

Reading Questions for Machiavelli's *The Prince*

Part I Chapters 1-12

Mark in your text, write a brief summary and cite on this page passages that potentially answer the following questions. **Nota Bene: Unless otherwise specified, these questions pertain to the entire reading passage.**

1. What overt purpose does Machiavelli give in his "Dedication" for writing his book? Does his stated purpose amount to a betrayal of his republican career and principles? Why or why not?

2. What kinds of states does Machiavelli describe? How do they differ from one another, and why?

3. At the end of Chapter Two, Machiavelli states: "The long continuum of the dominion obliterates the memories and issues that make men yearn for innovation" What does this mean?

What other observations (there are MANY) does Machiavelli make throughout this section about human nature?

What points is Machiavelli making about human motivations in general?

According to Machiavelli, what motivates people to obey or disobey a prince's commands?

4. What is the relation between ability and fortune in the acquiring and maintaining of power? Find points throughout this section.

5. According to Machiavelli, what are some of the personal qualities that an effective prince needs? What should be the object or objects of his study?

6. In what ways is M. being scientific in the treatment of his subject? In what ways moral?