SAGE Publishing continues to grow its teaching case collection, SAGE Business Cases, across the business spectrum while incorporating thought from a variety of disciplines. This year’s Ancient Leadership series will explore the stakes and sacrifices of leadership through history, mythology, philosophy, and material culture. We are interested in sources from diverse cultures, not merely limited to Greece and Rome, but also the Americas, Africa, India, China, etc. We also seek to represent an inclusive array of individuals and leadership scenarios in ancient societies, especially in terms of gender, social status, economic class, and occupation.

Questions that may be treated include:
1. What are the costs of leadership? What are the benefits? What sorts of situations might force a leader to balance these stakes? How might a crisis elevate them?
2. What type of risk is involved in becoming a leader? How do leaders manage this risk? In what ways do leaders minimize risk to help a group achieve communal goals?
3. What warnings about leadership do we find in ancient thought?
4. How might leadership require sacrifice in both personal and public ways? Are there moments when public obligations must be put before personal ones? Or vice versa?
5. When might a leader be forced to make a decision amid two equally non-ideal choices? What factors (i.e. traits, emotions, motivations, or experiences) might influence this decision-making?
6. Are there situations in which the stakes become too high for a leader to remain in power? What are the short- and long-term effects of such a situation on a leader and their community?
7. In what ways can a leader be deemed “self-sacrificing”? What types of personal and professional advantages might a leader sacrifice to help their organization or community succeed? What other sorts of compromises does successful leadership require?
8. How do various fields (e.g. politics, the military, law, medicine, the arts) set expectations for their leaders regarding risk and sacrifice?
9. In what ways are these expectations around shouldering risk or making sacrifices gendered?

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