## the prince written by niccolo machiavelli

The Enduring Influence of The Prince Written by Niccolò Machiavelli

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli remains one of the most influential and debated political treatises in history. Penned in the early 16th century, this work offers a candid, sometimes controversial, guide on power, leadership, and statecraft. Its candid advice on ruling and the nature of political power has transcended centuries, continuing to resonate in modern political thought, leadership studies, and even popular culture. Understanding the context, themes, and lasting impact of The Prince written by Niccolò Machiavelli helps us appreciate why it remains a cornerstone in the study of political philosophy.

# The Historical Context Behind The Prince Written by Niccolò Machiavelli

To truly grasp the significance of The Prince, it's important to recognize the turbulent political landscape in which Niccolò Machiavelli lived and wrote. Italy in the early 1500s was not a unified country but a patchwork of city-states often embroiled in conflict, shifting alliances, and invasions by foreign powers like France and Spain. Machiavelli, a diplomat and political advisor for the Republic of Florence, witnessed firsthand the fragility and chaos of Italian politics.

After losing favor with the ruling Medici family, Machiavelli wrote The Prince around 1513, possibly as a means to regain their trust and secure a position within their government. The book distills his observations on power dynamics, leadership, and human nature into practical advice for rulers seeking to maintain control and stability amidst constant upheaval.

# Key Themes Explored in The Prince Written by Niccolò Machiavelli

The Prince is often considered a manual for pragmatic, sometimes ruthless political strategy. Here are some of the core themes that make the text so compelling:

### The Nature of Power and Leadership

Machiavelli challenges the idealistic notions of leadership prevalent during his time. Instead of focusing on moral virtue or divine right, he emphasizes effectiveness. According to him, a successful prince must be shrewd, adaptable, and willing to use cunning or even cruelty when necessary. This pragmatic approach prioritizes results over ethics, making it clear that power often requires difficult decisions.

#### Virtù and Fortuna: The Balancing Act

Two Italian concepts are central to Machiavelli's theory: virtù (a ruler's skill, strength, and wisdom) and fortuna (luck or fortune). The prince's success depends on his ability to master virtù and respond to the unpredictable forces of fortuna. This idea highlights the tension between human agency and external circumstances — a theme that resonates across centuries of political thought.

#### The Role of Fear and Love

One of the most famous insights from The Prince is Machiavelli's assertion that it is safer for a ruler to be feared than loved, if he cannot be both. Fear, he argues, is a more reliable means to maintain power because people's loyalty is often fickle. However, he warns against cruelty that breeds hatred, showing his nuanced understanding of human psychology.

# Why The Prince Written by Niccolò Machiavelli Still Matters Today

Despite being written over 500 years ago, The Prince remains relevant for anyone interested in leadership, politics, or human behavior. Its lessons extend beyond monarchs and politicians to business leaders, activists, and strategists who navigate complex power dynamics.

#### **Insights for Modern Leadership**

Machiavelli's emphasis on adaptability and realism can guide contemporary leaders facing uncertain environments. His idea that success often requires difficult, sometimes unpopular choices reminds us that leadership is not about pleasing everyone but about achieving goals sustainably. Recognizing when to be firm and when to be flexible is a timeless leadership skill.

#### The Prince as a Study in Realpolitik

The term "realpolitik" — politics based on practical objectives rather than moral or ideological considerations — echoes Machiavelli's approach. Many modern political strategies owe a debt to his blunt realism. Understanding The Prince helps illuminate why some leaders prioritize stability and power consolidation over democratic ideals or ethical concerns.

# Common Misconceptions About The Prince Written by Niccolò Machiavelli

Because The Prince advocates for pragmatic and sometimes ruthless tactics, Machiavelli's name is

often associated with deceit and manipulation. However, this simplification misses the depth of his analysis.

#### Is Machiavelli Promoting Immorality?

While it's true that Machiavelli advises rulers to be willing to act immorally if necessary, he does not celebrate cruelty for its own sake. Instead, he presents a realistic assessment of political life. He even warns against unnecessary cruelty because it can lead to instability. So, Machiavelli's work is more descriptive than prescriptive — explaining how power works rather than endorsing evil.

