



What Makes a Great Leader?

The Rushmorian Standard for Leadership Excellence

Leadership is the Paramount of Talents — its Noble Aim is the development, orchestration, actualization, & mobilization of talent in service to others.

Defining "Great" Leadership

"Great" means someone who has **created**, not destroyed, value for a larger community. They embrace a **beautiful Vision** for the future, built on a foundation of **Noble Values**.

- Greatness expresses the ability to create a better world than they found it, radiating virtue in darkest hours of adversity.
- Great leaders exude a positive quality that inspires confidence.

Rejecting Cynicism

Cynics vandalize wisdom, crush spirit, and propel a **Descent Into Darkness**. In this sense, Cynics are not leaders.

"We can destroy ourselves with cynicism and disillusion, just as effectively as bombs."
— wrote Kenneth Clark in his brilliant book *Civilization*

The Power of Belief

Throughout history, belief systems have driven cultures to great heights or abysmal depths.

- Great leaders create **BELIEF** in themselves, as a **TEAM, COMMUNITY, and NATION**. Belief empowers Impossible Dreams!
- Regressions like the fall of Rome, Dark Ages, or Fascism reflect flawed beliefs destroying trust.

"Trust Determines the Course of History, the Destiny of Nations, and the Fate of People."
— Paul R. Lawrence (my professor & mentor at Harvard)

Elevating the Human Spirit

Spirit is Humanity's "Vital Energy" (Vitae — "life").

- Four Core Spiritual Energies: **Love, Creation, Joy, Wisdom** — Cornerstones of Spiritual Intellect.
- Great leaders dedicate themselves to **Elevating the Dignity of the Human Spirit**. Without spirit, there is no energy.

"The first test of a truly great leader is his or her humility — They see something divine in every other person -- and are endlessly merciful." — John Ruskin

The Role of Education and Progression

In the best cultures, education evolves new ideas and stimulates the **Power of Progression** — improving the human condition based on formulated principles of good character.

- Best leaders and educators reconceive beliefs, moving civilization's culture *Onward* and *Upward*.

Disciplined Integrity: The Mark of Wisdom

Great leaders have **disciplined minds and souls with refined integrity** — speaking and acting in ways benefiting not primarily themselves, but those they influence.

- Being Trusted is the basis of Great Leadership. It is better to be trusted than feared or loved.
- Self-indulgence destroys ego-soul unity. Great leaders have big egos, but even larger souls.
- Wise leaders *Master their Emotions* (emotions are our personal reactions to reality, not reality itself).
- Wisdom integrates Thought, Heart, Soul, & Action — balancing self-interest with the greater good.

The Rushmore Standard: Five Pillars of Great Leadership

Drawing Leadership Principles from Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt:

1. **Integrity Above Ambition** — Moral character and transparency.
2. **Constitution Above Party** — Fidelity to rule of law.
3. **Unity Above Faction** — National cohesion over division.
4. **Service Above Self** — Civic virtue and duty.
5. **Justice Above Power** — Fairness for the common good.

Conclusion: Leadership for Our Time

In an era of declining trust, the Rushmore Standard offers timeless wisdom: Leaders Who Create Value, Inspire Belief, Elevate Spirits, and Serve with Disciplined Integrity, building enduring civilizations.

CIVIC: Coalition of Independent Voters for an Inspired Congress seeks such leaders

Restoring Trust in America's Leadership

Our Vision

A Congress worthy of the American people — where **Integrity**, the **Constitution**, **Unity**, **Service**, and **Justice** guide every decision.

Our Mission

To mobilize Independent Voters to elect and support leaders who put **Integrity Above Ambition**, **the Constitution Above Party**, **Unity Above Faction**, **Service Above Self**, and **Justice Above Power** — **Restoring Public Trust** in our democracy.

Our Purpose

To be the **Non-Partisan Civic Bridge** that:

- Lifts up candidates who meet the **Highest Standard of American Character**,
- Gives citizens a clear, **Non-Partisan** way to recognize **Trustworthy Leaders**,
- Revives the **Founding Promise** of a **Government** truly: **of, by, and for** the people.