## **Toxic Leadership**

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## Toxic Leadership Agenda

- Personality and Reputation
- Defining Leadership
- Leadership Styles
- The Toxic Triangle
  - Destructive Leadership
  - Susceptible Followers
  - Conducive Environments
- Identifying the Toxic Triangle



## Personality and Reputation

HOGAN ASSESSES REPUTATION FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES:

# **BRIGHT SIDE**

Bright-side personality, or normal personality, describes people when they are at their best.
Bright-side personality is measured by the Hogan Personality Inventory (HPI), and predicts leadership performance across all organizational levels and industry sectors.



Dark-side personality describes people when they are stressed, bored, or simply not paying sufficient attention to their behavior.

Measured by the Hogan Development Survey (HDS), this behavior alienates subordinates and prevents managers from being able to build a team.

## What is Leadership?

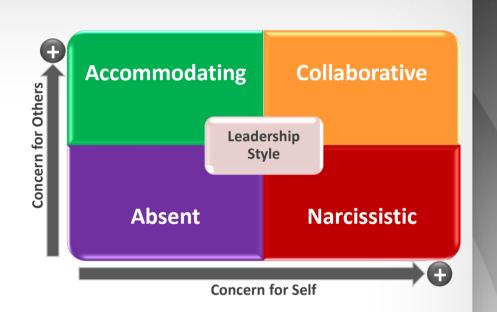
"Influencing the actions of others towards a common goal."

- Vision
- Forgoing self-interests
- Not always positive
- Measuring effectiveness
- Followership



**Concern for Self** 

**Concern for Others** 



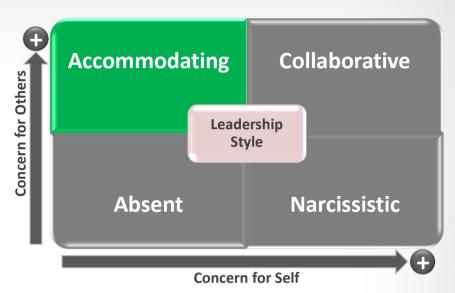
Leadership style has implications for:

Method of Influence

Decision-Making
Style

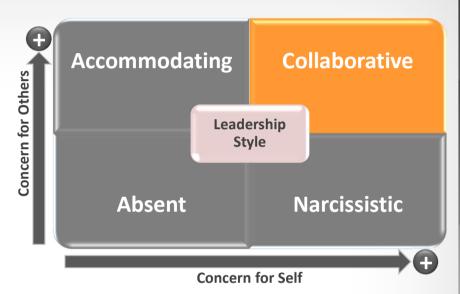
Type and Manner of Feedback

### **ACCOMMODATING**



- Permissive
- Influences by currying favor
- Difficulty with confrontation and tough conversations
- Avoids difficult decisions

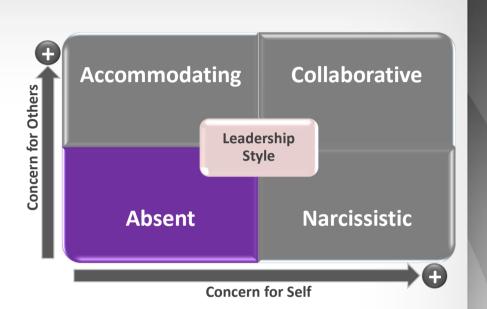
### **COLLABORATIVE**



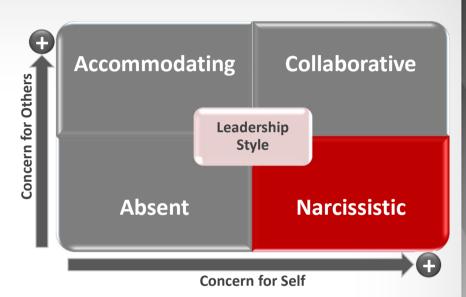
- Partnership
- Influences by focusing on shared interests
- Balances positive and negative feedback
- Makes decision in consideration of common good

### **ABSENT**

- Indifference
- Little influence
- Avoids providing or receiving feedback
- Laissez faire



### **N**ARCISSISTIC



- Authoritarian
- Influence through compliance
- Feedback through retribution and punishment
- Self-interested decision-making

## The Toxic Triangle

### The Toxic Triangle facilitates Toxic Leadership

#### **Destructive Leaders**

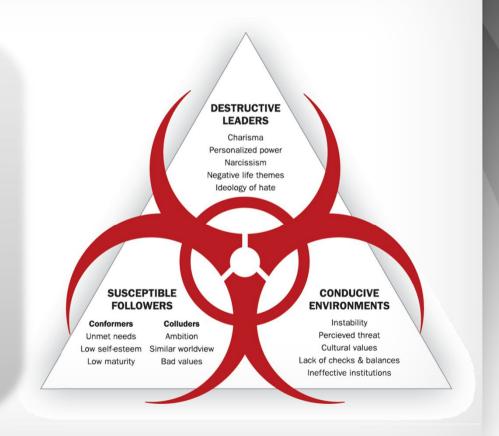
-Individuals in power acting in their own self-interests

#### **Susceptible Followers**

-Others that permit the Destructive Leader to operate

#### **Conducive Environments**

- Contexts that promote Toxic Leadership





5 Characteristics that frequently present with Destructive Leadership



- -Are outgoing and charismatic
- -Have engaging personalities
- -Are socially skilled
- -Espouse popular ideologies



- -Are ambitious
- -Desire positions of power and influence
- -Demonstrate focus, energy, and stamina towards goals



- -Have inflated views of self-importance
- -Possess tremendous selfesteem and self-efficacy
- -Ignore input from others



- -Experienced significant challenges or traumatic events during formative periods
- -Weave a narrative of overcoming hardship or long odds



- -Rally support against a common threat
- -Create or exaggerate the perception of external threats to justify power

## Susceptible Followers

Followers pursue personal well-being by being seen as industrious, enthusiastic, and loyal to leadership.

