

CS: 2016 Political Science Paper

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

Introduction:

Machiavelli has given the theory of Power politics due to disunited Italy and the influence of pope in politics. Yes, it is correct to say that Machiavelli was an apostle of power politics because he was the one who has given the theory in which he explained the nature of state, has given different qualities of a king to run the state such as lion analogy, subordination of church to state, expand the empire, support the weak state and separation of ethics from politics.

"State is the end"

~ Machiavelli

1. Context of Machiavelli's theory of Power politics:

Machiavelli has given his theory of Power politics in his book "The Prince" owing to two reasons:

- (i) Italy was disunited and it was divided
- (ii) Machiavelli has started the enlightenment period owing to pope's interference in state affairs.

(i) Italy was disunited and divided into six states:

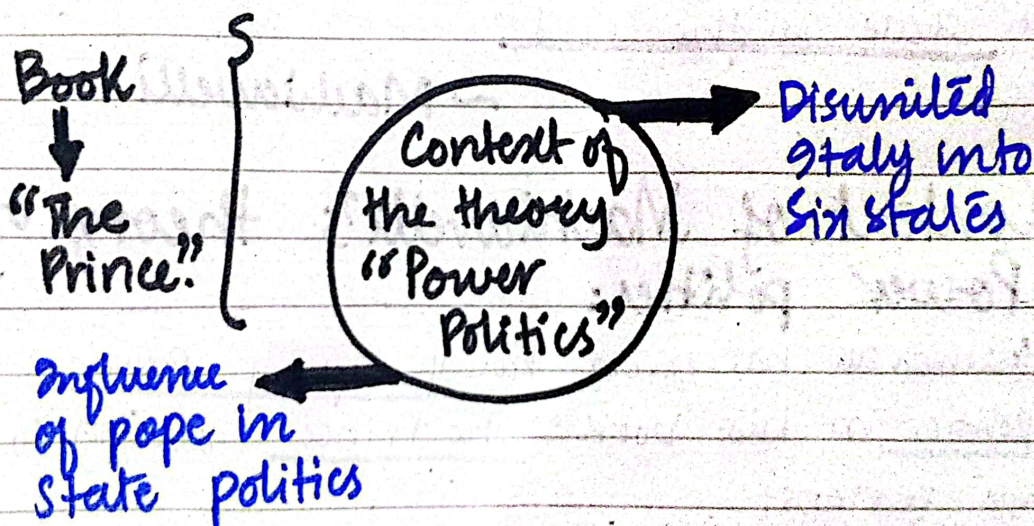
At the time of Machiavelli, Italy was disunited and it was divided into six states.

Therefore, Machiavelli has given the theory

of power politics to unite the Italy as one state.

(1.2) Machiavelli has started the period of Enlightenment owing to the influence of pope in state politics:

Machiavelli's time ; State was controlled by pope. Ruler was believed on divine authorities ; therefore ruler has given right to pope to influence in State politics. This not only affect an image of the state but also disunited the Italy -



Machiavelli has started "the Enlightenment Period"

2. Yes; It is correct to say that Machiavelli was an apostle of Power politics because:

2.1) Machiavelli was the one who has given "the theory of power politics" in his book "The Prince".

Machiavelli was the one who has given the theory of power politics. He was the one who said that pope shall not interfere in the state affairs. He has also given the qualities of a King that how king should rule the state and politics.

