



Women Empowerment as an Instrument of Global Peace

IMPACTING TRADE RELATIONS, ADDRESSING REGIONAL CONFLICTS AND TRANS ATLANTIC DISPUTES
THROUGH GLOBAL PEACE

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Empowerment through Defining Moments

- ▶ Historical and iconic role models of women empowerment have been defined not just as a result of:
 - ▶ How they responded to defining moments
 - ▶ Their impact on a global level
 - ▶ Choosing to be resilient – as well as turning negative moments to positive memorable and inspiring lessons which have endured over the years
 - ▶ Lessons which are not commonly drawn by virtue of the unique responsibilities, situations and positions in which such women have been entrusted and endowed

Exemplary Role Models of Women Empowerment

- ▶ In light of the afore mentioned reasons, and by virtue of their influence and impact on a global level, two roles models which will constitute the topic and focal point of discussion for this presentation and paper are:
- ▶ Jackie Bouvier Kennedy
- ▶ Hillary Rodham Clinton

Privileged to Make a Difference by Not Being Indifferent

- ▶ It is easy to become complacent when in a privileged or powerful position
- ▶ However these women have inspired millions to learn from the manner in which have chosen to be sources and tools of channels of global peace, facilitating and diplomatic trade relations
- ▶ Jackie Kennedy was renowned not just for her public image as a fashion icon, but also used her public image to support – as well as promote her husband's role and diplomatic relations with allies – and notably at moments during which global tensions could have spiraled outside control – triggering nuclear wars
- ▶ The golden sixties of the Kennedys will forever be remembered as the era during which America accomplished one of its greatest achievements to date, namely “the landing of the first man on the moon”, Neil Armstrong, in 1969 – a feat accomplished and initiated by John F Kennedy

Golden Achievements to Cap Off a Golden Age

- ▶ The allure and enduring impact of Jackie and John F Kennedy has continued to fascinate future generations – not just because of the way and manner they responded and portrayed themselves as ordinary people who were also confronted with general challenges, but also the era during which they were positioned to play such defining and important roles
- ▶ In the public spotlight and amidst several allegations which could have hindered their collaboration as an effective “power team”, Jackie chose to ignore her personal challenges and focus on promoting the positive image of the government
- ▶ Without her, it is quite easy to say that John F Kennedy would never have accomplished as much as he did

Choosing to Empower Others

- ▶ Should such subordination or failure to focus on problems – rather focusing on more positive goals and initiatives be regarded as weakness?
- ▶ Rather it re enforced the public's image and opinion of a woman, who physically and mentally could have retaliated in a manner considered proportionate to disappointments or misgivings she experienced
- ▶ This powerful characteristic, portrait and the choice to support and empower her husband's goals and aspirations, not only served to consolidate his achievements, but also cemented her accomplishments
- ▶ The lesson to be drawn here being that "Empowering others also empowers your goals and accomplishments"

Empowerment and Symbiotic Benefits

- ▶ Hence choosing to support rather than justify actions for an attributed wrong or misgiving can have a powerful impact – from a personal as well as a public perspective
- ▶ Hilary Rodham Clinton was not only a diplomatic facilitator but also instrumental in promoting her husband's successful accomplishments – even during the most challenging periods that defined the US Presidency
- ▶ Her accomplishments have also been facilitated by his support of her aspirational goals which have earned them the most formidable image of a team which can easily be considered the most prolific and supportive image of a couple to have ever been in a seat of governmental authority

Finding a Common and Unifying Solution to Conflicting Goals and Objectives

- ▶ Another woman, also renowned for having supported her spouse's political aspirations, ambitions, and achievements is Michelle Obama
- ▶ Her efforts may not have appeared as prominent given those defining moments, presented to, as well as encountered by, her predecessors
- ▶ Would she have played a more defining role if her tenure as First Lady had been in the sixties?
- ▶ Would she have responded in the same manner encountered when her predecessors faced specific challenges?
- ▶ The answer to the first question is more likely to be in the affirmative

Instruments of Global Peace

- ▶ Some notable examples of other women who will be remembered for their defining roles during historical moments, and by the virtue of the positions of authority they have assumed – as well as how they have channeled such tools, and the outcomes and defining legacies of their tenure and era, include:
 - ▶ Margaret Thatcher
 - ▶ Indira Gandhi
 - ▶ Winnie Mandela
 - ▶ Angela Merkel
 - ▶ Theresa May

Consolidating a Peaceful Legacy

- ▶ A legacy of peace, as well as being channels and instruments of peace, is what many would like to be remembered for
- ▶ This having important implications in the following areas:
- ▶ Trade negotiations: For example Brexit negotiations. These negotiations – as well as the outcome of such negotiations, will constitute a large component in defining Theresa May's legacy
- ▶ To what extent are parties to Brexit negotiations able to find a “common ground” which will facilitate a deal that is acceptable (and not detrimental) to all parties involved?

Other Threats to Global Peace

- ▶ How can women serve as sources of empowerment in addressing other threats to global peace, threats such as:
 - ▶ Terrorism
 - ▶ Suppression of women's rights to have their views or opinions heard
 - ▶ Threats of civil war?
- ▶ Through symbiotic, trans atlantic and unifying projects and collaborations which support their governments – as well as promote worthy causes, goals and objectives of other governments. Sustainable development fund raising projects – as well as projects for fund raising causes for purposes of promoting education, poverty alleviation, as well as facilitating dreams and aspirations of aspiring and capable successors.

Conclusion: Empowering Each Other as a Good Starting Point

- ▶ When we choose to empower others, we also unknowingly or may even unintentionally empower ourselves to achieve greater objectives than we could ever have imagined
- ▶ To remain indifferent to others' needs and aspirations, when we are endowed with the capacity and privilege to act and facilitate such goals and aspirations is nearly as bad as those threats to global peace – which are considered even more imminent in the current global climate. Will we be remembered as peace facilitators, or agents of indifference and hindrance to global peace?
- ▶ How we choose to use the resources we have been equipped with, as well as the results to be derived therefrom, will not only contribute to facilitating other worthy causes and initiatives, but could also serve greater purposes than we could ever have imagined