

Machiavelli: The Master of Politics Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: ____ /15

Directions: Highlight the answer in the text on the left *before* answering the questions on the right.

Niccolo **Machiavelli** spent many weary days wishing he were somewhere *else*. He rose early as everyone did in the small Italian town of San Casciano in 1513. All day he looked after his land though it was just *barely* large enough to support his family of six children. From time to time, he gazed over the fields to the rooftops of **Florence**. *That was where he wanted to be*, but was not allowed to go there.

Machiavelli had been one of Florence's leading **patriots** (one who loves & supports his/her country.) In his writings, he had defended its **republican** form of government. This meant that the ruler, Piero **Soderini**, was elected by the people. Machiavelli had worked as Soderini's secretary for 14 years, but mainly organized the military. He believed that it was important to have a strong army on hand at all times!

In 1512, the army Machiavelli had organized lost a battle. The Florentine soldiers were *supposed* to defend the town of Prato against invading Spanish. However, the Spanish army was *too* strong. They looted & burned the city, killing 1000s in their path. Soderini, humiliated at his army's failure, *resigned* in disgrace.

A new ruler rode into Florence by the name of **Giuliano de Medici**, son of **Lorenzo the Magnificent**. The Medici family had lost much of their influence & no longer controlled Florence. Giuliano intended to change that. First, he got rid of Soderini's old supporters. Then he threw Machiavelli into jail, *where he was tortured!*

Machiavelli was soon freed, but his political career seemed over. He had been too close to the old rulers to be trusted by the new ones. Although he wanted to keep working in government, the Medici did not trust him.

But Machiavelli loved "the game" of power so much that he kept thinking about it. At night he read about Greek & Roman rulers of old. He compared them with the rulers of his time & even wrote down advice he would give *them*.



Applying past knowledge: The **Renaissance** **began** in the city of _____. (Circle 1)

- a. Pompeii c. Paris
b. Florence d. Venice

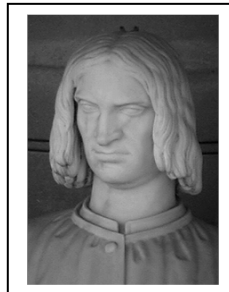
A **patriot** is an individual who _____.

- a. supports their country c. is elected by the people
b. loves his/her country d. both a & b

Applying past knowledge: To have a **republican** form of government means rulers are _____.



Medici villa



Lorenzo the Magnificent

Making conclusions: Why couldn't Machiavelli now work in the government? _____

Machiavelli would study great rulers from _____ & _____.

(Clue: Think about *from where* "the classics" come.)

The following ideas are taken from The Prince, Machiavelli's most famous book.

A man who wants to be a ruler had better enlist & train his own soldiers. He must depend on himself & his own resources alone! The Italian duke Cesare Borgia, who died a few years ago, learned this. He is a good example for other rulers to follow.

At the end of the last century, Pope Alexander VI (the 6th) wished to set up his relative, Cesare Borgia, with a kingdom of his own. But how to get it? None of the other rulers in Italy wished to see the pope or his family grow more powerful. So the pope made friends with the king of France, who lent Cesare some soldiers. With these, Cesare won the Romagna, an area in northeastern Italy.

Cesare knew that he must become independent of both the king & the pope. So he brought the captains of his army to his side by giving them money & land. He killed those in Romagna whose property he had taken & then their followers were frightened into joining the Borgia side.

Cesare named Remirro de Orco, a cruel but efficient man, governor of Romagna. He quickly brought the people of Romagna to their knees. After the land was peaceful, Cesare wanted to get rid of Remirro, a potential rival. Then he would look like a hero to the people of Romagna.

One morning, the people found Remirro's body in the middle of the public square. It had been *cut in two*. A bloody knife lay beside it. Cesare then replaced Remirro with an easier governor. Yet he kept the power in his own hands.

