Unveiling the Nuances and Enduring Relevance of Machiavelli's Theory: The Process of Acquisition to Power and Maintenance Statecraft in a Multipolar World

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ABSTRACT

Niccolo Machiavelli, a pivotal figure of the Renaissance era, epitomized rationality and realism in his political philosophy, bridging the gap between medieval and modern political thought. His seminal works, including "The Prince" and "Discourses on Livy", marked a revolutionary shift in political discourse, earning him the title of "First Modern Political Thinker". Machiavelli's life was characterized by a quest for pragmatic knowledge and a deep engagement with the political landscape of his time. Influenced by a myriad of philosophers and writers, ranging from Thucydides to Dante Alighieri, Machiavelli synthesized diverse ideas to craft his unique perspective on statecraft. Employing historical, empirical, and inductive methods, he dissected the acquisition and preservation of power, emphasizing pragmatic realities over abstract ideals. The central theme of Machiavelli's political theory was the notion of statecraft as a practical endeavor tailored to contemporary needs rather than a product of divine ordination. He delineated methods for seizing power, advocating for a blend of force, cunning, and citizen support. Machiavelli prescribed specific qualities for rulers, urging them to embody a combination of fortitude and cunning. Regarding morality, Machiavelli distinguished between state morality and personal morality, endorsing a pragmatic approach for rulers while upholding individual virtue for the ruled. He emphasized the separation of politics and religion, asserting that each realm should fulfill its distinct functions without interference. Despite criticism for perceived inconsistencies and immorality, Machiavelli's enduring legacy lies in his transformation of political thought. His influence on practical politics and his role as a harbinger of the modern era underscore his profound impact on the trajectory of political philosophy. While his theories continue to provoke debate, Machiavelli remains an enigmatic figure whose ideas reflect the evolving ethos of his time.

Keywords: Statecraft, Power acquisition and preservation, Citizen support, Rulers qualities, State morality vs. Individual morality, Politics and religion, Enduring legacy

INTRODUCTION

Niccolo Machiavelli was a prominent, rational, realistic thinker and writer of the sixteenth century. He played a significant role in creating bridges between the medieval and modern ages. *"Machiavelli more than any other political thinker, created the meaning that has been attached to the state in modern*

political usage."[1] According to G.H. Sabine. Through the writing of various works, rationally analyzed state thought by rescuing or liberating it from the blind religious superstitious world of the middle ages. This resulted in a massive change in the world of political thought. So some called him the *"First Modern Political Thinker"*[2] or one of the pioneers of the modern era. Indeed, he was born at the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the modern era. So W.T. Jones called him *"Child of the Renaissance".*[3] According to Prof. Sabine, *"Machiavelli more than any other political thinker created the meaning that has been attached to the state in the modern political age".*[4]

On May 3, 1469, Machiavelli was born into a noble family in Florence, Italy. This pragmatic, knowledge-hungry great political thinker and philosopher died in Florence on June 21, 1527, with extreme depression, mental pain, and suffering as a result of being exiled from that world and life for a long time as a person of politics and administration. After his death, he was buried in the churchyard of Santa Cruz in Florence, neglected or despised as an unreputed, nameless, and fameless person. In the 18th century, a monument was erected at his grave to pay his respects and gratitude, and the inscription on the monument reads, *"A new universe is opened at the end of the fifteenth century before the staggered gaze of man already eager to explore, already intoxicated with intellectual stimulants they had received from their study of antiquity."*[5]

Machiavelli was influenced by various scholars, historians, poets, philosophers, and writers from Greece and Rome. Especially in this context, Thucydides, Xenophon, Plutarch, Francesco Petrarca, Polybius, Publius Cornelius Tacitus, Dante Alighieri, and Marsilio Ficino can be mentioned.

Famous books and works of Machiavelli are

1. "The Prince" (written in 1513)
2. "The Art of War" (1521)
3. "Discourses on the First Decade of Titus Livius" (1531)

He used the following methods to analyze several theories that were assimilated into his famous books and writings:

1. Historical Method,
2. Empirical Method,
3. Inductive method.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

1. How can Machiavelli's theories on acquiring and maintaining power be re-evaluated and applied to understand statecraft in the context of a multipolar world order?
2. To what extent do the complexities and contradictions within Machiavelli's work, particularly regarding virtue, morality, and deception, offer valuable insights for navigating the complexities of power acquisition and statecraft in a multipolar world?
3. How can Machiavelli's principles, such as the importance of military strength, leadership qualities, and navigating shifting alliances, be adapted and reinterpreted to address the specific challenges and opportunities of a multipolar world order characterized by the rise of multiple power centers?
4. Enduring relevance or historical artifact?

