



IDEAS IN CONTEXT

Machiavelli and Empire



Mikael Hörnqvist

CAMBRIDGE

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Machiavelli And Empire:

Machiavelli and Empire Mikael Hörnqvist, 2004-11-25 Mikael Hörnqvist challenges us to rethink the overall meaning and importance of Machiavelli's political thinking. *Machiavelli and Empire* combines close textual analysis of *The Prince* and *The Discourses* with a broad historical approach to establish the importance of empire building and imperial strategy in Machiavelli's thought. The primary context of Machiavelli's work Hörnqvist argues is not the mirror for princes genre or medieval and Renaissance republicanism in general but a tradition of Florentine imperialist republicanism dating back to the late thirteenth century based on the twin notions of liberty at home and empire abroad. Weaving together themes and topics drawn from contemporary Florentine political debate, Medicean ritual and Renaissance triumphalism, this study explores how Machiavelli in his chancery writings and theoretical works promoted the long standing aspirations of Florence to become a great and expanding empire modelled on the example of the ancient Roman republic. This is a distinctive and important work.

Machiavelli and Empire Mikael Hörnqvist, 2004-11-25 Exploring both the political and intellectual contexts within which Machiavelli's political vision was formed, Mikael Hörnqvist stresses the classical and rhetorical character of Machiavelli's thought. He analyzes his preoccupation with glory and liberality in relation to the revival of Roman ideas of triumphalism. The result is a revealing account of the formation of Machiavelli's characteristic preoccupations. **Machiavelli and Empire** Mikael Hörnqvist, 2004 Mikael Hörnqvist challenges us to rethink the overall meaning and importance of Machiavelli's political thinking. *Machiavelli and Empire* combines close textual analysis of *The Prince* and *The Discourses* with a broad historical approach to establish the importance of empire building and imperial strategy in Machiavelli's thought. The primary context of Machiavelli's work Hörnqvist argues is not the mirror for princes genre or medieval and Renaissance republicanism in general but a tradition of Florentine imperialist republicanism dating back to the late thirteenth century based on the twin notions of liberty at home and empire abroad. Weaving together themes and topics drawn from contemporary Florentine political debate, Medicean ritual and Renaissance triumphalism, this study explores how Machiavelli in his chancery writings and theoretical works promoted the long standing aspirations of Florence to become a great and expanding empire modelled on the example of the ancient Roman republic. This is a distinctive and important work.

Machiavelli's Politics Catherine H. Zuckert, 2017-04-25 Machiavelli is popularly known as a teacher of tyrants, a key proponent of the unscrupulous Machiavellian politics laid down in his landmark political treatise *The Prince*. Others cite the *Discourses on Livy* to argue that Machiavelli is actually a passionate advocate of republican politics who saw the need for occasional harsh measures to maintain political order. Which best characterizes the teachings of the prolific Italian philosopher? With *Machiavelli's Politics*, Catherine H. Zuckert turns this question on its head with a major reinterpretation of Machiavelli's prose works that reveals a surprisingly cohesive view of politics. Starting with Machiavelli's two major political works, Zuckert persuasively shows that the moral revolution Machiavelli sets out in *The Prince* lays the foundation for the

new form of democratic republic he proposes in the Discourses Distrusting ambitious politicians to serve the public interest of their own accord Machiavelli sought to persuade them in The Prince that the best way to achieve their own ambitions was to secure the desires and ambitions of their subjects and fellow citizens In the Discourses he then describes the types of laws and institutions that would balance the conflict between the two in a way that would secure the liberty of most if not all In the second half of her book Zuckert places selected later works La Mandragola The Art of War The Life of Castruccio Castracani Clizia and Florentine Histories under scrutiny showing how Machiavelli further developed certain aspects of his thought in these works In The Art of War for example he explains more concretely how and to what extent the principles of organization he advanced in The Prince and the Discourses ought to be applied in modern circumstances Because human beings act primarily on passions Machiavelli attempts to show readers what those passions are and how they can be guided to have productive rather than destructive results A stunning and ambitious analysis Machiavelli s Politics brilliantly shows how many conflicting perspectives do inform Machiavelli s teachings but that one needs to consider all of his works in order to understand how they cohere into a unified political view This is a magisterial work that cannot be ignored if a comprehensive understanding of the philosopher is to be obtained *Machiavelli on War* Christopher Lynch,2023-12-15

