

Leadership for the Twenty-First Century

By Joseph Rost

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This illuminating study critiques the concept of leadership as understood in the last 75 years and looks to the twenty-first century for a reconstructed understanding of leadership in the postindustrial era. More similarities in past decades were found than had been thought; the thread throughout Rost's book is that leadership was conceived of as good management. He develops a new definition and paradigm for leadership in this volume that distinguishes leadership from management in fundamental ways. The ethics of leadership from a postindustrial perspective completes the paradigm. The book concludes with suggestions that can be immediately utilized in helping to transform our understanding of leadership.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This book is an extremely thoughtful and meticulous effort to identify the bases for the often cited lack of progress in leadership research, and to offer a way out of this dilemma. Rost's critical, reflexive analysis of leadership studies provides a much needed prod to step back from the frenzied production of research and how-to books and examine how our thinking is limited by broader cultural trends and assumptions."-The Southern Communication Journal

"What a pleasure to report on a new book in leadership studies--a term, not incidentally, with which the author has some considerable problems--that is simultaneously intelligent and provocative. Leadership for the Twenty-First Century is testimony both to Rost's breadth of knowledge and to his iconoclasm."-Governance

"Rost examines twentieth century leadership studies decade by decade. His critiques are probing and insightful, while providing an exhaustive review of the literature. . . . Rost's work is likely to be a major turning point in how we think about leadership for the twenty-first century. Community development practitioners and scholars cannot ignore the questions and insights raised by Rost."-Journal of the Community Development Society

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About the Author

JOSEPH C. ROST is Professor of Leadership and Administration in the School of Education, University of San Diego. He is the author of a number of articles and papers on leadership, politics, and policy making, and consults with organizations on leadership.

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