



The Tao of Leadership: Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching Adapted for a New Age

John Heider

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The Tao of Leadership is an invaluable tool for anyone in a position of leadership. This book provides the most simple and clear advice on how to be the very best kind of leader: be faithful, trust the process, pay attention, and inspire others to become their own leaders. Heider's book is a blend of practical insight and profound wisdom, offering inspiration and advice.

The Tao of Leadership: Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching Adapted for a New Age Details

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Author : John Heider

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From Reader Review The Tao of Leadership: Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching Adapted for a New Age for online ebook

Rana DiOrio says

An essential read for anyone managing a 21st century organization or community - businesspeople, elected officials, educators, parents, spiritual leaders, etc.

Lori Grant says

A must-read book on leadership for knowledge workers, managers, directors, C-levels, and entrepreneurs.

Ellen Lindgren says

This book was given to me by a friend when I was extremely frustrated and disappointed in a group I am involved with. It is a gentle, persuasive reminder to pursue wisdom and take the higher ground...and it reminds us to anticipate joy and mystery.

"Water freely and fearlessly goes deep beneath the surface of things; water is fluid and responsive...from watching the movements of water the leader has learned that in action, timing is everything."

Nice to read after a difficult meeting.

Victor says

Initially, when I read this, it seem very flaky, that everything is Tao.

But after a day, it started to sink in, and I realize its more about removing "self" from leadership, and be more about the community. And "self" can come in many forms.

A lot of repeating themes, but really simple points.

Joseph Montuori says

An adaptation of Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching, geared toward leaders of all kinds.

As a teacher, I have found it both inspiring and consoling when encountering difficult students, parents, administrators, and colleagues. It's no substitute for the original, but Heider provides a utilitarian adaptation for those of us in leadership positions willing to acknowledge and embrace a non-Western view of reality.

Like the original, The Tao of Leadership is a quick, worthwhile read you might pick up and open anywhere, anytime and gain insight and inspiration.

Vikrama Dhiman says

This book is simple. And, hard.

Some of the ideas it talks about are just incredibly hard to even understand - forget even implementing them. However, if you believe in Taoism or Stoicism, you may find it useful.

Conscious spontaneity. That is the goal!

Jeri Rowe says

I dove into this because I wanted to see how John Heider's book from 2005 adapted Lao Tzu's "Tao Te Ching" for what it billed as a "new age." It was a quick read, 161 pages, something you could pick up, put down and come back to again. The book is divided into 81 lessons, no more than 200 to 250 words long under such headings as "success," "spiritual awareness" and "opportunities."

I can see how companies like IBM and Prudential and other Fortune 500 companies used this as a leadership training text. I imagine that it could prompt some conversations in an otherwise mundane training session.

So, I dug into it for work to see what I could find for the university president I write for. You know, gems to sprinkle into your copy that give a different view of wisdom for students, parents, whoever to digest. And you know, I liked it in a kinda-shrug-of-the-shoulders, nod-of-the-head kind of way. Ask me if I'd recommend it, and I'd say, "Yeah." It made me think in a simple, yet profound way. And for me, those are the best books.

AJ says

Absolutely formative for me. I hadn't read this book in over 20+ years and decided to "review" it again. It was like I was reading my own words back to myself. I think this reflects both on how aligned the philosophy espoused is with my own, but more importantly it probably highlights just how much this book help form my outlook on life and leadership. Now in my mid 50s, when mid-life crisis is an ever-looming proposition of anger and bitterness, it's good to come back to this book and be reminded of what is good, true, and the source of my true joy.

Andrew says

I couldn't decide if this was 4 or 5 star book. I went with 4 only because I wish it went a little deeper into the concepts. I know that's not the point - but still, it is part of my rating.

If you are looking for a book like this (which probably not a lot are), then this is a good book. If you like Taoism and leadership, then you will like this book.

Jenn "JR" says

There's a lot of preachy stuff in here -- Heider recommends traditional religion along with the spiritual practice of Buddhism, belief in God and selling your computer in favor of pencil and paper. I haven't read Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching, but I'm very interested in it now to see how it compares with Heider's sometimes heavy handed, sometimes condescending, moralistic interpretation.

The book is set up with a black and white drawing on the left side, and a short passage on the right side, so the book is half as long as the page numbers.

There are some very good guidelines for leaders here -- essentially it boils down to this:

- Pay attention to what is going on
- Be receptive to others
- Work to make those in your group successful
- Let the group dynamics play out - they eventually will, no need to force things

I've quoted a lot of passages which should be accessible to you on my book activity - I may update this review later to add some of those observations.

Laura Contreras says

Muy interesante, es de esos libros que cada vez que vuelves a leer encuentras nuevo conocimiento.

Kirtida Gautam says

This was an over simplified version of Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching. Personally, I didn't like it.

Martín Mengarelli says

Live simple

A profound reflection on true leadership. Tao is a process, quite an old one, but that does not diminish the state of the art philosophy behind the book. Totally recommend it.

Monica says

I have read this before, and I love it. It takes the Tao Te Ching and applies it to Leadership in any group setting. I learn something new every time I look through it.

Matthew says

I enjoyed this read from the standpoint of the elements of the original Tao te Ching. I've long been ambivalent, though, about the idea of turning these ancient texts into some sort of fly-by-night total adherence to the modern "corporate slug" mentality that was all the rage back in the 90's and even before.

Having said that, the sort of organization that would employ these timeless Truths would be an organization that goes beyond the usual "sluggery", into one both enlightened and empowered at every level.

I was also happy to discover one of the stanza's I used to have printed and posted at my (then) office. The metaphor of young trees and old dead trees, connected to the soft and weak overcoming the hard and stiff...the idea that flexibility and openness trumps and overcomes the dogmatic...western idealized?...mindset of closed-mindedness and fear. Fantastic to rediscover that old gem.

An all right book, but not spectacular. Many truths infuse it's pages.
