



Ghassan Aouad

Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, Past President of the Chartered Institute of Building (CI...
1w

Are leaders born or made?

The question of whether leaders are born or made has been a topic of debate for a significant period. The prevailing consensus today is that leadership involves a combination of inherent qualities and acquired skills.

The Great Man Theory of Leadership, which dates back to the 19th century suggests that some individuals are born with innate characteristics that naturally make them skilled leaders. The term "great man" was used because, at the time, leadership was primarily associated with male qualities, especially in terms of military leadership. Other theories of leadership assume that leaders can acquire the necessary skills through education and training.

Certain individuals may possess innate traits that naturally make them effective leaders, such as charisma, confidence, and the ability to inspire others. These qualities can give them a head start in leadership roles. However, merely having these traits is not a guarantee of being an effective leader.

Leadership is also a skill that can be cultivated and improved through education, training, and experience. Many successful leaders have refined their abilities over time, learning from both their achievements and failures, and actively seeking opportunities for personal growth. They acquire knowledge about effective leadership strategies and develop vital skills like communication, decision-making, and problem-solving.

Moreover, leaders often emerge in response to specific situations or circumstances. For instance, individuals who may not have displayed leadership qualities previously can step up and demonstrate exceptional leadership during times of crisis or uncertainty. This suggests that leadership can be nurtured and developed when the need arises.

In summary, while some individuals may possess inherent qualities that make them more inclined towards leadership, effective leadership ultimately involves a combination of innate traits, learned skills, and situational factors. Both nature and nurture play significant roles in the development of leaders.

Some months back I delivered an online lecture on the art and science of leadership as part of our "investing in our community initiative" led by Dr Hamad Odhabi, VC at ADU. You can listen to the recording using the following link: <https://lnkd.in/d3Jpz5m5>

Allow me to conclude with a quote by the legendary American football coach Vince Lombardi "Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work."

If you have any specific views or would like to discuss any particular aspect of leadership, please feel to share them with us

[#Leadership](#) [#Universities](#) [#Skills](#)

[Hamad Odhabi](#) [Mohammad Fteiha](#) [Khulud Abdallah](#) [Abu Dhabi University](#)



320 · 45 Comments