

Q-no 1-

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

ANSWER:

1-Introduction:

Niccolo Machiavelli born in Florence on 1469 and expired in 1527. He was an Italian historian, statesman and political philosopher who is very popular because of his thoughts full of cunning and duplicity. His most famous works, The Prince and Discourses on Livy, discuss how rulers can acquire and maintain power.

Machiavelli is often associated with the concept of power politics as he strongly advocates for the unrestrained pursuit and maintenance of political power.

His writings emphasize pragmatic, sometimes morally questionable tactics for achieving political ends. Therefore, it is a

fact to describe Machiavelli as an apostle of power politics. His work, particularly The Prince, champions the idea that the pursuit and maintenance of power should be a ruler's primary concern.

often above moral considerations, and he suggests that any means necessary — whether ruthless, manipulative, or deceitful — are justified to achieve this end.

Machiavelli's power politics

Machiavelli in his "The prince" guides the princes of his time how to get, preserve and extend political power. He, from the events of history and personal observations, presents very successful tactics of rulership.

His "The prince" is basically a letter to the prince of his time, which he wrote, from the prison. He gave certain advices to the prince. Main advices given by Machiavelli are:

I-State defence is prior:

According to Machiavelli, state is the most prior institution of human civilization. Keeping in view superiority and prominence of the state, first priority must be given to its maintenance and defence than the welfare and development activities. To depend the state, all type of steps taken by the ruler are justified and legitimized. To ruler state defence

is the top most priority.

II- State's ruler is the Super most authority:

Machiavelli says the ruler represents the state and state is the super most human institution, so, a ruler is therefore, the supermost body in the state. A ruler must have the qualities like ego, wisdom, selfishness, brutality and cunning for the fulfilling his aims. As he says, "A ruler must be as cunning as a fox and as brave as a lion." The ruler should never trust his friends, relatives and neighbours. Severe and cruel means must be adopted by the prince to secure unity, security and the super most status of the state. He says. it is much safer for the prince to be feared by his subjects, as he says advised the prince; "It is better to be feared than loved, if you can't be both."

III- Harsh laws and violent actions:

According to Machiavelli the prince should crush all opposition to his authority with an iron hand and should make use

Keep the description of a single argument brief and increase the number of arguments instead.

brutality, though it may be necessary, should be intelligently, not senselessly, applied. A continuous reign of terror will defeat the purpose of the ruler.

use of aggressive force. Machiavelli

says that? evils cannot be faced by doing good. An evil

can be crushed only by committing a greater evil. If an evil is responded with

goodness, it is nothing but to encourage that evil. He says,

"Arm yourself to disarm your enemy." He says that a successful

ruler is that who imposes severe laws on subjects to control

and even crush their rebellious thinking. He should cheat others to a

maximum and should not miss any opportunity of cheating. About his competitors, he

should adopt frauds, looting, general slaughter and force. He must avoid truth and justice.

All relationships must be kept aside such as friends, relatives etc and must be

alert of them. The prince needs to be feared. by a's

"people are less concerned with offending a man who makes himself loved than one who

makes himself feared...?"

IV- Self-aggrandizement

Machiavelli advises the ruler that the ruler should try

Leave a line space between headings for neatness

to assure self-aggrandizement in his state. He should receive respect and honour from the others but not to give such things to others. Such an insulting behaviour of the ruler is necessary to preserve his superiority, greatness and dominance over his people.

V- Hypocrisy:

be hypocrite, Machiavelli says, men are, "... ungrateful, fickle, false and deceivers, they shun danger and are greedy for profit; while you treat them well they are yours... and when the prince is in danger they turn against him?"

That is why Machiavelli says that the prince must be hypocrite while to deal with his hypocrite subjects. The practice of hypocrisy is not merely indispensable to princely governments but is capable of being sustained without much difficulty for as long as may be required.

VI- Dual Standards:

advice... the prince that a straightforward ruler will fail to rule. His success lies

Do not use one word headings

Headings should be elaborate, self explanatory and relevant

[He must appear to possess integrity, courage, determination and strength of will. The citizenry must feel that they may rely upon their ruler in any emergency. Machiavelli stresses often the absolute necessity of popular support in the interest of the stability of the state.]

In the past to have dual standards. A ruler should have mercy on his tongue but his heart must be filled with hate, hatred and evils. Apparently he must seem very polite and cooperative but in reality, he must have more. All such evils are necessary for doing good because only doing greater evils are, can discourage evils.

vii - Moral indifference:

He varied from the earlier thinkers, he tried a formal and conscious separation between politics and morality. He rejected the cultivation of virtues like humanity, submissiveness and disapproval for worldly things on which medieval thinkers laid so much stress. and consider quest of well beings in the life as the sole objective. For attainment of objective, he even allowed the use of immoral means like frauds, forgery, trickery, breach of faith, violence etc. by the prince. To achieve unity the principles of morality were put into the wind by Machiavelli.

viii - Avoiding Neutrality in case of war b/w two of his neighbours:

Machiavelli

says, in case of war between two of the prince's neighbors, the prince must take a stand with one or the other. He should create balance of power by supporting the weaker one. He should avoid neutrality as both countries will hate him and in case of neutrality he would be on the mercy of the victor when the war is over. Hence, a prince must avoid neutrality in case of war between two of his neighbors.

IX: Respect for property and wives:

The prince is advised not to touch the property of and wives of his subjects because people are very sensitive about these things.

X - Emphasizing a strong army:

For Machiavelli a ruler's power and the stability of his state depend largely on a strong, well-equipped and disciplined army. An effective army is necessary not only for defense but also for maintaining order and ensuring the loyalty of subjects.

In the prince, Machiavelli emphasizes that a ruler must have his own army, relying on mercenaries

Add more arguments

or auxiliary troops (those hired from foreign states) is dangerous because they are unreliable, lack loyalty and are more likely to turn against the ruler when offered better opportunities elsewhere.

Conclusion:

