

John Abbott

Mar. 12, 2015

D.C. Leadership Tour

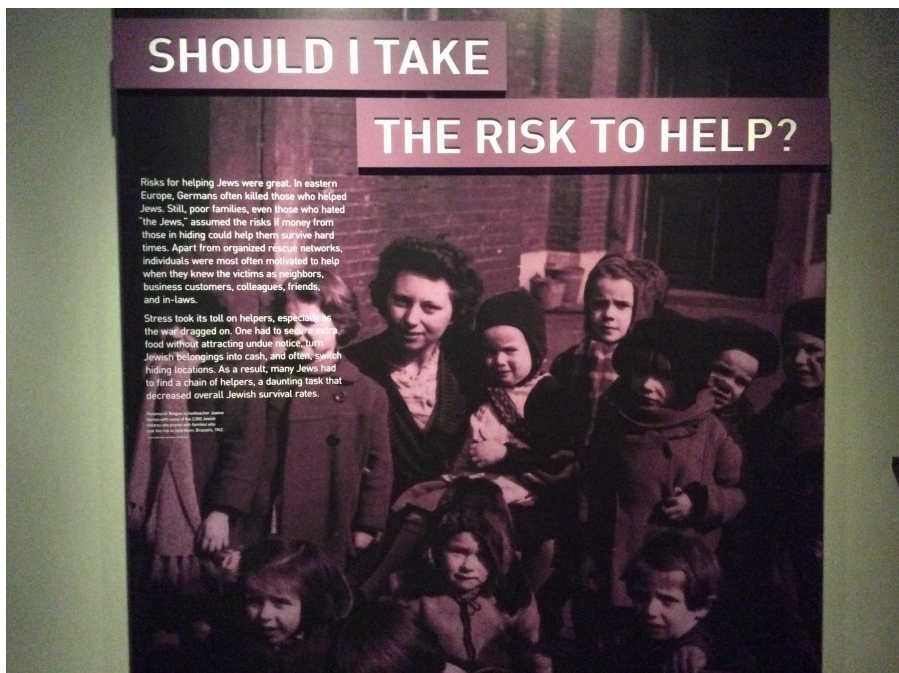
The trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. made me think about ethical leadership in direct opposition to an ethical person, more specifically in regards to the SS (Schutzstaffel), and the RMVP (Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda). It's no question that the SS and most people affiliated with the Nazi party were unethical people, but in order to accomplish what they accomplished, the Nazis had exceptional leaders. Ethical leadership is not the same as an ethical person.

One example of an exceptional Nazi leader, but a morally corrupt and unethical person is Joseph Goebbels. The leader of the RMVP, Goebbels was the lead propagandist for the Nazi regime. He was instrumental in spreading the Nazi ideology throughout pre-war and during the war in Germany. His methods were brilliant, but weren't the most ethical. Most specifically, his burning of "un-German" books helped to propagate the Nazi ideology, and was entirely unethical in that he destroyed the life-works of many an author. He lead the German people further into the depths of Nazism as a result.

Goebbels' efforts worked side-by-side with Heinrich Himmler's, the leader of the SS and the main perpetrator of the Holocaust. Among many other things, Himmler formed the Einsatzgruppen, "task forces" who were assigned as death squads who instigated a large number of mass murders throughout World War II. In regards to the so-called "Final Solution", the formation of roving, independent death squads was another brilliant idea. However, there is an obvious lack of ethics in regards to the formation of the Einsatzgruppen. As a leader, Himmler acted in a quick, thorough and competent manner. From an ethical standpoint, his methods were utterly horrific.

Jessica Alexander  
12 March 2015  
DC Leadership Tour

## Individual and Personal Leadership



This is a picture of a teacher who saved over two-thousand Jewish children by placing them with families to hide them. This display was in the Holocaust museum that we went to on the 11th of March. I chose this particular person to write a little bit about because she shows courage during a time of crisis and uses her leadership to save many

lives. Her individual leadership was not the only one that shined or darkened during the time of the Holocaust. In the Holocaust museum, there was a wall where they had the names of people from around the world who helped people survive the war. This wall had a small caption that said, "As additional rescuers are recognized and honored in the coming years, their names will be added in this space" (Holocaust Rescuers Wall). There was also a section where they recognized some local police officers. They had one officer who helped discriminate against the Jews and another officer who helped protect them. This just proves that a lot can be done by the individual whether negative or positive.