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[1] Mohammod Anoar Hosen Sohag, "Western Political Thought", Ch.-15, Page-266
[2] Pranab Kumar Dalal, "Western Political Thought", Ch.-4, Page-72
[3] Dalal, Op. Cit.,Page-77
[4] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-279
[5] Doyle, "History of Political Thought", Page-127

5. Can Machiavelli's theories, born in a specific historical context, still offer valuable guidance for understanding and navigating the contemporary dynamics of power acquisition and statecraft in a multipolar world, or are they primarily of historical interest?

This research delves into the enduring relevance of Machiavelli's thought in the contemporary world, particularly within the context of a multipolar world order. By exploring the nuances of his work, analyzing its adaptability to the current geopolitical landscape, and critically evaluating its ongoing value, this research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of power dynamics and statecraft in the 21st century.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The central problem explored in "Unveiling the Nuances and Enduring Relevance of Machiavelli's Theory: The Process of Acquisition to Power and Maintenance of Statecraft in a Multipolar World" lies at the intersection of historical and contemporary concerns. The core objective is to investigate the continued significance of Niccolo Machiavelli's political thought, specifically his views on acquiring and retaining to power. This analysis delves into the subtleties and complexities of his theories, acknowledging their origin in the context of Renaissance Italy while simultaneously assessing their potential value in understanding and navigating the intricacies of power dynamics within the contemporary multipolar world order. By critically examining the enduring relevance of Machiavelli's ideas, the study aims to contribute to a nuanced understanding of statecraft and the pursuit of power in a complex and ever-evolving global landscape.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In light of earlier works emphasizing an in-depth analysis of the study, this article, in its quest to focus attention on "Unveiling the Nuances and Enduring Relevance of Machiavelli's Theory: The Process of Acquisition to Power and Maintenance of Statecraft in a Multipolar World", figures out certain objectives, which are:

1. Analyzing the process of unifying Italy as a whole and maintaining its beautiful image,
2. To seek methods for controlling the chaotic situation and people of Italy.
3. Emphasizing the importance of protecting Italy from repeated foreign attacks in the times of Machiavelli.
4. To establish the regime of the ruler on a firm and stagnant foundation.
5. Gain knowledge about Machiavelli's theories of acquisition of power, conservation of power, and expansion of power.
6. To enhance knowledge about power grabs by ousting the incumbent ruler.
7. Analyzing the explanation in detail about whether or not the ruler should give up morality in terms of gaining power, preserving power, and expanding power.
8. Understanding Machiavelli's perspective on how the species should relate to the ruler or how they should behave towards the ruler.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is immensely significant and will help all the stakeholders become aware of power and statecraft in a modern divided world, especially rulers, who take an active role in the enforcement of these virtues and vices, comprehending the anxiety and pulse rate of people's will, and implement them

more effectively and fruitfully to have a better quality of power, position, and prestige, taking the principles of acquisition, conservation, and aggrandisement of Machiavelli.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study covers only the acquisition of naked power politics asserted by Niccolo Machiavelli's theory; various tools could not be extensively used due to the limited scope.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The analysis has been done following historical research with the help of secondary data collected from various books and websites. The qualitative research approach has been followed in analyzing the details of the findings.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Paret, P., Craig, G.A., and Gilbert, F. (2010), "Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age," is a comprehensive history of war theory and practice from the Renaissance to the present, examining influential figures like Machiavelli, Clausewitz, Marx, Engels, Napoleon, Churchill, and Mao, as well as the relationship between technology, policy, and war.

Colish, M.L. (1971), "The Idea of Liberty in Machiavelli", asserted that Niccolo Machiavelli, a thinker known for his political writings, has been analyzed by some scholars for a fresh perspective. They argue that avoiding rigid, preconceived interpretations of his pyrotechnical vocabulary is crucial to avoiding distorted, anachronistic interpretations. They have brought attention to the necessity for a novel strategy that aims at unravelling Machiavelli's concepts by thoroughly investigating the textual and contextual details of his utterances. These prominent scholars have emphasized—quite reasonably, in fact—that the only approach to preventing a warped, antiquated reading of Machiavelli is to prevent one from giving his still-fluid, pyrotechnical rigorous, rigid, and relevant meanings.

