

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

Machiavellian and You

WHAT WOULD OUR SOCIETY BE LIKE IF HE RULED THE USA?

Florence Italy 1513

Published five years after his death, "The Prince" by Nicollo Machiavelli is a "how to" manual guide for leaders and their advisors. In the book Machiavelli ex-plains his political theories for running a state:

"But my hope is to write a book that will be useful, at least to those who read it intelligently, and so I thought it sensible to go straight to a discussion of how things are in real life and not waste time with a discussion of an imaginary world...for the gap between how people actually behave and how they ought to behave is so great that anyone who ignores everyday reality in order to live up to an ideal will soon discover he had been taught how to destroy himself, not how to perceive himself."

Written a hundred and fifty years before John Locke's Two Treatises of Government Machiavelli's work is far from an Enlightened document. There is no mention of natural rights and there is precious little about freedoms and liberties, however many would say that Machiavelli's work would be more instructive for a leader struggling to maintain order amongst his population. Take the quiz below to see how "Machiavellian" you would be as a leader.

Agree		Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	The best way for a leader to rule his people is to tell them what they want to hear	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	A leader should take action no matter if that action is morally correct	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	A good leader ignores the will of the people and does what he thinks is best	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Most people are simple, easily fooled and greedy	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leaders may break promises to solve problems of the state	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	A leader does not need to be honest with his people	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Before anything else a leader must be powerful and strong	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you must attack your enemy it must be so severe an attack that we should not fear retribution	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anyone who completely trusts others is just asking for trouble.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	It is better for a leader to be feared than it is to be loved	<input type="checkbox"/>

Add up the total number of checks you have in the "Agree" column. Then subtract the number of checks you have in the "Disagree" column.

If your score is 5 or higher—You are pretty Machiavellian, you think like Machiavelli, in fact you may share his DNA

If your score is between 0 and 5 — You are somewhat Machiavellian, you can be ruthless, but only when needed.

If your score is between 0 and -5 — You're not much into Machiavelli, but you are basically you're king

If your score is between -5 & -10 — You're not Machiavellian at all, in fact you may be a bit of a push over.