



Lessons in Leadership:

Tale of Two Presidents

Volodymyr Zelenskyy & Ashraf Ghani

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Its all about courage, and not about where you come from

- Ashraf Ghani, a Fulbright Scholar with a doctorate from Columbia University, he taught at some of **America's elite academic institutions** before becoming the president at the World Bank and United Nations.
- He is the co-host of "Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World" where he has mentioned many insights on frameworks to functioning of a state, Politics, International strategies with US
- Proving his intelligence and education, he still fled from Afghanistan putting the whole country in danger
- On the other hand, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is a former actor and a standup comedian.
- Prior to his career as a **comedian**, he obtained a degree in Law.
- Compared to Ashraf Ghani, he was not a bright student to be chosen as the President of Ukraine, though he did a marvelous job during the invasion of Russia.



Leading From The Front

- Leading from the front finds semblance in how military leaders lead their troops. The concept is simple. When military leaders lead, they do not fear to be on the front lines and lead their troops in battle.
- While Ukraine is in crisis, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is emerging as a masterful communicator and charismatic leader whose management style is reminiscent of some of the greatest statesmen in history
- Since shelling began, Zelenskyy has communicated strength and stability both to his own people and the rest of the world which is a great example of leading from front
- On the other hand, President Ashraf Ghani once promised to rebuild Afghanistan. On 15th August 2021, he fled the country within hours of the Taliban's entering the capital, Kabul, leaving behind a legacy of lofty but unfulfilled promises and destroying the good work done by US.



Dress To Kill

- The phrase comes from a movie released in 1980 and it means dressed in a fancy way to impress people.
- Talking about dress to kill in Politics, it is less about impressing people and more about showing respect for their own nation and the political party they are representing.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivered a moving speech while virtually addressing the US Congress, United Nations and EU.
- Although he got a standing ovation for his speech, an American financial Pundit decided to attack him over his attire – a plain t-shirt.
- On the other hand, Afghan ex president, Ashraf Ghani was never publicly seen in any informal dressing.
- For a period of 7 years, he was a well-groomed president of Afghanistan.



To The Point

- Leaders need to have clear goals, objectives and decision-making.
- Leader like Volodymyr Zelensky is precise and focused on his thoughts that he must defend his country either by military actions or by diplomatic ways; but there is no option for surrender.
- Despite being given safe passage by USA to exit Ukraine, Zelensky denied and stood with his people and administration to defend his country.
- Due to his precise and focused leadership Ukraine which is 22nd ranked in global firepower index is defending the country against Russia which stood 2nd in the global firepower index.
- On the other hand, Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani was very imprecise in his leadership. First, he said that Afghan forces will defend Afghanistan from Taliban for few months but then he suddenly flew away to Mid East and did not appear or tried to recapture Afghanistan nor he showed any resistance to the Talabani forces.
- He was very imprecise in his action and his thoughts, he wanted to defend Afghanistan but due to impreciseness in his decisions and objectives, he resulted in fleeing away from Afghanistan to prevent bloodshed.
- We are seeing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as a symbol of bravery and loyalty due to his precision leadership, while former Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani is being sneered at for his unannounced escape and cowardice.



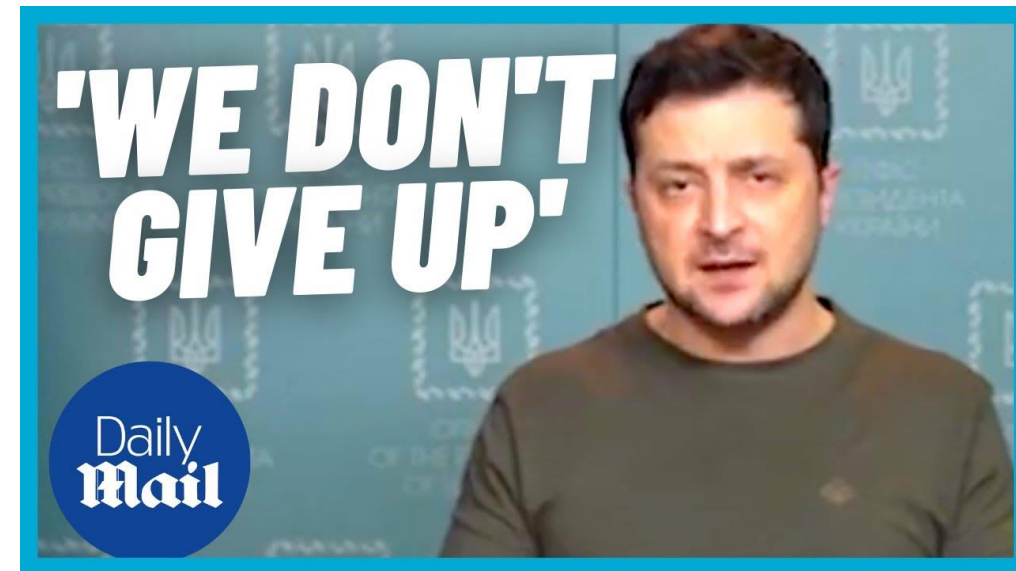
Human Touch

- Ukrainian citizens learned to make Molotov cocktails from government public service announcements, then recorded themselves setting Russian armored vehicles on fire While the Taliban rolled into Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, unopposed.
- Ukraine's soldiers waited in ambush and fired Western-provided missiles at Russian tanks While Most Afghan troops abandoned their uniforms and weapons worth several hundred dollars
- The Ukrainian President recorded messages from the streets of his capital, urging his country to fight back against the invaders While The Afghanistan's president fled to the United Arab Emirates, leaving his country to the Taliban militants it had fought for some two decades.



Don't Give Up

- Where Volodymyr Zelensky the President of Ukraine did not leave the battleground for its people and is yet fighting for the liberation of his own country and people from Russia.
- Zelensky has gained worldwide recognition as the wartime leader of Ukraine during the Russian invasion; historian Andrew Roberts compared him to Winston Churchill.
- The President has harnessed the power of social media to become history's first truly online wartime leader, bypassing traditional gatekeepers as he uses the internet to reach out to the people.
- Even after almost 100 days of a wartime situation Zelensky isn't ready to give up to any conditions of Russia and is keen on asking support from the European Union for ammunitions and imposition of Sanctions on Russia.
- Whereas the President of Afghanistan during the turmoil with Taliban fled away and left his people and country for being ruled by the Taliban.
- People call out Ashraf Ghani as a failed leader whose hasty escape from Kabul scuttled negotiations to ensure a smooth transition of power to the Taliban and left his own people to deal with the deadly chaos and frightening uncertainty under the country's once and future rulers.





Afghan President Who Ran Away

- ❑ The President and the people of Afghanistan had got so much used to living on the physical, monetary and military support of the US for over 20 years that, they never tried to discover, realise or explore their own mental and physical strength.
- ❑ When the US pulled its hands, Afghanistan didn't know how to handle and survive the misery and crisis.
- ❑ The President Hamid Karzai, instead of staying with the citizens to face the onslaught, himself decided to run for his life with supposedly loads of 'cash' to an 'unknown destination', leaving the citizens behind helpless.

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