

Thank You for Being Late Analysis

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## **Leadership Styles**

There are many different types of leaders and leadership styles. Leadership styles depend on the purpose of the leader, the followers, and the environment. The kind of leadership style this writer embody is the emergent leadership style. Geno Prussakov (2009), identify that all leadership fits in two forms; assigned and emergent leadership. Assigned leadership refers to being appointed to a position within the organizational structure. For example, a company is launching a new jobs program and the lead operator is assigned based on experience in the field. An emergent leader according to Prussakov (2009), does not rely on formal assignment but, emerges by staying informed, getting involved, volunteering, initiating new ideas and seeking other assistance and opinions. Emergent leaders take the initiative to help others better complete their task and demonstrate substantially more empathy and understanding for workers than their assigned counterparts (Johnston,n.d.).

### **Emergent Leader**

There are five emergent leadership styles according to Kelley Dawkins (2015), author of *Emergent Leadership Styles: A Guidebook to Finding the Leader in You*. The five forms include innovator, humanitarian, visionary, catalyst and thought leader. Although this writer envisioned being a humanitarian emergent leader because of the innate desire and gratification from putting the needs of others first, this writer is not. After taking the emergent leader test pinpointed by Dawkins, this writer emerged a thought leader. A thought leader according to Dawkins is, “the go-to individual, the expert, the guide, knows or, at least, knows where to find the answers. This person is neither high nor low in vision or engagement” (Dawkins, 2015, p. 14). A thought leader is at the intersection between people engagement and a visionary. After doing some research on the strength and characteristics of a thought leader; this writer accepts the classification of being

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a thought leader. Some of the traits of a thought leader that this writer embodies are profound thought provocation during problem-solving, inspiring and encouraging others to think outside the box, and allowing others to take leadership and ownership roles to produce the best product or outcome possible.

## Book Analysis

### Age of Acceleration

Thomas L. Friedman, the notably New York Times columnist and author of the book *Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations* is also a leading emergent leader with a thought leadership classification. In this New York Times bestseller, Friedman (2017), travels the world engaging with entrepreneurs, technologists, and consultants who are reshaping the world during an age of acceleration from three standpoints: technology, globalization and climate change. From the thought leader perspective, Friedman argues the best response to these periods of acceleration is to adapt to the change. According to Friedman, "Since the technological forces driving this change in the pace of change are not likely to slow down, how do we adapt? (Friedman, 2017, p.201). Those who fail to adapt become expendable according to Friedman (2017). To avoid becoming expendable, leaders and educated people have to stay plugged into the flow, the flow of creating the newest ideas, first to identify challenges, first to respond and take advantages of a new finding. Friedman emphasizes not waiting to be assigned to a task but taking the initiative. Those who are in the current of adapting to the changing environment will hold significant economic and strategic positions to enjoy the best infrastructure win and governance (Friedman, 2017). In the text, Friedman (2017), defined the role of a leader as someone who mobilizes people to make a change, while facing reality and adapting to their changing environment to ensure the prosperity and security of their community.

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### **Visionary Leader**

The excerpt from the text that describes the power of a visionary leader relates to this writer's leadership style. Remember according to Dawkins (2015); a thought leader requires vision, people engagement, and motivation. Friedman used former South African President Nelson Mandela to reflect the power of a visionary leader, helping his nation navigate through a moment of acceleration that required adoption. Friedman described President Mandela using the famed Springboks rugby team as a means of commencing healing for the apartheid-torn nation. President Mandela moved to surprise his supporters, constituents, pollster, and opponents by rising above and doing what was in the best interest of his country and not strip the white citizens of their cherished symbols. According to Friedman, President Mandela surprised the nation with his compassion, generosity, and restraint and was able to move the culture of South Africa towards change. A thought leader is someone who provokes new thinking, open dialogue and communication and is always looking forward to the future according to Dawkins (2015).

### **Lifelong Learner**

Another profound leadership quality that this writer embodies and Friedman discussed in the text was being a lifelong learner. To make it through the age of acceleration and not get left behind is to continue engaging in learning for the remainder of the time implies Friedman. Being from Upstate New York and growing up on a farm, this writer was able to relate to the dairy laborer example depicted by Friedman in the text as to why lifelong learning is essential. Friedman (2017), discussed that cow milking and breeding are no longer stable skill sets as automation is used to scan the underbellies of the cows and document their milking speeds. Technology is also being used to identify the optimal time for reproducing. Shortly, successful cow milkers are being equipped with data readers and analyst according to Friedman.

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This writer agrees with Friedman that people need to be lifelong learners, to adapt to change. This writer is a lifelong learner, as exemplified by the 18 plus years of formal education, a lifetime of lived experiences, and currently eagerly seeking a Ph.D. in Leadership and Policy. Not only does this writer want to adapt to change but create change. Friedman states, “You need to work harder, regularly reinvent yourself, obtain at least some form of postsecondary education, make sure you are engaged in lifelong learning, and play by the new rules while also reinventing some of them” (Friednman, 2017, p.219).

### **Conclusion**

The concept of taking a moment to pause and reflect to better understand and engage the rapidly changing world is profound. Friedman points out it is better to stop and reflect than withdraw or panic. As a leader, one has to know when it is appropriate to pause or when to keep paddling fast to stay with the ever-changing rate of acceleration. Being a lifelong learner and an emergent leader are similar as both requires taking the initiative to foster new ideas, seeking and volunteering and staying informed. The age of acceleration is expected to continue exponentially reshaping the world, the resolve is on the shoulders of the leaders, and the educated to ensure no one is left behind.

## Reference

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