



Assumption-Based Planning: A Tool for Reducing Avoidable Surprises (RAND Studies in Policy Analysis)

By James A. Dewar

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Unwelcome surprises in the life of any organization can often be traced to the failure of an assumption that the organization's leadership didn't anticipate or had "forgotten". Assumption-based planning (ABP) is a tool for identifying as many as possible assumptions underlying the plans of an organization and bringing them explicitly into the planning process. This book presents a variety of techniques for rooting out those vulnerable, crucial assumptions. It also presents steps for monitoring the vulnerable assumptions of a plan by taking actions to control them where possible and preparing for potential failure where control is not possible.

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Review

"...a careful but engaging explanation of how this type of planning works...Planners who use ABP can take comfort in its realism. The author and his associates have battle tested it in real-life planning for the U.S. Army and private clients over many years...The detailed knowledge gained in ABP should permit the development of ever more relevant scenarios for scenario planning and thus more robust plans." Futurist

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