

7 Must Reads for the Emerging Leader

I've scoured the bookshelves and selected 7 "must reads" for the new leader. These books combine entertaining writing with powerful and practical advice on the leadership essentials. They are listed in no particular order.

1. *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap... and Others Don't*

By Jim Collins

Jim Collins studied over 1400 successful companies and found 11 that made the transition from good to great. He then studied what steps those companies took to make the transformation, and shares what he discovered in his best-selling leadership book.

2. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

By Stephen R. Covey

World-renowned for his leadership expertise, Dr. Covey reveals the 7 habits that successful people share. The insights in this book are simple and timeless. If you want a truly classic leadership book, this is for you.

3. *Servant Leadership*

By Robert K. Greenleaf

Many of today's leadership writers and experts center their leadership philosophies on this book and its message. A servant leader is a servant first, and places an emphasis on people. Servant Leadership is not a business principle; it's a way of life. Even after 34 years, this book is still powerful and relevant.

4. *How to Win Friends and Influence People*

By Dale Carnegie

Carnegie's book is a great read for learning how to deal with others in a positive manner. The book focuses on how to talk to others, handle conflict without being confrontational, and persuade others. This best-seller still proves useful for leaders in all types of organizations.

5. *The 80/20 Principle: The Secret to Achieving More with Less*

By Richard Koch

The 80/20 Principle, also known as Pareto's Principle, has been used by people for over a century to eliminate wasteful activity and focus on the most productive parts of their lives. This book applies the principle to business and how a leader can produce the most results with less.

6. *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable*

By Patrick Lencioni

Leaders cannot lead without followers. As a team, it is important to avoid pitfalls and tumors that can destroy a team. Lencioni provides the 5 most common dysfunctions through a business fable. This easy read can provide crucial information for new leaders in business, education, sports, and religion.

7. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*

By John C. Maxwell

Maxwell delivers a simple and straightforward book on the “laws” of leadership. These laws have been derived from his experience as a religious and business leader. This easy read is a great addition to any leader’s library.