PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW[1]

Book Title: **Project Management Blunders: Lessons from the Project That Built, Launched, and Sank Titanic**

Author: **Mark Kozak-Holland**

Publisher: Multi-Media Publications

List Price: $39.95   Format: Soft cover, 392 pages

Publication Date: 2012   ISBN: 13-9781554891221
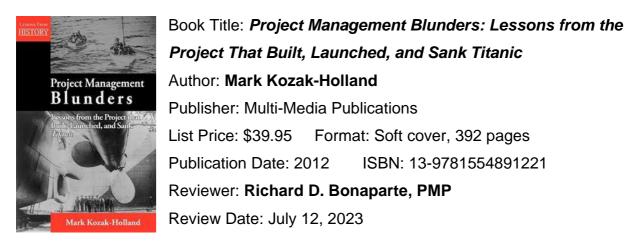
Reviewer: **Richard D. Bonaparte, PMP**

Review Date: July 12, 2023

Introduction

Blunders takes an interesting approach to exploring project management techniques used during the construction, launch, and the ultimate tragic sinking of the Titanic. Kozak-Holland shares key lessons learned from this disastrous event and some lessons that can be applied to project management today.

Overview of Book's Structure

By approaching the book in a chronological format Mark takes on a journey leading up to the Titanic's construction, its maiden voyage, and its tragic sinking. It is divided into fifteen chapters which focus on different aspects of the Titanic story, the ship's design, passengers and crew on board, the tragic collision, and the heroic rescue efforts.

Titanic provides detailed information and analysis of key events, some firsthand accounts from survivors and historical photographs. Kozak-Holland also includes a wealth of background information on the ship's creators, the White Star Line, and the cultural impact of the Titanic disaster. The book concludes with an examination of the legacy of the Titanic and the lessons learned from its sinking.

Highlights

The book emphasizes those key lessons learned that led to the catastrophic consequences, critical oversights, missed queues within team communications that contributed to the failure and a lack of contingency planning to help anticipate and prepare for unforeseen circumstances.

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Highlights: What I liked!

1. Risk Assessment: The book emphasizes the importance of conducting thorough risk assessments and implementing appropriate mitigation strategies. It highlights how the Titanic's project management team failed to adequately address potential risks, leading to catastrophic consequences.

2. Communication and Collaboration: Effective communication and collaboration among project stakeholders are crucial for success. The book explores how breakdowns in communication between different teams and individuals on the Titanic project contributed to its failure.

3. Stakeholder Management: Proper stakeholder management is essential for project success. The book examines how the Titanic's project managers failed to consider the perspectives and needs of various stakeholders, leading to critical oversights.

4. Contingency Planning: The Titanic's lack of contingency plans is a significant lesson highlighted in the book. It emphasizes the importance of anticipating and preparing for unforeseen circumstances that may arise during a project.

Conclusion

"Project Management Blunder: Titanic" by Mark Kozak-Holland offers a thought-provoking analysis of the project management failures behind the Titanic's tragic sinking. By examining the mistakes made during this historical project, the book provides valuable lessons that can be applied to modern-day project management practices. It serves as a reminder of the importance of thorough planning, effective communication, stakeholder management, and contingency planning in ensuring project success.

For more about this book, go to: https://www.amazon.com/Project-Management-Blunders-Lessons-Launched/dp/1554891221

About the Reviewer

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Richard Bonaparte is the former President of R-Logic and founder of ProjectPros a Project Management and Agile Consulting Group.

As an experienced IT practitioner Richard has over 20 years' experience in delivering IT solutions, business process re-engineering and software development for the Mortgage Banking, Commercial/Corporate Banking, Insurance and Financial Services industries.

Richard holds numerous certifications, including the PMI Project Management Professional (PMP), has led numerous mentoring organizations, spoken at Southern California PMP Bootcamps and actively consults in the North Dallas area of Texas.

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