Bock, G., Skinner, Q., and Viroli, M. (1991), "Machiavelli and Republicanism", explain that an international team of scholars from law, philosophy, history, and political thought examines Machiavelli's Florentine context and his republican legacy.

Croce, Benedetto, in "The Philosophy of Giambattista Vico" (1911), argues that Machiavelli should be understood in his historical context and not as a timeless advocate for immorality.

Skinner Quentin, in "Machiavelli" (1985), emphasizes Machiavelli's focus on virtue, a leader's ability to adapt and act effectively in challenging situations.

Morgenthau, Hans, in "Politics among Nations" (1948), draws on Machiavelli's realist perspective in international relations, emphasizing the pursuit of national interests.

Scott, Joan In "Gender and the Politics of History" (1988), Scott critiques Machiavelli's exclusion of women from his analysis of power and politics.

Said Edward, in "Orientalism" (1978), stated that Machiavelli's Eurocentric view of power and his negative portrayal of non-Western states.

RESEARCH GAP

None of the above authors shed light on Unveiling the Nuances and Enduring Relevance of Machiavelli's Theory and how it can be applied to the The Process of Acquisition to Power and Maintenance of Statecraft in a Multipolar World. So working on this research gap is very relevant. This

research gap will also emphasise on a new era of International Relation on the perspective of Machiavelli's Political Theory.

ANALYSING THE COMPONENT OF THE MACHIAVELLI'S STATECRAFT THEORY

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) was a prominent Florentine diplomat, philosopher, and writer during the Renaissance. He is best known for his political treatise, The Prince, which analyzes how rulers can maintain power. Machiavelli's writings are considered foundational to modern political science and philosophy, and as Prof. Joans said, *"Machiavelli more than any other individual and despite the fact that he is hardly a political theorist, is the father of modern Political theory."*[6] Machiavelli's ideas, particularly those expressed in his book "The Prince", are considered groundbreaking because they marked a shift from focusing on religious and moral principles in politics to a more pragmatic and realistic approach focused on acquiring and maintaining power. According to John Plamenatz, *"Machiavelli's political theory is not a systematic whole but a set of assumptions and opinions about man, society, and government that reveal what is, taking it all in all, an extraordinary, fresh, sharp, intelligent, secular, many-sided, and realistic philosophy of life."*[7]

1) Machiavelli's statement about the state and statecraft:

Machiavelli thinks that the "State" is not an abstract concept, but the it is built or created for contemporary social, political, and organizational needs. In his words, *"State is not product of a divine origin. It is a product of human being. So everything depends on human law."*[8]

So everything depends on human law. Machiavelli does not discuss the theory of the state (what is the state, when and how the state is created, traditional issues such as law, freedom, equality, justice, rights, etc.), but instead the seizure of power by the ruler, his preservation, and the knowledge that he acquired through his own experience of expansion and governance are discussed in his theory. He was the first western political thinker who significantly used the term "state" in his remarkable work, "The Prince".

Professor J.W. Allen said in his book "A History of Political Thought in the Sixteenth Century", *"From beginning to end of the sixteenth century rolled over him a chorus of denunciation, which continued through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Echoes of it are heard even now. He found, it is true, defenders; but for the most part these seem to have understood him as little as those who condemned. The misunderstanding of him was due partly to sheer ignorance of his writings. Few or none of those who in the sixteenth century denounced him, had read his works or had read any of them out the misleading principle."*[9] British political scientist Harold Laski stated in the beginning of his book "A Grammar of Politics" that, *"No theory of the state is ever intelligible save in the context of its time."*[10] Dunning commented that *"His philosophy is a study of the art of government, rather than a theory of the state."*[11] Gettel stated that *"His doctrine was a theory of the preservation of the state, rather than a theory of state itself."*[12]

2) Antagonism in the Acquisition of Power:

According to Machiavelli, state power can generally be captured in two ways. For example: (i) the

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[6] C.C. Maxey, "Political Philosophies" Page-126
[7] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-266
[8] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-278
[9] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-267
[10] Ibid.
[11] Dalal, Op. Cit., Page-78
[12] Dalal, Op. Cit., Page-76

usurpation of the ruling power by hereditary means; or (ii) any ordinary person or citizen can suddenly usurp the ruling power by virtue of his merits or qualities.

