

Quotation Paraphrase and Analysis

The Prince, written by Niccolo Machiavelli, is one of the most influential works on political power in Western Civilization. Machiavelli's early career as a diplomat (officially the Secretary of the Second Chancery) for the powerful Republic of Florence from 1498-1512 during the politically volatile era of the Italian Renaissance allowed him to examine firsthand the multitudes of leadership styles and qualities in his dealings with the Sforzas in Milan, the Borgias in Rome, the Trastámaras of Aragon (Spain), and the Valois in France. In 1513, the republican government in Florence was overthrown by the powerful Medici family, namely Lorenzo de Medici (the Magnificent). After taking princely control of Florence, Lorenzo promptly fired Machiavelli, who after a brief imprisonment (and brutal torture), retired to his estate where he devoted the rest of his life to writing. Although his writings vary from satiric plays (*The Mandrake*) to poetry, his most lasting contribution to history would be his political essays and tracts, especially *The Prince*.

Directions: There are TWO parts to the Machiavelli assignment.

PART I: Write the quote as it appears and then rewrite each of Machiavelli's quotes in your own words. Understand his quotes and what advice he is trying to give to prospective "Princes".

No excuses and no exceptions

To avoid potential heartache plan ahead and plan for "what if?"

FAQ (frequently asked question) How long does the answer have to be?

The answer must be long enough to answer the question completely.

PART II: *The Prince* Machiavelli

The Prince paved the way for how modern political science and leadership was studied. Machiavelli was one of the first people to feel Morality had little to do with politics. His central thesis on how to acquire and keep political power was vastly different than previous political philosophers.

Your task is to choose one quote from Machiavelli's *The Prince* and visually represent that quote with a drawing, graphic design, painting or some other form of visual media. Your quote must be visible on the visual representation and the representation must be logical to the viewer.

On the backside of the image you must explain how your representation fits the quote and explain why you believe Machiavelli is correct or incorrect in his thinking. The written portion must be at least 250 words.

Quotes by Machiavelli

"Everyone sees what you appear to be few experience 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."
"There is no other way to guard yourself against flattery than by making men understand that telling you the truth will not offend you."
"The lion cannot protect himself from traps and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps and a lion to frighten wolves."
"... it is much safer to be feared than loved because ...love is preserved by the link of obligation which owing to the baseness of men is broken at every opportunity for their advantage; but fear preserves you by a dread of punishment which never fails."
"The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him."
"Men in general judge more by the sense of sight than by the sense of touch because everyone can see but few can test by feeling. Everyone sees what you seem to be few know what you really are; and those few do not dare take a stand against the general opinion."
"Where the willingness is great the difficulties cannot be great. "
"Since love and fear can hardly exist together if we must choose between them it is far safer to be feared than loved"
"Never attempt to win by force what can be won by deception."
"Men ought either to be well treated or crushed because they can avenge themselves of lighter injuries of more serious ones they cannot; therefore the injury that is to be done to a man ought to be of such a kind that one does not stand in fear of revenge."
"It must be considered that there is nothing more difficult to carry out nor more doubtful of success nor more dangerous to handle than to initiate a new order of things."
"Because there are three classes of intellects: one which comprehends by itself; another which appreciates what others comprehend; and a third which neither comprehends by itself nor by the showing of others; the first is the most excellent the second is good the third is useless."
"...he who seeks to deceive will always find someone who will allow himself to be deceived."
"A man who is used to acting in one way never changes; he must come to ruin when the times in changing no longer are in harmony with his ways."
"How we live is so different from how we ought to live that he who studies what ought to be done rather than what is done will learn the way to his downfall rather than to his preservation."
"A prudent man should always follow in the path trodden by great men and imitate those who are most excellent so that if he does not attain to their greatness at any rate he will get some tinge of it."
"The vulgar crowd always is taken by appearances and the world consists chiefly of the vulgar."
"The promise given was a necessity of the past: the word broken is a necessity of the present."
"Of mankind we may say in general they are fickle hypocritical and greedy of gain."
"Entrepreneurs are simply those who understand that there is little difference between obstacle and opportunity and are able to turn both to their advantage."
"Men judge generally more by the eye than by the hand for everyone can see and few can feel. Every one sees what you appear to be few really know what you are."
"He who becomes a Prince through the favour of the people should always keep on good terms with them; which it is easy for him to do since all they ask is not to be oppressed"
"In conclusion the arms of others either fall from your back or they weigh you down or they bind you fast."
"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."
"Wisdom consists of knowing how to distinguish the nature of trouble and in choosing the lesser evil."