Great Leaders Embrace Office Politics by Michael Chang Wenderoth

The article *Great Leaders Embrace Office Politics* written by Michael Chang Wenderoth, a global strategy consultant and course facilitator at Stanford graduate school of business, the article was found on Harvard Business Review. The article starts with the story of Jill and even though her performance is solid, she gets along with others at the office, and many other positive attributes. However, she finds herself struggling to make sense of her career setback.

The article highlights the importance of understanding of office politics and how this can be more important than performances. The author speaks of “Kumbaya” school of leadership, which says that being open, trusting, authentic, and positive and working really hard is the key to getting ahead is not the optimize route and might hinder success. An example given is how CEO biographies and leadership literature is written in a positive and rose-tinted lens. Rather than saying how they politically outmaneuvered their peers.

The author has seen many case of smart and hard-worker not getting far. The author argues to pay more attention to interpersonal relations and politics. There are benefits from understanding social psychology to trying out different leadership styles and behavior to help us grow.

I choose this article for two reasons. The first reason is how different the article is from what I am use to seeing in regards to leadership development. The second reason is I believe this article can offer an interesting discussion session in class. I always believe that hard working alone isn’t enough and that a certain office politics is required. Also what happen to Jill in the article is relatable to me what has
happen to me in the past as well. I would like to see how the class and the professor response to this article and what kind of discussion will we engage in.