

# Leaders to Follow

International Leadership Institute: Providing Leadership Development Services and Programs in the US and Europe since 1985

## KEY LEADERSHIP QUALITIES FOR THE COMING DECADE

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It seems evident that during the last decade, Americans have moved from an era of economic growth and prosperity to an era of economic gloom and of on-going recession. Most of this era was led by a Republican administration, and it is likely to be remembered as the era of two wars, disastrous unemployment, and negligent practices concerning our infrastructure, environment, education, health care, Social Security, economy and you name it.

During the most recent era of Republican political leadership, Americans moved from a significant budget surplus to a huge budget deficit; from the classic American pursuit of happiness to the pursuit of joblessness; from the era of a strong, functioning and thriving middle class, to an era of the gradual liquidation of the middle class as we once knew it.

Then (at the very end of this decade) in January 2009, under the new leadership of President Barack Obama, the United States entered a new era, the era of hope and change we can believe in. Our task now is to move from the pursuit of practices that produced joblessness, economic calamity and

wars to the pursuit of happiness, prosperity, sustained economic growth, social justice and peace.

### *New Leadership Needed*

This new task will require, of course, new leadership, with new, creative ideas, as well as our support of a new kind of leadership style, very different from that of the Bush administration.

Fortunately, in President Obama we clearly have a leader who knows that he can and will do the right things to improve the lives of the American people for the better. He will not go backward, but forward, to meet the challenges of the next decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



At ILI, we have identified several key characteristics which are critical for successful leadership in the next decade, characteristics that have been consistently demonstrated during the last two years by the President and his leadership team. These are also the characteristics we are highlighting as most desirable in ILI leadership development programs.

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### The International Leadership Institute

- WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 IN PRINCETON, NJ
- REMAINS DEDICATED TO HELPING PEOPLE DEVELOP AND USE LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- OFFERS PERSONALIZED & EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP, CAREER, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN THE US AND IN EUROPE
- HAS RUN MORE THAN 90 EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE US, FOR EUROPEAN CLIENTS
- HAS PARTNERED WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA, THE JACKSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MORE THAN 780 OTHER BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



## KEY LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

### *Key Characteristics of the New Leader*

1. The ability to persuade people do things they would not otherwise do by gently nudging them in the right direction. The effective leader is aware of the various ingenious ways to help people choose what they would choose for themselves if only they had the know-how, the necessary information and the willpower.

*This is the #1 leadership ability; without this, nothing will be done.*

2. The ability to educate people about what needs to be done. This means that the best new leaders must themselves be well-educated.

These leaders have more than an academic degree; they have broad and deep experience in living and working in different cultures, with very different people of diverse backgrounds, giving them the wisdom and the perspective that can only come from reconciling a variety of world-views and visions for life.

Leaders whose educational achievements are just mediocre, or worse, who are limited in their philosophical background or isolated from differing views of life, will not be able to respond with vigor and sound judgment to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

3. The willingness to do great, new, bold, and even unpopular things and to communicate consistently what is being accomplished. Rather than manipulate people and events in secret, hiding their activities and moving in the shadows, the best leaders do what they do in full view. They take chances and take responsibility for the results of their decisions.

4. A clear sense of what the leader wants to accomplish, as well as the ability to harmonize these plans with his or her values and beliefs. New leaders have a firm grasp on their core values and use this knowledge to make decisions and plans that are in accord with their beliefs and personal philosophy of life.

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### ILI Publications

Newsletters at [www.ili.cc](http://www.ili.cc):

- *Leaders to Follow*
- *Servant Leaders*
- *Careers*
- *continuous conversion*
- *A Lesson on English*

Blogs:

- [jbt-yournextjob.blogspot.com](http://jbt-yournextjob.blogspot.com)
- [englishinprague.blogspot.com](http://englishinprague.blogspot.com)
- [praguepies.blogspot.com](http://praguepies.blogspot.com)

Books at [www.ili.cc](http://www.ili.cc):

- *21st Century Jobs*
- *Three Things You can't Do in Prague*
- *Three Things that Last Forever*

5. The strength of conviction that makes it possible to make the best decisions and to do the right thing in the face of opposition, knowing that these decisions will benefit the many rather than just the few.

6. A high energy level, good work ethics, mental and physical resilience, the ability to relax and rejuvenate when needed, and emotional stability.

7. A sense of life as being in a continuous state of emergence, and the ability to react appropriately to the on-going change. The world changes constantly and rapidly. The leader has to have the ability to get the policy right, and demonstrate a creative sense of urgency and direction.



*If we can learn from both the failures of failed leaders and the successes of successful leaders (and give the successful a chance to lead), then we can move forward to a better future.*

ILI leadership development programs provides an ideal forum to consider, discuss and acquire these desirable and necessary leadership characteristics. We invite your opinions and feedback on our programs.