

Q No 1
(2016) Is it correct to say that Machiavelli was an apostle of power politics?

Introduction:

Niccolo Machiavelli is often regarded as an apostle of power politics due to his realistic and often ruthless approach to statecraft and governance. "The Prince" his book serves as a guide for rulers on how to maintain power and control. He advised rulers to use cunning, manipulation, ^{and even} ~~cruelty~~ when necessary.

(i) Machiavelli on Ethics, Religion and Politics
Machiavelli

believed that state's interests come first, he justifies every action if it is in interest of the state, he separates public and private morality. He also advocates the religion should be used for political purposes, but kept out of government.

(ii) The Ends justify the means:

Machiavelli

argued that the state is the highest form of human association and anything that brings success and power is justified, including cunningness and shrewdness.

(iii) Sovereignty and Autonomy of the State:

He emphasized that state is sovereign and autonomous, not bound by moral or religious considerations. The religion is a subordinate of ^{the} state. So, the ruler should use religion to achieve political ends but remains above morality.

iv) Combination of Lion and Fox Qualities:

successful
A ruler must

possess the bravery of a lion and ^{the} cunningness of a fox,

he use strength and shrewdness to achieve state's objectives.

(v) He should avoid the company of flatters:

Machiavelli advises rulers to keep their power intact, they have to avoid the company of flatters. Because, it affects his sense of judgement. This may lead to anarchy in the country.

(vi) Secrecy in the conduct of state affairs:

The Princes are advised to keep secrecy in the conduct of state affairs in order to avoid a situation which is harmful for their countries.

(vii) Prince have no permanent friends or enemy:

Princes should not have permanent friends or enemies. He should be opportunist, because he is head of a state, he have to consider his state's objectives in his decision.

vii)

~~Double standard of~~

Strong Military is very necessary to defend the state and expand its territory.

A ruler must maintain a well trained regular national army of his own citizens rather than depends on mercenary soldier. Mercenary soldier fight for money, he cannot give his life for country. On the other hand, a native soldier is always ready to sacrifice his life for a country. A ruler should defend his state and expand the territory of the state.

ix)

Prince should crush all those forces which are against of his government.

Machiavelli as apostle of power politics, he advises prince to

keep their power, it is imperative to crush all the forces which are against your government.

(x) Speedy and firm decisions should be taken by a Prince:

Machiavelli advises

prince to take firm and speedy decision in the vested interests of a country.

Hesitation in decisions may be harmful for a country.

(xi) Prince nurtures public spirit and patriotism among his citizen through education, religion and propaganda;

He advises

prince to nurture public spirit and patriotism among his citizen through education, religion and propaganda in order to create love in people's heart for their ruler.

By doing this, prince continues to rule on people.

xii) Prince should be better feared than loved:

Prince should be better feared than loved.

Because people love their ruler as long as they receive or expect certain benefits. So, it is a better, prince should be feared rather than loved in order to keep his power intact on a country.

Conclusion:

Niccolo Machiavelli is considered an apostle of power politics. The advice which he gave to princes to continue their government.

He advocated all means to be used all means in order to remain in power. When it is necessary.