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Niccolo Machiavelli
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Niccolo Machiavelli : The Prince before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prince:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It is not what you think it is.By Rabbit the ReaderPrior to retiring I had 35 years experience as an executive recruiter in Chicago. In all of history there have been three great job applications: Sun Tzu's, "The Art of War;" which got him and interview and then hired by the King of Wu (a story told best in the translation and exegesis by Samuel B. Griffith); The Brandenburg Concertos by J.S. Bach, which did not get him hired Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt; and the Prince, written by Machiavelli and dedicated to Cosimo de Medici, who didn't hire him. So they are great not so much because they worked rather because we still read or listen to them. Kind of makes your resume look pretty pathetic, mine too. On top of that it will not teach you how to be an evil overlord, you need The Handbook of Evil Overlordship by Ming the Merciless (Introduction by Flash Gordon),0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is more thesis than a book, keep that ...By TellyThis is more thesis than a book, keep that in mind. I think a lot of pop culture references make Machiavelli out to be more shadowy then he comes across here. Id say if anything his ideas are straightforward. Almost Gordian.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Timeless political discussionBy Conor M.Timeless classic discussing the behavior and actions of an ideal leader, written during a very tumultuous time in Italy's history.Machiavelli not only provides his own insight into what he sees as an effective "prince" in order to persuade his reader but also forces the reader to think about effectiveness of the leaders and political systems within their own time.

The Prince is a 16th-century political treatise, by the Italian diplomat and political theorist, Niccolograve; 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.

.com When Lorenzo de' Medici seized control of the Florentine Republic in 1512, he summarily fired the Secretary to the Second Chancery of the Signoria and set in motion a fundamental change in the way we think about politics. The person who held the aforementioned office with the tongue-twisting title was none other than Niccolò Machiavelli, who, suddenly finding himself out of a job after 14 years of patriotic service, followed the career trajectory of many modern politicians into punditry. Unable to become an on-air political analyst for a television network, he only wrote a book. But what a book *The Prince* is. Its essential contribution to modern political thought lies in Machiavelli's assertion of the then revolutionary idea that theological and moral imperatives have no place in the political arena. "It must be understood," Machiavelli avers, "that a prince ... cannot observe all of those virtues for which men are reputed good, because it is often necessary to act against mercy, against faith, against humanity, against frankness, against religion, in order to preserve the state." With just a little imagination, readers can discern parallels between a 16th-century principality and a 20th-century presidency. --Tim Hogan " [Machiavelli] can still engage our attention with remarkable immediacy, and this cannot be explained solely by the appeal of his ironic observations on human behaviour. Perhaps the most important thing is the way he can compel us to reflect on our own priorities and the reasoning behind them; it is this intrusion into our own defenses that makes reading him an intriguing experience. As a scientific exponent of the political art Machiavelli may have had few followers; it is as a provocative rhetorician that he has had his real impact on history." - from the Introduction by Dominic Baker-Smith "From the Hardcover edition." "[Machiavelli] can still engage our attention with remarkable immediacy, and this cannot be explained solely by the appeal of his ironic observations on human behaviour. Perhaps the most important thing is the way he can compel us to reflect on our own priorities and the reasoning behind them; it is this intrusion into our own defenses that makes reading him an intriguing experience. As a scientific exponent of the political art Machiavelli may have had few followers; it is as a provocative rhetorician that he has had his real impact on history." -from the Introduction by Dominic Baker-Smith "From the Hardcover edition." Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Italian

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