

Three Inspiring Leaders
CSC 424 Software Design
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A leader is simply any person who a group of people are willing to follow. The convincing qualities of any given leader may differ from person to person and be just as varied as the people weighing those qualities. Those chosen most easily are typically political or military leaders, as their influence is evident in the people following them or the policy they enact. The persuasive qualities of those leaders who are chosen through unofficial means are of particular interest, usually in their ability to bring people together under common cause. This is easily contrasted with the policy of elected leaders and the, often, wide reaching impact brought by said policy.



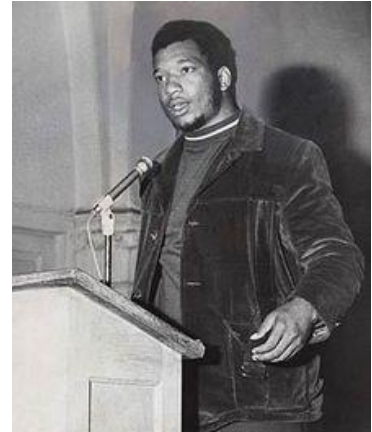
The first leader to be examined would be likely found in any given history textbook regarding America. Theodore Roosevelt, the twenty-sixth president of the United States, is popularized for the attack against his person during one of his speeches; he is shot, mocks his attacker for having poor aim, and continues giving his speech. More accurately Roosevelt prevented the lynching of his attacker, continued giving his speech for a further ninety minutes, then addressed the crowd with, "Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot, but it takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose." The bullet had passed through fifty pages of a speech he was carrying, as well as his steel eye-glass case. Roosevelt carried the bullet the rest of his life; where it had come to rest posed no immediate threat and doctors concluded removing the bullet would do more harm than good. [1]

Roosevelt's notable policies include regulation between labor and capital, land conservation, and the maintenance of a robust navy. The regulation of labor came about during the Coal Strike of 1902, when he reached an accord with J. P. Morgan to give the workers more money for fewer hours; this event made Roosevelt the first president to settle a labor dispute. [2] Policies which leaned toward the interest of the people continued with his extension of federal protection for the nation's land and wildlife with the creation of the U.S. Forest Service. The creation of national parks, forests, monuments, and game preserves totaled to roughly 230 million acres of protected environment. [3] Roosevelt's famous phrase of "Speak softly and carry a big stick" was made manifest through expanded naval power. This allowed him to parade military might, the big stick, while also portraying it as a courtesy expedition to allow nations visited the chance to sort things out quietly or "speak softly." [4] These relatively progressive policies would seem divisive, yet historians and scholars regularly rank the ex-President within the top five best presidents to date. [5]

Not all leaders are so lucky to live such long and storied lives. As Lenin said, "There are decades where nothing happens; and weeks where decades happen" which can also be applied to the lives of such short-lived leaders. Sometimes a leader is known for all of what they could have

accomplished with a little more time, their momentum having left such a legacy. Legacies which are oft writ by ideological victors and then battled by supporters for decades to come.

A figure who could be maligned not just for his espousing and support of socialist rhetoric, but also for his influential involvement within the Black Panther Party. Fred Hampton was an activist, Marxist-Leninist, and a socialist revolutionary. [6] Through his work he was labeled as a radical threat by the FBI in 1967 and by 1969, in conjunction with local police, the FBI conducted a raid and shot and killed Hampton in his sleep. [7] Some of his works include the improvement of educational services of the local impoverished black community via his role as a leader in the NAACP; also later his founding of a multicultural organization which allowed various Chicago gangs to temporarily end infighting to promote social work.



The organization of the Black Panther Party in Chicago was very hierarchal and in an effort to exploit this, the FBI used, what could later be called “trumped-up charges”, the imprisonment of Hampton to disrupt their efforts. [8] Hampton’s effective leadership and communication abilities marked him as a major threat to the FBI and by 1968 had been placed on the “Agitator Index” as a “key militant leader”. [9] Revelations of COINTELPRO documents showed that under Hoover’s demands the social programs meant to serve the people were to be destroyed from the inside out. [10] Following Hampton’s death, a coroner’s jury was put together and found the death to be justifiable homicide, though the attorneys for the Hampton family described it as “a well-rehearsed theatrical performance designed to vindicate the police officers”. [11] However, the survivors of the raid and relatives of Hampton filed a civil suit which took years to begin and concluded in a deadlocked jury in 1977. In 1979 an appeal was made by plaintiffs and made its way to the Supreme Court which voted 5-3 to return it to the District Court. The case was ultimately settled in 1982 by the City of Chicago, Cook County, and the federal government for a total of \$1.85 million. [12]

Decades later these events find their way again to national attention via documentaries and film. The earliest being in episode 12 of the documentary-series titled *Eyes on the Prize*, airing in 1990, which featured an interview with one of the FBI’s informants William O’Neal. This interview would later become the basis for the 2021 movie *Judas and the Black Messiah*. Hampton also makes an appearance in the 2020 movie *The Trial of the Chicago 7*, a drama detailing the trial of anti-Vietnam War protestors, where he is seen advising Bobby Seale after Mr. Seale is denied counsel.

Not all leaders are able to attain remembrance in pop-culture, whether positive or negative, and indeed many are forgotten outside of niche interest groups whose goal is to remember them. There are those leaders who, to political scholars, become instrumental in more well-known events even being possible, such as Woodrow Wilson's presidency possibly being a cause of World War 2. Not every leader is able to garner support, despite the results of their efforts, due to actions that can be seen in a negative way. There are those who remain controversial regardless of those who may or may not support them.



Huey Long, former Senator and 40th Governor of Louisiana, also known as “The Kingfish” is one such figure. Long rose to prominence for being vocally critical of Roosevelt’s New Deal, primarily that it did not go far enough. Within his first year he had been sued by conservative constitutionalists for his violation of the separation of church and state by starting a free textbook program for schoolchildren; the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Long’s favor. [13] However, he was met with wide disapproval when he had the Governor’s Mansion razed by convicts, under his personal supervision, to be replaced by a Georgian mansion resembling the White House; reportedly to be familiar with it when he became president. [13] By 1929 an impeachment had been called against Long after declaring in a radio address that legislators who would not support his oil tax were “bought” by oil companies. [14] Efforts to stop the impeachment resulted in a brawl that later came to be known as “Bloody Monday”; impeachment resumed and Long became the first Louisiana governor to be charged in four different nations. [13]

Shortly after impeachment, Long began his campaign for Senator as scandalous as ever. Witness tampering and voter fraud were levied against before the conclusion of the election in 1930, yet he had not assumed the seat until 1932 and had even managed to become a champion of the poor by suggesting artificial scarcity as a means of ending the depression. [13] [15] Despite his dictatorial nature Long managed to create a public works program that constructed roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and state buildings. Louisiana’s road system had been doubled by 1936 thanks to this program and managed to employ roughly ten percent of national highway workers. [16] In balance to an improvement of adult literacy rates, school enrollment, and modernizing public health care came increased taxes on gasoline and lowering of teacher salaries. [17]

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