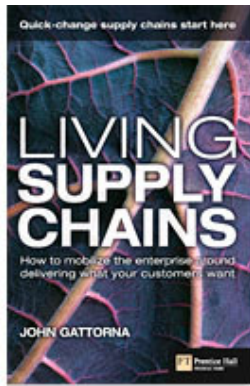


Living Supply Chains

By John Gattorna

Prentice Hall / Financial Times, London, 2006



Dr John Gattorna has been a consultant in supply chains and logistics for many years and now teaches the same subject as an adjunct professor at universities in the UK, Europe and Australia.

His new book sets the latest thinking on supply chains in the context of business strategy and organisation for large companies. While soundly based on the technical aspects of the subject, it is a management book rather than one for engineers. There are no formulae or Greek letters, but many clear diagrams illustrate the complex ideas that make up this field. Dr Gattorna's prose is very readable, given the subject matter.

Dr Gattorna has enlivened the book with real examples from around the world. Australian companies get more space than in most books of this kind, and American somewhat less.

Running through the book is the idea that a well run company can operate several different supply chains at once, even for similar products. These link different patterns of buying behaviour right through the making of the products to the sourcing of the inputs on which they are based. For instance, an alcoholic drinks company may have both high-volume standardised lines and low-volume speciality ones, which are handled by two separate supply chain systems. Once these chains have been well defined, the operational and people practices of the company should be aligned with them, and outstanding competitive performance should follow.

This is not a book for most directors of companies. Its target audience is management within large and complex businesses. However, directors who sit on the boards of companies like this who want to know more about contemporary thinking in the supply chain world would find it both insightful and highly readable.

Guest Reviewer: Ralph Evans CEO, FAICD

Source: AICD Publications Director Books August 2006