

Ethics, Values and Moral Leadership for Space Settlements

By Lawrence G. Downing, DMin

Introduction

Kepler Space Institute (KSI) started its graduate academics with a course in the Summer of 2019 titled: “PHI 502, Strategic Foresight and Alternative Futures.” The professors were Dr. Bob Krone and Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Downing. Dr. Downing presented this subject during the June 26 class session as reading for this subject which will permeate the KSI programs in the future. This is one of the most important subjects, for any society, government, school, business, and for humankind, and for Space settlements, and it is championed by the best qualified scholar and teacher for Ethics and Moral Leadership I have known. His whole life has been a model for what he teaches, preaches, and publishes. **Bob Krone, President, Kepler Space Institute.**

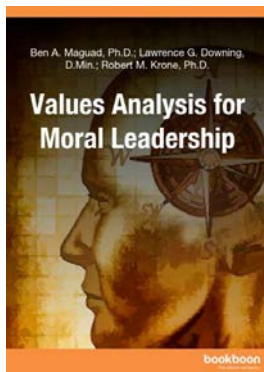
Building Your Personal Foundation for Moral Leadership

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” – Gandhi

The Need

Evidence is abundant that there is a need for moral leadership. The need will continue to increase with the ever-increasing human and material costs of its failure. Moral leadership is essential for all of humanity.

Responsibility



Readers of this book¹ are, or will be, leaders in schools, churches, government agencies, businesses, communities, military units, foundations, non-profit organizations, hospitals, banks, financial organizations, and families. They have the responsibility to be moral leaders, to help others be moral leaders, to prevent failures, and to design codes of ethics for their organizations.

The Components of Moral Leadership

Moral leadership is a tough subject in our complex world. Formalizing the set of rules for right conduct runs into cultural, religious, cognitive, and philosophical diversities. Initially, it will raise more questions for you than it provides answers. An initial list of places to begin your study follows:

¹ Ben A. Maguad, Lawrence G. Downing, and Robert M. Krone, *Values Analysis for Moral Leadership* (London: Bookboon, 2016), bookboon.com/en/values-analysis-for-moral-leadership-ebook. As of June 30, 2019, there had been 283,398 downloads.

1. *Using the world's religions* to define *good and moral conduct*.
2. *Studying philosophy* to define *the truth, systems of knowledge, and wisdom*. Philosophy is the science of sciences. It includes ontology, epistemology, logic, ethics, and aesthetics.
3. *Values analysis*. Values are *principles or things preferred* by individuals, groups, religions, organizations, cultures or nations, or international entities. We maintain throughout this article that values analysis is the best methodology for understanding people's and groups' beliefs and behavior.
4. *Ethics*. Ethical study investigates the nature and constituency of human character and the formulation of rules of moral behavior. Designing a *code of ethics* for yourself and your organization can be a valuable contribution to moral leadership.
5. *Theory building*. As you design your moral leadership foundation, you will be theory building.
6. *Literature review*. The Internet has revolutionized our ability to search for information. Try searching for the keywords *moral leadership* and see what you get. For the best analysis of why public moral leadership is needed, start with Yehezkel Dror's modern classic *Capacity to Govern*.²
7. *Continual learning*. Being a moral leader in this era characterized by uncertainty, novelty, complexity, and adversity may be your most difficult professional and personal challenge. There are pitfalls and dilemmas. Defining and achieving your own personalized foundation for moral leadership will take time, and it will mature as you advance through your career and life.

Humankind's Future and Moral Leadership

"You will not do incredible things without an incredible dream." – John Eliot

Moral leadership is a universal requirement for any society anywhere. So moral leadership should exist for humans living anywhere in the universe. How can readers become active in a movement to expand moral leadership continually throughout humanity? A practical and effective option is for leaders to take an active role in promoting positive values and practices in their organization and communities. Today, there is abundant evidence to support such action. For example, the June 12, 2016 Orlando, Florida, massacre of fifty people that caused severe injuries to more than fifty others and had profound effects upon thousands of others across America and the world turns attention once more to consider how best to prevent immoral acts perpetrated upon innocent people. The wanton act of violence upon those assembled in a gay club by a young terrorist, the deadliest mass murder in US criminal history, reminds us how important it is to instill values and morals in our young people that counter the hate and calls to violence that have encouraged those who seek to harm others. People cannot feel secure as long as evil has such a prominent role in our society. Laws by themselves will not change behavior. Limitations on human behavior will have but moderate success.

² Yehezkel Dror, *Capacity to Govern: A Report to the Club of Rome* (London: Frank Cass, 2002).

