

PHILOSOPHY  
AND  
PRACTICE

ASPEN  
LEADERSHIP  
SEMINAR  
2022



Our world has changed, and it requires more resilient, purpose-driven leaders. It is time to engage with like-minded executives on the essence of value-based leadership in times of crisis.

Gut Klostermühle, Briesen (Mark)

October 06 – 09, 2022

# The Leadership Seminar 2022

In an era of unprecedented global challenges and geopolitical upheaval, the Aspen Germany leadership seminar “Philosophy and Practice” is a cornerstone in the Institute’s efforts to create a safe space for meaningful dialogue on the essence of leading in times of crises. The seminar builds purpose-driven leadership that strengthens the individual’s moral compass and sense of responsibility throughout all sectors of society.

By bringing together high-level leaders from politics, business, non-profit organizations, and academia, the participants learn to reflect upon challenges for their own leadership style. The essence of value-based leadership is developed through peer feed-

back sessions between the participants, thorough academic study with distinguished moderators, as well as external input from high-level decision-makers making difficult decisions in our society today. Moral dilemmas, questions of the individual’s freedom, and societal turbulence are at the core of such contemporary leadership challenges. The seminar links philosophical discourse about values, freedom and responsibility to the individual participant’s everyday decision-making and crisis management in a safe environment.

**“The Seminar helped me to better understand my own government decisions and actions.”**

Madeleine K. Albright  
Former U.S. Secretary of State.



## Shaping the Future of Leadership in Disruptive Times

Our world has — after a period of relative certainty and stability — returned to an era of unpredictability, heightened economic and societal tension, and global health emergencies. The reliability of information, integrity of liberal values and structure of society as we know it is changing before our very eyes. New challenges test our resilience and sense of responsibility — as individuals and as a society. They require us to reevaluate what constitutes value-based leadership in a time when values are under attack. As new and growing challenges arise, so does the responsibility of leaders to make real-time, momentous decisions that have life-changing impacts on the people they lead.

Through profound peer exchanges before and after each session, frequent feedback discussions with our moderators and external decision-makers, seminar participants learn to reevaluate their own morals and values as leaders in changing times. The seminar encourages the participants to be more perceptive to the challenges and opportunities of conflicting perspectives and strengthen their own ability to make decisions with conviction and clarity in disruptive times.

### HALLMARKS OF THE ASPEN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

- » In depth reflection on timeless human values, pursuit of common ground, and cultivation of a richer understanding of the human condition
- » Focus on the essence of leadership (no case studies or skill building format)
- » Diversity of participants and views
- » High caliber moderators from the U.S. and Europe
- » Confidential setting and respectful atmosphere away from daily routine



**“The Aspen Seminar provides a wonderful framework for personal growth. The facility, the moderators, and the content were well chosen. It’s an investment that will pay life-long dividends.”**

Michael Eisner  
Former Chairman and CEO,  
Walt Disney Company



## A Community for Life

Aspen's Leadership Seminar gives high-level executives the opportunity to exchange ideas with peers from diverse professions and disciplines they would otherwise not likely acquaint. The seminar allows the participants to engage in meaningful conversation whilst expanding their professional network. Participants experience in-depth debating and have the chance to join our diverse and international alumni network. Our leadership alumni provide each other with long-term support as they continue to advance in their careers and have an impact in society. The "Philosophy and Practice" Seminar connects participants with the German Aspen alumni network which consists of almost 400 German Aspen alumni members and offers the opportunity to connect with Aspen alumni worldwide. Aspen Institute Germany continues to engage bright minds and establish life-long connections between the participants and to our institution. Our exclusive alumni gatherings serve to keep our alumni in touch with each other and connected to the Aspen Community for life.



## You will leave our Leadership Seminar with..



» a refined personal compass to guide your actions and decisions;



» a clear sense of your own values, driven by a feeling of empowerment to take action as a more effective leader;



» an in-depth debating experience that expands your ability to think outside of the box and challenges your existing views and belief systems;



» a broader and more diverse professional network through one-on-one peer exchanges with leaders from other disciplines;



» a greater focus and determination to tackle new challenges in your profession, a sense of personal renewal and readiness to take on even higher leadership roles.