#### The Prince vs. Machiavelli's Other Writings

It's also worth noting that The Prince is just one part of Machiavelli's broader body of work. In other writings, he explores republican ideals and civic virtue, showing a more complex political philosophy. The Prince is often read in isolation, which can skew perceptions of Machiavelli's true intentions.

# How To Approach Reading The Prince Written by Niccolò Machiavelli

If you're curious about this classic but find the language or historical references challenging, here are some tips to get the most out of your reading:

- Choose a good translation: Look for editions with helpful introductions and annotations that explain context and terminology.
- **Keep historical background in mind:** Remember the chaos of Renaissance Italy to understand why Machiavelli wrote as he did.
- **Reflect on modern parallels:** Think about how Machiavelli's insights apply to current political or organizational situations.
- **Discuss with others:** Engaging in conversations or reading analyses can deepen your understanding of the nuances.

# The Legacy of The Prince Written by Niccolò Machiavelli in Culture and Academia

Beyond politics, The Prince has permeated literature, film, and popular culture. The archetype of the

"Machiavellian" leader appears frequently in stories ranging from Shakespeare's plays to modern political dramas. In academia, the book continues to spark debates on ethics, leadership, and governance.

Philosophers and political scientists study The Prince to understand the balance between morality and pragmatism. Its influence is evident in the development of political realism and international relations theory. For anyone interested in why leaders act the way they do, Machiavelli's observations remain a vital reference point.

The prince written by Niccolò Machiavelli may challenge our comfort zones with its candid portrayal of power, but it also offers invaluable lessons on human nature and leadership. Whether you agree with his conclusions or not, engaging with this work invites critical thinking about authority, ethics, and the complexities behind every decision made on the political stage.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

# What is the main theme of 'The Prince' by Niccolò Machiavelli?

The main theme of 'The Prince' is political power: how to acquire, maintain, and consolidate it, often advocating pragmatic and sometimes ruthless actions for rulers.

### When was 'The Prince' written and published?

'The Prince' was written in 1513 by Niccolò Machiavelli but was first published posthumously in 1532.

# Why is Niccolò Machiavelli often called the father of modern political science?

Machiavelli is called the father of modern political science because 'The Prince' introduced a realistic approach to politics based on observation and practical experience rather than idealism or morality.

# What does Machiavelli mean by the term 'virtù' in 'The Prince'?

In 'The Prince', 'virtù' refers to the qualities of strength, cunning, decisiveness, and pragmatism that a ruler must possess to maintain power and achieve political success.

#### How does 'The Prince' view morality in relation to politics?

'The Prince' suggests that traditional morality may be disregarded by rulers if doing so is necessary to maintain power and ensure the stability of the state.

## What types of principalities does Machiavelli discuss in 'The Prince'?

Machiavelli discusses hereditary principalities, new principalities, mixed principalities, and ecclesiastical principalities, analyzing how rulers can govern each type effectively.

#### How has 'The Prince' influenced modern political thought?

'The Prince' has influenced modern political thought by introducing realpolitik, emphasizing practical over ethical considerations in governance and inspiring leaders and theorists in statecraft.

#### What role does fortune ('fortuna') play in 'The Prince'?

Machiavelli describes 'fortuna' as luck or chance affecting human affairs, but argues that a wise prince can control and adapt to fortune through skill and decisive action.

# Why was 'The Prince' considered controversial when it was published?

'The Prince' was controversial because it challenged traditional moral and religious views by advocating that rulers sometimes use deceit, manipulation, and cruelty to achieve political goals.

#### **Additional Resources**

The Prince Written by Niccolò Machiavelli: A Timeless Exploration of Power and Politics

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli remains one of the most influential and debated political treatises in history. Composed during the early 16th century, this seminal work provides a candid and, at times, controversial examination of political power, statecraft, and leadership. Its enduring relevance stems from Machiavelli's unapologetic realism and his pragmatic approach to governance, which continues to resonate in modern political theory, business leadership, and international relations. Understanding "The Prince" requires a thorough exploration of its context, core concepts, and the legacy it has left on both political philosophy and popular culture.

### **Historical Context and Author Background**

Niccolò Machiavelli, a diplomat and political theorist from Florence, wrote "The Prince" in 1513, a period marked by intense political instability in Italy. The Italian city-states were frequently at war, and power dynamics shifted rapidly among emerging republics, monarchies, and foreign powers. Machiavelli himself had served as a senior official in the Florentine Republic but was later ousted and subjected to political exile. This personal experience of power struggles and exile deeply influenced his perspective.

