

the world will be.

Global Leadership and The Five Leadership Principles

By presenting the five principles of leadership in a global context, I look at the comparison of global and domestic leadership, cognitive complexity, and the development of global leaders. The first task in understanding the impact of the five principles is to form a true definition of global leadership. The definition encompasses more than just selling products across national boundaries.

A Global Leader is a person who leads across cultures with systems, processes, and relationships in a complex environment.

Complex, cross-cultural leadership can happen within the geographical boundaries of one nation or can span over oceans and across multiple countries. During my most recent trip to India, I was in a meeting with the top leaders of an organization. I noticed that the leaders segmented and formed groups that were discussing issues in their respective mother tongues. Among the 15 participants in the training, there were five different languages, five different people groups, and five different cultures. This is why English is the organizational language for most Indian companies. Even though the organization only operates inside the geographical boundaries of India, these leaders are global leaders.

Using the above definition, academic research, and my experiences, I will describe the five leadership principles that allow global leaders to