2.1) Ways of usurping the ruling power or holding a princely position:

According to Machiavelli, how many methods or means must be adopted in order to seize the power or hold the royal position? For example-

1. To use war, force or intimidation.
2. To resort to trickery or deception.
3. Rulership can also be usurped by enlisting the help or support of citizens.

He answered that *"Despotic violence is a powerful political medicine, needed in corrupt state and for special contingencies in all states, but still a poison which must be used with the greatest caution."*[13]

2.2) Ways to control people and gain obedience from them:

To control the people after seizing the power or to exact unquestioning obedience from them or King or Emperor or Ruler has to be adopted the following ways to dominate them.

- Use of force or intimidation. Machiavelli believed that *"it is better to be feared than loved."*
- Resort to trickery or deceit or deception. For example, Agathocles, the king of the Greek city-state of Syracuse adopted such a policy.
- The king should be fierce and mighty like a lion and cunning like a jackal. In his words *"A prince should combine the qualities of a fox and a lion".*[14] Because the governance of the state has to be done by using any means. For this, treachery, dishonesty, hypocrisy etc. can be used in any way. In this context Professor Sabine enumerated that *"Since the ruler is outside the group or at least in a very special relation to it, he is above the morality to be enforced within the group."*[15]

Machiavelli made the statement by witnessing Chesare Borgia's successful ruling abilities. Cesare Borgia was viewed by Machiavelli as a cunning and accomplished ruler who effectively employed authority in order to achieve the goals he had established. Machiavelli was captivated by Borgia's ability to acquire and preserve authority over the Italian area of the Romagna, and he regarded Borgia as a model leader who knew how to employ political shrewdness and power for constructive ends. Machiavelli utilized Borgia as an example of a successful ruler in "The Prince", emphasizing the crucial role of instilling both fear and affection in one's subjects.

3) Machiavelli's views on Virtues of a King or Ruler:

Niccolo Machiavelli's concept of virtue, which he referred to as virtue, differed significantly from the traditional meaning. Traditionally, virtue referred to moral qualities like honesty, compassion, and courage. For Machiavelli, however, virtue was a set of traits that a prince needed to be successful in acquiring and maintaining power. These traits included:

- The king or ruler should possess personal qualities like bravery, virility, fortitude etc.
- Restlessness, fickleness, feminine modesty, inferiority etc. should be abandoned.
- Possess visionary and prudent personality.
- The King should give due status to the meritorious and talented persons located within the kingdom.
- Government servants should be appointed based on merit and trustworthiness.
- Rulers have to be avoided unnecessary advice or suggestions from their staffs.
- The subordinates should be encouraged to speak the truth and behave in the right way.

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[13] Dalal, Op. Cit., Page-83
[14] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-279
[15] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-278

Machiavelli noted *"The king (Prince) should combine by the qualities of a fox and a Lion."*[16] Simultaneously Machiavelli said that *"Everyone sees what you appear to be, few experience what you really are."*[17]

4) Human nature on Machiavelli's perception:

According to Machiavelli, the ruler must know the nature of man. According to him-

- Man is by nature ungrateful, fickle, timid or cowardly, stubborn, lying and greedy (perfidious, timid, deceitful and selfish). That is, fear, greed for power, arrogance and selfishness are observed in people.
- People are mainly driven by two motives – one is their reluctance or aversion to innovation and the other is fear and love.
- Machiavelli made rulers aware of the acquisition of personal property by people. In this context he commented, on human nature that *"Man do sooner forget the death of their father than the less of their property."*[18]

Machiavelli also developed his theory to assert that *"A Prince should retain the affection of his people otherwise in any crisis he has no remedy."*[19]

5) The conception of morality to Machiavelli:

Machiavelli mentions two types of ethics. The first of which is state morality and the second is individual morality. He instructed the ruler to rule without morality in the matter of state morality. Because humans are inherently dishonest and evil. Therefore, to control such people, only the rule of law is not enough, sometimes force is also necessary. In such a situation, for the sake of the protection of the state, the king or the ruler cannot abandon morality and adopt harsh, cruel, illegal and unjust ways, i.e. he cannot indulge in evil deeds or even sins in moral judgment. To be associated with that inhuman process: and that would be the best Raj Dharma for him. In his words –*"End justifies the means, not mean the end".*[20]

On the other hand he supported individual morality. According to him, people will follow the path of morality in their personal life. The criteria of the ruler and the criteria of the ruled will be completely different. Rulers can discard morality for the needs of the state, but the ruled class cannot discard morality, they will reject all forms of corruption and injustice and advance on the path of justice. As a result, the state can be run smoothly. In this perspective Machiavelli lucidly mentioned to follow *"....a prince must understand how to make a nice use of the beast and the man."*[21]

6) Spiritual conception of Machiavelli:

Generally, there are two types of work in the world - one is worldly or sensible or visible work, and the other is unworldly or supernatural or divine work.

