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

Ans: MACHIAVELLI AS AN APOSTLE OF POWER POLITICS:-

1) INTRODUCTION:-

Niccolo Machiavelli was an Italian philosopher and political thinker. He was born in 1469 and died in 1527. Niccolo Machiavelli was in support of ruthless and forceful authority of king. He was against moral and ethical leadership. According to him leader should be harsh, hypocrite, and self-aggrandizement. But we cannot properly claim him an apostle of power politics because he was also in favour of republicans and this all power politics he is in support is for the protection and guardianship of the reign. His favour of power politics was stated in his book "The Prince".

2) Arguments In favour of Power Politics By Machiavelli In "The Prince" :-

2.1) Supremacy of power over morality- by Machiavelli:-

According to Niccolò Machiavelli, leader should be powerful by showing hypocrisy, dual faced, self-aggrandize, implementer and must be feared. - As Machiavelli says:

"A leader should be feared not be loved, if he cannot do the both."

Unlike Aristotle and Plato, who advocated for morality and end of state as happy and prosper, Machiavelli supported idea of forceful and fearful government.

2.2) Separation of religion and Ethics from government:-

Religion promotes unity and good actions but Machiavelli separate religion from politics. As politics may be brutal to control the individual and preserve the state. In religion any crime like killing of someone is forbidden but in

politics leader can do it for greater good. As Machiavelli says,

"Responding to evil with goodness is nothing but promoting of an evil."

Popes use religion for his own benefit and aristocrats use it for own. Thus ~~pope~~ Machiavelli is not against religion but its use by different institution. Pope use it to save Medici family reign and government for its own sake. Thus Machiavelli wants to root it out its use thus he is unreligious not irreligious.

2.3) Ends justify the Means

According to Machiavelli A leader should achieve stability in a state, It does not depends how he achieve it, As End justifies the means. For instance Cesare Borgia retain his government by using cruelty and harsh attitude, that no one stand against him. Savanarola, king face difficulties and remove by people.

3) Arguments Against the promotion of power politics by Machiavelli

3.1) Not a Supporter of Tyranny:-

When Monarchy is used for the self-interest it becomes Tyranny. Machiavelli was not a supporter of tyranny. He ^{advice to be} wary to a leader of heavy tax imposition and private property. As he stated:-

"People can forget the killing of their forefathers, but not of their private property."

According to Machiavelli private property depriving can cause hatred in the mind of the people. It leads to the revolt by the people against the leader.

3.2) Advocation of Republicanism by Machiavelli

According to Machiavelli forceful actions should be done to evoke fear in the mind of the people, not to suppress them.

In his book "Livy" he favour republic form of government. It is against or contradict with ~~the~~ his ideas of in the "The Prince".

3.3) Power should be use as a Tool, Not as a goal:-

Power is to make people under and not let them revolt. Leader real purpose is to make state safe from internal and external threats.

At that time the fight between the Church and Renaissance ideas were on the apex. Thus Machiavelli suggests that leader should know the strategies to cope up with this. Thus power should be use as a tool, not as a main goal, as main goal is stability of a state.

(4) Conclusions:-

As Machiavelli supported power politics, so he can be called as Apostle of power politics. But he also promoted

republicanism, so, he is not
only promoter of "power politics"
as it over-simplifies his
concept and ideas.

Verdict: Machiavelli was a
partially Apostle of power
politics as he have also tilt towards
other concepts.