"The Prince written by Niccolò Machiavelli" was intended as a practical guide for rulers to secure and maintain political power. Although originally dedicated to Lorenzo de' Medici, a member of the ruling family in Florence, the treatise transcended its immediate audience to address broader

questions about power and governance that are still relevant today.

### **Core Themes and Analytical Insights**

At its heart, "The Prince" dissects the nature of power and the means by which a ruler can acquire and sustain it. Machiavelli departs from idealistic portrayals of leadership common in earlier works, instead advocating for a realistic, often ruthless approach.

#### The Concept of Virtù and Fortuna

Two central concepts in Machiavelli's analysis are \*virtù\* and \*fortuna\*. \*Virtù\* refers to the qualities of strength, cunning, decisiveness, and pragmatism a prince must possess to shape his destiny. \*Fortuna\*, on the other hand, represents chance or luck, which can influence political outcomes but can be managed or mitigated through \*virtù\*.

Machiavelli's argument suggests that while fortune plays a role, the effective leader is the one who can adapt to changing circumstances and exert control over his fate. This emphasis on adaptability and strategic action lays the groundwork for modern political realism.

#### The Role of Morality in Politics

One of the most contentious aspects of "The Prince written by Niccolò Machiavelli" is its treatment of morality. Rather than prescribing ethical leadership, Machiavelli famously contends that the ends often justify the means. A successful ruler must be willing to act immorally if necessary to preserve the state and maintain power.

This pragmatic stance challenged the prevailing views of the time, which linked legitimate rule to moral virtue and divine right. Machiavelli's separation of politics from ethics anticipated later developments in secular political theory and remains a focal point for scholars examining the intersection of power and morality.

### **Types of Principalities and Methods of Rule**

Machiavelli categorizes principalities into hereditary and new, each requiring different strategies for governance. Hereditary principalities benefit from established loyalty, whereas new principalities must be secured through force, diplomacy, or strategic alliances.

He also discusses the acquisition of principalities through one's own arms versus the arms of others, underscoring the importance of military strength and self-reliance. This focus on military capability as a pillar of state power was innovative and influential, reinforcing the idea that political authority is inseparable from the capacity to defend and enforce it.

### The Enduring Impact and Criticism of The Prince

Since its publication, "The Prince written by Niccolò Machiavelli" has been both revered and reviled. It has been praised as a pioneering work in political science and a pragmatic manual for leadership, while also criticized for endorsing manipulation and tyranny.

#### **Influence on Political Thought and Leadership**

Machiavelli's insights have shaped the development of political realism, influencing thinkers from Thomas Hobbes to modern strategists in international relations. The term "Machiavellian" has entered the lexicon to describe cunning, strategic, and sometimes unscrupulous behavior in politics and business.

Moreover, "The Prince" is frequently studied in leadership courses for its unvarnished portrayal of power dynamics. Its lessons on adaptability, perception management, and decisive action resonate beyond politics, applicable to corporate governance and organizational leadership.

#### Criticisms and Ethical Debates

Critics argue that Machiavelli's dismissal of traditional morality encourages authoritarianism and justifies unethical behavior. Some interpret the work as a cynical endorsement of deceit and cruelty, while others contend that it is a realistic guide that reflects the harsh realities of political life.

The ambiguity in Machiavelli's tone has led to diverse interpretations, with some scholars viewing "The Prince" as satire or a cautionary text rather than a straightforward manual. This complexity contributes to its ongoing relevance and scholarly intrigue.

# **Comparative Perspectives: The Prince and Other Political Treatises**

When compared to contemporaneous political writings, "The Prince" stands out for its focus on practical governance rather than idealized statesmanship. For instance, Thomas More's "Utopia" presents an ideal society based on moral principles, whereas Machiavelli confronts the messy realities of power.

Similarly, "The Prince" contrasts with the works of Aristotle and Cicero, who emphasized virtue ethics as foundational to leadership. Machiavelli's break from classical and medieval traditions marks a significant shift toward modern political science.

