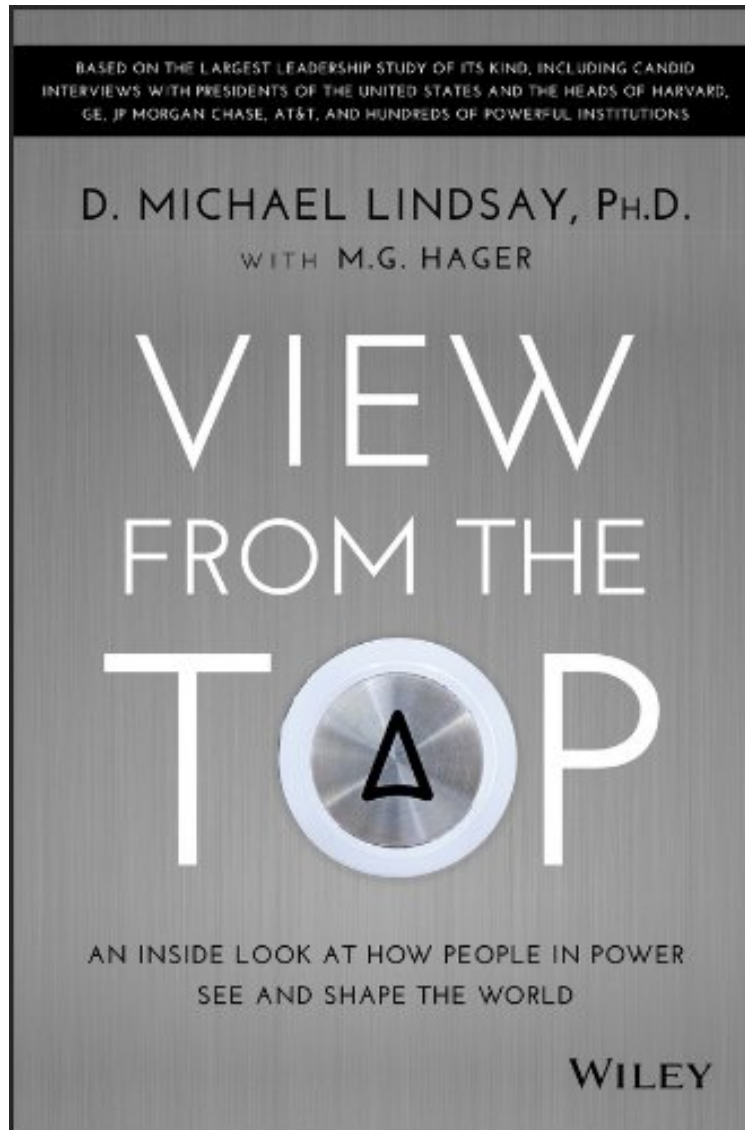


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View From the Top: An Inside Look at How People in Power See and Shape the World

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D. Michael Lindsay, M. G. Hager : View From the Top: An Inside Look at How People in Power See and Shape the World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised View From the Top: An Inside Look at How People in Power See and Shape the World:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. First look at the view--what they say, not what they do By Steven P. Spinella Suppose that you didn't identify principles and then check to see how they work. Suppose you instead started by asking those who "really" succeeded ("platinum leaders") for the principles and then curated your collection. That

