

**Part 1 Summer Reading:** *The Prince*, Niccolo Machiavelli

*The Prince*, written by Niccolo Machiavelli, is one of the most influential works on political power in Western Civilization. Machiavelli's early career as a diplomat (officially the Secretary of the Second Chancery) for the powerful Republic of Florence from 1498-1512 during the politically volatile era of the Italian Renaissance allowed him to examine firsthand the multitudes of leadership styles and qualities in his dealings with the Sforzas in Milan, the Borgias in Rome, the Trastámaras of Aragon (Spain), and the Valois in France. In 1513, the republican government in Florence was overthrown by the powerful Medici family, namely Lorenzo de Medici (the Magnificent). After taking princely control of Florence, Lorenzo promptly fired Machiavelli, who after a brief imprisonment (and brutal torture), retired to his estate where he devoted the rest of his life to writing. Although his writings vary from satiric plays (*The Mandrake*) to poetry, his most lasting contribution to history would be his political essays and tracts, especially *The Prince*.

**Directions:** *The Prince* is not exactly an obscure work, so it should be relatively easy to find. My advice would be to go to any of your local bookstores (or online options like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. several copies are listed for 1 penny!) and pick up a copy. With the majority of the paperback copies of the work found, *The Prince* is generally joined by several essays by Machiavelli—these will not be required for the assignment.

Answer the following questions in as much detail as possible (and obviously, complete sentences). Responses should be well organized and your analysis should use evidence from the book. This will be due on the second day of school. I will check my email throughout the summer, so if you have any questions regarding the assignment (or any questions about this year), please email me at Michael.harvie@polk-fl.net.

**Questions:**

1. Describe Machiavelli's life and the political climate in Italy while this book was being written.
2. Identify and discuss three major themes in *The Prince* (look at chapter titles).
3. What were the five "errors" committed by Louis XII of France described by Machiavelli in Chapters 3 and 4? How did the ancient Romans and Alexander the Great avoid some of these mistakes?
4. Explain why Machiavelli, in Chapter 5, insists so much on destruction.
5. In Chapters 6 and 7 which vices are considered useful and advisable? Why does Machiavelli recommend them?
6. Describe Francisco Sforza and Cesare Borgia, as they are discussed in Chapter 7. Why does Machiavelli dedicate almost the entirety of the chapter to Cesare Borgia?
7. Describe the role of armies according to Machiavelli in Chapters 12-14. Pay specific attention to why they must be strong, different types of troops and the value of them, and military duty of the prince.
8. What does Machiavelli say in regards to a prince being either feared or loved? Which, in Machiavelli's opinion, is more important? Is it possible for a ruler to be both? Explain.
9. In regards to the concept of a ruler being feared and loved, explain Machiavelli's discussion of the Carthaginian General Hannibal of the Roman General Scipio Africanus.
10. What is the significance of the Myth of Chiron in Chapter 18? What are the qualities symbolized by the fox and the lion?

11. What is the course a prince should follow in choosing his advisors? What is the best method in recognizing a good minister?
12. Discuss Machiavelli's views on religion.

**Part 2 Class Brief**

Prepare a three minute brief from one of the following periodicity topics. You must include the major players, impacts and repercussions of this period. In other words what issues came from it or what major changes to the political, cultural or economic landscape happened.

*The Renaissance*  
*The Age of Exploration*  
*The English Civil War*  
*The Russian Revolution*

*The New Monarchs*  
*The Age of Absolutism*  
*The Wars of Religion*  
*The Rise of Fascism*

*The Scientific Revolution*  
*The Age of Enlightenment*  
*The Industrial Revolution*  
*The Unification of Europe post WWII*

**Part 3 Map Work: Modern Europe**

1. Locate the following on the map provided (do not simply copy one already filled in on the Internet.) You may use an atlas or other reference materials to find the locations.
2. Make sure you use a current map of Europe.
3. Make sure you clearly identify and label each location.
4. You may use another blank map, or enlarge the one provided, if you need more space.
5. Coloring is optional.

**\*\* Be prepared to locate each of the following on a map test the first full week of school\*\***

**Countries**

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Portugal       | Romania          |
| Spain          | Ukraine          |
| France         | Russia           |
| England        | Norway           |
| Ireland        | Sweden           |
| Scotland       | Finland          |
| Belgium        | Lithuania        |
| Netherlands    | Latvia           |
| Luxemburg      | Estonia          |
| Germany        | Turkey           |
| Denmark        | Morocco          |
| Poland         | Egypt            |
| Czech Republic | Algeria (Africa) |
| Slovakia       |                  |
| Austria        |                  |

**Bodies of Water**

North Sea  
 English Channel  
 Atlantic Ocean  
 Mediterranean Sea  
 Black Sea  
 Baltic Sea

**Cities**

Moscow  
 St. Petersburg  
 Istanbul  
 Madrid  
 Paris  
 London  
 Dublin

**Regions and Rivers**

Iberian Peninsula  
 Balkan Peninsula  
 Crimean Peninsula  
 Normandy (France)  
 Alps  
 Rhine River  
 Thames River  
 Seine River

Switzerland

Italy

Hungary

Corsica (France)

Bosnia

Croatia

Slovenia

Macedonia

Serbia

Albania

Greece

Bulgaria

Amsterdam

Brussels

Munich

Berlin

Geneva

Rome

Florence

Venice

Vienna

Prague

Warsaw

Athens

# Europe



Map not to scale  
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