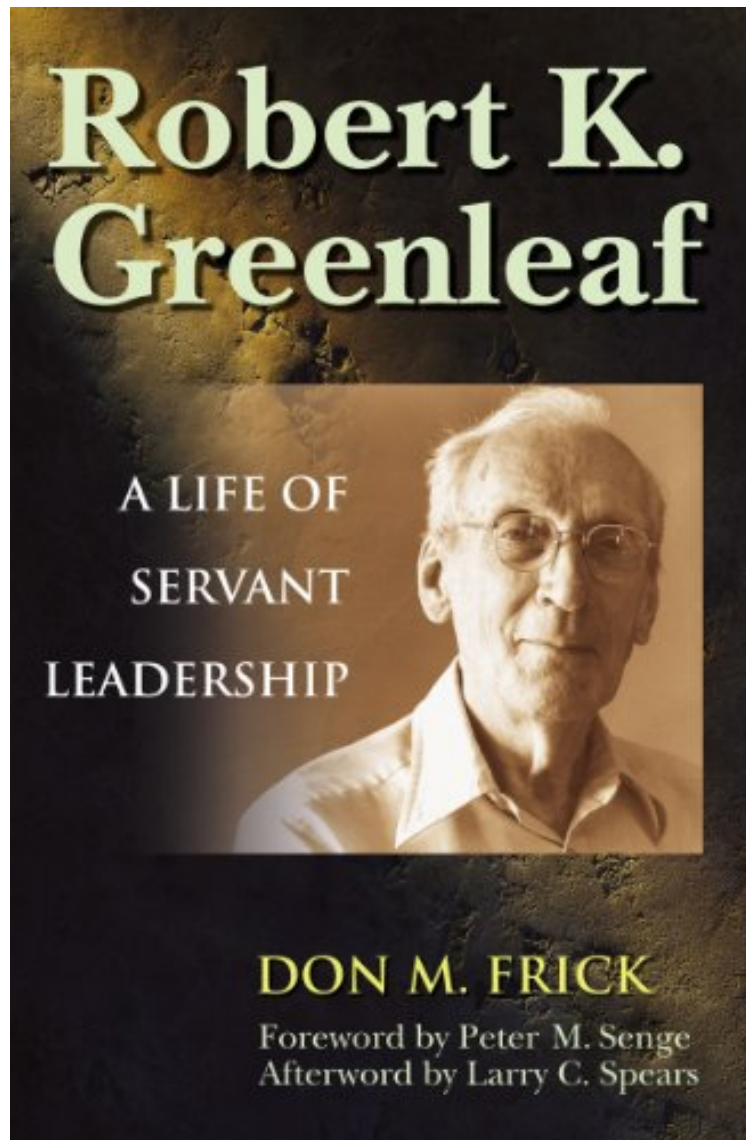


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Robert K. Greenleaf: A Life of Servant Leadership

Don M Frick

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Don M Frick : Robert K. Greenleaf: A Life of Servant Leadership before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Robert K. Greenleaf: A Life of Servant Leadership:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Robert GreenleafBy Barry P. DixonI bought the book because I studied this author in one of my classes. I wanted to know how he became a good leader. His biography has inside information about Robert Greenleaf's life. He was a mystic, but that was kept quiet. He had a whole leadership philosophy invented due to him. Servant leadership. This book does answer many questions about the inner nature of Robert Greenleaf and his relationship with his family and the companies he worked with.0 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. Arrived much faster than expected
By Maureen Friend
The book is in excellent condition and was shipped right on time; 'especially nice surprise to see it sooner than expected after a holiday weekend.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Brilliant Book on Greenleaf
By Hamilton Beazley
This is a splendid book that beautifully captures the spirit, the ideas, and the intellect of an American giant in management thought. Don Frick is a masterful biographer whose grasp of his subject matter treats us to tantalizing pieces of information about Greenleaf even as he recreates the complex, often paradoxical mosaic of his life, artfully illuminating the man and the extraordinary legacy he left behind. Engaging, insightful, deeply fascinating and, ultimately, prophetic, this book is not about management in the 20th Century when its subject lived, but about managing in the Information Age of the 21st century. Fortunately, Frick's biography is no hagiography, which makes it all the more powerful, but the careful consideration of a man's life—a man who had a deep impact on society, yet who wrestled with inner demons and speaks to us out of his humanity. Frick gives us a feel for Greenleaf himself by inserting excerpts of his writings throughout the book, yet he never disrupts the continuity of the text. It's as if Greenleaf has whispered something in our ear at just the right moment. The real story here is not just servant-leadership, but what Greenleaf can teach us about living as well as about managing in today's turbulent environment. I can't get over how well Frick has told his story, how engaging he has made it, and how much he has to offer us in its pages. I enjoyed the biography immensely and am grateful to Don Frick for creating a comprehensive portrait of Greenleaf's remarkable life. The book is a pleasure to read as well as an exciting journey of the mind and spirit. Enjoy!

Thousands if not millions of people have heard the term "servant leadership," introduced by Robert K. Greenleaf in his landmark essay *The Servant as Leader*, published in 1970. There are now Centers for Servant Leadership in ten countries and counting. His work is regularly cited by some of the most prominent business writers and leaders in the world, such as Ken Blanchard, Stephen Covey, Peter Senge, Margaret Wheatley, and Peter Block. And yet until now there has been no biography of the man who first developed this revolutionary idea. Don Frick was given unfettered access to all of Greenleaf's papers and correspondence. The result is a fascinating book that details the sources of Greenleaf's thought, describes his friendships with dozens of well-known people, and shows how he influenced business history well before his first book was published at the age of 73, and lived his own life as a servant leader. As Director of Management Research at ATT for 38 years, Greenleaf was known as "ATT's Kept Revolutionary." Among other unusual initiatives, he oversaw a novel program which taught executive decision making through great literature, established the first corporate assessment center using knowledge gleaned from the OSS's approach to training civilian spies during World War II, and invited leading philosophers and theologians to have conversations with ATT executives. After a period of soul searching and some surprising experiments in consciousness, Greenleaf retired from ATT and began to develop the concept of servant leadership, the then-heretical notion that leaders lead best by serving their followers rather than "commanding" them. He continued to promote the idea through teaching, writing, and consulting until his last years, and was instrumental in creating a score of important organizations such as The Center for Creative Leadership and Yokefellow Institute. Always, Greenleaf was a seeker opening himself up to novel experiences and astonishing people. He was a complex person—an introvert who served in public roles, a wise person who refused to give others "The Answer," a brilliant thinker who often declared, "I am not a scholar." His grave carries the epitaph he wrote for himself: "Potentially a good plumber; ruined by a sophisticated education."