

The Journal of Values-Based Leadership

Volume 10
Issue 1 *Winter/Spring 2017*

Article 2

January 2017

Guest Editorial: The Leadership Legacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton

Emilio F. Iodice
EFIODICE@YAHOO.COM

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholar.valpo.edu/jvbl>

 Part of the [Business Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Iodice, Emilio F. (2017) "Guest Editorial: The Leadership Legacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton," *The Journal of Values-Based Leadership*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22543/0733.101.1172>

Available at: <http://scholar.valpo.edu/jvbl/vol10/iss1/2>

This Introductory Remarks is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Business at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Journal of Values-Based Leadership by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

Guest Editorial

The Leadership Legacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton

by

Emilio Iodice¹

One of the most turbulent elections in American history is over. Despite her loss, Hillary Clinton demonstrated remarkable leadership skills. She exhibited courage, conviction, and determination that are permanent examples for us to follow. She conducted a vigorous campaign that will be remembered as one of the most difficult and challenging in history. She lost by less than 40 electoral votes but exceeded her opponent in the popular vote by nearly 3,000,000.²



Courtesy, US Department of State

Historians will look at the election of 2016 and examine what happened, especially in the Clinton campaign, which fell short of its goal, but was extraordinary in terms of depth and breadth. Some will say she cleverly played the gender card. It is true that part of her mission was to break the glass ceiling that blocked women from rising to our highest office. But it was more than that.



Courtesy, Politico

Others will claim it was her amazing political networking that won her the nomination and gave impetus to her campaign. And others will insist it was her talent in raising more money than Donald Trump. Finally, many will assert that the fame and popularity of her husband and the support of a sitting President helped her achieve a near victory. These are contributing factors but they do not explain enough about the person and her leadership abilities.

Instead, Hillary Rodham Clinton gained the nomination of the Democratic Party and fought the good fight in the campaign with the help of many. But in the end, her endeavor was a powerful personal one because of who “she” is. She articulated a vision accepted by millions

¹ **Emilio Iodice** is an American Diplomat, Writer, Educator, and Presidential Historian; Author of “A Kid from Philadelphia, Mario Lanza: The Voice of the Poets,” “Profiles in Leadership from Caesar to Modern Times,” “Sisters,” “Future Shock 2.0, The Dragon Brief 2020,” “Reflections, Stories of Love, Leadership, Courage and Passion,” and most recently 2016, “Selecting the President, the Most Important Decision You will ever Make.”

² As of December 22, 2016 (<http://www.cnn.com/2016/12/21/politics/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-popular-vote-final-count/>).

of Americans. She revealed, time and again, strength and resiliency in the face of what became insurmountable challenges.

She lost against Barack Obama in 2008 after a bitter primary battle. That did not stop her. She did not retire from politics. Clinton joined the new Administration and showed loyalty to the man who stole from her the dream she long sought: The Presidency.



Courtesy, Christian News Today



Courtesy, New York Times

Hillary Clinton testified before the House Select Committee on Benghazi. As Secretary of State, she dealt with enormous global problems. History will judge her tenure, but it is obvious that she faced each situation with resolution and toughness. The Benghazi affair is a case in point. She ultimately took responsibility for the

death of our Ambassador in Libya. She did not blame anyone else. She admitted errors were made and maintained her self-control and self-discipline through a fire storm of Congressional investigations of the tragedy.

Now, she was defeated by the most unconventional candidate for the White House in U.S. history. Donald Trump was a formidable foe who campaigned against the political establishment represented by Hillary Clinton. He promised to change a system that millions felt was unfair and corrupt. He used fear and divisiveness to articulate his dream for a new America. In the end, the voters accepted his proposals. This did not diminish the view offered by Clinton and her Party.

The campaign was a tribute to her steadfastness and her experience as a Senator and Secretary of State — plus eight years as an active and vigorous First Lady — and to her notable leadership skills:

1. **Never Give Up:** The one word that characterized Hillary Clinton as a leader, as a person, and as a human being was “resiliency.” Even her most ardent foes acknowledged this overriding quality. This demanded self-awareness and strong emotional intelligence which is at the center of resiliency. She faced notorious personal and political obstacles throughout her life. In each instance, she had to make hard choices. She stood by her husband despite his infidelity and was at his side during his impeachment trial. Her motives were questioned. Even so, in the process of navigating through the perilous waters of personal pain and embarrassment, she never gave up her pride and self-respect. She stayed composed and focused. She urged the people to concentrate on Bill Clinton’s achievements and not his weaknesses. Along this journey, she may have made mistakes, but it is clear that she learned that dedication and loyalty are essential qualities of a leader.

2. **Preparation:** No one can deny her preparation for the job of Commander-in-Chief. She studied the law and was a successful attorney in both the private and public sectors. She was First Lady of Arkansas and helped her husband reach the White House. Instead of resting on her laurels, she ventured into the political arena that gave her the depth and breadth of knowledge she needed to govern the country. She matched this with an ability to communicate well, a constant love of learning, and making assessments based on facts which are key to informed and enlightened leadership.