The worldly work is performed by the king or ruler. One of the main tasks of a king or a ruler is to make new laws to control the people, implement them and manage the governance according to those laws. And the unworldly work is done by the priest or the priest or the pope. The main work of the priest or the pope is to teach the common people about peace of mind, humility, renunciation and surrender and perform various functions regarding the afterlife.

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[16] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-275
[17] Dalal, Op. Cit., Page-80
[18] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-278
[19] Michel Foster: Op. Cit. Page-143
[20] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-275
[21] Dalal, Op. Cit., Page-87

Machiavelli therefore thinks that religion has nothing to do with political governance; even religion cannot even play a role in determining state policy. Politics and religion are two completely different things. Politics and Religion if each one performs his own function then the state can be run properly, in which case there is no conflict or fight or conflict.

Unveiling the Nuances and Enduring Relevance of Machiavelli's Theory in a Multipolar World:

Niccolo Machiavelli, the Florentine political philosopher, continues to cast a long shadow over our understanding of power, politics, and statecraft. His seminal work, "The Prince", while written centuries ago, offers insights that remain surprisingly relevant in today's multipolar world. Let's delve into the nuances of his theories and explore their enduring significance:

The Multipolar Landscape:

The world we inhabit is no longer dominated by a single superpower or a bipolar Cold War dynamic. Instead, we find ourselves in a multipolar world with numerous power centers varying for influence. This complex and ever-shifting landscape necessitates a nuanced understanding of power dynamics, alliances, and strategic maneuvering – precisely the areas where Machiavelli excels.

A Current Perspective on Machiavelli's Realist Theory:

Machiavelli's political theory is unlikely to be as important today as it was in the context of the Renaissance during the formation of the intact Italian state. The importance of Machiavelli's principle of acquisition of power and expansion of empire can be easily understood when a state attacks another state or tries to control its people in the international arena.

1) Power Acquisition and Maintenance:

Machiavelli emphasized the importance of acquiring and maintaining power, often through ruthless and pragmatic means. He believed that leaders must be willing to make tough decisions, act decisively, and sometimes resort to deception or force to achieve their goals. In a multipolar world, where competition is fierce and alliances are fluid, these principles resonate strongly. In the words of Foster, *"he attributes to religion an important place in the state; but a place within the state, not above it or beside it."*[22] Beside it Machiavelli advised that *"All free governments have two principal ends-one of which is to enlarge their dominions and the other to preserve liberties."*[23]

It is mentioned how important Machiavelli's political theory is in acquiring and maintaining power, in this context, the importance of Machiavelli's theory of the state is very significant in the formation of the government of the Taliban group after the return of the NATO forces of the United States of America in Afghanistan and the control of the people by overthrowing the democratic government. After the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the United States and NATO invaded Afghanistan to support the Taliban. The Taliban were overthrown in 2004, and a new democratic government was formed.US and NATO forces remain in the country to assist the Afghan government. Reason for withdrawal NATO's forces due to US public opposition grew during the long war. Failure to bring stability to Afghanistan. Corruption and weakness of the Afghan government. Progress in peace talks with the Taliban.

In May 2021, US President Biden announced that all US troops would be withdrawn by September 2021. NATO troops also withdrew along with US troops. The Taliban quickly took over most of Afghanistan. In August 2021, the city of Kabul fell under the control of the Taliban. The Taliban established an Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan. Women's participation in the new government is limited. There are concerns about human rights. The international community has not recognized the Taliban

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[22] Foster: Op. Cit. Page-143
[23] Ibid.

government. Afghanistan's Taliban government may even cease to exist if it fails to govern according to Machiavelli's political theory.