**Conformers** passively permit Destructive Leadership

Destructive Leadership

**Colluders** actively assist

- Unmet needs
- Poor self-evaluations
- Immaturity

- Personal ambitions
- Congruent values/beliefs
- Unsocialized values

Contextual factors can facilitate or hinder the rise of Destructive Leaders to positions of influence

Instability

Perceived Threat Cultural Values



Contextual factors can facilitate or hinder the rise of Destructive Leaders to positions of influence

Instability

Perceived Threat Cultural Values

- Periods of change or uncertainty
- Need for quick, decisive action

Contextual factors can facilitate or hinder the rise of Destructive Leaders to positions of influence

Instability

Perceived Threat Cultural Values

- External threats
- Common enemies
- Need for protection

Contextual factors can facilitate or hinder the rise of Destructive Leaders to positions of influence

Instability

Perceived Threat Cultural Values

- Collectivist cultures
- High power distance
- Need for stability and security

Contextual factors can facilitate or hinder the rise of Destructive Leaders to positions of influence

Instability

Perceived Threat Cultural Values

- Emerging organizations
- Poor institutional oversight

# The capacity for Toxic Leadership to take hold is a function of measurable, human characteristics.

#### **Destructive Leaders**

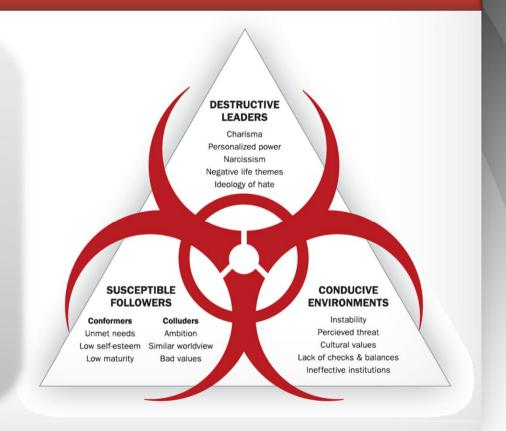
-Personality and Values of the leader

#### **Susceptible Followers**

-Personality and Values of the followers

#### **Conducive Environments**

- The shared values of the organization, and the broader cultural context



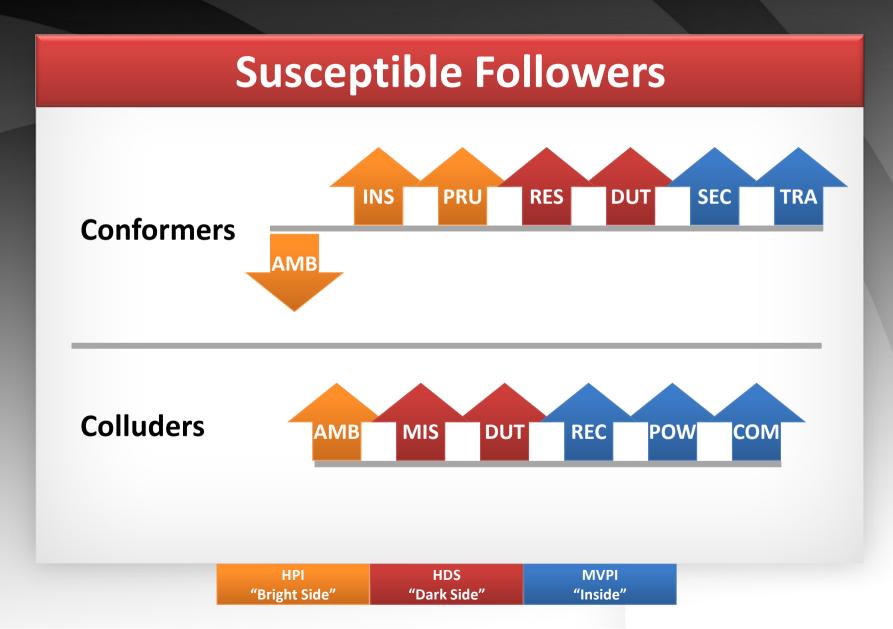
## **Destructive Leadership**

Low concern for others



High concern for self





## **Conducive Environment**

### **Cultural Risks**

- Collectivist
- •High Power Distance

### **Governmental Risks**

- Corruption
- Weak Institutions
- Existence of Threats

### **Organizational Risks**

- Traditional Culture
- Need for Security
- •Rapid Change

## Summary

- Personality = Reputation
- Leadership is the mobilization of a group towards a common goal
- Toxic Leadership organizes pursuit of goals that may ultimately be against followers' self-interests
- Toxic Leadership emerges in conducive environments when the Destructive Leader is supported by susceptible followers
- The conditions for Toxic Leadership can be measured based on personality and values