

BOOK REVIEW

GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION SUCCESS

by Charles O'Neil

Reviewed by Catherine Green

Global Construction Success, authored by Charles O'Neil along with 17 contributors who are each impressive industry leaders, is a notable contribution to the literature on construction project management and is a significant book for all who are working in the construction sector. Too often we see the same mistakes being made over and over within the construction industry with calamitous outcomes for those actively participating in the sector as well as other everyday victims of construction projects gone wrong.

Poor risk allocation and management (the all important human element) in particular give rise to serious disputes and often ultimately the downfall of companies engaged in construction. These are issues which appear with concerning regularity such that all within the sector must take stock, reflect, and develop a better way of administering construction projects.

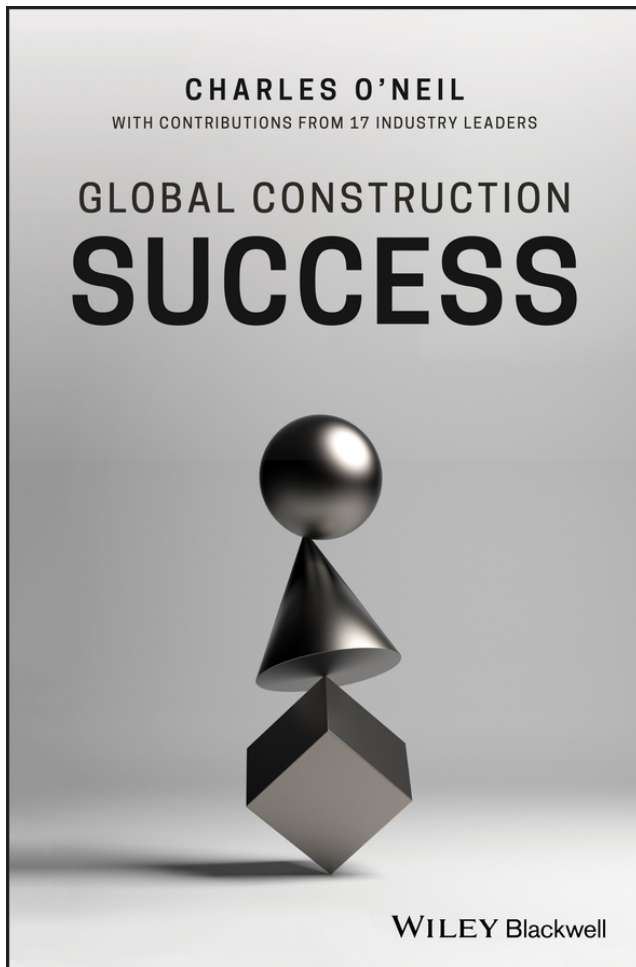
The first section of the book provides a clear narrative of the current state of the construction industry, commenting on globalisation, industry trends and cycles, as well as regional trends which have emerged in the Middle East, Asia Pacific, Africa, the Americas, UK and Europe. In this section, insightful commentary is also provided on a number of key sub-topics such as common cases of project failure and the use and abuse of

construction supply chains.

The second section has a focus on people and teamwork. Ultimately the success of a project will be largely dependent on the people and teams employed to deliver it. O'Neil's analysis of the obstacles to senior management and board success are particularly insightful and indisputably of key importance to those who seek to succeed within the sector.

Having identified and analysed the key problems and issues arising in the sector, Global Construction Success goes on to provide readers with recommendations for improving management efficiency at all levels, including government, corporate and project with the twin focus of assisting the industry to become both more efficient and less risky for all stakeholders.

In this book, O'Neil and his contributors, have carefully distilled several lifetimes of experience engaged in the construction sector to provide the reader with an extraordinary collection of essays, including references to real-world examples, making the book a practical and easily digestible narrative and analysis which can only assist the reader to attain global construction success.



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Global Construction Success

By Charles O'Neil

(With Contributions from 17 Industry Leaders)

Charles O'Neil has over 40 years of international experience in property development, steel fabrication, design and construction, and asset management. He specializes in Public Private Partnerships, risk management and dispute resolution and was Director of Asset Management for Bilfinger Berger Projects, Luxembourg, responsible for the design and construction, operational performance and risk management of more than 60 facilities in 8 countries.

Global Construction Success explores the importance that human dynamics play in risk management of construction projects. Every time a project is structured, designed and built, personal behaviours and inputs can either lead to success or be the cause of failure. With contributions from noted experts on the topic, the book explores common causes of project failure, outlines the key factors of successful projects, shows how to implement Public Private Partnerships, explores the different stages of structuring projects and reveals what it takes to manage difficult client/contractor relationships. International case studies of major projects clearly illustrate how communications and relationships can lead to helpful solutions to commonly encountered challenges to achieve positive results.

Written for construction industry senior management in both the corporate and government sectors, project management professionals, consultants and supply chain participants, Global Construction Success includes material for minimizing risk and improving management quality and profitability when working with international construction projects.