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Responsible Leadership : What is ethical leadership in politics?

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Authors	Tolstaya, Polina
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Tolstaya Polina

Responsible Leadership. What is ethical leadership in politics?

This essay focuses on the study of responsible leadership and ethical leadership in politics.

The leaders' behavior can be clearly traced in politics. Political leaders usually have their own style, which shows their attitude to the political situation and commitment, for example, to a certain party. Vladimir Zhirinovsky's (leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia) expressive manner is well known, but this demeanor was created for Vladimir Zhirinovsky by a group of experts.

Political leader plays an important role in the development of the state. In addition, it is easy to trace the process of increasing the role of the individual in international relations. A leader shall be a great example to others. Talking about political leaders it is essential to mention that they act as an example for the whole country and sometimes for groups of states or even for the whole world. Consequently political leaders shall respect the norms of morality and be able to take responsibility for decisions that can change the course of history and the fate of thousands of people.

Each leader strives to achieve good results in his work. In order to succeed leader shall take responsibility for the choice of behavioral strategies, try to maximize the effectiveness of decisions, reduce potential risks and use rationally all available resources.

Politician shall analyze all available alternatives to solve the problem, monitor the implementation of programs of action, be able to navigate in a rapidly changing world, etc. All these functions require political leader's hard work and concentration.

An example of a politician, who had a strong-willed character, able to persuade and achieve high results by means of hard work, is the "Iron Lady"

Margaret Thatcher. She was an example of a woman who managed to perform stronger than many men.[1]

Modern management theorist Peter Drucker believes that the leadership is carried out by character.[2] This view is shared by Warren Bennis, an expert on leadership. He was confident that the leadership is not just a matter of style. Leadership is associated with being a man.[3] Consequently, the responsible leader is responsible for everything in his life. Responsibility is a character trait of a true leader.

The leader shall strive for the moral achievement of all goals. As the leader should be an example for subordinates his leadership shall be ethical. Ethical leadership aimed at creating and implementation of effective opportunities by noble means. Only when justified in terms of compliance with human values means are used leader's impact can be long-lasting.

Ethical leadership is mainly based on authority, not on power. As sources of power coercion and punishment are usually considered. When the leader managed to gain the credibility, he should not lose it. Observing the rules of ethical conduct, the leader will be a worthy role model for his subordinates. Subordinates will seek to replicate the behavior of the leader. The impact of the ethical leader is the ability to create, define and translate the high standards of moral conduct.[4] The ethical leader should not put his personal goals above the goals of society.

In modern society the authority of a political leader is determined by the trust of the population. The trust can be gained by actions made pursuant to the rules of morality and realizing the responsibility entrusted to you.

The level of trust to the authorities can easily be determined during elections or by opinion polls. For example, in the Ukraine in 2013 the level of trust to the government was the lowest in Europe. Under a survey the Rada's activities were

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[1] Web site The New York Times. Section: Margaret Thatcher. URL: http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/t/margaret_h_thatcher/index.html.
[2] P. Drucker, The Practice of Management. Oxford: Elsevier, 2005, p. 155.
[3] W. Bennis, On Becoming a Leader, New York: Addison-Wesley, 1989. Introduction.
[4] Web site Психологический навигатор. Article Что такое этическое лидерство?. URL: http://www.psynavigator.ru/articles.php?code=10. Publication Date: 26.12.2008.

supported by only 6.4% of the respondents; Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych was supported by 15.5%.[5] The consequences of the situation in Ukraine in 2013 can be traced in the event that began in Ukraine in the Spring 2014.

The crisis in Ukraine led to the loss of confidence to Barack Obama in the USA. According to a survey conducted by the Washington Post and the Channel ABC News, only 41% of Americans support the Obama's activities.[6] This situation can be explained by the fact that some of his actions may be regarded as immoral.

The opposite situation can be observed in the Russian Federation. The level of public trust to Vladimir Putin rose up to 82%.[7] Citizens believe in the ethical actions of the President and entrust him the solution of the most important issues. This situation may explain the fact that the Russian Federation did not hold a referendum on accession of the Crimean peninsula to Russia.

Moreover, there is wide cultural diversity. Ethical leader in any case should not ignore the traditions and customs of representatives of a particular culture or religion.

Leaders deal with very complex challenges. While maintaining respect for people it is possible to achieve great results.

In fine, lots of people serve in the political sphere. Some of them perform their duties better, others – worse. However, there are a few political leaders who can win the trust of the people and achieve high results in an honest way.

An ideal political leader is a leader who can soberly assess the situation, analyze the alternatives to find the correct solution, realize all his responsibilities and act in line with moral principles. Such a leader is able to become a worthy example for his colleagues in the political environment in the country, for the citizens of the state and foreign colleagues.

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[5] Web site newsru.ua. Article «Украинцы больше всего доверяют священникам и журналистам, а меньше всего – властям». http://rus.newsru.ua/ukraine/12feb2013/doverie.html. Publication Date: 12.02.2013.

[6] Web site Наша планета. Article Статья «Барак Обама теряет доверие американцев». URL: http://planeta.moy.su/news/barak_obama_terjaet_doverie_amerikancev/2014-04-30-2982. Publication Date: 30.04.2014.

[7] Web site НТВ. Article «Очередной рост рейтинга Владимира Путина был зафиксирован российскими социологами на минувшей неделе». URL: http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/876476. Publication Date: 30.03.2014.

Responsible Leadership is the key to minimizing the possibility of undesirable consequences. Ethical Leadership is the key to achieving respect from others. Adhering to the principles of both responsible and ethical leadership it is possible to achieve the best results and change the world for the better.