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JFK, A Global Citizen

John Fitzgerald Kennedy came across as an open, confident and self-deprecating thirty-fifth President of the United States of America. Those who have served in the cabinet or have interacted with Kennedy in any role, believe that he held a thoroughgoing personality. His close companions still remember him for his smile, and how he seemed to connect with nearly all he met even during his Presidential tenure. An extremely complicated man, he was not an extrovert, he preferred to engage one on one or with a small group of people he trusted and respected. Kazin writes that just before the end of his life, He changed his behaviour with Jackie - his wife, when their son Patrick died two days after his birth August 7, 1963 (Kazin). Those close to Kennedy mentioned that they had never seen him break down or openly displaying emotion. This change was the reason Jackie travelled with him to Dallas, three and a half months later.

His professional conduct could be attributed to his cautious role during the Missile Crisis, which otherwise would have created a disaster. Throughout the crisis, Kennedy did not threaten, gloat or mock, the leadership of another country. He opened a direct line with the Kremlin to try and avoid future conflicts that threatened a world war. Such a proactive role demanded a sense of responsibility, which he depicted throughout his short but engaging Presidential tenure. He managed to avoid such a huge conflict since he was always open to considering opposing views. One of the main victories, one can credit to his Presidential term was the signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty which some recall as the finest achievement of his Presidential tenure. His character denotes a sincere personality which is evident from his conduct, both in the personal and professional life as well (Kazin).

He signifies a good example of being a global citizen, as he cared for world peace. The nature of his role, being a President required immediate attention to matters of grave concerns, which he employed in a courageous manner. One of the chief characteristics of a global citizen is that he understands a wider community, or more rightly a wider world (Lilley et al.). The meaning attributed to understanding a wider world refers to creating equitable resources for people in need. Being a President of one of great power, he assured that each individual must face a sense of security. His Presidential leadership came across a time when Russia and the United States were facing a huge crisis, of the missile deployment. A good citizen of this time would have adopted the path, which Kennedy opted in that time of crisis. This role depicts his wider understanding, which is an ideal quality of a good citizen as well (Lilley et al.).

Another distinguishing characteristic of a global citizen is his attitude toward diversity. They acknowledge the representation of individuals from different casts and creed and value their efforts as well. Throughout his life, Kennedy had acknowledged the efforts of all American immigrants towards making this country, a land of opportunities. He was a true believer of the fact that diversity is embedded in American values. He therefore, worked to create similarities and eradicate differences among the people of America. The role of a global citizen today is similar to such values, which John F. Kennedy as the President of American practised. These global citizens also work for creating tolerance and mutual understanding between people. Bigony (et. al) argues that the Presidency of John F. Kennedy is relevant to the modern concepts of global citizens in many ways, and this characterization differentiates his Presidency from the former presidencies (Bigony et al.).

Works Cited:

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