

Contemporary Leadership and the Crisis of Character

Myles Munroe notes this about the failure of leadership worldwide at all levels:

“In the dynamic drama of contemporary leadership playing on the world stage today, there are many 'characters' who lack character. Moreover, the trail of history is littered with many would-be great men and women who harnessed the reins of power in various fields—political, social, economic, corporate, athletic, spiritual, and more. They wielded great influence and/or control over the lives of others; many felt the weight of material wealth and fame—only to have it all disintegrate and blow away like dust in the wind because of their tragic deficiencies of character.

A lack of strong leadership has made a mess of our world. Every country on earth is challenged by an absence of resolute leadership as it struggles under precarious times...

The leaders who have emerged today seem to believe that the primary qualities needed to address our troubled, demanding times are the following: great vision; academic and intellectual superiority; dynamic oratory and other communications skills that have the power to persuade; management expertise; and the ability to control others. However, time and again, history has shown that the most important quality a true leader should and must possess is the moral force of a noble and stable character...

Across the globe, we have seen leaders fall apart, ethically and morally. Many leaders start strong (or appear to), only to end up 'crashing and burning'. A number of leaders have operated under a reputation of integrity that was only a façade. While they appeared competent and well-adjusted on the outside, they lacked real substance within. They were missing the element of moral force, and their ethical poverty eventually became evident. The public didn't know who these leaders really were—until the leaders became enmeshed in scandal due to their reckless conduct, often finding themselves facing legal consequences for unlawful financial practices, theft, extortion, cheating, perjury...and the like.”¹

1 – Myles Munroe (2014) “The Power of Character in Leadership: How Values, Morals, Ethics, and Principles Affect Leaders” Whitaker House p:7-8