3. **Courage:** The best way to overcome fear is to have the courage to accept the outcome and move forward. It is equally brave to be able to acknowledge the facts and alter direction. Clinton displayed bravery in making decisions and staying her course, but she was not afraid to change when she discovered that traditional thinking was wrong. She showed she could be the captain of the ship and sail through storms to reach her port of call. She faced defeat with dignity, decency, and compassion and expressed gratitude to those who believed in her.

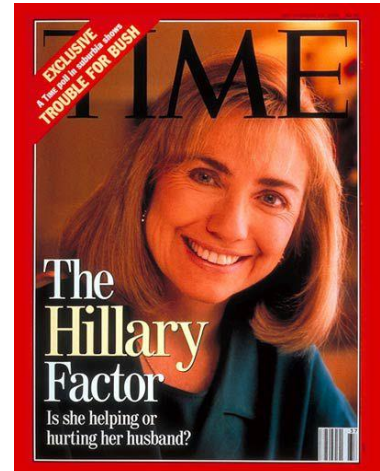
4. **Collaboration:** Hillary Clinton was a consummate politician. She understood the political process in Washington. As a Senator, she presented a willingness and a talent to work with the opposition. She promised to bring this style into the Oval Office and seek a bipartisan approach to dealing with our nation's problems.



Courtesy, ABC News

She constantly returned to the fundamentals in spite of an onslaught of personal criticism and falsehoods. Her body language, composure, and method of handling herself reflected self confidence in her message and in her capacity to assume the highest office in the land.

The day after her defeat for the Presidency, Hillary Clinton gave a concession speech that was filled with hope and grace. She paid homage to those who fought for her and looked up to her as a model and visionary. Here is some of what she said:³



Time, September 14, 1992

5. **Stay Focused on the Message:** Negative attacks against her during the campaign demonstrated her uncanny ability to stay focused on the key elements of her proposition to the people. Clinton laid out a plan for the future of America. She

³ Lanquist, Lindsey (2016). 9 Quotes from Hillary Clinton's Concession Speech That We All Needed to Hear. *Culture*, Nov. 9.

- *I have... spent my entire adult life fighting for what I believe in. I've had successes and I've had setbacks, sometimes really painful ones. Many of you are at the beginning of your professional, public, and political careers. You will have successes and setbacks, too. This loss hurts, but please never stop believing that fighting for what's right is worth it. It is, it is worth it.*
- *And to all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.*
- *The American dream is big enough for everyone – for people of all races, religions, for men and women, for immigrants, for LGBT people, and people with disabilities – for everyone.*



Image, CNN.com

- *Americans have made their choice. Now is the moment where unity is needed at all levels to help our new President and our new government tackle the great domestic and international issues that will determine the fate of our country and humanity.*
- *We have seen that our nation is more deeply divided than we thought. But I still believe in America and I always will. And if you do, then we must accept this result and then look to the future. Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead. Our constitutional democracy enshrines the peaceful transfer of power. And we don't just respect that, we cherish it.*
- *And let me add, our constitutional democracy demands our participation. Not just every four years, but all the time. So let's do all we can to keep advancing the causes and values we all hold dear.*
- *Now I know we have still not shattered that highest and hardest glass ceiling, but someday someone will, and hopefully sooner than we might think right now.*
- *[Our constitutional democracy] also enshrines other things. The rule of law. The principle that we are all equal in rights and dignity. Freedom of worship and expression. We respect and cherish these values, too, and we must defend them.*

- *For now, our responsibility as citizens is to keep doing our part to build that better, stronger, fairer America we seek, and I know you will.*
- *Finally, I am so grateful for our country and for all it has given to me. I count my blessings every single day that I am an American. And I still believe as deeply as I ever have that if we stand together and work together with respect for our differences, strength in our convictions, and love for this nation, our best days are still ahead of us.*

Courtesy, Justin Sullivan, Getty Images



Further Reading:

5 Leadership Secrets of Hillary Clinton, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MolKqv_75U.

5 Leadership Secrets of Hillary Clinton, *Huffington Post* (June 22, 2016), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rebecca-shambaugh/5-leadership-secrets-of-h_b_10613268.html.

Ball, Molly (Nov. 15, 2016). Why Hillary Clinton Lost, *The Atlantic*, <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/11/why-hillary-clinton-lost/507704/>.

Clinton, Hillary Rodham (2015). *Hard Choices*, New York: Simon and Schuster.

Shambaugh, Rebecca (2010). *Leadership Secrets of Hillary Clinton*, New York: McGraw Hill.

Trump, Clinton, Clash on Leadership Qualities, *USA Today*, (September 7, 2016), <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/09/07/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-military-forum/89951478/>.

Women's Month Celebration Event, (March 19, 2014). *Leadership Secrets of Hillary Clinton*, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York.