#### **Key Features Distinguishing The Prince**

- Realpolitik Approach: Emphasizes pragmatic, sometimes ruthless decision-making.
- **Separation of Ethics and Politics:** Argues that effective rulership may require morally questionable actions.
- Importance of Military Power: Advocates for a strong, self-reliant military to secure authority.
- **Adaptability and Shrewdness:** Highlights the need for leaders to respond flexibly to changing circumstances.

These features underscore why "The Prince written by Niccolò Machiavelli" remains a foundational text in understanding the mechanics of political authority.

### **Modern Relevance and Applications**

Despite its 16th-century origins, the principles outlined in "The Prince" continue to inform contemporary discussions about leadership, strategy, and governance. Politicians, business leaders, and strategists often draw on Machiavellian concepts to navigate complex environments.

In the business world, for example, the notion of balancing ethical considerations with competitive advantage echoes Machiavelli's insights. Similarly, in international diplomacy, the interplay between \*virtù\* and \*fortuna\* manifests in how leaders manage alliances and crises.

The enduring fascination with "The Prince written by Niccolò Machiavelli" also reflects a broader human interest in power dynamics and the sometimes uncomfortable truths about leadership and influence.

Through its unflinching examination of power, Machiavelli's treatise challenges readers to reconsider conventional wisdom and to engage critically with the realities of political life. Whether viewed as a pragmatic guide or a moral warning, "The Prince" remains an essential reference point in the ongoing dialogue about authority and governance.

### **The Prince Written By Niccolo Machiavelli**

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the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: The Prince Niccolò Machiavelli, 2010-05-15 The most famous book on politics ever written, The Prince remains as lively and shocking today as when it was written almost five hundred years ago. Initially denounced as a collection of sinister maxims

and a recommendation of tyranny, it has more recently been defended as the first scientific treatment of politics as it is practiced rather than as it ought to be practiced. Harvey C. Mansfield's brilliant translation of this classic work, along with the new materials added for this edition, make it the definitive version of The Prince, indispensable to scholars, students, and those interested in the dark art of politics. This revised edition of Mansfield's acclaimed translation features an updated bibliography, a substantial glossary, an analytic introduction, a chronology of Machiavelli's life, and a map of Italy in Machiavelli's time. Of the other available [translations], that of Harvey C. Mansfield makes the necessary compromises between exactness and readability, as well as providing an excellent introduction and notes.—Clifford Orwin, The Wall Street Journal Mansfield's work . . . is worth acquiring as the best combination of accuracy and readability.—Choice There is good reason to assert that Machiavelli has met his match in Mansfield. . . . [He] is ready to read Machiavelli as he demands to be read—plainly and boldly, but also cautiously.—John Gueguen, The Sixteenth Century Journal

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: *The Prince* Niccolò Machiavelli, 1998-09 Mansfield's translation of this classic work, in combination with the new material added for this edition, makes it the definitive version of The Prince, indispensable to scholars, students, and lovers of the dark art of politics.

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: The Prince Nicolo Machiavelli, 2018-10-31 the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: The Prince Niccolo Machiavelli, 2021-06-29 THE PRINCE" written in times before the morrow, This type of Classical work you will never find in the modern age. THE PRINCE by Nicolo Machiavelli is a book of Fiction first published in 1532 in Italy. A true book of worth, a classic that lives in an era of timeless distinction. Early books emit excellence unlike any from modern times. You will not be dissatisfied with this THE PRINCE at its finest. Sneak Peak Everyone sees what you appear to be, few experiences what you really are. If an injury has to be done to a man it should be so severe that his vengeance need not be feared. The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him. Synopsis THE PRINCE is an all-time classical masterpiece. The Prince (Italian: Il Principe) is a 16th-century political treatise by the Italian diplomat and political theorist Niccolò Machiavelli. The Prince is arguably the first works of modern political philosophy. Although it is relatively short, the treatise is the most remembered of Machiavelli's works and is responsible for bringing the word Machiavellian into usage as a pejorative. The base assumption in the treatise is that the aims of a prince. An amazing historical vintage read for all history lovers. Originality we take every step possible to ensure the original integrity of this book has been upheld to its highest standard. This means that the texts in this story are unedited and unchanged from the original authors publication, preserving its earliest form for your indulgence. This title is one of the best Fiction, of all time that you just do not see in the modern age. This title will make an excellent gift to the classic lover buff in your life or a fantastic addition to your current collection. We are ready to ship this book off to you today at lightning speed, so you will find yourself indulging in this title without delay. Title Details Original 1532 Scripture Epic Fiction 6 x 9 Inches Matte Cover White Paper

