

NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI {1469-1527}



In his *The Prince* Machiavelli argued that a ruler must be ruthless in order to achieve success

FAMILIES OF POWER The artists of Renaissance Italy had a valuable patroness in Isabella d'Este (above, left), the wife of the ruler of Mantua, Francesco II. Isabella, seen in a sketch by Leonardo, held salons which attracted artists and writers from all over Italy. Cesare Borgia (above, right) was the most infamous member of a powerful family. His father became pope, as Alexander VI, and made his son a cardinal. But Cesare resigned this office for a political career which made his name a byword for murder and treachery

Florentine statesman, exiled from the Republic for conspiracy against the Medici, later restored. He wrote *THE ART OF WAR* {1517-1520}, *HISTORY OF FLORENCE* {1520-1525}, and *THE PRINCE* {1513}, a treatise on statecraft based on life of Cesare Borgia (above). *IL PRINCIPE* profoundly influenced Elizabethan Renaissance, manipulation of power in statecraft.

It should be noted that when he seizes a state the new ruler ought to determine all the injuries that he will need to inflict. He should inflict them once and for all, and not have to renew them every day.

Benefits should be conferred ~~gradually~~ gradually, and in that way they will taste better.

The wish to acquire more is admittedly a very natural and common thing; and when men succeed in this they are always praised rather than condemned. But when they lack the ability to do so and yet want to acquire more at all costs, they deserve condemnation for their mistakes.

Men sooner forget the death of their father than the loss of their patrimony.

A prince never lacks legitimate reasons to break his promise.

Since it is difficult to have both, it is safer to be feared than to be loved.

The Prince must be a lion, but he must also know how to play the fox.

A Prince should therefore have no other aim or thought, nor take up any other thing for his study, but war and its organization and discipline, for that is the only art that is necessary to one who commands.

(all the above from *THE PRINCE*)

Whoever desires to found a state and give it laws, must start with assuming that all men are bad and ever ready to display their vicious natures, whenever they may find occasion for it. (DISCOURSE ON FIRST TEN BOOKS OF LIVY)