations' overall efficiency. He has shown value-adding ability to provide strategic insight and tactical analysis and to convert these thoughts into reality by successful engagement and execution.

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