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Leadership Philosophy

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Leadership Philosophy

Leadership plays a critical role in successful management and control. Therefore, in any business, country, projects or organization, there is a need to have a person with good leadership skills to manage and provide juniors with the best directions and controls. Moreover, leaders always have specific characteristics they inherit as well as employing various leadership theories and styles. However, not all leaders are good leaders, because some always lose their control when given the authority hence not managing effectively. Thus, effective leaders should do the right things, set directions, develop an optimistic vision and be innovative. Similarly, good leaders should generate new and effective solutions in case of a crisis or situation. This paper will focus on leadership traits and style of Abraham Lincoln as well as leadership situation he was in and lastly the description of my leadership style.

Abraham Lincoln Leadership Overview

Abraham Lincoln is among the famous and well-known Presidents of the United States. Having existed from the year 1809 to 1865, he was the 16th President of the United States and ruled between 1861 and 1865 (Haldy, 2016). Abraham Lincoln is the best leader to be analyzed because of the practical leadership skills he had that contributed to the development of an excellent foundation to the American leadership. Similarly, Abraham was not only the president of the United States but was also devoted to education that enabled him to be a lawyer. Furthermore, through the hardship and struggles he passed through during his earlier times, Lincoln was given the self-made title man a phrase which is still used today as an inspiration to many individuals. Also, he championed the rights of all individuals hence being a civil rights activist and representative. Moreover, through the effective leadership style, Lincoln was able to

maintain union throughout the United States civil war as well as open more opportunities for the country.

Leadership Traits and Style

Abraham Lincoln's desire to become successful and knowing making the life of everyone in America great was successful through the character he had. Lincoln was ambitious in his dreams despite his mother dying when he was young. Similarly, his father remarried hence not being able to provide for him since the family was demanding too. For that reason, Abraham was determined in his dreams and thus managed to develop his leadership characteristics because, during his early age, he was able to learn as law by himself (Soni, 2019). Also, through hard work, Abraham was referred to as the self-made man because everything he wanted, he believed in books and searching for knowledge for himself. During the civil war, Lincoln did not know much about the military war, therefore, through his determination to retain peace in America, he went back to the library and taught himself concerning the art of war. Through revising the previous wars that happened the sense of understanding, he had made him even to understand more about war than other military generals.

Moreover, excellent communication skills were an added advantage to Abraham Lincoln's leadership journey. Although he was not in a position to provide a speech when not written in a text, Lincoln could present stories and persuade people to follow him. Communication plays a critical role in leadership as it allows followers to listen and leaders to give their visions and goals to the people. Through good communication, Abraham presented his plans and inspirations to the people frequently and thus enabled people to understand, for instance, in 1855, Lincoln gave a speech that was famous concerning the house divided. In the talk, he mentioned a quote indicating his confidence that the administration cannot tolerate

lastingly being divided by half of those supporting slavery and the other half free (Vozzola et al., 2015).

Another leadership trait that Abraham exhibited was social skills. The skills of interacting with diverse populations and individuals with different features allowed Abraham Lincoln to connect and influence them to change their ways and follow his vision. For example, Lincoln did not push away his rivals but encouraged them to work together and tried to change their thought and made them believe in him. During the civil war, Abraham created a cabinet that comprised of several political opponents and instilled faith in them. Galli (2017) argues that good leaders understand when to depend on other individuals and can realize the achievement of their teams over their own.

Another leadership trait that is attributed to Abraham was hands-on leadership because majority of the success in America is accredited to him. This character enabled him to be the most prominent leader. When Lincoln struggled to do away with slavery, he knew people and laborers would be more productive when working as freed than slaved. As a result, the economic progress in the United States is attributed to President Abraham Lincoln because when the first Bridge across Mississippi was developed, the captains were unaware of the Bridge and sued the Rock island bridge company with allegations of developing perilous indemnities, which result in hardship in navigation (McCrary, 2015). The railway passing across the Mississippi could lead to a significant impact on boat owners as it could break the monopoly of boats through creating competition with the Bridge. The improvement resulted in several local economies to which were ready, and others were not ready, and the economy prolonged. New technology also emerged and made people leaving their place of work and local labors to search for work in the factories and industries which had appeared.

The leadership style that Abraham Lincoln utilized was transformational. He managed to champion for the abolishment of slavery and at the same time maintaining the union. According to Mittal & Dhar (2015), transformation leaders could inspire their followers using their personality to attain the visions set. In this case, Lincoln had an outstanding capability to communicate his goals by making ideas as simple as possible and for easy understanding. Moreover, through the speech, Lincoln managed to unite the nation and thus addressed the contributions for everyone and urged people to work on completing what they had started by healing the wounds and valuing a just and permanent peace among themselves and with all other countries.

Lincoln also used democratic leadership style because he allowed and included every person in his team in the decision-making process. Khan et al. (2015) define democratic leadership as the style of leadership that allows members of the group to take a more participative role in the decision-making process. Therefore, Lincoln encouraged individuals in his team to share ideas and thoughts, but he was still the one to give the final decision. During his tenure, Lincoln exchanged views and opinions with members of the cabinet. Also, the cabinet comprised of many competitors, such as Edwin Stanton and William Seward. Notably, democratic style is indicated when promoting fairness which brought liberty to all individuals.

Leadership Situation

During the civil war, Abraham Lincoln was faced with a leadership situation which was the division of the nation between the North and South, and the union army had lost two main battles. As a result, individuals in his party criticized him for the conceding hesitant arrogance. Thus, he had to develop ways of restoring the army and obtaining public opinion. Through using situational theory, Lincoln managed to retain army control. According to Khan et al. (2015),

situation theory allows leaders to use the best method based on the situation at hand through persuading, delegating and commanding. Due to many frustrations from the generals, Lincoln utilized commanding to remove all the misunderstandings and put harsh military relations to general Halleck and asked the exasperating general Hooker to follow and obey orders given (Soni, 2019). This allowed them to win several wars, including the Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

Personal Leadership Style

I have managed to handle several projects in my life as well as working with a team hence allowing me to be able to assess my leadership style. While working with a group, I always enable every team member to provide their opinions about the topic in question. Therefore, my leadership style is democratic since all members are encouraged to provide their views. However, I listen to individuals' opinions but make the final decision. The style has been effective to me because I have managed to handle several groups and work efficiently.

In summation, having focused on leadership traits and style of Abraham Lincoln as well as leadership situation he was in and lastly the description of my leadership style, it is evident that different leaders exhibit different leadership styles and traits. Therefore, good leaders will have good leadership styles that will enable them manage and deliver their visions and goals to their followers. However, bad leaders always try to force their idea to their followers. Abraham Lincoln is among the best leaders in the United States because he employed democratic and transformational leadership style. Also, the traits exhibited by Abraham Lincoln included good communication skills, social skills, hands-on leadership and determination. This allowed him to make tremendous changes in the United States that are remembered to date. With the leadership situation experienced during the civil war, he had to change the past and focus on what is happening using situational leadership theory and fixed the event.

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