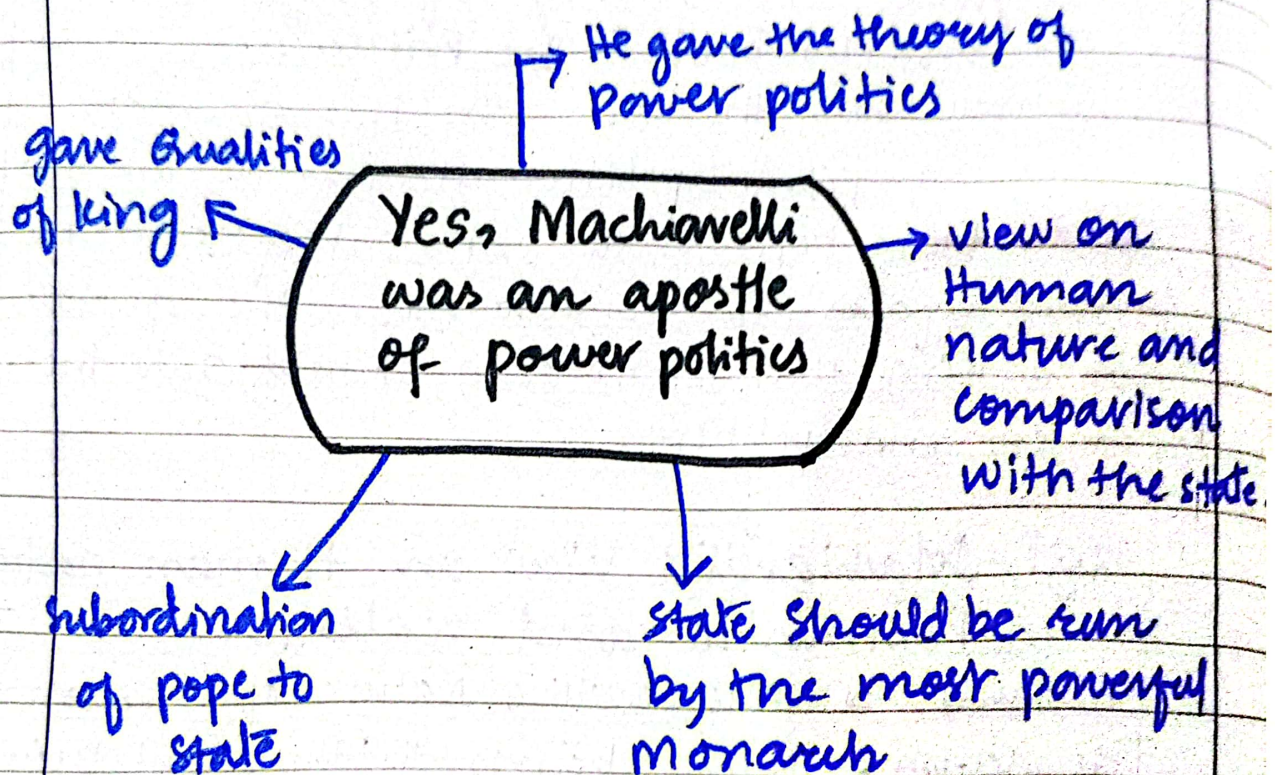
2.2) Machiavelli's view on Human nature:
Pessimistic and realistic:

According to Machiavelli; Nature of human is selfish. Human beings think about their own benefit in reality. The state is same like human beings. State is also selfish.

2.3) State should be run by the most powerful Monarch:

According to Machiavelli, the weak rulers cannot run the state. Therefore, he believes that State should be run by the most powerful Monarch. Because, the most powerful monarch can glorify the state.

2.4) Subordination of Pope to the state:
Machiavelli has already seen that how pope has disunited Italy. Therefore, he believes that pope should be subordinated to the state.



2.5) Machiavelli has given different Qualities of King; to run the state:
Machiavelli has given different Qualities of the king. "The Prince"; It was his famous book in which he not only mentioned the qualities of king but also has elaborated deeply.

3. Qualities of the King given by Machiavelli to run the state in Power politics:

(3.1) Fox lion analogy:

According to Machiavelli, a king should be as brave like a lion, and as cunning like a fox.

