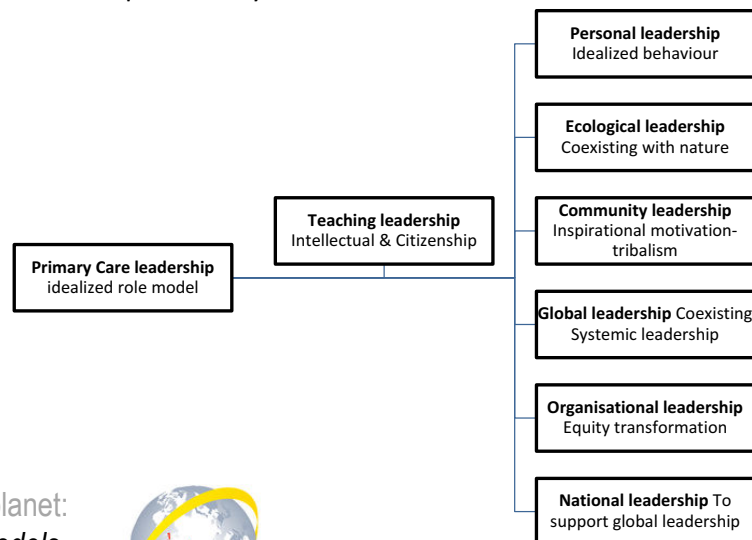


## Leadership Hierarchy Robert Burke



pulse of the planet:  
leadership models  
in the global village  
robert burke



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Following the horrific terrorist attack mainly on children yesterday (23 May 2017) in Manchester I revisited my 2001 article 'Pulse of the Planet: Leadership models in the global village' to remind myself of a possible leadership hierarchy (shown above) that might provide better outcomes than those we experience today.

In my 2006 paper 'Leadership and Spirituality' I argued that one major problem seems to be centered on our western worldview that growth is essential, that to consume more and more is beneficial to the workplace and as a result of this to society as a whole. This worldview has proved to be fraught with danger as it infers that we have the right to never ending consumption and that success is rightly based on this. As a consequence we have produced a society so divided that these horrific events are mind and spirit numbing designed to fracture our hope of a better world in which to co-inhabit.

I was also struck by a statement Kurt Vonnegut (1922-2007) made when he said *"Show us how grinding poverty and ignorance have ever elevated great numbers of human souls. Ever."*

*Could spirituality produce a better leadership paradigm?*

A spiritual leadership approach asks fundamentally different questions about what it means to be human, what we really mean by growth, and what values and power distributions are needed to enhance both organizations and society as a whole.

As a play on words I have used the following as a narrative metaphor with groups on discussions about leadership. It is meant as a dialogue comparing the competing images of the future.

CEO

|

Leadership

|

Growth = the current CEO mantra. But could it be:

**CEO = Courageously Engaging Others**

Leading to

**LEADERSHIP = Lets Employees Adapt Developments that are Ethically Responsible  
Sustaining Hope Inspiration and Purpose**

Leading to

**GROWTH = Greed Reduction therefore Opportunities are Widened which is Triumphant  
Humanity**

 Create the future you want



According to Oxfam these eight men have as much wealth as 50% of the world.

Who are the world's eight poorest?

We don't know the individuals names, indeed if they even have one, but we do know what countries they come from. According to India Today February 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 they are:

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

With the lowest GDP per capita than any other country, Democratic Republic of Congo comes in first in the list of poorest countries in the world. The civil war it went through has also made it the poorest. The nation also faces the problem of human rights.

### **Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe has a lower poverty rate and better social indicators than most African countries. Poverty is more common in rural areas (31 percent) than in urban areas (10 percent), and the majority of Zimbabwe's poor population (88 percent) live in rural areas.

### **Burundi**

Burundi has a history of violence and troubles. Conflict has contributed to widespread poverty. Burundi ranks in 167th place among 177 countries on the 2007 UN Human Development Index, and seven out of ten Burundians live below the poverty line. Per capita Gross National Income (GNI) in 2007 was 100 USD.

### **Liberia**

Liberia is still recovering from the effects of a 14-year civil war that ended in 2003. The civil war has left the country in a fragile state. More than 80 percent of Liberians were surviving on less than 1.25 USD per day. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation classifies Liberia as a low-income, and food-deficit country.

### **Eritrea**

Eritrea's economy is largely based on subsistence agriculture, and 60 percent of the population relies for food and income on agricultural activities. The youngest independent country has an annual per capita income of 150 USD. In 2001, 53 percent of the country's households fell below the poverty line, and 44 percent of children under the age of five were underweight.

### **Niger**

With a surface area of about 1.3 million square kilometres, Niger is one of the world's least developed nations. Its population is more than 16 million and is growing at an annual rate of 3.3 percent. Niger was ranked at the 186th position in the 2013 Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme. 76 percent of its people living on less than 2 USD a day.

### **Afghanistan**

Since the Soviet invasion, Afghanistan has been a centre of a series of conflicts that have continued for over 30 years. 42 percent of the country's total population lives below the national poverty line. About 20 percent of the people live just above that line and are highly vulnerable to the risk of falling into poverty.

## Nepal

After being hit by two disastrous earthquakes in April and May 2015, Nepal's economy has dropped to an all time low. The country, which is the gateway to Mount Everest, is situated on the valleys north of the Himalayas. The mountain valleys in Nepal would fetch many travellers and the tourism industry was the backbone to the economy of the country. The natural disasters has caused Nepal's GDP to drop to USD 19,294.

Through leaders emotional and spiritual intelligence I believe it is possible for a new leadership paradigm to emerge but this will require a major shift, such as proposed below.

**Evolving Leadership** Robert Burke adapted from Richard Slaughter  
R. Slaughter, *Futures: Tools & Techniques*, Futures Study Centre and DDM Media Group, Melbourne, 1995.