**MOTIVATION**

## A Clearer Sense of Self for a Resilient Organization

The leadership seminar responds to questions of ethical leadership and strives to make a purposeful contribution toward our participants' impact as leaders. By developing creative thinking, navigating dissenting opinions, and candid dialogue, we strengthen our participants' value-based leadership mindset. Our participants have very diverse professional backgrounds and excel in their area of responsibility. By engaging with participants of similar seniority in an open and dynamic setting – far away from one's regular business network and daily obligations – they engage in deep conversations with their peers and dive into a state of profound self-reflection. Participants find themselves immersed in new perspectives and reconsider their own opinion. The experience allows them to approach problems from a new angle and take different opinions better into account. We offer English-taught Seminars only.

**DRIVE**



**INSPIRATION**



**DEDICATION**



**HEART**

# WHY THE ASPEN SEMINAR

While traditional leadership seminars mainly focus on skill building and case studies, Aspen Germany's Leadership Seminar enables participants to reflect deeply on the foundations of their own decisions. As a non-partisan, non-profit convening platform we are part of the global Aspen network and remain committed to build bridges between diverse stakeholders.

The Aspen Idea goes back to 1945. Chicago businessman and philanthropist Walter Paepcke (1896-1960), son of German immigrants from Mecklenburg arrived in the sleepy town of Aspen. Against the background of the human and moral catastrophe of World War II, he dreamed of "a place where the human spirit can flourish." The Seminar was inspired by the Great Books Seminar held by Mortimer Adler at the University of Chicago. According to Adler, philosophy is everybody's business and essential to what makes us human. The idea was for the seminar

to improve society by fostering humanistic thought among important decision-makers. In the early days of Aspen, it was also perceived as an intellectual weapon in the Cold War.

In this spirit, Aspen Germany has been convening "Philosophy and Practice" Seminars since 2011. In a unique and confidential setting, high-caliber moderators from the United States and Europe create the best possible atmosphere to reflect on timeless human values, societal order, and the limits of power.

"Philosophy and Practice" has been Aspen Germany's flagship program since 2011. It was modelled after the Aspen Institute's leadership seminar developed in the 1950s at the Aspen Institute in Aspen, Colorado, and embraces the core of the "Aspen Idea": the promotion of value-based leadership.



## Target Group

Participants include high-level decision-makers from business, politics, non-governmental organizations and academia.

## Registration

Participation is by invitation only. To learn more, please contact us at [info@aspeninstitute.de](mailto:info@aspeninstitute.de).

## Readings

The readings consist of select Western and Eastern, classical and contemporary texts. The Seminar is conducted in English.

## Duration

The Seminar takes place on a long weekend: Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon. Continuous attendance of all sessions is required.

## Costs

The seminar fee is €3900 per person plus €688 for accommodation and all meals.



allenges for their own leadership style. The Leadership essence of value-based leadership is de

*"This exceptional seminar tackles leadership from a very unusual angle. It requires you to bring in your own personality and provides space to reflect more deeply on yourself and what really drives and motivates you. I felt indeed enlightened and richer, in knowledge, wisdom, perspectives – and new friendships."* **Dr. Julia Stamm – Founder & CEO, The Futures Project** that strengthens the individual's moral compass and sense of responsibility throughout all sectors of society ther high-level leaders from politics, business, civil society, academia, the agement in a safe environment. The first Aspen Seminar was conducted in 1951, bringi

*"[...] The Aspen Seminar was one of the most worthwhile experiences I have had so far – be it the literature, our great moderators, the open and honest discussions, or the way that my thinking, and my opinions were challenged. [...]"* **Roberta Ahlers – Producer, Climaware, and Senior Political Event Consultant at Rud Pedersen Public Affairs Germany** culture and media, the participants learn to reflect upon challenges for their own leadership style. The essence of value-based leadership is developed through a philosophy-based discourse, guide

*"[...] A truly unique way of reconnecting to what is leadership about – being principled and ethically grounded while making change happen. It creates an opportunity to reconnect to timeless philosophical wisdom in an extraordinary group of diverse and passionate people, and creates the space for a quality of dialogue we are so much missing in our daily responsibilities.[...]"* **Friedrich Kuhn – Global Head Transformational Leadership, Egon Zehnder** also meet high-level decision-makers, who face difficult decisions in today's society. Moral dilemmas, questions of the individual's freedom, and societal turbulence stand at the core of the discussions. The seminar links philosophical

# YOUR CONTACT

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