



Conversations on Leadership: Wisdom from Global Management Gurus

By Lan Liu

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A veritable who's who in leadership, *Conversations on Leadership* features Warren Bennis, Jim Kouzes, John Kotter, Noel Tichy, Peter Senge, James March, Howard Gardner, Bill George, and others. Since each leader has a distinctive approach, this book provides the multi-faceted truths of leadership to broaden and deepen the understanding of the readers.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

What are the essential qualities of leadership? How do we develop leaders? Does culture matter in leadership? How does leadership differ from management? How do we lead effectively?

In a series of intimate conversations, Lan Liu has sought answers to these and other pressing questions made more pertinent by the recent dilemmas thrown up in the wake of the global financial crisis. In doing so, he has brought together and condensed the thoughts and wisdom of 13 of the most influential scholars in the world of leadership today: John Kotter, Warren Bennis, Howard Gardner, James March, Jim Kouzes, Noel Tichy, Bill George, Peter Senge, Jerry Porras, Joseph Badaracco Jr., provide a broad spectrum of views from the United States; Manfred Kets de Vries offers a European perspective; and China's Cho-yun Hsu and Debashis Chatterjee from India add a distinctly Asian flavor to the mix.

The views presented here provide a broad overview and a thorough understanding of leadership, not just from a management perspective but incorporating insights from disciplines as varied as history and psychology. The conversational format lends a vivid immediacy to the thinking of these modern masters and the author has been able to summarize and integrate the eight disciplines of leadership necessary for any current or aspiring practitioners of leadership.

From the Back Cover

It is indeed time for *Conversations on Leadership*. It covers major leadership scholars and practitioners and gives them a place across cultures. Lan Liu also opens the way for us to think seriously about enriching our Western models and not about rejecting them.

Fons Trompenaars

Owner and founder of THT Consulting

Author of *Riding the Waves of Culture*

Lan Liu's *Conversations on Leadership* makes two great contributions to our current leadership literature. First off, it brings us an update of the latest thinking of many of the most read and listened to leadership thinkers of our time. Second, he carefully summarizes the contributions of our gurus which provide the busy executive a condensed version of the most popular leadership ideas. As an update, I found it invaluable and as a summary a one of a kind! This very readable book is destined to appear on the book shelves of all serious leaders in Asia and beyond.

Steven J. DeKrey, Ph.D.

Senior Associate Dean, HKUST Business School

Editor, *Learning from Leaders in Asia* and co-editor, *Leadership Experiences in Asia*

Have you ever wondered what it might be like to interview 13 of the world's most thoughtful leadership scholars? I have, but never acted on it. Thank goodness Lan Liu not only had the courage to act on his dream, but also the generosity to share it with the rest of the world. This is a stunning book. What makes this sweeping review so extraordinary is not only that it contains the distilled wisdom of great masters, but that it does so in such a deeply personal and refreshingly provocative way. As Liu reminds us, "Dialog is the oldest and the most effective way of learning from a master." He's right. As a result, no serious leadership scholar or practitioner can afford to miss out on this remarkable conversation!

Scott A. Snook

Associate Professor, Organizational Behavior
Harvard Business School

In bringing together the personal thoughts and ideas of some of the leading leadership thinkers of our time, Lan Liu has managed an important achievement and rendered a distinguished public service for all those interested in leadership, whether it be leadership application, leadership research, leadership development or simply a look into the thinking of those on the cutting edge of this critical topic. *Conversations on Leadership* would have interested Peter Drucker and made him proud of the insights expressed as well as Mr. Liu's achievement in gaining them. This book should be read by all leadership researchers, educators, and above all, leadership practitioners.

William A. Cohen, PhD, Major General, USAFR, Ret.

Vice President, The Peter F. Drucker Academies of China and Hong Kong
Author of *Drucker on Leadership and Heroic Leadership: Leading with Integrity and Honor*

Conversations on Leadership by Lan Liu offers the backstory on how these leading thinkers came to hold the views that they have about leadership. You will learn more about the real meaning of leadership from these delightfully intimate conversations than you will learn from most leadership textbooks.

Stephen Denning

Author of *The Secret Language of Leadership* and *The Leader's Guide to Storytelling*

A provocative, engaging and lively series of conversations with top thinkers that provide both inspiration and illumination for managers.

Hayagreeva Rao

Atholl McBean Professor of Organizational Behavior
Stanford Graduate School of Business

Lan Liu's book *Conversations on Leadership* is full of insights and practical advice on the nature of leadership. The book is unique not so much in its summary of leadership theories by scholars of world renown, but in its conversational approach to discussing leadership in its historical and cultural contexts with many of those who have been instrumental in shaping ideas and practice in this field. As such, this book is a valuable addition to the bookshelves of both students of leadership and corporate practitioners alike.

Dr. John Yang

Dean and Professor, Beijing International MBA Program
Peking University

Through his vivid conversations with leadership masters from both the West and the East, and through his efforts to integrate their thoughts in a way that takes them beyond the American model, Lan Liu has opened a new page in our understanding of what leadership is, what it means and the qualities required of leaders. This book will, I am sure, prove to be a great guide to anyone who aspires to lead in this global era, whatever the context.

Michael Yu

Founder, Chairman and CEO
New Oriental Education & Technology Group

About the Author

Lan Liu is a researcher at Peking University's Center for China Strategic Studies and adjunct professor at the Beijing Peter F. Drucker Academy, where he teaches leadership courses on their executive programs. The author of five books in Chinese, including *People First* (2010, co-author), *Master Classes of Leadership*

(2009), and *Ten Truths of Management* (2008), for seven years he was editor-in-chief of *Chief Executive China*, a leading business-management magazine with around 200,000 subscribers. In a varied career, he has been a columnist of *China Business Times*, associate director of case center of Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business, and deputy general manager of an advertising agency. Liu holds a B.A. in International Politics and an M.A. in International & Intercultural Communication from Peking University, and an M.P.A. in International Development from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur Dickison:

The feeling that you get from *Conversations on Leadership: Wisdom from Global Management Gurus* is the more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but *Conversations on Leadership: Wisdom from Global Management Gurus* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this *Conversations on Leadership: Wisdom from Global Management Gurus* instantly.

Calvin Baker:

This book untitled *Conversations on Leadership: Wisdom from Global Management Gurus* to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that's because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retail outlet or you can order it via online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this guide from your list.

Byron Hiebert:

Often the book *Conversations on Leadership: Wisdom from Global Management Gurus* will bring that you the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to see, this book very acceptable to you. The book *Conversations on Leadership: Wisdom from Global Management Gurus* is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Megan Kelly:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try

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