

Question:

Machiavelli: citizens of all states, contemporary of all ages? Argue.

Answer:

Introduction

Machiavelli is the political scientist that revolutionized the idealist politics and gave them a touch of realism. He based his philosophies on the principles of power. No matter if everyone considers to him a vicious thinker, he still gave the world his writings that opened their eyes. Machiavelli is a citizen of all states and contemporary of all time. He introduced the world to the principles that are now the signature of many states including nationalism, secularism, realism, and efficient bureaucracies. He was the one responsible for the nation of national interests and reduced role of nobility. With his writings, he also made the public aware of the power game in politics. With all these contributions, it is safe to call him a citizen of all states; a contemporary of all times.

Main Tenants of Machiavelli's philosophies

a, Nature of man: a pessimistic assumption

Machiavelli initiated his philosophy by assuming that men are inherently selfish. So, he advised the ruler to act accordingly to govern them. According to Machiavelli, "men are, by nature, bad and a wiser ruler makes his policies on the basis of this assumption. In this way, his philosophy is based on this notion

b, Mechanics of Government: "Any means necessary"

Machiavelli tells his prince to use any means possible to maintain and consolidate his state. He also validates the use of force and tyranny in order to keep the subjects faithful. Hence, the ~~prince~~ Machiavellian prince is a ruthless ruler, that could use any means to stay in power

Machiavelli: A citizen
of all states & contemporary
of all times

Despite giving a pessimistic
view of humanity and ~~as~~ sinfully
immoral principles for rule, Machiavelli
is still relevant in a world ~~of~~ of
today. This is because of many
ideologies he has given.

(a) Machiavelli as a founder of
modern nation state

The "Selfish" and
"greedy" description of man, ~~for~~ described
by Machiavelli gave mankind the
concept of Nationalism. In fact, Machiavelli
himself was very much of a nationalist
as his writings were based on the
unification of Italy. With these ideas
Machiavelli was able to sow the seed
of the nation states that we live
in today.

(b) Separation of religion from Politics:
Modern Secularism

Machiavelli was not in favor of

: the religion : as a political actor - He claims expresses his despair by saying: We italians owe to the Roman Church and its priests, our having become irreligious and bad, in this way, he separated religion from politics, that drives the ideology of many states today

(E) Political Realism in Machiavelli's Writings:

Machiavelli, unlike his predecessor, Aristotle and Plato, he did not get indulged into the discussions of morals. He did not sugar-coat anything, instead he clearly said that: 'Politics has no relations to morals' This acted as the first ever realist view of politics and it became more transparent.

(d) The idea of National Interest:

National interest, today, is the driving force behind the international relation. Machiavelli's writings contributed greatly to the concept. He legitimized all means

to be used for the sake of ^{Power} ~~God~~.
He described it as: "A prince never
lacks a legitimate reason to break
his promises. This philosophy is of
great importance in today's global politics

(i) Efficient and far-seeing bureaucracy

The bureaucracy that
exists today is a contribution of
Machiavelli's writing. In his book "The
Prince", Machiavelli compelled the
prince to have a efficient, faithful,
and far-seeing set of administrators
around him. In this way he was
constructing the efficient bureaucracy
of today.

(ii) Reducing the role of nobility:

Machiavelli was against
nobility. In fact, he termed them
as idle rich class and advised to
eradicate it from roots. In today's
political system, it can be seen
in various parliamentary systems that
role of nobility is very limited

as compared to the elected legislature body. This, to a great extent, is credited to Machiavelli.

Q1. Machiavelli as a political educationist

The "Apostle of power politics" cannot be downplayed by alleging as evil. In fact, he just reflected what he saw. Bayle describes it perfectly by saying: "Princes have taught him what he writes. From his writings, he let everyone know what is the game played in politics, directly making everyone aware of the power politics."

Conclusion

Machiavelli, with all his power politics and the bible of evil, has still given the world a new eye for politics. Moreover, he gave the various other concepts like nationalism, secularism, national interest, bureaucracy, and many others, that are

Very relevant even today. In
this way, one can easily conclude
~~and~~ by saying "Machiavelli is a
citizen of all states, a contemporary
of all times!"