

Leadership And Political Savviness: A Valuable Combination

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Admit it and be sincere: When you hear the term "politically savvy," what's the first thing that springs to mind?

A politician, an artful liar, a dishonest person or someone who, depending on their skill at controlling others or circumstances, might sell their soul to the devil to obtain what they want?

When you find out about someone who is "politically savvy," do you avoid them or are you wary of them, since you don't want to become "contaminated" and shouldn't be involved with such stuff?

I'd have to say that this is one of the most valued skills in the world of business because it contains the keys to understanding how to navigate the maze of the corporate world and life as a leader.

So now, let's dive appropriately into the matter of the day.

Defining Political Savviness

What do we mean by political savviness in leadership? Political savviness is not about being a "political animal" but rather it's a quality that influential leaders have that allows them to navigate the political environment while upholding their moral principles.

Making things happen is the focus of leadership in the near term, while developing people is the focus of leadership in the long term. The ultimate goal of a leader is to develop the organization's potential by having one eye to make things happen today via its people and one eye to make things happen in the future.

The most exemplary leaders do this by grooming subordinates to take the reins. The leader's job description calls for consideration of the organization's long-term viability and the advancement of the next generation.

A politically astute leader must take care of their team members for the company to succeed by raising their level of awareness and comprehension of their contributions to the business's success and the lives of the people they serve.

Politics simply is what it is: a component of human nature. It is neither intrinsically good nor bad. For example, there would be "politics" between two individuals if you put them in a room together and had them interact in any way. Consider that for a moment, and then picture yourself conversing with someone you neither know nor have ever met.

How would you respond to their requests or desires, or how would you understand what they say about other people or themselves? Would you restrain your answers and consider other things before replying, or would you hastily blurt out your initial reaction? What effects may the circumstances have on your actions or reactions?

CEOs And Lofty Ideals

The most exemplary leaders can be the best of both worlds; therefore, asking if chief executive officers (CEOs) should have lofty ideals is the wrong question. CEOs need to be fearless but flexible, unyielding yet open. Leaders are supposed to embody the best aspects of their personalities. As a result, managers frequently feel that they are being tugged in several directions. These traits may appear dissimilar, but leadership is a balancing act that necessitates evaluating them.

The most [effective leaders](#) cannot stoically or rigidly adhere to one end of the behavioral continuum—the argument over whether leaders should be high-thinking or high-feeling is refuted by this flexibility. If we're making leaders choose between the two, we're asking the wrong question.

Place compassionate leaders and strategic thinkers on a continuum. Extremes may be rather ominous. High-thinking executives are sometimes compared to executive robots in extreme forms.

Moreover, high-feeling leaders typically struggle with providing authentic feedback, which is essential to fostering the professional growth of their colleagues, since they tend to be conflict-averse.

Companies: As Powerful As Their Workforces

At their firms, leaders are often viewed as significant problem-solvers, yet this dependence on a single rescuer is a constrained view of how a business should operate. Leaders are responsible for finding solutions to issues, but staff members should also play a crucial role.

Have there been any recent significant organizational changes? A reasonable conclusion is only achievable if your team is on board, at ease and ready to move on to the next stage. The global business and political environment is an excellent illustration of why [strong crisis leadership](#) is crucial. Millions of workers rapidly shifted to remote work in late March.

Why did certain businesses adapt more successfully than others? First, high-thinking, high-feeling leaders responded rapidly to the unprecedented difficulties put up by Covid-19 and handled them while also taking into account the factors that workers would need in order to succeed in novel situations.

Strategic, empathetic leaders did everything they could to alleviate suffering while safeguarding their teams, rather than firing hundreds or thousands of people to save expenses.

The Political Blind Spot

A political blind spot refers to failing to recognize consciously how many unofficial factors impact judgment. There are two significant hurdles people run against when it comes to political acumen:

The Moral Block

The idea that politics is immoral implies that "organizational politics" is equivalent to "toxic manipulation," and it therefore raises an ethical dilemma. In this view, every time you modify anything, you are manipulating it. The concept of toxic manipulation, which has a bad connotation because of its coercive nature (versus persuasion, a positive manipulation), is at the core of the moral dilemma.

The Rational Block

This involves assuming that one's job description's technical qualities are sufficient and using reason to defend one's lack of political awareness. It's common for research and development departments, engineers and technicians to believe this.

Organizational politics are not an unavoidable evil that we must put up with; rather, one may be politically astute and morally upright simultaneously. That is an intriguing hypothesis, but how might those with "smart impairments" proceed in such a way?

Conclusion

I have highlighted some of the essential skills for navigating the corporate jungle and the life of a CEO or leader. People who are politically astute frequently demonstrate leadership. They keep a close eye on how the political scene is ever-changing, are aware of how to establish mutually advantageous partnerships to increase exposure and influence and believe that sustainable success comes from empowering others and oneself.