

**Leadership Paper**

**By: Steven Davis**

**Class: CSC 424 Software Engineering 2**

**Due Date: April 23, 2021**

Throughout history, the position of a leader has been an important one that is usually only given to the most talented of individuals. Leaders are those who are entrusted with keeping a team in line. They have to manage the tasks that a given team has been assigned and relegate those tasks to the appropriate people. That said, there are multiple kinds of historical leaders. Leaders can hold as grand a role as King or President of a kingdom or country, or as simple as team lead on a very small-scale project. No matter what, a leader must be able to competently lead the group he has been assigned to. This means he must hold some degree of respect within the group while also being able to inspire the group when needed. To that end, I have done some research on some people that I look up to as examples of leadership.

For one of the most well-known examples, let's take a look back at 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt, Jr. While not one of the presidents who



serve during one of the World Wars, Teddy Roosevelt is still one of the better known Presidents. One of the main things he was known for was his stance against monopolies, which were prevalent in the US at the time<sup>1</sup>. His main instrument in doing this was using the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890. This act

effectively let Roosevelt use the courts to break up any monopolies he came across<sup>2</sup>.

Of course, he also has was also known for setting up many federal wildlife sanctuaries, as well as helping mediate the Russo-Japanese War. That mediation earned him a Nobel Peace prize. Of course, who could also forget the infamous story of Roosevelt getting shot during a speech and surviving. Not only did he survive the bullet thanks to his 50 page speech notes, but he also talked down the mob that was about to jump on the assassin, and then continued to give

---

<sup>1</sup> Theodore Roosevelt. (2020, August 26). Retrieved April 01, 2021, from <https://www.biography.com/us-president/theodore-roosevelt>

<sup>2</sup> Sherman antitrust Act. (n.d.). Retrieved April 01, 2021, from [https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/sherman\\_antitrust\\_act](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/sherman_antitrust_act)

and 84-minute speech<sup>3</sup>. These actions showed that he was a leader willing to do whatever was necessary for the sake of the people he served.

Next up on my list of figures I think make great leaders, we turn to a more modern example. My second choice of a good leader would be the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, Elon



Musk<sup>4</sup>. Elon's name has come into the spotlight more recently as SpaceX has become one of more well-known aerospace manufacturers and space transportation services since the Space Shuttle's retirement. Currently, the company is using its Dragon and Falcon line of rockets to place payloads into orbit, as well as bring crews to and from the ISS<sup>5</sup>. All of this while striving to reuse as much of the rocket as humanly possible. This has led to the development of side boosters being capable of returning to a designated landing site after their initial purpose has been achieved. To date, the SpaceX team have been able to successfully recover a pair of twin side boosters, the center booster, and, as of recently, a set of payload fairings. For those who don't know, the payload fairings are placed on top of a rocket to protect a payload from friction during

the ascent into space. So, to be able to retrieve something like that is extraordinary. Of course,

---

<sup>3</sup> Cain, Á. (2017, June 21). US President Theodore Roosevelt once delivered AN 84-MINUTE speech after getting shot in the chest. Retrieved April 01, 2021, from <https://www.businessinsider.com/teddy-roosevelt-assassination-attempt-2017-6>

<sup>4</sup> Elon Musk. (2021, March 30). Retrieved April 01, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon\\_Musk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk)

<sup>5</sup> SpaceX. (2021, March 31). Retrieved April 01, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpaceX>

this is just what they've done with out humans on board. With the Dragon line of rockets, SpaceX has helped allow for the United States to finally start sending manned capsules to the International Space Station since the decommission of the Space Shuttles. They hope to eventually be able to use this line of technology to send manned crews up to the moon or even Mars one day.

As the CEO of such a company, I think it only fair to say that Elon Musky excels at being a leader. He continually inspires those that work for him to push the limits of what has been done and try to find new ways to do things. This is even reflected in the current development of the SpaceX Starship, known to some as Starhopper. This craft is currently on it's way to becoming a true replacement for the space shuttle, perhaps even allowing for commercial passengers to experience space temporarily.

Finally, we come to the third person I would look up to as a leader. While he isn't the CEO of some major corporation or the leader of a country, I personally believe Matthew Mercer has the qualities of a good leader. He is current the Chief Creative Officer (CCO) of Critical Role Productions, which is a company created by Matthew and his friend for their Twitch/YouTube D&D series titled Critical Role<sup>6</sup>. Alongside his role at the DM in said series, he is also well



known as a voice actor for many popular anime and games. His rolls include Hit in the popular Dragon Ball Super series, Trafalgar Law in the Funimation dub of One Piece, McCree in Blizzard's Overwatch game, Chrom in the Fire Emblem series, and many other voices that many have come to love<sup>7</sup>. That all said, you may still wonder why I see him as a good model of a leader. Well, in order to be the DM of a D&D game, you tend to need to have a fair bit of creativity and natural talent for storytelling and leading a group. He is, in effect, a storyteller that is slowly guiding the players through a world of his creation, along a story he has written out for them. The catch is that he must also be able to deal with the things that the players do that he may not have planned for, and he seems to handle that very well. As for his power to inspire, he has helped raise thousands if not millions of dollars for charities around the world with his game, and helped inspire people to start looking into the game. If that weren't enough to show how much people look up

---

<sup>6</sup> Critical role Productions. (2021, March 13). Retrieved April 02, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical\\_Role\\_Productions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_Role_Productions)

<sup>7</sup> Matthew Mercer. (2021, April 02). Retrieved April 02, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew\\_Mercer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Mercer)

to and respect him, then look no further than the Critical Role Animated Series kickstarter. The kickstart, set at an initial goal of \$750,00 in order to fund development of animated series based on the events of the stream, ended up reaching roughly \$2 million within 24 hours of the launch of the event. People loved what he did and wanted to support it in any way they could.

All in all, these three people are what I look up to and think of when I hear the term “leader”. Each of the people on this list show leadership qualities in their own way, and I would personally follow whatever any one of them said if they were the leader of a group I was put into. That said, there will be people that disagree with what I have put here, and I welcome their debates. Afterall, no good leader is without opposition.

## APPENDIX

Cain, Á. (2017, June 21). US President Theodore Roosevelt once delivered AN 84-MINUTE speech after getting shot in the chest. Retrieved April 01, 2021, from <https://www.businessinsider.com/teddy-roosevelt-assassination-attempt-2017-6>

Critical role Productions. (2021, March 13). Retrieved April 02, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical\\_Role\\_Productions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_Role_Productions)

Elon Musk. (2021, March 30). Retrieved April 01, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon\\_Musk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk)

Matthew Mercer. (2021, April 02). Retrieved April 02, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew\\_Mercer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Mercer)

Sherman antitrust Act. (n.d.). Retrieved April 01, 2021, from [https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/sherman\\_antitrust\\_act](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/sherman_antitrust_act)

Spacex. (2021, March 31). Retrieved April 01, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpaceX>

Theodore Roosevelt. (2020, August 26). Retrieved April 01, 2021, from <https://www.biography.com/us-president/theodore-roosevelt>