

Question

Why Machiavelli is considered the father of modern political thoughts? Explain.

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1 Introduction

Niccolo Machiavelli was an Italian philosopher. The focus of his philosophy is on statecraft. According to Machiavelli "Power is the virtue"

he denied the idea of morals and ethics in statecraft.

Other than that has given the concept of diplomacy, power politics, preemptive strike and the concept of secular state which are also found in the modern political system - that is why Machiavelli is considered as the

father of modern political thought. According to George Sabine, "He writes about nothing and thinks about nothing except politics, statecraft and the art of war. He perhaps too practical to be philosophically profound."

2 Machiavelli As Father of Modern Political Philosophy

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The Concept of Balance of Power

Machiavelli in his Book "The Prince" advised the Prince during the war between the two of the neighbouring countries always support the weaker one because there are more chances that in next attack you will face the same consequence. The concept is of Balance of Power in modern times.

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Separation of Religion from State

Machiavelli also gave the idea of separation of religion from the state. According to him, Religion has nothing to do with the state and both are separate from each other.

Modern day example

Secular States France is

a secular state

India as a secular state

5- Separation of Ethics from the Politics

Aristotle was the first philosopher who separated the ethics from politics but Machiavelli separated them and made ethics subservient to politics. According to him what is made from moral point of view can be good for the politics hence dual action can not be judge from the moral point of view.

6- Theory of Preemptive Strike

According to Machiavelli the chances of war are always there it is better to attack first instead of waiting for other country to attack first. The concept is present in modern day as preemptive strike.

Example

US attacked on the Afghanistan as a preemptive strike.

7- Concept of Diplomacy

Diplomacy is a recent term which means skill in dealing with people. Machiavelli has never used this term in his writing yet his admonitions to the prince are nothing but the principle of diplomacy in limited sense for this he is called as father of modern political thoughts.

8- Concept of power politics

Machiavelli put forward the theory of power politics with regards to the fact as the concentration and maintenance of supreme control over all people within a certain territory and evaluates all institutions as mean to this end. His contention that the state must extend or expire is nothing but a theory of power politics that is why he is called as the father of modern political thoughts.

9 Power as end of state

Machiavelli in his book "The Prince" makes power as end of the state and politics revolves around it. The credit of expounding power approach theory goes to Machiavelli. Modern day writers like Frederick Watkins and Hans Morgenthau also wrote on it.

10- The importance of (material) matter

Machiavelli is a great contributor he believed in material interests rather than spiritual interests. Karl Marx concept of materialistic interpretation of history also revolves around his ideas which makes him father of modern political thoughts.

11- The concept of State

Machiavelli is the first political thinker who gave the idea of state as state is something which has population, territory, government and sovereignty. This definition entitles him to be called as father of modern political thoughts.

12- Machiavelli Contemporary of all

Machiavelli is said to be the contemporary of all as his ideas were relevant both in modern and the historical political thoughts like Chanakya in "Arthashastra" define a term Danda as force and power which means state has the power to exercise it through force.

13 Counter perspective of political thoughts of Machiavelli

Aristotle and Plato believed in the politics of ethics and morality and their ideas were against the idea of the machiavelli

(14) Critical Analysis

Machiavelli thoughts are relevant in the modern day politics as most of the concepts are same. However, political order can be created with out separation of ethics from politics as European union is an example of this.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, Machiavelli is called as a father of modern political thoughts his ideas are relevant for all the times and specially for the modern times. His analysis of power ~~power~~ as ~~meant~~ and everything that has done by state is beyond the concept of ethics and morals made him father of modern political thoughts.