



Leadership: Essential Writings by Our Greatest Thinkers (Norton Anthology)

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A Norton Anthology that illuminates how literature can help build ethically responsible leaders.

What is the connection between literature and leadership? Are leaders born or are they made? Elizabeth D. Samet, the author of the award-winning *Soldier's Heart* and a professor of English at West Point, brings to this anthology her profound experiences as a teacher of soldiers, her discerning ear for excellent writing, and her belief in the vital role of the humanities in cultivating leaders. Great writers and thinkers *in conversation*?that is what makes Samet's approach distinctive. Samet organizes the writings around the essence of leadership?the insights, skills, and actions that effective leaders, with time and experience, learn to live by. What are these insights, skills, and actions? Newcomers to any organization must first study the system, then find and emulate models, risk change, cultivate trust, negotiate, take responsibility, learn from failure, learn to resist, innovate, discipline desire, and eventually let go. These ideas, brought to life in selections written by or about unforgettable leaders?be they heroic, quixotic, or villainous?shape the book. Machiavelli, Macbeth, and Milosz, Ghandi and Gawande, Douglass and Didion are just a sampling of the 102 writers and works included. Readers of *Leadership* will enjoy its sheer variety at the same time that they enter a thought-provoking, often moving conversation that is both ancient and crucially current.

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Editorial Review

Review

“In the overstocked shelves of volumes devoted to leadership development, *Leadership* stands out. This thought-provoking anthology, designed by a practitioner of the art of developing young men and women into capable leaders, isn’t about how to lead but how to think.” (General Gordon R. Sullivan (Ret.), U.S. Army, president and CEO, Association of the United States Army)

“A broad and deep perspective for innovators in any field.” (Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison)

“*Leadership* is an extraordinary anthology: imaginative, provocative, and deeply engaging.” (Joe Badaracco, Harvard Business School)

“To be truly visionary in the twenty-first century, leaders need to learn from those who have paved their path. This wonderful anthology is an excellent way to garner sage advice and provoke conversations.” (Kathryn Kolbert, director, Athena Center for Leadership Studies, Barnard College)

“Elizabeth Samet links the ‘Big Ideas’ of the world’s great thinkers to essentials of leadership in a variety of contexts. Great leaders inspire others to action, and Professor Samet has provided inspirational intellectual leadership through this excellent anthology.” (George B. Forsythe, president, Westminster College)

About the Author

Elizabeth D. Samet received her BA from Harvard and her PhD in English literature from Yale. She is the author of *No Man's Land: Preparing for War and Peace in Post-9/11 America* (Macmillan); and *Soldier's Heart: Reading Literature Through Peace and War at West Point* (FSG & Picador), which won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Current Interest and was named one of The New York Times's 100 Notable Books of 2007; and *Willing Obedience: Citizens, Soldiers, and the Progress of Consent in America, 1776–1898* (Stanford UP). Her essays and reviews have been published in various venues, including The New York Times Magazine, The New York Times Book Review, and The New Republic. Samet is a professor of English at West Point. She speaks often to both civilian and military audiences on the role of literature in shaping future military officers, and she was a member of the Army Chief of Staff's 2011–2012 Task Force on Leader Development. She has appeared on the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, NPR, and the BBC World Service.

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