the Ibrahim Prize and its Selection Board are strictly searching to meet their firm criterion; and, if the Selection Board's standards are not met, the award is simply withheld (Autella, 2011; The Ibrahim Foundation, 2013). This makes the Ibrahim Prize not only practically valuable, but symbolically significant.

Although few Ibrahim Prizes have been awarded, the stated requirements for achieving the award appear quite simple. According to the Ibrahim Foundation itself, a recipient for the Ibrahim Prize must: 1) be the former Executive Head of State of an African Government; 2) have left office in the last three years; 3) have been democratically elected and served his/her constitutionally mandated term; and 4) demonstrated exceptional leadership in the aforesaid position (The Ibrahim Foundation, 2013). With such simple criteria, it may be asked, why is it so difficult to attain the Ibrahim Prize in the first place?

To come to a logical conclusion regarding the above question, it is essential to grasp the make-up of the Ibrahim Selection Board. The board includes the four past-recipients, including honorary recipient Nelson Mandela. Former United Nation officers, as well as African Human Rights Activists—all headed by Dr. Ibrahim himself—make up the remainder of the Selection Board (The Ibrahim Foundation, 2013). The profiles of each of these individuals are unique, but they all share two common characteristics, simultaneously adding an additional criterion to the selection process of the Ibrahim Prize: each Selection Board member is a champion for Human Rights and for Civil Society (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2013; The Ibrahim Foundation, 2013). To put it simply, the Selection Board is not only looking for excellence in governance and management skills; it is also searching for individuals who are great leaders, encourage the democratic process, and are generally concerned with the well-being of humanity within their respective nations (Auletta, 2011; The British Broadcasting Corporation, 2013; The Ibrahim Foundation, 2013).

Theoretical, Ideological, and Practical Requirements, In Summation

As previously reviewed, there are several requirements for an individual to achieve the Ibrahim Prize. First and foremost, a

recipient must meet the practical, four-prong guideline assessment as laid forth by the Ibrahim Foundation. Second, candidates must fall in line with the ideological framework of Dr. Ibrahim. Dr. Ibrahim has two fundamental expectations of a recipient: first, the individual must be a firm believer in the democratic system and, to that end, rule transparently, democratically, and without corruption; and second, the individual in question must be a strong believer in, as well as practitioner of self-responsibility and public accountability. Candidates also must adhere to the value system of the Selection Board. In other words, the candidates have to show a substantial interest regarding human life and an active interest in their nation's civil society.

Case Studies: Recipients of the Ibrahim Prize

It would be, assumedly, simple to predict the future recipient(s) of the Ibrahim Prize by purely understanding the theoretical framework of the Selection Board's criteria. However, this would ignore a fundamental part of the human experience: chance. No human, regardless of value or morality, can always perform perfectly, since factors (external from self) will always interfere. This natural dogma applies to the two past-recipients of the Ibrahim Prize; hence they too must be analyzed in order to come closer to an accurate prediction on future recipients of the same. Apart from President Mandela, only two individuals have been able to pass the seemingly impossible challenge of meeting the requirements of the Ibrahim Prize Selection Board. Below, they are to be analyzed in chronological order.

President Joaquim Chissano

Former President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of the Republic of Mozambique was awarded the first Ibrahim Prize in 2007. Born in 1932, President Chissano spent most of his life within the political sphere. After achieving independence from Portugal in 1975, Mozambique attempted a democratic system of governance (The World Bank, 2013). However, this system was plagued by almost immediate civil war between the "democratic" government and myriad guerilla forces throughout the Republic. It was during one