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Week 5 Reflection

Personally, I believe that humble leadership is a virtue. I believe that it takes a lot of courage to be humble. A person really has to know themselves and what they want to achieve and rarely lose sight of that. I feel that humble leadership takes a lot of perseverance, trust, and discipline. I also believe that humble leaders inspire and nurture other leaders, ultimately bringing out the best in others. Yet, I think it is possible for humble leaders to be taken advantage of, but that makes them all that more courageous and inspiring.

In my opinion, President Obama has always been a humble leader. I rarely sensed any form of arrogance from him. Rather, I felt like he was timid at times. On some occasions, I believe there was an opportunity to break from the mold and move public policy forward. It would have been challenging but I sincerely believe acts like that help foster the big institutional changes. President Obama had some of those opportunities but I do not think he was confident enough to go for it. Therefore, I think this points more toward Barack Obama being a humble leader rather than part of the elite. Additionally, I personally think that anyone who serves as the president or prime minister of a country must naturally have a higher sense of arrogance and self image than others. However, I think the way people use this sense of self is what differentiates them from other leaders.

Humble leadership is definitely a more powerful way to influence others, but it is also the more difficult way. Humble leadership requires one to be confident in themselves and their abilities which is hard to develop. I am optimistic that it develops over time and experience. An

authoritarian approach is effective for some projects but I do not think it the best way to inspire new leaders. In fact, I think an authoritarian approach is more likely to suppress some leaders or even suppress some people's skills.

Another point that I think is important to mention is that a leader can be humble but also suffer from hubris or maybe have authoritarian practices or delivery. I think it does a disservice to people's individuality to paint leadership as black and white. In my opinion, many of our greatest assets as individuals come from the grey areas of our skills, interests, and personality. I also think a degree of hubris keeps a quality like humility in check, and vice versa. We change, develop, and adapt, so all the aspects of our leadership qualities do too!