These were just a few of the many examples of individuals being able to change so much for the good and the bad. Hitler was able to lead an entire country and help people question their morals. He helped millions of people vacillate between whether they should help in the prosecution or risk their lives to move against it. There were many people that risked their lives to hide in plain sight to help rescue many other people, and they became the reason that many of those persecuted survived. This also included those who led acts of resistance against

the Nazis. One example is of a woman who carried a fake visa so she could leave and bring back food and supplies to the ghetto and a group of resistance.

I have been able to learn about many individuals who were leaders that carried out their goals whether they used others to accomplish them or stood alone against the majority. I noticed they each used their personal leadership style to accomplish incredible tasks even though they were individuals against insurmountable odds. Many of the rescuers and people who led the charge to fight against the Nazis were those that gave me hope for humanity. This particular exhibit in the Holocaust museum became my main inspiration behind the topic of personal leadership of the individual and the impact that an individual can have on a group.

Bianca Feliciano

DC Leadership Reflection

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Leadership is more than leading and reaching a goal. Effective leaders become servants to their society during prosperous and critical times. Servant leaders understand that before one can truly lead they must become a servant to their society to find inspiration and followers. As stated in the textbook, servitude is “the cornerstone of excellent leadership.”

During the Pentagon tour, our Senior Airman guide described various leaders and how they are remembered today. The most memorable leader from the tour was General Douglas MacArthur, the longest serving infantryman. General MacArthur served for sixty-one years during which he commanded in WWII, the Vietnam War, and the Korean War. After Japan admitted defeat in the Vietnam War, MacArthur and his staff assisted in the rebuilding of the country and reformation of the government. MacArthur took the time to listen and understand the needs of the people of Japan, leading them toward establishing order. In doing so, MacArthur not only demonstrated servant leadership but also created a precedent for others to follow during time of question and concern. MacArthur is a prime example of an effective leader who leads by example.

The Washington D.C. Leadership trip has reemphasized the various aspects of leadership learned in the classroom. Being able to experience and learn about different styles of leadership has expanded my personal leadership philosophy. Most of all, MacArthur’s servitude and commitment to assisting Japan in it’s time of need has inspired and instilled faith in me that no matter the circumstance, great leaders will serve the people.

Allison Goldsmith

March 12 2015

DC Leadership Tour

She thought of nothing but holding the elevator door open for the massive amounts of people coming in; wanting nothing more than to make sure her older sister in the wheelchair next to her was comfortable. When she had completed her duties her father fondly, but casually commended her “you’re a good helper” he said. She was no more than five years old. Leadership is expressed everywhere daily. From our world leaders to five year old girls. However, conflict has a natural way of dragging leaders to the forefront of a problem.

The holocaust was a perfect example of leaders emerging from conflict. While I do not think these brave men and women were not leaders in the absence of conflict, I do believe that conflict made their leadership all the more powerful and necessary. This is due in part to the fact that in times where there is severe conflict even the smallest act of kindness can be transformed into valor. In the *Some Were Neighbors* exhibit it was very apparent that each individual had the choice and opportunity to help their Jewish friends but very few did. Psychologist Ervine Staub states that “starting with small acts, people can progress along a continuum of benevolence.” And indeed even small acts became significant ones. For example a married couple hid their neighbor’s earrings when the Germans trucked them off to the concentration camps. Years later they returned them to their neighbor’s two surviving daughters who converted them into rings so each sister could have a connection to their mother. Here is an example where a small act of defiance and benevolence turned into an impactful act of leadership.

Jonatan Mendoza

D.C Fieldtrip

12 March 2015

### Leadership Reflection

In our short stay at Washington D.C I have had many great opportunities to experience history becoming alive and impact me in ways I could not fathom. The grandeur of the

Washington Monument, the might of the

Lincoln Memorial, and the magnificence of the

Declaration of Independence, however the

anguish of the Holocaust museum took me

aback and burrowed deep within me. Seeing the

suffering so many people had to endure made

me reflect on how we often take for granted our

liberty and how our predecessors have given so

much that it feels unfair to give so little.