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: The Prince: A 16th-century Political Treatise of Political Philosophy by the Italian Diplomat and Political Theorist Niccolò Machi Niccolò Machiavelli, 2020-07-28

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: The Prince Niccolò Machiavelli, 2005-02-10 Based upon Machiavelli's first-hand experience as an emissary of the Florentine Republic to the courts of Europe, The Prince analyses the usually violent means by which men seize, retain, and lose political power. This fluent new translation is accompanied by comprehensive notes and an introduction that dispels some of the myths associated with Machiavelli, and considers the true purpose of The Prince. - ;'A prince must not have any other object nor any other thought...but war, its institutions, and its discipline; because that is the only art befitting one who commands.' When Machiavelli's brief treatise on Renaissance statecraft and princely power was posthumously published in 1532, it generated a debate that has raged unabated until the present day. Based upon

Machiavelli's first-hand experience as an emissary of the Florentine Republic to the courts of Europe, The Prince analyses the usually violent means by which men seize, retain, and lose political power. Machiavelli added a dimension of incisive realism to one of the major philosophical and political issues of his time, especially the relationship between public deeds and private morality. His book provides a remarkably uncompromising picture of the true nature of power, no matter in what era or by whom it is exercised. This fluent new translation is accompanied by comprehensive notes and an introduction that considers the true purpose of The Prince and dispels some of the myths associated with it. - ;Literary scholar Peter Bondanella rightly seeks the cold elegance and readability of the original. Serious English readers will want both translations. - Lauro Martines, TLS

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: The Prince by Nicolo Machiavelli Niccolò Machiavelli, 2017-09-21 The Prince is a 16th-century political treatise by the Italian diplomat and political theorist Niccol Machiavelli. From correspondence a version appears to have been distributed in 1513, using a Latin title, De Principatibus (About Principalities). However, the printed version was not published until 1532, five years after Machiavelli's death. This was done with the permission of the Medici pope Clement VII, but long before then, in fact since the first appearance of The Prince in manuscript, controversy had swirled about his writings. Although it was written as if it were a traditional work in the mirrors for princes style, it is generally agreed that it was especially innovative. This is only partly because it was written in the vernacular Italian rather than Latin, a practice which had become increasingly popular since the publication of Dante's Divine Comedy and other works of Renaissance literature. The Prince is sometimes claimed to be one of the first works of modern philosophy, especially modern political philosophy, in which the effective truth is taken to be more important than any abstract ideal. It was also in direct conflict with the dominant Catholic and scholastic doctrines of the time concerning politics and ethics. Although it is relatively short, the treatise is the most remembered of Machiavelli's works and the one most responsible for bringing the word Machiavellian into usage as a pejorative. It even contributed to the modern negative connotations of the words politics and politician in western countries. In terms of subject matter it overlaps with the much longer Discourses on Livy, which was written a few years later. In its use of near-contemporary Italians as examples of people who perpetrated criminal deeds for politics, another lesser-known work by Machiavelli which The Prince has been compared to is the Life of Castruccio Castracani. The descriptions within The Prince have the general theme of accepting that the aims of princes - such as glory and survival - can justify the use of immoral means to achieve those ends:

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince Martin Coyle, 2024-06-04 No text has attracted more controversy over the centuries than Machiavelli's The Prince. Placed on the Index of Prohibited Books by the Catholic Church in 1599, The Prince nevertheless proved to be the means by which Machiavelli came to be known throughout Europe, establishing his name as a byword for the cunning and unscrupulous politician. Written as the medieval world was giving way to the new dynamic of renaissance capitalism, The Prince embodies a whole series of vital issues that affect our understanding of modern politics, including power and morality, history and human nature, language and meaning, gender and government. It is these issues which the essays in this volume debate and explore from a variety of perspectives, from the original responses to The Prince through to feminist and deconstructive approaches. The result is a volume packed with ideas and insights. With contributions by international scholars and critics, a chronological table and select bibliography, this is an essential guide for anyone studying Machiavelli.

