

Question: Is it correct to call Machiavelli a citizen of all states and contemporary of all ages? Substitute your answer with valid arguments.

Answer

Exordium

Niccolo Machiavelli, ^{born} belongs to in Florence, Italy. He is a citizen of all states and contemporary of all ages. During Machiavelli era there was disputes and wars among city states. The prince was related himself to redemption and salvation. Machiavelli's work which he wrote to advise prince make him the citizen of all states and contemporary of all ages. It seemed that those advises in his work, 'The Prince', are applicable to all eras and all states. The acceptance and application of those approaches in contemporary world regarded him the contemporary of all ages.

The detail of 'The Prince' can give evidence of Machiavelli being citizen of all states. This includes the ideas such as, state as an ^{end} ~~mean~~ not mean, secular states

creation and establishing strong national army.

1- State is not a means to an end

Machiavelli argues that the ruler should not treat the state as a means which can lead to the end. He criticized the focus of prince towards salvation and redemption. He writes, state is not a means to an end, state is an end in itself. The ruler should focus on the affairs of the state instead of looking towards them. State must be treated as an 'end' by the ruler.

2- Ammoral approach

To achieve the goals of the state immoral ideas and approach can be justified.

One can go for immoral approaches but only for the welfare of the state. All the justifiable approaches become ammoral approaches. Therefore, the practice of some immoral approaches but for welfare of state are common these days.

The acceptance of these ideas

make machiavelli as citizen
of contemporary ages.

3- National army

Machiavelli writes, it is
secure to be feared than to
be loved. Machiavelli emphasized
on the creation of national
army. A strong national army
is necessary to control the
disturbance created by population.
To maintain law and order,
national army is crucial element
of the state. A strong national
army protects from external
disturbance. This approach is evident
in present time and history
also gave reflection to it. All
those nations having strong national
army saved their culture and
society from external and internal
influences. The history is full of
those nations with weak military
faced decline either by internal
or external parties. During Machiavelli's
time, the mercenaries were used
for wars, they ran from
battle field easily instead of devoting
life for motherland. The spirit
to devote life for land is only
present in national armies.

4- War strategies

Machiavelli stated two main ideas for war. Firstly, he explains that if you one state fears that some other state will attack. So that first state must attack first instead of waiting to be attacked by other. This is pre-emptive strike. Machiavelli's idea is followed by USA, when they practiced pre-emptive strikes on Iraq. Also, the recent Israel attack on Iran is an example of this idea. Secondly, he emphasized that if a stronger state is attacking a weaker state, then other weaker states must help that weaker state under attack. The reason is the possibility of other weaker states being attacked after the defeat of one weaker state. Exempli gratia, Pakistan helped Afghanistan to remove Russia and it saved the spread of communism in Pakistan. Recently, Pakistan helped Iran in war against Israel. Due to the possibility of Pakistan being attacked by Israel after Iran. Hence, Machiavelli is the citizen

of all states and all ages.

5- Virtuous ruler

Machiavelli gives the idea of representation of virtuous ruler who showed piety towards public. Machiavelli writes, your appearance is visible to everyone, reality is visible to few. He focuses on virtuous appearance of the ruler because it will make easy to control public.

6- Secular state

Machiavelli argues that religion has nothing to do with politics. He favors secular states. According to him, religion is associated to individuals and state must be secular. A state is secular and allow everyone to have their religion but to restrict it at individual level. In modern era, Canada is the best example of secular state. Whereas, it is written in Pakistan's constitution and also the full name 'Islamic republic of Pakistan'. Machiavelli is against

the religion of the state.

7- Power politics

Machiavelli's power politics is widely applicable in modern era as well. He highlights that to achieve state's goal, one can use right or wrong way. The achievement of state's goal either by hook or by crook. In contemporary world, every state is using even wrong ways to maintain power which is also known as 'balance of power'.

Denouement:

Machiavelli centuries ago gave these approaches to follow. These strategies are still applicable and visibly evident in governance system of state. These are not restricted to particular state, ruler or age. To achieve a goal of successful state, every state can follow it. All the states in present time following these advices to some extent. Every state is in race of power politics.

and maintaining the balance of power. The states with strong national armies are only successful to protect their states. The rulers propagating themselves as virtuous to make good image. Hence, Machiavelli is a citizen of all states and of contemporary of all ages.