



The Prince (Penguin Classics)

By Niccolò Machiavelli

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Machiavelli's highly influential treatise on political power

The Prince shocked Europe on publication with its advocacy of ruthless tactics for gaining absolute power and its abandonment of conventional morality. Niccolò Machiavelli drew on his own experience of office under the turbulent Florentine republic, rejecting traditional values of political theory and recognizing the complicated, transient nature of political life. Concerned not with lofty ideal but with a regime that would last, The Prince has become the bible of realpolitik, and it still retains its power to alarm and to instruct. In this edition, Machiavelli's tough-minded and pragmatic Italian is preserved in George Bull's clear, unambiguous translation.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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*

Review

"[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

Language Notes

Text: English

Original Language: Italian

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Anthony:

This The Prince (Penguin Classics) book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This particular The Prince (Penguin Classics) without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry The Prince (Penguin Classics) can bring once you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cellphone. This The Prince (Penguin Classics) having great arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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