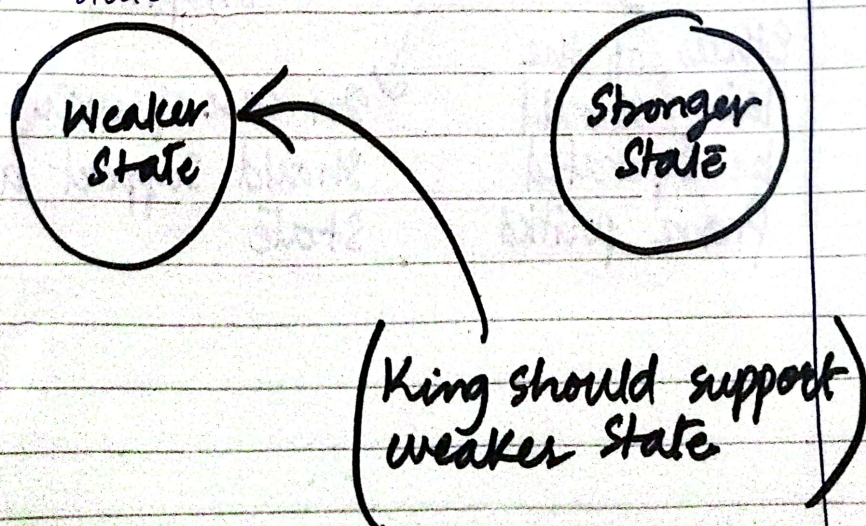
(3.2) Ethics of the King should be Separated from politics:

According to Machiavelli, king's ethics should be separated when it comes to politics. Ethics should not influence a king in politics.

A king should always think about his state first.

(3.3) In case of war, a king should support a weaker state:

According to Machiavelli, if a war occurs in any neighbouring state, then, king should support weaker state. Instead of, supporting stronger state.