is essentially the approach Lindsay and Hager take here. The good thing about that is that you get to hear private words of famous people, reflecting on their own journey. That's pretty special. The downside is that you get a message from people that are used to seeing and shaping impressions, and are admittedly among the masters of doing so. At least it's being interpreted by thoughtful people who are used to people seeing and shaping... Mirroring the message, Lindsay issues this book having risen to a college presidency from a successful run as an academic, researcher, and writer, and he writes with Hager, who is in a transformative phase of her own potential rise according to the principles of the first chapter. So what is the meat?--Protolenders have talent and opportunity, but they require champions and build records of successful performance, relationships that pay off, and career risks that become great opportunities. (I might add, "and time and chance do the rest.")--Catalytic experiences such as a White House Fellowship select (and thus label) some of the best and then provide them with social connections and skills that may catapult them beyond their peers over time.--"They are productive with their time and energy, motivate and manage people well, and build an organizational culture with a vision for human flourishing (p.57.)"--(Like Mary Barra has recently done, though she did not make the book...) they take responsibility, regardless of whose actions are at fault, and move on, getting things done after the crucible has been formed by a crisis.--They lead with their life. When they have failings or blind spots, those can poison the institutions they lead. To put it tritely, if a politician is unfaithful to his wife, why would you assume he will keep his political promises? (Oh, and they overwork with the best of them, and struggle to balance family with work, especially government leaders, but basically everybody.)--Leaders sometimes have the opportunity to do something that is noble, that is good, and that makes a lasting impact. When they do, it catches the attention of those who know, especially if they do so at the sacrifice of their own comfort, reputation, or well-being.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This is a realistic glimpse inside the multifaceted and complex world of being a leader. By Ryan M. Roberts This is more than a book about leadership. It is a realistic glimpse inside the multifaceted and complex world of being a leader; highlighting the characteristics, insights and experiences of noteworthy individuals that have led institutions that have made a significant impact upon the world. Aspiring leaders, current leaders and former leaders will all enjoy and benefit from reading *View from the Top*. It offers a wealth of knowledge gleaned from the personal testimonies and experiences of some of the most powerful and revered leaders of the past twenty years. This book will both affirm and confirm the experiences of readers who have "felt the same way" or have experienced similar things in their lives of leadership, and it will serve to guide, challenge and assist any teachable leader wanting to better themselves for the sake of their institution and for the common good. The engaging leadership examples and illustrations provided throughout the book were drawn from interviews of hundreds of successful leaders who were, at one time or another, leading an institution. In *View from the Top*, Lindsay states, "Institutions, not individuals, wield the real, world-changing power." The truth of this statement is not lost on the fact that individuals lead institutions and at times it is difficult to distinguish between the individual leader and the institution they are leading. Later in the book Lindsay says, "Extraordinary leaders do more than verbalize, they personify." It is undeniably evident in the many examples given by Lindsay that the influence and success of an institution is inextricably tied to the personal and professional choices and actions of its leader. Leadership is an institutional undertaking that is realized at a very personal level. This book was a delight to read. Michael Lindsay writes in a conversational style that is nuanced with academic references to his unprecedented sociological study that makes the writing interesting, realistic, applicable and engaging. He gives credence to the various leadership traits observed in others as he compares and contrasts them to his own personal leadership context in the realm of Christian Higher Education. My only complaint about this book is that it ended too quickly. There is much to be gleaned from the lives of the 550 leaders that Michael Lindsay has interviewed over the past ten years. I hope that this book is the first of many that Dr. Lindsay will distill from the Platinum Study and share with the world.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How to understand what helps us be successful leaders? By Andrew Harrell I liked this book because it starts off by trying to observe, analyse, measure what traits, experiences, backgrounds successful managers and leaders share. It doesn't postulate a set of beliefs, or values and then try to fit the examples into that mold. How do you reform and improve the knowledge and skills we have in some area? Not by assuming what you want to prove or demonstrate I don't think. Dr. Lindsey is president of a Christian college. I wonder if he has thought about how to apply these same ideas and approach to trying to understand ways we can improve as theologians, scientists as well as secular business and government leaders? I don't know, maybe he will write me a letter about it. In any case the book is simply put together, clearly written, and enjoyable to read.

Learn leadership from the best; proven insights from the power elite in business, government, and beyond *View from the Top* brings readers inside the corridors of power and relates the personal stories and powerful findings from the Platinum Study, a groundbreaking study of 550 elite American CEOs, senior government leaders, and nonprofit executives based on ten years of research. The largest study of its kind, the Platinum Study delves into the domains of the elite with stories that illustrate both the use and misuse of power across the landscape of prominent American institutions such as ATT, Harvard University, Under Armour, JP Morgan Chase, Bain Company, and the White House. The book explores not only how leaders wield power, but it also provides readers with insight into applying the

strategies of the successful in their own lives. In the United States, only a few thousand individuals make the decisions that influence the lives of over 300 million people. Whether in the government, business, higher education, or the arts, these individuals direct policy and set the terms of national debates, yet remain virtually unknown. *View from the Top* explores the real lives of the elite and the social worlds they inhabit, revealing lessons about influence at the top, and the seven principles that shape those in power. The results of the Platinum Study include unexpected truths such as: Being born into wealth is a poor predictor of leadership success. One program can set you on the path to leadership. It doesn't matter what college you attend. A leader's best work never sees the light of day. Time-crushed executives are better situated than most to manage their family lives. Crisis is the quickest way for a leader to shape an institution. Working longer does not mean working better. The book examines the different paths to power and describes the essence of leadership and the fundamental traits that distinguish a leader from the pack. For anyone seeking to sharpen their leadership skills and impact the world around them, *View from the Top: An Inside Look at How People in Power See and Shape the World* provides the roadmap to taking charge and inspiring change.

