

# Machiavelli's *The Prince* as a Satire

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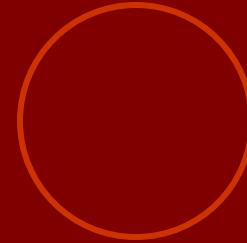
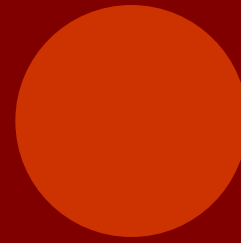
# Research Topic

- Machiavelli's *The Prince* as a satire:  
An exploratory look at Machiavelli's works to determine his true political inclinations

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/machiavelli/index.jpg>



# Biography



- Born May 3, 1469 to Bernardo and Bartolomea Machiavelli
- Received a humanist's education from Paolo da Ronciglione
- Political Positions
  - Second Chancellor
  - Secretary to the First Chancellor
  - Ten of War, the committee of war

# Hardships and Troubles



- Suspended from the chancery
- Accused of conspiring against the Medici
- Arrested and tortured
- Exile



Torture Rack

# Reasons for the *Prince*



- Educate Lorenzo de Medici in how to unite Italy and maintain power
- Gain favor with the Medici family
- As a resume for a position within the government

# Multiple Interpretations



- Book XV – Machiavelli reiterates that this work is intended to be “something useful to an understanding reader” and it explores the “real truth of the matter than to repeat what people have imagined” (*Prince*, 42).

# Sarcasm & Double Meanings

- Book V – To maintain control of a newly acquired state, the prince must destroy it, go live there, or let the state remain as it was.
- Book XX – “when you disarm [your citizens], you begin to alienate them; you advertise your mistrust of them, which may come from your suspecting them of cowardice or treachery” (*Prince*, 57).

# Adjusting to the Times



- Monarch *Prince* vs. Republic  
*Discourses on Livy*
- How can one author occupy both ends of the political spectrum?
  - “A prince will be fortunate who adjusts his behavior to the temper of the times”  
(*Prince*, 68).



# *Discourses on the First Ten Books of Livy*



- The republican half of Machiavelli's two part series about states (i.e. *Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*)
- Extended meditation on Republics
- Orti Oricellari garden meetings

# Which came first?

- The *Prince* was written by December 10, 1513
- The *Discourses on Livy* was begun in 1513 but not finished until several years later.
  - Used Orti Oricellari ideas in its composition
- Does this suggest a change in ideals?

# *Discourse on the Florentine Government*



- Written around 1516
- Pope Leo X and Cardinal Giulio de Medici asked for advice on reforming Florence's government
- It suggests to “set up the Republic in the form of a moderate democracy, as heiress to the Medici” (Burckhardt, 59).

# A lasting legacy



- *History of Florence*
- New republican government
- He died in 1527
- This cenotaph was placed in the Church of Santa Croce in his honor

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Machiavelli-tomb-santa-croce.jpg>

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# Acknowledgements



- I want to thank the following people for their advice and support:
  - Dr. Ken Johnson, my mentor
  - Dr. Susan Eve, professor and Associate Dean of the Honors College
  - Dr. Adrian Lewis, Chair of the History Department
  - Dr. Gloria Cox, Dean of the Honors College
  - Dr. Warren Burggren, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences