

Q Is it correct to say that Machiavelli was an apostle of power politics.

1) Introduction

It is not wrong to say that Machiavelli was the apostle of power politics. He prioritised state over individual; he believed people are cruel and lazie by nature and only power can quell them down. He was a strong believer of secularism in state because only one person can rule. He even talked about rights of people, but believed that only one person's rule will be able to successfully run the state. In conclusion, he believed power to be everything.

2) Machiavelli and Power Politics

Machiavelli was a diplomat and he had studied many types of rules

and governments at that time. Power politics is relevant to him because he saw the fall of Rome. due to institution of religion. Another factor that contributed was the ongoing tyrannical rule in the Italy. He believed that it was only possible that Italy will unite if the ruler understood the nature of people and dealt with them as such.

3) His Points that Show Him to be Apostle of Power Politics

- a) Regarded monarchy over constitutional democracy
- b) Ruler as a father figure
- c) Allowed ruler to breach his word.
- d) Exclusion of religion from politics
- e) Superiority of self-interest of ruler
- f) No regard for individual rights.
- g) Compulsion to obey laws.

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- h) Anything for State.
- I) Ends justify means.
- j) Trusted no one
- k) Justified deceit for state.

a) Regard for Monarchy over Constitutional Democracy

Like Aristotle, Machiavelli prioritised monarchy over constitutional democracy. During his time, Italy suffered tyrannical rule. The tyrants also involved foreign rulers in their politics. This was unacceptable to him, and he believed that rulers should have absolute authority and they should rule on their own.

b) Ruler as a Father Figure

In his book "The Prince", Machiavelli has described the qualities of a ruler. He said that a ruler should be like a father. He should know that

he has to rule firmly. so everybody does things according to him. A father knows how to deal with his son, and when does his son requires teaching. Hence, a ruler should rule as such. He should understand the nature of his people; after that, he should act.

c) Allowed Ruler to Breach his Word

According to his philosophy, a king is allowed to breach his word. The promises he made before coming to power can be broken if things are not going well. He believes that a ruler knows where his state is going and what he needs to do for its betterment. Therefore, if things are not going as planned, he can change his mind and break people's trust with force or power.

d) Exclusion of Religion from Politics

He preferred a secular state. He believed that one ruler is enough to run a state; therefore no other institution is required for running a state. He advised to use religion only as a social cement to bind people on one platform.

e) Superiority of Self-Interest of Ruler

He regarded ruler as the god of state. A ruler is free to do anything as long as it is benefitting the state. A ruler is allowed to kill his enemies to maintain peace and bonding in a state.

f) No Regard for Individualism

Machiavelli did not regard individual rights. He believed that

Individuals should only do what is in the interest of state. State is everything. If people went against the interest of state, they must be killed.

g) Compulsion to Obey Laws

Machiavelli believed that people's say in law-making is important. However, he also believed that people do not know much, and as they are not much enlightened, they should have no say in law-making. He believed that laws are for the good of state; hence, they should be obeyed at all costs. "Compulsion is important so that people act properly"

h) Anything for State

Machiavelli was of the thought that state should be protected at

all costs. Like Abraham Lincoln waged war against his own people to keep his state united, he also justified killing people to save state.

Brian F. Denoff, in his research paper Lincoln, Machiavelli and American Political thought, identified how these politicians were entirely of different times, yet their thoughts were same.

I) Ends Justify Means

Machiavelli was of the thought that if something — killing or harm — is done for the state, then it is justified if it is for protection and well being of state. If something is giving good results, then the means, whatever they are, are justified.

J) Trusted No One

Machiavelli believed that a ruler should never trust anyone. He is the absolute authority and he is the supreme power. He should not give his power to anyone by trusting them. He believed that men are self-interest driven; hence, ruler should act supreme.

K) Justified Deceit for State

Machiavelli advocated that the ruler should do whatever suits the state. He should only care about the state even if it means that he is betraying the people. Everything is worth it if it is done for the state.

4) Conclusion

In conclusion, Machiavelli justified everything that was done for the state. He believes that state is the highest form of social organization; hence, everything should be done to protect it. He rests all the authority in one person for the good of state. His word is the last word. He favours monarchy because he believes that people are selfish, and absolutism can lead their way.