Furthermore the risks that many great people

were willing to take in order to help strangers

for no other reason other than being humane.

The leadership such as that of Erich Troch of Felsberg, a police officer during World War II who protected Jewish, is a great source of inspiration for leaders in conflicting situations. The actions of humans like these speak to my views of great leaders being created through great trials.



In the face of the worst humanity has to offer I have also seen the best in the form of people like Erich Troch, Mary Edwards Walker and Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. who have all arisen to take on the daunting challenges of their times. Their sacrifice stands as a bench mark of leadership through tribulation and highlights the important role in history a leader has particularly when the worst of us surface. This trip has brought many of the lessons we've learned to real life scenarios from which so much can be learned.

Rebekah Rodriguez

12 March 2015

DC Leadership Tour

During our time in D.C., I was absolutely captured by how different things are in the North, especially the different lifestyles, culture, and architecture. But what amazed me the most was the fact that every little thing screamed "history." While I was standing up at the Lincoln Memorial, I gazed out at the great view and realized how much people have sacrificed to get us where we are today. So many sacrifices were made to help articulate a vision and show people that it was worth fighting for. Today, at the National Archives I saw many papers about women struggling to get equality, whether it be for equal pay, child care rights, or suffrage, women were constantly fighting to better the future of women nationally.

This put into perspective and made real the idea of articulating a vision. When Alice Paul spread to workers that a vote meant a fire escape, she helped to articulate a vision that the other women could look to and believe in. These women spread ideas as efficiently as they could and always stood clearly for a specific goal, going to extreme measures to get what they wanted. As we went up to the Rotunda, I saw the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution, all major defining documents for the United States. Our Founding Fathers were also masters of articulating a vision. Whether it was George Washington, leading his men to victory in the Revolutionary War or when the Federalist party demanded that a Bill of Rights be added to the Constitution, our leaders were constantly working a goal into the minds of their fellow leaders or their constituents.

These ideas, personally, have taught me a lot along the leadership tour. It seems that sometimes you have to make sacrifices to show people that your cause is something to get behind or simply that a small flame can turn into a bonfire. For me, personally, I have always been fascinated with those leaders like Alice Paul or Rosa Parks that decided to take a stand and fight for what they believed in, causing phenomenal movements to be seen all through American history. Maybe we have not quite reached the American vision of equality for all, but through seeing all these monuments and the National Archives, it seems that America is always striving to get closer. Through articulating a vision, leaders in the past and in the future have and will continue to make America a better place for everyone.



Sirima Tongkhuya  
03.12.15  
DC Leadership Tour

Upon arrival in Washington, D.C., I was anxious about the extent of research I would have to do for my final project along with the excitement to explore the nation's capitol. It became clear to me after just a couple days time that I would connect the leadership course that I had been taking for nearly two semesters to the educational journey in Washington. The full circle of academic bookwork to the physical experience in the nation's political center proved to be an enlightening tour. Derived from the different museums, monuments, and memorials that I encountered, I propose to reflect upon the United States Capitol Building and its correlation to ethics in leadership.

The tour of the U.S. Capitol Building depicted the foundation of our legislation. The House and Senate represent all constituents by debating what is best for the



people, not only in the states they represent, but also for the nation as a whole. Individuals of Congress must work together to pass bills and amendments with the consent of the other branches. Ethics come into play when our Representatives and Senators have to decide if their decisions are based on doing what is morally correct, or doing what is right because it is for the better of the majority of the population. For example, if Congress were to pass a law in which several constituents disagreed with, but the citizens would benefit on a larger, national scale.

Ethical leadership should take into account the idea of equal representation with the people's opinions in mind. This becomes a topic of concern though, considering the fact that what is equal is not always moral, or our society does

not approve of equal representation for all. Women's rights, homosexuality, race, and religion are all limiting factors that contribute to the ethical influence that politicians carry over their constituents. It is crucial that leaders express ethical standards when governing the people. The United States is a democratic nation; therefore we must provide equal, non – discriminatory representation for all citizens.