2) Understanding Human Nature:

Machiavelli's cynical view of human nature, where he saw people as self-interested and power-hungry, may seem harsh. However, it offers a valuable lens for analyzing international relations. In a multipolar world, understanding the motivations and self-interests of different actors is crucial for effective diplomacy and strategic planning. Machiavelli assumed that *"People often received by an elusive good, desire their own ruin unless they directed by superior men they are apt to be contrary to all reason."*[24]

We can uphold as an example of the Ukraine-Russia War. On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Theresa on behind this conflict between both countries, Russia sought to prevent NATO expansion, keeping Ukraine in Russia's 'dominant sphere'. And other hand Ukraine required to join in NATO, membership of the European Union and freedom from Russian influence. But public opinion towards the decision of the leaders of both countries were same as said by Machiavelli such as The character of man was very harsh, persuasive, deceitful, cunning and selfish, it resulted in catastrophe for both states.

3) Adaptation and Flexibility:

Machiavelli stressed the need for leaders to be adaptable and flexible in their strategies. He believed that clinging to rigid ideologies or outdated methods could be disastrous. This adaptability is essential in a multipolar world where the balance of power can shift rapidly, and new challenges emerge constantly.

"It is vain to look for anything good in a country which has become full of corruption, and perhaps the condition of Italy was the most deplorable of all corrupt countries. There was corruption in France or Spain, but there was not so much disorder or disorder as in Italy. The people there say well that the disorder is less. , this is not true at all but it has become possible because the king has been able to maintain the unity of the country..."[25]

Here we can specifically mention the financial oppression of the people by the former government of Sri Lanka and the overthrow of that government by the people. Long-standing economic policy missteps, corruption, and the impact of the Covid pandemic have plunged Sri Lanka into a severe economic crisis. Depleting foreign exchange reserves makes it difficult to import essential goods such as fuel, food, and medicine. Rising commodity prices, power outages, and declining standards of living led to intense discontent among the population. The government's policies and measures to deal with the crisis are perceived by the people as ineffective and inadequate. Allegations of corruption, incompetence, and disconnection with the people caused the government's popularity to decline. People protested against the long-standing economic crisis. Demands for the resignation of the government led to nationwide protests, strikes, and violence. As the protest movement escalated, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe resigned.

Machiavelli laid more importance on stinginess than generosity. In his own statement *"It is wiser to incur the reputation of being a miser, which invites ignominy, but not hatred."*[26]

Critical Analysis of Machiavelli's Political Theory:

Machiavelli's critique of power is endless. His doctrine has been described by many as a naked spectacle of unscrupulousness, cunning, hypocrisy and shamelessness. Some say that Machiavelli, by abandoning

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[24] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-270
[25] G. H. Sabine, "A History of Political Theory" translated by Himangshu Ghosh, Ch.-7, Page-13
[26] Dalal, Op. Cit., Page-80

all decency, elegance and grace from political life, brought politics down into the dark realm of brutish and narrow selfishness. J.R. Hale wrote in his essay "The Political Ideas" that *"Within a generation from his death Machiavelli the man was turned into Machiavelli the bogy."*[27]

According to Professor Amal Kumar Mukhopadhyay, before making such criticisms against Machiavelli, it is necessary to look at the social problems of his time. In contemporary times his native Italy was politically devastated, fragmented, chaotic and endangered. This plight of Italy by then was the historical background for the brutality expressed in Machiavelli's Theory of Power.[28]

Criticisms of Machiavelli's political theory have been around for a long time and have been made from various angles. Notable among his critics are:

- Martin Luther believed that Machiavelli's political philosophy was incompatible with Christian principles.
- Johann Calvin considered Machiavelli's politics to be morally corrupt and evil.
- Francis Bacon criticized that Machiavelli's politics emphasized only power and ignored justice and ethics.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau stated that Machiavelli's politics ignored the will of the people and favoured despotic rule.
- John Stuart Mill commented that Machiavelli's political philosophy was inconsistent with the principles of utilitarianism.
- Marxists defamed that Machiavelli's politics represented only the interests of the ruling class and ignored the rights of the working class.
- Feminists condemned Machiavelli's politics to be male-centric and ignore women's rights.

