

Beyond the Cherry Tree: The Leadership Wisdom of George Washington, James Parrish Hodges, PhD, Portland, OR: Great Leaders Press, 2008. (Available at james@leadershipbygeorge.com).

Americans value George Washington as an ethical role model for adults and children alike and James Hodges' book *Beyond the Cherry Tree: The Leadership Wisdom of George Washington* offers a guidebook for teaching ethics to modern business entrepreneurs. Combining and comparing historical biographical notes on George Washington's life with biographies and experiences of American business leaders, Dr. Hodges, economist and historian, offers "proof that ethical behavior pays big dividends." Americans need to be reminded of the lessons of Washington's life and the parables created and written by Parson Weems, his biographer, which told that what has made America GREAT was its reliance upon morality. Americans can prosper and be happier, Hodges advocates, by returning to our central, core values, of ethical behavior in every walk of life---business board rooms, school classrooms, sports arenas, government offices, and family homes. In short, we must return to attitudes and procedures that brought us to the top of the world's leadership ladder in the first place, if we want to remain there and not go the way of earlier civilizations that have fallen asunder.

Using lessons and guidelines from George Washington's exemplary life, Hodges speaks of building leadership skills at every level, the especial need to build character, calculate life's risks to ensure success, engender loyalty among peers, and plan for succession. Washington led Americans through the American Revolutionary War and through the first eight years of the new American Republic formed under the U.S. Constitution. His life and character need to be respected and emulated. America's corporate strategists need to copy the lessons exemplified by President Washington's career, because their very survival in this harsh competitive world depends upon this emulation. America must resume her original mission of establishing "a city upon the hill, a beacon to the world" and remain on top by its ethical example. Hodges' book provides Americans with a lifeline for how this would be best achieved.

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