Machiavelli on War offers a comprehensive interpretation of the philosopher historian s treatment of war throughout his writings from poems and memoranda drafted while he was Florence s top official for military matters to his posthumous works The Prince and Discourses on Livy Christopher Lynch argues that the issue of war permeates the form and content of each of Machiavelli s works the substance of his thoughts and his own activity as a writer concluding that he was the first great modern philosopher because he was the first modern philosopher of war Lynch details Machiavelli s understanding of warfare in terms of both actual armed conflict and at the intellectual level of thinkers competing on the field of knowledge and belief Throughout Machiavelli s works he focuses on how military commanders knowledge of human necessities beginning with their own enables and requires them to mold soldiers organizationally and politically to best deploy them in operations attuned to political context and changing circumstances Intellectually leaders must shape minds their own and others to reject beliefs that would weaken their purpose for Machiavelli this meant overcoming the classical and Christian traditions in favor of a new teaching of human freedom and excellence As Machiavelli on War makes clear prevailing both on the battlefield and in the war of ideas demands a single minded engagement in reasoning about everything beginning with oneself For Machiavelli Lynch shows the successful military commander is not just an excellent leader but also an excellent human being in constant pursuit of the truth about themselves and the world *Machiavelli's Ethics* Erica Benner,2009-10-26

Machiavelli s Ethics challenges the most entrenched understandings of Machiavelli arguing that he was a moral and political philosopher who consistently favored the rule of law over that of men that he had a coherent theory of justice and that he did not defend the Machiavellian maxim that the ends justify the means By carefully reconstructing the

principled foundations of his political theory Erica Benner gives the most complete account yet of Machiavelli's thought She argues that his difficult and puzzling style of writing owes far more to ancient Greek sources than is usually recognized as does his chief aim to teach readers not how to produce deceptive political appearances and rhetoric but how to see through them Drawing on a close reading of Greek authors including Thucydides Xenophon Plato and Plutarch Benner identifies a powerful and neglected key to understanding Machiavelli This important new interpretation is based on the most comprehensive study of Machiavelli's writings to date including a detailed examination of all of his major works The Prince The Discourses The Art of War and Florentine Histories It helps explain why readers such as Bacon and Rousseau could see Machiavelli as a fellow moral philosopher and how they could view The Prince as an ethical and republican text By identifying a rigorous structure of principles behind Machiavelli's historical examples the book should also open up fresh debates about his relationship to later philosophers including Rousseau Hobbes and Kant

Domination and Global Political Justice Barbara Buckinx, Jonathan Trejo-Mathys, Timothy Waligore, 2015-02-11 Domination consists in subjection to the will of others and manifests itself both as a personal relation and a structural phenomenon serving as the context for relations of power Domination has again become a central political concern through the revival of the republican tradition of political thought not to be confused with the US political party However normative debates about domination have mostly remained limited to the context of domestic politics Also the republican debate has not taken into account alternative ways of conceptualizing domination Critical theorists liberals feminists critical race theorists and postcolonial writers have discussed domination in different ways focusing on such problems as imperialism racism and the subjection of indigenous peoples This volume extends debates about domination to the global level and considers how other streams in political theory and nearby disciplines enrich expand upon and critique the republican tradition's contributions to the debate This volume brings together for the first time mostly original pieces on domination and global political justice by some of this generation's most prominent scholars including Philip Pettit James Bohman Rainer Forst Amy Allen John McCormick Thomas McCarthy Charles Mills Duncan Ivison John Maynor Terry Macdonald Stefan Gosepath and Hauke Brunkhorst

The Prince (Empire Library) Niccolò Machiavelli, W. Marriott, 1908-01-01 Machiavelli's controversial political treatise addressing matters of power and diplomacy with unapologetic pragmatism and amoral rationality

[A More Perfect Union](#) Joshua Livestro, 2025-10-01 This book tells the history of the federal union a concept that may be traced from the early Renaissance to the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community 1951 the predecessor of today's European Union It is a story of three federal canons of greater and lesser thinkers of utopian peace plans and of practical experiences with federal unions Together they shaped the concepts that created the ECSC This book unlocks the past of the EU a union that always thought it didn't have a past but was on the contrary sui generis without examples or predecessors Although there was nothing inevitable about the founding of the EU A More Perfect Union shows that it was plausible and perhaps even predictable that

such a union would be formed at some point and that the aftermath of the Second World War was exactly the kind of founding moment about which federal theorists in previous centuries had speculated *Rousseau's Republicanism* Megan K. Dyer, 2023-09-12 Reading Rousseau as a republican thinker might seem almost too obvious a proposition All the same the Genevan is often struck from accounts of modern republicanism given by those associated with the revival of republican thought At the root of this omission is perhaps the greatest puzzle of Rousseau's republicanism is that it demands his readers untangle the omission In bringing the republic's sovereign power into the Enlightenment Rousseau pairs it both with the premise of natural liberty and equality and also with an account of man singularly unsuited to realizing the rightful consequences of this shared nature Looking to both major works and lesser known writings this book demonstrates that in the face of human finitude and the formidable demands of right Rousseau crafts a robust yet judicious account of the republic Through comparison with various republican lineages its chapters explore Rousseau's engagement with leading moral and political problems that have defined and redefined republicanism attaining virtue preserving liberty sustaining the social order orienting persons toward the common good and having the law rule over men The goods of civil association are always precarious yet Rousseau nonetheless recognizes in human community an answer to the great problems of his thought those of inequality unhappiness and unfreedom

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