More effective than the multiplication of civil regulation is a change of heart, a fundamental shift in attitude, and a mind that seeks good above ill. Moral leaders are an important component in the effort to improve how we treat one another and the value we place upon human life. Now is the time to take positive action that will promote the basic values and morals that promote and perpetuate behaviors that benefit life. A passive role, a decision to ignore the evil that surrounds and destroys, will not cut it. Moral leadership will continue to play a significant role in shaping life today and into the future. Our plea is that women and men of good will do not let this opportunity pass. Take action now!

A primary reference for you is the classic Yehezkel Dror book, *Avant-Garde Politician: Leaders for a New Epoch*.³ Dror, in this fourteenth book of his brilliant career as co-founder and leading scholar of the Policy Sciences, takes a perspective of 100 years with prescriptions to *shape the future of humanity* – including the essential requirement of moral leadership.

Earth's literature, past and present – now readily available worldwide – provides a storehouse of wisdom to defrost and apply to this challenge. I cite here Yehezkel Dror's writings as unmatched models for personal research and involvement. Furthermore, we assume that in 2019, there is a human capacity to shape the future positively for the benefit and survival of humanity. The missing link presently is a universal commitment of global leadership and citizens to do so.

The following short Yehezkel Dror statements describe the existing situation today:

1. Humanity collectively is unprepared for coping with future challenges.
2. Without global political leadership, increased awareness, and actions, the probability of human extinction will increase, until it occurs.
3. "Continued sleepwalking by political leaders on critical issues assures disasters."⁴
4. Much is known today about the failings of public and private leaders as uncovered by investigative media. Unethical and immoral behavior is revealed continuously.
5. "Based on my personal acquaintance with the corridors of power in many countries having different regimes, my finding is that many political leaders perform much worse than is publicly known."⁵
6. There are increasingly novel critical issues, such as deep globalization, economic crises, unprecedented geopolitical shifts, greenhouse deterioration, explosive demographic pressures, technologies with uncertain long-range impacts, fanatics armed with mass-killing devices, and violent culture clashes.
7. Despite some optimistic outlooks about self-managing social processes, or governance leaders predicting major future improvements, the trend

³ Yehezkel Dror, *Avant-Garde Politician: Leaders for a New Epoch* (Washington, DC: Westphalia Press, 2014).

⁴ Dror, *Avant-Garde Politician*, 3.

⁵ Dror, *Avant-Garde Politician*, 5.

- is toward an increasing severity of problems. This is dangerous, because political leaders are the only ones legitimately in charge of regulating or reversing social actions through the instruments they create.
8. We come to face the finding and conclusion that leadership will be the key to the design of future human actions that determine how developments turn out.
 9. We further conclude that of all the necessary characteristics of leadership, moral leadership will remain the most influential – for good or for bad – just as it has throughout recorded history on Earth.

Future Challenges

Achieving moral leadership at a societal level will require human behavioral changes for which the means of doing so are currently unknown. We hope they will be found. If those changes remain impossible on Earth, is there the possibility of creating them in future human space settlements?

I agree with the philosophy prescribed by the Kepler Space Institute (KSI) for human settlements in Space, which is “reverence for life within ethical civilizations.”⁶ The hypothesis of KSI leadership is that the vision of reverence for life within ethical civilizations can be achieved by establishing it in the planning for all future Space settlements through their implementation guided by the Policy Sciences; and, furthermore, that achieving it in Space settlements will feed back as models for Earth societies. Space has no history of human conflict, intolerance, discrimination, violence, genocide, wars, or human catastrophes.

At the International Space Development Conference, in San Juan, Puerto Rico on May 22, 2016, KSI chaired a panel to begin a research program for “Human Pathologies and the Space Epoch.” The purpose of the panel was to assist long-time desires to heal these human pathologies, including immoral and unethical leadership. The emerging Space Age opens up unprecedented new opportunities by using the exploration, development, and human settlement of Space as the catalyst for a human societies’ paradigm shift. Humanity’s health and progress – even its long-term survival – is at stake. A research question which will be pursued is:

How can the emerging Space Age be designed to avoid repetition of humanity’s destructive history on Earth?

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⁶ Bob Krone, “Philosophy for Space – Learning from the Past – Visions for the Future,” *Journal of Space Philosophy* 1, no. 1 (Fall 2012): 17-26.



Editors' Notes: Dr. Larry Downing has been professionally contributing to Kepler Space Institute (KSI) since its 2009 origin, and before that through his academic collaboration with Dr. Bob Krone. He was a contributor to Bob's 2006 book, *Beyond Earth: The Future of Humans in Space*, which triggered the idea to pursue KSI. He then became the Chair of the Space Faith Research Project. He will be active in future KSI research and academic ventures. He has co-authored with Bob Krone and Dr. Ben Maguad of Andrews University the 2012 book, *Values Analysis for Moral Leadership*, which can be downloaded free from www.bookboon.com, and on which this article draws. **Bob Krone and Gordon Arthur.**