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Book Review: Thinking About Leadership, by Nannerl O. Keohane

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Keohane, Nannerl O. **Thinking about leadership**. Princeton, 2010. 297p ISBN 0691142076, \$27.95; ISBN 9780691142074, \$27.95.

Political scientist, political theorist, and former president of Wellesley College and Duke University, the eminent scholar and leader Keohane has applied her considerable talents and experience to help readers better understand the complex world of leadership. The very definition of leadership is, within the field of leadership studies, contested territory. There is no agreed upon definition of just what leadership scholars study. Keohane defines leadership thusly: "Leaders determine or clarify goals for a group of individuals and bring together the energies of members of that group to accomplish those goals." Recognizing that "leadership is central to almost all collective social activity," the author engages in a broad and sweeping overview of leadership in its many manifestations. Given the brevity of her book, this overview is understandably quite general, and Keohane skates quickly over many key arguments and disputed issues in the field. This book is a very good introduction to many of the key aspects and controversies in leadership and is recommended for a general audience interested in taking a first step into the field of leadership studies.

—*M. A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount University*

Summing Up: Recommended. General readers and lower-division undergraduate students.