

Angela Merkel

German Politician, Scientist, Chancellor of Germany (2005-21), referred to as the de facto Leader of the EU

THE SCIENTIST WHO BECAME A WORLD LEADER

Trained as a quantum chemist, Merkel spent her first 35 years living in Soviet-controlled East Germany working at a state-run research center until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

In the 2005 federal election, Merkel was appointed as Chancellor of Germany, as the first woman to be elected as Chancellor. In foreign policy, she has emphasised international cooperation, both in the context of the EU and NATO, and strengthening transatlantic economic relations. She played a crucial role in managing the global financial crisis of 2007–2008 and the European debt crisis.



HER SUPERPOWER: KNOWING WHO SHE TRULY IS

As an authentic leader, she is often described as an analytical and fierce politician, not a huge visionary, but someone with a stable hand.

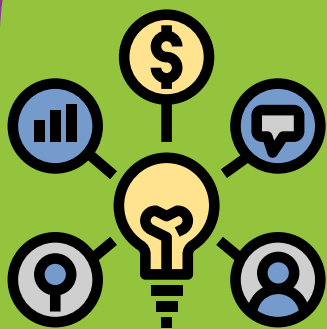
"She doesn't need to win every argument. She doesn't have to get in the last word. She quietly assesses the different factors involved in a given situation and then decides which way she wants to go, and does it quietly and without fanfare." (Stefan Kornelius)



MOMMY MERKEL

She did not become a world leader by imitating her competitors or her predecessors. She stayed unique by using her scientific approach towards problems and leading with a coolheaded attitude.

"Because she's a woman, they call her Mutti, which is short for Mommy. That's partially in admiration, because she's not mommy-ish at all. She's not the mother hen of the nation. She's a shrewd, straightforward, straight shooter who doesn't take too many risks. She's comforting in that sense — because she's not a risk-taker." (Cathryn Cluver Ashbrook)



WHAT WE CAN LEARN?

There is no standardised approach towards becoming and being a leader. A leader is primarily someone who is comfortable with who she is, and uses her biggest strengths to win the fight, even if those strengths are different from those that others have.

be yourself