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The Prince

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The Prince, by Niccolo Machiavelli, is one of the most read political treatises in the history of man. Written in 1513, Machiavelli wrote the treatise during a time of great political conflict in Italy. Using his philosophical beliefs as a basis, he scribed an informative exposition that details methods an hopeful or existing prince can use to acquire or maintain his throne. The Prince contains ten sections written to help states understand how to control their principalities and maintain power by means of force. The treatise also details methods to gain further power, also through force. The first section covers Defense and Military. Machiavelli teaches states how to defend themselves and the most efficient way to attack and gain power. The second section speaks about the Reputation of a Prince; Machiavelli writes that "a man who strives after goodness in all his acts is sure to come to ruin, since there are so many men who are not good." Therefore, a prince should not worry about being perceived as good, but rather be concerned about what is best for his state. Further sections concern topics like Generosity versus Parsimony, Cruelty versus Mercy (it is safer to be feared than loved), In What Way Princes should Keep Their Word, Avoiding Contempt and Hatred, Gaining Honors, Nobles and Staff, Avoiding Flatterers, and Fortune. The Prince has influenced many political leaders and philosophers, including Napoleon, Mussolini, and Stalin. The book is the root of the term "Machiavellian" which means "suggestive of or characterized by expediency, deceit, and cunning." Nevertheless, it is apparent that whatever Machiavelli's intentions, he did believe in a strong, powerful central government and The Prince mirrors his probable philosophical ideals. Title: The Prince Author: Niccolo Machiavelli Version: Unabridged Language: English Reader: Various Format: MP3 Audio CD Tracks / Chapters: 16 Chapters Total running time: 05:47:02

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