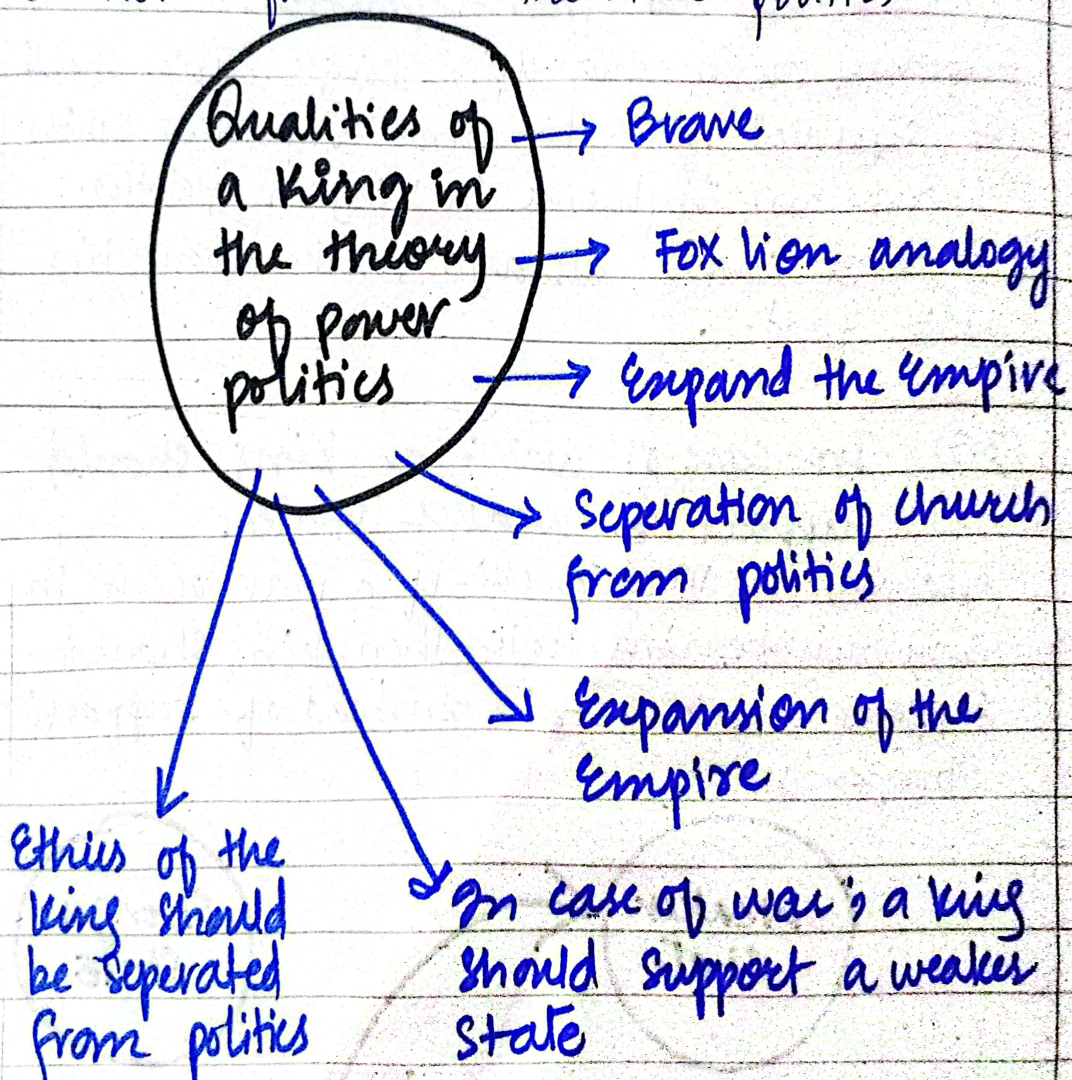


(3.4) Expansion of the Empire:

According to Machiavelli, a king is the one who always expand its empire for the glory of the state.

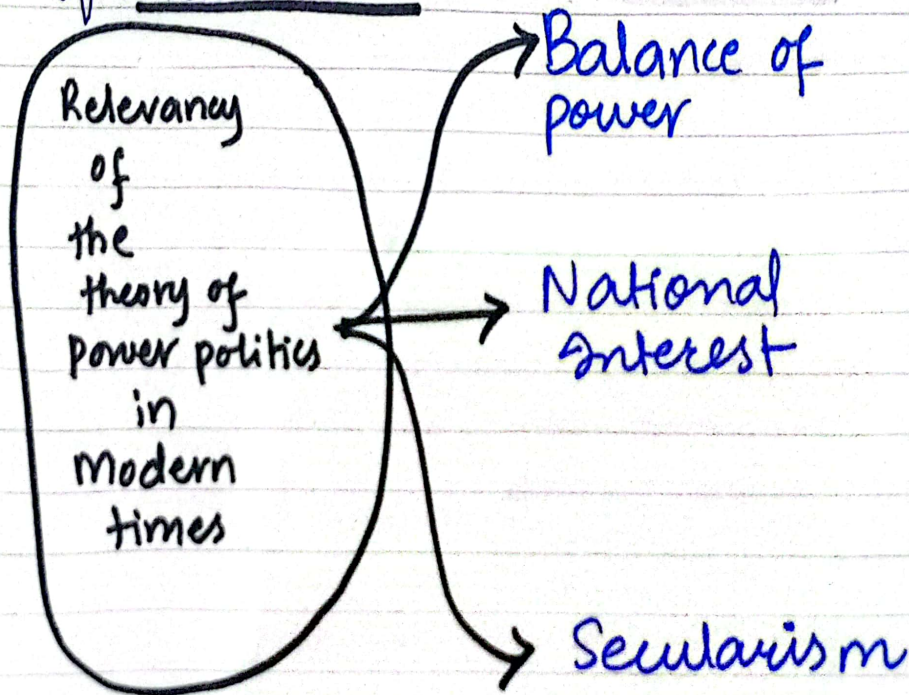
(3.5) Separation of Church from politics:

According to Machiavelli, a church which is under the influence of pope should be separated from state politics. Therefore, Pope do not influence in the state politics-



4. Relevancy of Machiavelli's theory of Power Politics in Modern times:

- Machiavelli was the one who has given the concept of "Balance of power".
- Machiavelli has also given the concept of "National interest" which is used around the globe.
- Machiavelli has also given the concept of "secularism".



Conclusion: Yes, it is correct to say that Machiavelli was an apostle of power politics because he has given the theory of power politics in which he explained the nature of the state and the nature of the ruler. According to Machiavelli, state should be run by the most powerful monarch.

"state is the end, and the end justifies the means." ~ Machiavelli