Main Drawbacks of Machiavelli's Political Theory:

It's important to remember that Machiavelli's work is not without its critics. His emphasis on ruthlessness and his disregard for morality have been widely condemned. Additionally, his theories were primarily concerned with the internal politics of a single state, and their direct application to the complexities of international relations in a multipolar world requires careful consideration. As such,

1. Machiavelli on the one hand supports monarchy by talking about a very powerful ruler, on the other hand similarly. He also accentuated the praises of the Republic. So there is ambiguity and inconsistency in his data.
2. According to Machiavelli, The rulers must be maintained the power of his state through coercion, deception. But critics think that the power of the state is the consent of the people; No coercive or coercive force.
3. Machiavelli argued- taking any means or ends to achieve the ruler's goal is the rule and it gives rise to "Might is right", which gives rise to radical nationalism in modern times. Hence critics do not reject such doctrines.
4. In the opinion of Machiavelli - Man is by nature selfish, but his critics never found this statement acceptable. Because both good and bad people live side by side in the world. Therefore, it is not reasonable to judge all people by having a negative attitude about evil people. Murry comments, *"Machiavelli had clear vision, but lacked foresight".*[29]

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[27] Dalal, Op. Cit.,Page-84
[28] Ibid.
[29] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-280

5. He talked about the complete separation of religion and morality from politics, but he failed to realize that there is a close relationship between justice and politics, so political scientists rightly commented, *"What is morally wrong. can never be politically right."*[30]

6. Machiavelli's politics are criticized as morally corrupt and evil.

7. Machiavelli's political theory has also been ignored as emphasizing only power and ignoring justice and ethics.

8. Machiavelli's politics has notably been condemned as ignoring the will of the people and favouring autocratic rule.

9. Machiavelli's politics has profoundly been denounced as representing the interests of the ruling class and ignoring the rights of the working class.

10. Machiavelli's politics has been excoriated as being male-centric and ignoring the rights of women.

So we can say that *"Machiavelli is perhaps the most universally reprobated figure in the history of Political literature."*[31]

ENDURING RELEVANCE AND CONCLUSION

No matter how much we criticize, Machiavelli's core insights remain relevant in the 21st century. His emphasis on understanding power dynamics, anticipating the actions of others, and adapting to changing circumstances are valuable tools for navigating the complexities of a multipolar world. Leaders, policymakers, and anyone interested in international relations can benefit from studying Machiavelli's work, not to blindly follow his every suggestion, but to gain a deeper understanding of the often messy and pragmatic realities of power and politics.

The relevance of Machiavelli's political theory of power has been existed during World War I, World War II, and even the Cold War. Behind Nietzsche's fierce nationalism, the exploitative mentality of the bourgeoisie, Hitler's strategy of establishing power or warlords' games of violence and madness, critics perceived that these are the ventures of Machiavelli's hidden shadow or naked power politics.

Again, in the second decade of twenty-first century, during the war between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, the reflection of human nature or the ruler's power has repeatedly made Machiavelli's theory of the state widespread in front of everyone. The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan's democratic government and strict control over the people has made Machiavelli a living figure on the world political map. Eventually the conflict between Israel and Philistine has further proved how much power and nation interest is relevant.

In conclusion, while the world has changed dramatically since Machiavelli's time, his core ideas about power, strategy, and human nature offer valuable insights for understanding and navigating the complexities of a multipolar world. By critically engaging with his work, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring relevance of his theories and apply them thoughtfully to the challenges of our own time.

So at the end of the study it is undoubtedly proved that Machiavelli is the father of modern political science. No one can deny his contribution to modern political philosophy. Because he was not the first to bring political thought from the darkness of the middle ages to the light world of the modern age, political scientist Allen commented that Machiavelli *"had an influence on the practical politics of the*

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[30] Ibid.
[31] Jones, "Masters of Political Thought", Vol. II. Chapter-I

sixteenth century, not on the theoretical side".[32] Sabine notes, *"He was a very practical politician".*[33] Roosevelt said, *"Machiavelli did nothing as impious as breaking a promise for the greater good".*[34] Again, in the words of political scientist Gettell, *"We see Machiavelli as the end of the middle ages and the entrepreneur of the new era."*[35] Finally, in the words of Dunning, we can say, *"The character of Machiavelli and the true meaning of the philosophy have been one of the enigmas of modern history."*[36] He also commented, *"In no system of political philosophy is the influence of environment more manifest than in that of Machiavelli."*[37] However, in order to unify the fragmented Italy, Machiavelli wanted and felt it necessary to institute a politics of naked power with the king rather than the republic. His theory will forever be regarded as an integral part of research by scholars. Ultimately, it can be concluded that this magnificent predatory deserves no more praise than this.

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[32] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-279
[33] Ibid.
[34] Ibid.
[35] Ibid.
[36] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-280
[37] Sohag, Op. Cit., Page-282

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