From the Inside Flap **TEN YEARS IN THE MAKING**, *View From the Top* is a true achievement. Books on power and leadership rarely present insights that are fundamentally new, and they seldom ground their conclusions in original scientific research. This remarkable book does both. It presents the key results of sociologist Michael Lindsay's unprecedented Platinum Study, an examination of how the most powerful people in the United States operate. A few elite leaders in business and government make decisions that affect all 300 million Americans. Dr. Michael Lindsay set out to discover what sets this handful of influential people apart. Through in-depth interviews with 550 top CEOs and senior officials, including two former U.S. presidents and a sizeable group of Fortune 100 leaders, Lindsay learned that power is not a matter of luck or breeding, but follows a set of seven surprising—and surprisingly simple—principles. The findings of the Platinum Study have the potential to change the way we think about leadership. The stereotypical image of the hard-nosed Ivy League boss who's always looking out for number one may ring true somewhere, but it completely fails in the upper echelons of leadership. *View From the Top* will surprise readers by demonstrating the compassion, hard work, and humanity that unites the most influential Americans. For the first time, Michael Lindsay has revealed the characteristics and behaviors of the people who shape the world we live in. By shedding light on the inner workings of America's elite, this book serves as an inspiration and a guide for anyone who dreams of making it to the top. It's easy enough to be an effective leader, but to lead some of the most powerful institutions on Earth requires something special. Ambitious leaders and leaders-to-be will find guidance in firsthand stories and advice. The author allows the gurus to speak for themselves, and then follows up with helpful synthesis of leaders' candid revelations. The result is a book that stands alone among business titles in terms of both insight and impact. If you read only one business book this year, make it *View From the Top*.

FROM THE BACK COVER **BASED ON THE LARGEST LEADERSHIP STUDY OF ITS KIND, INCLUDING CANDID INTERVIEWS WITH PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE HEADS OF HARVARD, GE, JP MORGAN CHASE, ATT, AND HUNDREDS OF POWERFUL INSTITUTIONS PRAISE FOR VIEW FROM THE TOP** "Michael Lindsay continues to impress as one of the foremost thinkers on the topic of leadership. Drawing on a massive wealth of firsthand data, he clearly presents insights into what creates great leaders and more importantly, the attributes, skills and techniques each of us should add to our leadership arsenal." —PAT GELSINGER CEO, VMware "If you ever wanted to know what the lives of top CEOs and national leaders are really like, read *View From the Top*. With a decade of in-depth interviews with Fortune 100 CEOs, U.S. Presidents, and leaders in religion, academia and philanthropy, Michael Lindsay reveals how they got there, why they do it, and the price they pay for power." —KERRY HEALEY President, Babson College "View From the Top is one of those rare books in leadership research that deftly connects biography to the larger social structure and society. Interweaving the individual within the larger social context, Lindsay has written an important book for anyone who seriously thinks about how to create the conditions for inspiring future generations to seek passion and purpose, so that they can bring the moral and practical energies necessary to renew our political, social, and economic institutions." —RAKESH KHURANA Marvin Bower Professor of Leadership Development, Harvard Business School "Michael Lindsay has personally interviewed more than 500 of America's premier business, political, and non-profit leaders—a research tour de force. What strikingly emerges from his inside portrait of the careers and views of those at the top is the value of seizing opportunity, navigating networks, and garnering trust. For an outside observer or future denizen of this national elite, *View From the Top* offers an invaluable and authoritative account." —MICHAEL USEEM Professor and Director of the Leadership Center, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and co-author of *Boards That Lead* **ABOUT THE AUTHOR** D. MICHAEL LINDSAY is the president of Gordon College and one of the youngest college presidents in the country. An award-winning sociologist and educator, Dr. Lindsay has lectured on five continents and worked with dozens of organizations to increase their leadership capacities. His Pulitzer-nominated book, *Faith in the Halls of Power*, was listed in *Publishers' Weekly* "Best Books of 2007," and his work has been profiled in hundreds of media outlets worldwide. He and his

wife, Rebecca, live with their three daughters on the campus of Gordon College just north of Boston.