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Comprehensive 30S1

13 Friday, 2024

**What Makes a Successful Leader**

In the Cambridge Dictionary, a leader is defined as “a person in control of a group, country, or situation,” but that does not necessarily mean they are successful or are a good leader because they have control over a group of people. Based on current events, specifically the American elections happening presently, there is a tough decision on who to vote for based on citizens beliefs and what traits the candidates must have to be a memorable leader towards the public. A leader has to possess specific qualities to become a successful one. For example, qualities such as being feared, impacting others, and humility.

To be a successful leader, being feared is a powerful tool. “his army rebelled in Spain; this arose from nothing but his too great forbearance.” (Machiavelli 2). Scipio, a great leader until unfortunately his kindness was taken for granted. Scipio’s army took advantage of the situation and was not scared to rebel against Scipio’s orders. The army did not fear the consequences Scipio would make the army face. Hannibal for example, another leader, was well respected and taken seriously because he showed the right amount of cruelty to be feared by the consequences soldiers may be punished with. A leader should not inflict too much fear on individuals, as it may turn into negative feeling such as hatred. To be feared holds an ability to have authority over others. To be a good leader, making an impact on others is important. Mahatma Gandhi, a leader well known for leading others without using violence in situations and conflicts once said, "A sign of a good leader is not how many followers you have, but how many leaders you create." (Gandhi). This quote shows that good leadership is shown by the impact they have on others by being able to inspire future generations to take on leadership roles and to influence others by helping or showing them meaningful lessons. Gandhi empowered others to follow his beliefs and to do everything with love. This shows the power of impact and how good leaders affect others by teachings. Lastly, a successful leader must have humility. Barack Obama, a greatly admired former American president, is a great example of a leader who shows humility. At a recent event in London, many people were impressed by how humble Obama was, despite holding such high power. Mwenya Kawesha commented, “He has such great power and yet talked with such humility.” (Kawesha). Humility is an important quality for leaders because it allows them to demonstrate empathy and compassion. Feelings such as fear, humility, and impact are beneficial for working on being a successful leader. Fear can be an effective way for leaders to gain control, but it needs to be used in a way not to create harm or hatred. Leadership also involves making impact on others, as Mahatma Gandhi pointed out by focusing on inspiring others by showing others respectful ways to lead each other through situations. Finally, great leaders like Barack Obama show that humility is important for leadership by earning individuals trust and showing empathy.

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