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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Presentation

Niccolo Machiavelli

Submitted by

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Niccolo Machiavelli(1469-1527)



LIFE

- Relatively little is known for certain about Machiavelli's early life. Machiavelli was born on May 3, 1469, in Florence Italy the second son of Bernardo di Niccolò Machiavelli and his wife Bartolommea di Stefano Nelli. Machiavelli's family had been prominent in Florence since the thirteenth century, sometimes holding important offices. His father, a lawyer, was among the poorest members of the family; he lived frugally, administering a small landed property near the city and supplementing his meager income with his law practice, which was restricted because he was debarred from any public office as an insolvent debtor of the commune of Florence. Machiavelli later wrote that he had “learned to do without before he learned to enjoy.”

Works

- Discourses on Livy (1531)
 - The Prince (1532),
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both of which were published after his death.

- He wrote several other works, including Florentine Histories (1532)
- The Life of Castruccio Castracani of Lucca (1520).

The Prince

- The general theme of The Prince is of accepting that the aims of princes – such as glory and survival – can justify the use of immoral means to achieve those ends.



The Discourses

- In the Discourses on Livy, Machiavelli favours the deeds of the ancients above their philosophy; he reproaches his contemporaries for consulting ancient jurists for political wisdom rather than looking to the actual history of Rome.
- The themes of **pride and corruption** appear many times throughout The Discourses and Machiavelli believes that it is very easy for a person to be corrupted. It is also good for a soldier to have the desire to fight for personal pride and glory.



Philosophy of Machiavelli

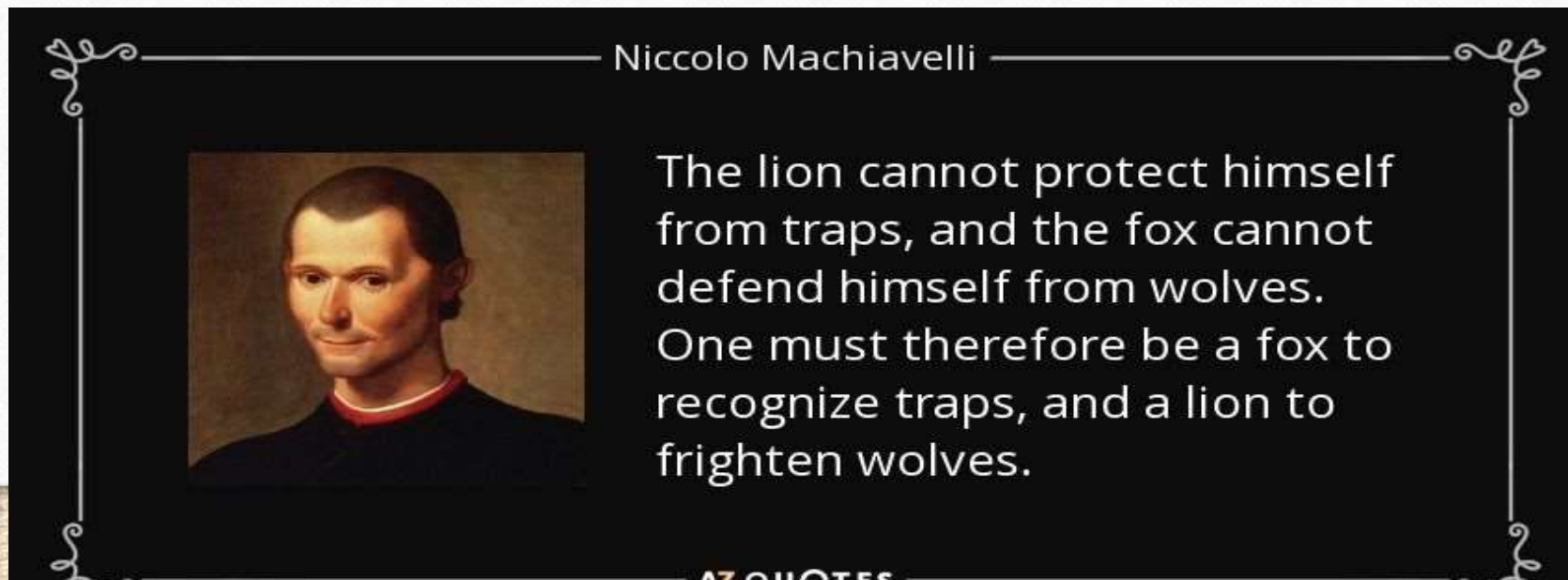
- It is better to be stingy than generous. It is better to be cruel than merciful. It is better to break promises if keeping them would be against one's interests.
- for a ruler, it was better to be widely feared than to be greatly loved; a loved ruler retains authority by obligation, while a feared leader rules by fear of punishment.

Human Nature

- To Machiavelli, humans were “ungrateful, fickle, false, cowardly, (and) covetous.”
- The most cynical of Machiavelli's statements in this chapter is his assertion that people are quicker to forgive the death of a loved one than the confiscation of their property—there could be no bleaker assessment of raw human selfishness.

Advice to King

- Among the precepts espoused by Machiavelli: leaders should always mask their true intentions, avoid inconsistency, and frequently “act against mercy, against faith, against humanity, against frankness, against religion, in order to preserve the state.” His name has become synonymous with cunning tyrants.



Father of Modern Political Science

- He has often been called the father of modern political philosophy and political science. For many years he served as a senior official in the Florentine Republic with responsibilities in diplomatic and military affairs.

NICCOLO
MACHIAVELLI —
THE FATHER OF
MODERN POLITICS



Theory of Statecraft

- As stated above, Machiavelli has been a controversial figure for his ideas. Indeed, Machiavelli's advice to the "Prince " (Ruler) on the subject of Statecraft has been a matter of debate and discussion. For understanding, Statecraft can be referred to as an art, methods or strategies that are employed to regulate affairs of the state. According to the Oxford Dictionary, statecraft is the skilful management of state affairs.
- The broader meaning of Statecraft not only considers the management of state affairs but also examines it in the light of foreign threats that a state faces in an international sphere. Among Machiavelli's work, the two books that deal with the subject of Statecraft are majorly two: "The Prince ", which was published posthumously, and **The Art of War** is also widely read to understand his idea of Statecraft.

Conclusion

- Machiavelli has been called a modern thinker. It was probably because he made his suggestions on the behaviour of human beings and not on any superficial law. He has been called the pioneer of 'Behaviouralism' by William T. Bluhm in the book 'Theories of Political System.' He does not pay heed to the divine law, which was the order of the day in Machiavelli's period.
- Machiavelli advised on various subjects. From viewing human nature as negative and corrupt to creating a wall between ethics and politics. He viewed ethics and politics from a separate lens in the case of a ruler and ordinary citizens. His idea of a Republican ideal type of government could not come to reality, and thus, he suggested a despotic ruler or a monarch to govern vicious people.

END

Thank

You