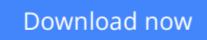


Strategic Options in a declining industry environment: Wettbewerbsstrategien in stagnierenden und fallenden Industrien (Aus der Reihe: e-fellows.net stipendiaten-wissen)

Markus Karmann



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Strategic Options in a declining industry environment: Wettbewerbsstrategien in stagnierenden und fallenden Industrien (Aus der Reihe: e-fellows.net stipendiaten-wissen) Markus Karmann Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject Business economics - Business Management, Corporate Governance, grade: 1,0, Reutlingen University, language: English, abstract: At some point in time, business students around the world will most likely be confronted with the famous product and industry life cycle. This tool is mainly used as a marketing instrument. It offers advertising and investment directions for each of the three to five stages of the cycle. Everything in this theory seems obvious and clear, until the "decline" stage of the cycle is reached. The question is, is there really only one option, namely to harvest and then divest, in the last phase of the life cycle? Is the decrease in revenues and profits inevitable? The past shows that this is not necessarily the case. Some companies actually did generate profits and proved to be quite successful in a difficult market environment. Take for example the fountain pen maker Mont Blanc. The market for fountain pens has been declining for decades due to technological change (invention of typewriters and computers) and also consumer preferences. However, Mont Blanc has set up a selective shrinkage ("niche") strategy by attracting high-income professionals and promoting their fountain pens as a luxury good. As a result, the company has achieved stable revenues and high margins within a declining industry (Grant 2010).

In the following, this paper will examine what a declining industry is, what characteristics a declining industry shows and what strategic options companies within such an industry environment have.

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