

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Political Philosophy – Machiavelli

*Directions:* Read the excerpt from Machiavelli's The Prince below and then Answer the questions that follow.

### CHAPTER XVII: Concerning Cruelty And Clemency, And Whether It Is Better To Be Loved Than Feared

Coming now to the other qualities mentioned above, I say that every prince ought to desire to be considered **clement** and not cruel. **Nevertheless** he ought to take care not to misuse this clemency. Cesare Borgia was considered cruel; notwithstanding, his cruelty **reconciled** the Romagna, unified it, and restored it to peace and loyalty. And if this be rightly considered, he will be seen to have been much more merciful than the Florentine people, who, to avoid a reputation for cruelty, permitted Pistoia to be destroyed. Therefore a prince, so long as he keeps his subjects united and loyal, ought not to mind the **reproach** of cruelty; because with a few examples he will be more merciful than those who, through too much mercy, allow disorders to arise, from which follow murders or robberies; for these are wont to injure the whole people, whilst those executions which originate with a prince offend the individual only.

And of all princes, it is impossible for the new prince to avoid the imputation of cruelty, owing to new states being full of dangers. Hence **Virgil**, through the mouth of **Dido**, excuses the inhumanity of her reign owing to its being new, saying:

*“Res dura, et regni novitas me talia cogunt Moliri, et la te fines custode tueri.”*

Translated as: *“Nevertheless he ought to be slow to believe and to act, nor should he himself show fear, but proceed in a **temperate** manner with **prudence** and humanity, so that too much confidence may not make him incautious and too much distrust **render** him **intolerable**.”*

## Vocabulary

**prince:** ruler of a city-state

**clemency:** Forgiveness

**clement:** mild, moderate

**nevertheless:** however

**reconciled:** brought under control

**reproach:** criticism

**Virgil:** Ancient Roman philosopher

**Dido:** Ancient Roman philosopher

**temperate:** mild, moderate

**prudence:** thoughtfulness, forethought

**render:** reduce, condense

**intolerable:** impossible, unbearable

**asserted:** stated, put forth

**fickle:** indecisive, inconsistent

**covetous:** jealous, greedy

**dread:** fear, anxiety, terror

**endure:** tolerate, suffer

**abstains:** withholds, withdraws

**subjects:** people under a ruler

**manifest:** obvious, apparent

**patrimony:** inherited property from father

**pretexts:** cons, excuses

**contrary:** opposing

**lapse:** gap, delay, interval

**multitude:** crowd, assembly

**disposed:** willing, likely, liable

**endeavor:** attempt, effort



Upon this a question arises: whether it be better to be loved than feared or feared than loved? It may be answered that one should wish to be both, but, because it is difficult to unite them in one person, is much safer to be feared than loved, when, of the two, either must be dispensed with.

Because this is to be **asserted** in general of men, that they are ungrateful, **fickle**, false, cowardly, **covetous**, and as long as you succeed they are yours entirely; they will offer you their blood, property, life

and children, as is said above, when the need is far distant; but when it approaches they turn against you. And that prince who, relying entirely on their promises, has neglected other precautions, is ruined; because friendships that are obtained by payments, and not by greatness or nobility of mind, may indeed be earned, but they are not secured, and in time of need cannot be relied upon; and men have less scruple in offending one who is beloved than one who is feared, for love is preserved by the link of obligation which, owing to the baseness of men, is broken at every opportunity for their advantage; but fear preserves you by a **dread** of punishment which never fails.

Nevertheless a prince ought to inspire fear in such a way that, if he does not win love, he avoids hatred; because he can **endure** very well being feared whilst he is not hated, which will always be as long as he **abstains** from the property of his citizens and **subjects** and from their women. But when it is necessary for him to proceed against the life of someone, he must do it on proper justification and for **manifest** cause, but above all things he must keep his hands off the property of others, because men more quickly forget the death of their father than the loss of their **patrimony**. Besides, **pretexts** for taking away the property are never wanting; for he who has once begun to live by robbery will always find pretexts for seizing what belongs to others; but reasons for taking life, on the **contrary**, are more difficult to find and sooner **lapse**. But when a prince is with his army, and has under control a **multitude** of soldiers, then it is quite necessary for him to disregard the reputation of cruelty, for without it he would never hold his army united or **disposed** to its duties.

Returning to the question of being feared or loved, I come to the conclusion that, men loving according to their own will and fearing according to that of the prince, a wise prince should establish himself on that which is in his own control and not in that of others; he must **endeavor** only to avoid hatred, as is noted.

## **More Machiavelli Quotes (Just for fun!!!)**

“For of men one can, in general, say this: They are ungrateful, fickle, deceptive and deceiving, avoiders of danger, eager to gain.”

“You need to understand this: A ruler, and particularly a ruler who is new to power, cannot conform to all those rules that men who are thought good are expected to respect, for he is often obliged, in order to hold on to power, to break his word, to be uncharitable, inhumane, and irreligious. So he must be mentally prepared to act as circumstances and changes in fortune require. As I have said, he should do what is right if he can; but he must be prepared to do wrong if necessary.”

“The promise given was a necessity of the past: the word broken is a necessity of the present.”

“The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him.”

“The main foundations of every state, new states as well as ancient or composite ones, are good laws and good arms you cannot have good laws without good arms, and where there are good arms, good laws inevitably follow.”

“It is necessary for him who lays out a state and arranges laws for it to presuppose that all men are evil and that they are always going to act according to the wickedness of their spirits whenever they have free scope.”

“When you disarm the people, you commence to offend them and show that you distrust them either through cowardice or lack of confidence, and both of these opinions generate hatred.”

And when he, (the ruler), is obliged to take the life of any one, to do so when there is a proper justification and manifest reason for it; but above all he must abstain from taking the property of others, for men forget more easily the death of their father than the loss of their patrimony. The more sand has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it.

“The lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten wolves.”

“There is nothing more important than appearing to be religious.”



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<b>“The Prince” excerpt</b>	
<b>Speaker</b> (Who is the author?)	
<b>Occasion</b> (When was it written?)	
<b>Audience(s)</b>  (What groups of people is this directed to?)	
<b>Purpose(s)</b>  (What are the reasons the person is writing this?)	
<b>Subject(s)</b>  (What is the topic(s) that the writer wants the reader to know?)	
<b>Tone</b> (What kind of feelings, and emotions, does the author express?)	

In giving advice to political leaders, Machiavelli offers many “do’s” and “don’ts.” What does Machiavelli argue a monarch must do and what must a monarch refrain from doing?

Do's	Don't's

### Choice of Presidents

- Bill Clinton
- George W. Bush
- Barak Obama
- Donald Trump

"I was not commenting and I will not comment on the wisdom of making a decision to put a mosque there. I was commenting very specifically on the right that people have that dates back to our founding. My intention was simply to let people know what I thought. Which was that in this country we treat everybody equally and in accordance with the law, regardless of race, regardless of religion."

**Predict What United States President made this quote:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Explain how he could or couldn't be Machiavellian according to the reading on politics above?**

**Should he be *more* or *less* Machiavellian and how?**

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"The future belongs to the dreamers, not to the critics. The future belongs to the people who follow their heart, no matter what the critics say, because they truly believe in their vision."

"Never stop fighting for what you believe in and for the people who care about you."

**Predict What United States President made this quote:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Should he be *more* or *less* Machiavellian and how?**

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"I can hear you, the rest of the world can hear you and the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon."

**Predict What United States President made this quote:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Explain how he could or couldn't be Machiavellian according to the reading on politics above?**

**Should he be *more* or *less* Machiavellian and how?**