

Reading Questions for Machiavelli's *The Prince* Part II Chapters 13-26

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

1. What are Machiavelli's views regarding free will? **Side 1)** Historical events are shaped by individuals, or Side 2) they are the consequence of fortune and circumstance.

2. In *Discourses on Livy*, Machiavelli argues that the purpose of politics is to promote a “common good.” **Side 1)** The common good is supported by the ideas Machiavelli presents in *The Prince*. or Side 2) While common good appears to be supported by *The Prince*, Machiavelli is merely promoting in the self-interest of the princes.

3. Machiavelli lists five virtues a prince should always aspire to and insists that stability and power are the only qualities that matter in the evaluation of government. How do Machiavelli’s contentions that appearances matter more than reality **Side 1)** support or Side 2) undermine stability?

4. Discuss the a) form, b) tone, and c) rhetoric of *The Prince*. Do Machiavelli's choices in these areas lead to a persuasive argument? **Side 1)** Why? or Side 2) why not?

5. *The Prince* was banned by the Catholic church and has been roundly condemned throughout history, even as it was being eagerly read in private. Argue **Side 1)** for or Side 2) against the proposition that although *The Prince* may certainly be called amoral, it is indeed describing a just system for ruling society.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEBATE

As we saw last time, a debate can be great fun, but only if it is well organized and the protocols are accommodated well in advance.

We will use the same alternating format as the previous debate.

It is expected that each team member contribute at least two articulated points with textual references and explanation/arguments during the debate.

Side 1

Orin Albertson

Katherine Bellingham

Sebastian Bise

Owen Frey

* Angelica Hatke

Elisabeth Heisler

Luke Inzeo

Anni Lung

Samuel Lynch

Edwin McClain

Erin Mills

Savannah Patterson

Anastasia Soutsos

Chiara Stocco

Patrick Uhlenkott

Nathan Wright

Side 2

Benjamin Beaudoin

Josiah Bise

Aurelia Finch

Tristan Hasseman

Benedict Heisler

Maria Hofbauer

Benjamin Leeds

Kristen Lung

Drew Magro

* Catherine Maher

Owen McClain

Tess Schloemer

Paul Steele

Claudia Uhlenkott

Danielle Weiler

* will be participating online

The judges for said discourse will be two honorable and worthy community members, along with your humble professor. All judgments will be both wise and final.

Nota Bene: Once again, any strife that occurs within families due to the predetermined factions for this assignment is limited to the purview of said families and simply not subject to recourse from this administration.