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: The Prince (Illustrated) Niccolo Machiavelli, 2017-10-08 One of the most influential books on statecraft ever written, Niccolò Machiavelli's 1532 treatise The Prince invented modern political philosophy and gave the world the term 'Machiavellian.' It was famously read by Spain's King Charles V and King Henry VIII of England and has been influential on world leaders for five centuries. The short but powerful guide outlines a pragmatic path for a prince to be successful, a formula for political victory that is direct and unemotional. The methodology has been called cold and cynical and yet The Prince captures a great

deal of truth about human psychology.

Instaread Instaread, 2017-02-24 PLEASE NOTE: This is a companion to Niccolò Machiavelli's The Prince and NOT the original book. Preview: The Prince (1532) is a guide to success in statecraft for heads of state, whom author Niccolò Machiavelli refers to as "princes" throughout the text. Machiavelli argues that princes should cultivate the appearance of virtue, but that they should be willing to abandon kindness, mercy, and honesty as needed in order to retain and expand their power... Inside this companion to the book: · Overview of the Book · Insights from the Book · Important People · Author's Style and Perspective · Intended Audience About the Author: With Instaread, you can get the notes and insights from a book in 15 minutes or less. Visit our website at instaread.co.

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: Niccolo Machiavelli. The Prince. (Illustrated Edition) Niccolò Machiavelli, 2021-05-02 Niccolò di Bernardo dei Machiavelli (3 May 1469 - 21 June 1527) was an Italian Renaissance diplomat, philosopher and writer, best known for The Prince (Il Principe), written in 1513. He has often been called the father of modern political philosophy or political science. For many years he served as a senior official in the Florentine Republic with responsibilities in diplomatic and military affairs. He wrote comedies, carnival songs, and poetry. His personal correspondence is of high importance to historians and scholars. He worked as secretary to the Second Chancery of the Republic of Florence from 1498 to 1512, when the Medici were out of power.Machiavelli's name came to evoke unscrupulous politicians of the sort Machiavelli advised most famously in The Prince. Machiavelli considered political battles, not through a lens of morality, but as though they are a board game with established rules. His experience showed him that politics have always been played with deception, treachery and crime. He also notably said that a ruler who is establishing a kingdom or a republic, and is criticized for his deeds, including violence, should be excused when the intention and the result is beneficial. Machiavelli's Prince was much read as a manuscript long before it was published in 1532 and the reaction was mixed. Some considered it a straightforward description of the evil means used by bad rulers; others read in it evil recommendations to tyrants to help them maintain their power.

the prince written by niccolo machiavelli: Nicolo Machiavelli's the Prince Niccolo Machiavelli, 2018-06 The Prince (Italian: Il Principe) is a 16th-century political treatise by the Italian diplomat and political theorist Niccolò Machiavelli. From correspondence a version appears to have been distributed in 1513, using a Latin title, De Principatibus (Of Principalities). However, the printed version was not published until 1532, five years after Machiavelli's death. This was done with the permission of the Medici pope Clement VII, but long before then, in fact since the first appearance of The Prince in manuscript, controversy had swirled about his writings. Although it was written as if it were a traditional work in the mirrors for princes style, it is generally agreed that it was especially innovative. This is only partly because it was written in the vernacular Italian rather than Latin, a practice which had become increasingly popular since the publication of Dante's Divine Comedy and other works of Renaissance literature. The Prince is sometimes claimed to be one of the first works of modern philosophy, especially modern political philosophy, in which the effective truth is taken to be more important than any abstract ideal. It was also in direct conflict with the dominant Catholic and scholastic doctrines of the time concerning politics and ethics. Although it is relatively short, the treatise is the most remembered of Machiavelli's works and the one most responsible for bringing the word Machiavellian into usage as a pejorative. It even contributed to the modern negative connotations of the words politics and politician in western countries. In terms of subject matter it overlaps with the much longer Discourses on Livy, which was written a few years later. In its use of near-contemporary Italians as examples of people who perpetrated criminal deeds for politics, another lesser-known work by Machiavelli which The Prince has been compared to is the Life of Castruccio Castracani. The descriptions within The Prince have the general theme of accepting that the aims of princes - such as glory and survival - can justify the use of immoral means to achieve those ends: He who neglects what is done for what ought to be done, sooner effects his

ruin than his preservation.

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