

The Quantum Leader

There is one thing upon which most people in the world's troubled Western democracies can agree: we have a crisis of leadership. And this is a crisis felt in both business and politics. Covid-19 brought to a head the fact that a large number of the men and women in corporate and national leadership positions are simply not meeting the challenges of the times. In part, this is a crisis of mindset, or philosophy, and thus competence, as I have been discussing throughout this book. Too many twenty-first century leaders are confronting today's challenges with seventeenth century models and "solutions". In part, it is a moral crisis, caused by a decline in leadership behavior and speech—the cheating, lies, personal opportunism, and sheer corruption that have so deeply eroded trust among those being led. In part, it is a cultural/economic crisis, the extreme self-interest and exaggerated individualism that have both led to and justified amoral (and often immoral), "me first", strategies among individuals, companies, and nations. And in part, it is simply a lack of vision, an inability on the part of leaders to "think big", to raise their sights above just getting by and getting on and to inspire the rest of us to strive for something better, inspire us to dream.

In these next few chapters, we will look at the challenges facing the quantum leader, focusing on company leaders, and the philosophy, character, principles, and thinking skills required to meet them.