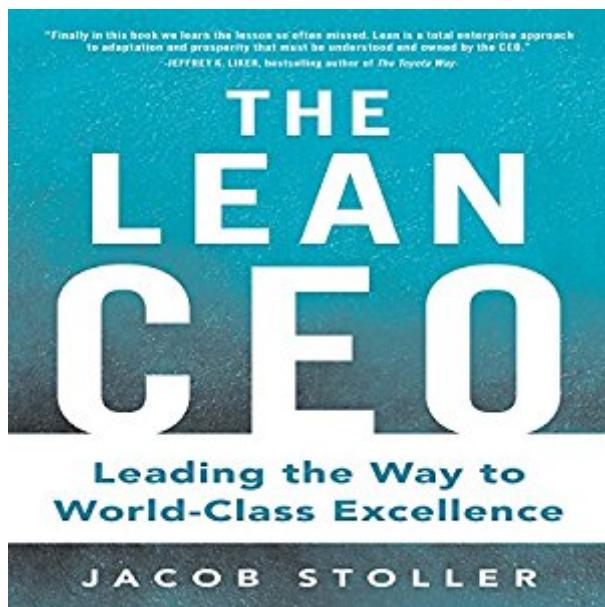


The book was found

# The Lean CEO: Leading The Way To World-Class Excellence



## **Synopsis**

Drawing on in-depth interviews with some of the best known lean-practicing CEOs, this groundbreaking book shows how to implement lean in virtually every type of company and facet of the organization. The power of lean to build world-class performance requires a corporate-wide commitment to long-term, continuous improvement that very few organizations have made. The Lean CEO bridges the gap between lean and conventional management practices in a way that addresses the specific needs of executives. Filled with narratives from leaders who have taken the lean journey with great success, The Lean CEO offers a detailed account of how top executives have reconciled lean activity with traditional management practices in order to meet broad corporate objectives. Listeners learn how to use lean to eliminate waste, reduce costs, spark innovation, improve quality and delivery, engage employees, and build a sustainable future. Jacob Stoller is a business journalist with expertise in implementing lean throughout entire organizations.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Lean methodology is one of those things that seems to be either implemented perfectly and reaps great rewards by the dedicated or badly implemented by a "Lean guru" for a company who is jumping on a trend. Sadly this reviewer has seen and heard about a lot of poor, half-hearted Lean implementations over the years. This book manages to inject a bit of enthusiasm and respect back to Lean. For those who have already went along their Lean journey this book would be a good guide

to help confirm you are doing things the right way. For those who are yet to take their first Lean steps, this book might focus your mind and help you deal with a sea of bulls\*\*\* and bravado that can come along, should you have picked the wrong à œguruâ • to lead the process. What was particularly great about this book is that the author has conducted many in-depth interviews with CEOs who have successfully introduced Lean as a corporate-wide management system. The move was not plain selling for every company, yet the trials and tribulations have been worth it, with the book giving a mass of practical advice for Lean and non-Lean companies alike. The author notes (obliquely) the identity problems Lean can face, saying: à œMost people à | see Lean as merely a set of tactical methods and most organisations that practice Lean do so superficially. Typically, a company might undertake a series of Lean projects to reduce costs, cut down on defects, or solve a bottleneck in a manufacturing process. These isolated attempts rarely result in real change and invariably lead to the abandonment of Lean for the next flavour of the month.

Even if you are familiar with some of the lean transformations covered in *The Lean CEO*, Jacob Stollerâ ™s new book will yield fresh insights. Stoller interviews 30-plus CEOs, C-level executives, and change agents who led well-known lean efforts at Wiremold, Lantech, ThedaCare, and Virginia Mason among several others. But the book also explores many less well-known transformations at a variety of industries in the U.S. and elsewhere. Among these are Aluminum Trailer Company, Inc., The Steffes Corporation, E-Leather, A UK startup, and San Benedetto, based near Venice, Italy. (By the way, the stories of Lantech, Aluminum Trailer, Steffes, along with the Ariens Company make up a chapter called à œA New Way Out of Financial Crisis,â • which has some of the most illuminating and useful information for finance-fixated senior leaders.) Stoller quotes his executive subjects often and extensively. The result is first-hand testimony from business leaders contesting traditional management practices about everything from accounting to batch size, employee involvement, motivation, leadership, economies of scale, and a raft of other conventional methods. Not only do these executives reveal their business problems and the various lean approaches they used to help solve them, they also speak openly about their own behavior changes and the behavior changes they see in others. They talk about altered roles, struggles, and how relationships with people improved over time as a result of lean thinking and practice. The book is organized around à œburning platforms,â • Stoller says. So youâ ™ll find chapters on à œPutting People First,â • à œCapacity Without Capital Expenditure,â • or à œReducing Dependence on the CEO.

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