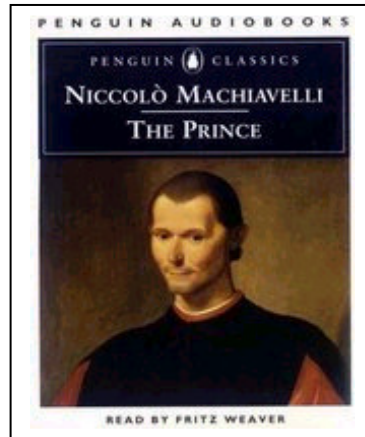
Cesare had planned well to secure Romagna. He then turned to conquering the other Italian states, *one by one*. But at a crucial point in his plan, he fell ill. He could *not* defend himself, so he lost all.

Machiavelli's most famous book was _____.

Machiavelli *states* that "to be a ruler" one must

1) _____

2) depend on _____ & _____
_____ *alone!*



Making conclusions: Why would a leader want to be "*independent*" of both the king & pope?

Drawing conclusions: Why would Cesare want to *get rid of* his *efficient* governor?

Making inferences: Why would Cesare *place* Remirro's murdered & bloodied body on *display* in the middle of the public square?



It was bad luck that defeated him, not bad planning. His actions show what a new ruler must do to keep his conquests. First, a newcomer must kill the entire family of the previous ruler! If he does not, they will always be plotting against him! And, second, he must not raise taxes or change laws.

In this way, most people will find that their daily lives have changed *very little*. There will always be grumblers, but they cannot do much without the help of others. And most people will not stir themselves if they have not been harmed. The few who are killed are soon forgotten. In fact, a man remembers the loss of his father's property *longer than* his father's death...

A ruler may wish to be good, but the world is full of people who are not good. So, a ruler should be ready to do evil if he must! If he dreams of a world in which good always wins, he will be ruined.

It is enough to *appear* to be good...let circumstances decide whether goodness is the right course. If people will not follow laws, they must be forced! So let us learn from the fox & the lion. The lion roars to frighten off wolves, but he has no defense against a trap. The fox is wary of traps, but wolves can beat him. The ruler who wants to survive must be a lion at some times, a fox at others. He must frighten people some times, trick them at others. This is the way things are.

At about the same time Machiavelli wrote The Prince, he wrote another set of essays. In them he again *praised* the republican form of government & criticized "the enemies of virtue." Yet there was no hint of this kind of thinking in The Prince.

Machiavelli died in 1572. In his last years, he *was* allowed to take some part in government work. Florentine leaders sent him on some missions, & he continued to write. But his most famous work remained The Prince. It was shocking when first published & *still is*.

In his book, Machiavelli *states* that a *new ruler must always*:

1) _____

2) _____

BONUS: What did Machiavelli *mean* when he said, "A man remembers the loss of his father's property *longer than* his father's death."

T or F: Machiavelli *says* that a ruler needs to *always* be "good, honest, fair & peaceful."

Fill-in-the-blank:

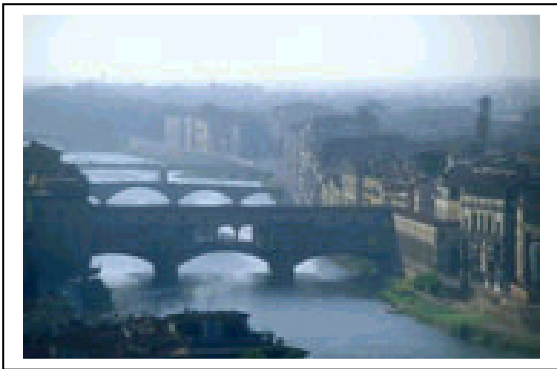
Should people fail to follow the _____, they must be _____!



Machiavelli

The book very quickly gave Machiavelli a bad name. To be "**Machiavellian**" means to be *cleverly* dishonest. Yet Machiavelli, himself, seems to have been a decent person. His advice came from what he, himself, saw & experienced.

Machiavelli's work was the beginning of modern **political science**, or the study of government. After him, Europeans began to look more closely at what really happens in government. They began to think about ways to make government more moral.



Florence

The word, **Machiavellian**, means _____
_____.

Machiavelli is *credited with starting* the field of study known as: _____,
the *study of* _____.



Niccolo Macchiavelli