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Q102 Is it correct to say that Machiavelli was an apostle of Power Politics?

### Answer 1. Introduction.

Niccolo Machiavelli was a fifteenth century philosopher. He was born in Italy. He is known as the father of modern politics and as well as the father of power politics. Among his major works "The Prince" is the most popular.

### 2. Machiavelli's concept of Power Politics.

He was the first political philosopher who gave the idea of power politics. He gave the philosophy about how to maintain power in unstable circumstances. According to him Monarch should be cruel, immoral and deceitful. He is allowed to use any mean for an end. He introduced the concept of power politics in his famous work the prince.

### 3. Circumstances Which influences the writing of "The Prince".

Machiavelli saw the era of political instability. When he was born Italy was divided into five city-states. Everytime there was fear of foreign attacks. Italy became vulnerable to destruction. Machiavelli was a strong patriot. He wanted to save his Italy. His writings reflect



his experiences and his patriotic sentiments. He wrote "The Prince" in which he gave direction to save the state. His basic ideal was to maintain peace and security of the state. That's he gave the concept of Moral Power Politics.

#### 4. Theory of Moral Indifference.

He gave theory of moral indifference. In which he states that church should be away from the states matter. He denounces christian church by saying that church is the source of plight for political affairs. He states that state is not a mean to an end. In fact state is the the end.

#### 5)- Concept about Human Nature.

He viewed human nature as a selfish. According to him, human being is greedy and immoral. Which can only be control by cruel monarch. Monarch's main aim should be the state's security and control of power.

#### 6)- Concept of state as an end.

He gave the philosophy that state is not a mean to an end. In fact state is an end for which every mean is justified. For monarch, there should be no right or wrong. His aim should be the security of the state and to control power by all means.



He gave immoral views about controlling power.

Immoral Means to achieve end (state) through Power Politics.

a) Fox and Lion

Machiavelli gave the idea that in order to maintain power, Monarch should be brave like lion and cunning like a fox. In this he can perform better to control power.

b) - cruelty of Monarch.

According to him monarch should be cruel. He must show his power to terrify the masses. He should use his power at once to create the fear. So that no one could revolt against him.

c) - No Right of Revolt.

He says that monarch should give masses the chance of Revolution. Otherwise, they will become aware of their rights. If they start revolting then it will cause to lose power politics. In this way, human will go back in the state of nature.

d) - Monarch should be deceitful.

According to him, monarch should be deceitful in order to control the subjects. He should be immoral. There is no limit of right or wrong for



the monarch. For him every mean is justified to control power and for the security of state.

## 7). Theory of Power Politics

He gave this theory in his work "The Prince". He gave the idea of controlling power. According to it only power should be the purpose and principle of fear should be used for this purpose. He is known as the father of power politics. He is also known as the western villain because of his idea of power politics. According to him state is an end for which every mean is justified. His views about how to maintain power in politics.

### a). Form of Government.

He was in favour of monarchy. He was not in favour of hereditary monarchy but an elected monarch. Because he considered human nature as selfish and only cruel monarch could control them through power. He should create terror by using power so that no one could protest against him.

### b). Expansion of the Territory.

In order to maintain the power, monarch should expand its territory with force. In this way, it will be remain safe from foreign attacks.



### e) - Pre-emptive Strike Concept.

He gave the concept of Pre-emptive strike. According to him monarch should appoint agents for secrets. If he feels foreign threat he should attack before his enemy's attack. In this way, he can protect his state's security.

### d) - Neighbourhood relations

Monarch should develop strong ties with the neighbour. But on the same time he should search for its secrets. And he should appoint his secret agents for surveillance.

If there two neighbours are fighting, monarch should interfere in it. Go with the weaker one. Because stronger one will come towards you after winning.

### e) - Strong Army.

Monarch should develop strong army and navy so that it can protect state. He should increase them in numbers. In this way he can maintain security and power.

## 4). Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Machiavelli gave ideals to maintain power politics. He gave all possible means to attain an end that is state. He justified all these means for state. According to him state should be the end and its security is important.

