

Niccolo Machiavelli

Quotes

War, Men, Art, Philosophical, People, Order, Wise, Mean, Enemy, Believe, Needs, Evil, Law, Literature, Opportunity, Way, Revenge, Doe, Peace, Should

The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten wolves.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Everyone sees what you appear to be, few experience what you really are.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Entrepreneurs are simply those who understand that there is little difference between obstacle and opportunity and are able to turn both to their advantage.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

I desire to go to Hell and not to Heaven. In the former I shall enjoy the company of popes, kings and princes, while in the latter are only beggars, monks and apostles

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A government which does not trust its citizens to be armed is not itself to be trusted.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men are so stupid and concerned with their present needs, they will always let themselves be deceived.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

It is just as difficult and dangerous to try to free a people that wants to remain servile as it is to enslave a people that wants to remain free.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Any man who tries to be good all the time is bound to come to ruin among the great number who are not good.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A sign of intelligence is an awareness of one's own ignorance.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Power is the pivot on which everything hinges. He who has the power is always right; the weaker is always wrong.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

it is better to act and repent than not to act and regret.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Politics have no relation to morals.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The more sand has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The wise man does at once what the fool does finally.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Make no small plans for they have no power to stir the soul.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men are driven by two principal impulses, either by love or by fear.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Gold will not always get you good soldiers, but good soldiers can get you gold.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men in general judge more from appearances than from reality. All men have eyes, but few have the gift of penetration.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The ends justifies the means.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Always assume incompetence before looking for conspiracy.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

There is nothing more important than appearing to be religious.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Make mistakes of ambition and not mistakes of sloth. Develop the strength to do bold things, not to suffer.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men are so simple and so much inclined to obey immediate needs that a deceiver will never lack victims for his deceptions.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

If an injury has to be done to a man it should be so severe that his vengeance need not be feared.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

There is nothing as likely to succeed as what the enemy believes you cannot attempt.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A battle that you win cancels all your mistakes.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

It is double pleasure to deceive the deceiver.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Never was anything great achieved without danger.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

One change always leaves the way open for the establishment of others.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The state is not an organism capable of bringing either moral or material improvements to the populace...but merely a vehicle of power for the men and party in power.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

It is better to be adventurous than cautious, because fortune is a woman.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Whosoever desires constant success must change his conduct with the times.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Wars begin when you will, but they do not end when you please.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

When you disarm the people, you commence to offend them and show that you distrust them either through cowardice or lack of confidence, and both of these opinions generate hatred.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

He who wishes to be obeyed must know how to command.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Laa shay'a waqi'un moutlaq bale kouloun moumkine...We work in the Dark, to serve the Light.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men are so simple of mind, and so much dominated by their immediate needs, that a deceitful man will always find plenty who are ready to be deceived.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

How perilous it is to free a people who prefer slavery.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The unarmed man is not just defenseless - he is also contemptible.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

One who deceives will always find those who allow themselves to be deceived.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

For the great majority of mankind are satisfied with appearances, as though they were realities, and are often more influenced by the things that seem than by those that are.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

I hold it to be a proof of great prudence for men to abstain from threats and insulting words toward anyone, for neither diminishes the strength of the enemy.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

There is no other way to guard yourself against flattery than by making men understand that telling you the truth will not offend you.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

How we live is so different from how we ought to live that he who studies what ought to be done rather than what is done will learn the way to his downfall rather than to his preservation.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

No enterprise is more likely to succeed than one concealed from the enemy until it is ripe for execution.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A multitude is strong while it holds together, but so soon as each of those who compose it begins to think of his own private danger, it becomes weak and contemptible.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Half of these aren't even Machiavelli. Some are Plato, Thucydides etc....doesn't anyone check these?

~Niccolo Machiavelli

One must be a fox to recognize traps and a lion to frighten wolves

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Never do an enemy a small injury.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Where the willingness is great, the difficulties cannot be great.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A prince never lacks legitimate reasons to break his promise.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

I'm not interested in preserving the status quo; I want to overthrow it.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Knowing how to fight made men more bold, because no one fears doing what it seems to him he has learned to do. Therefore, the ancients wanted their citizens to be trained in every warlike action.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Of mankind we may say in general they are fickle, hypocritical, and

greedy of gain.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A son can bear with equanimity the loss of his father, but the loss of his inheritance may drive him to despair.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Therefore it is unnecessary for a prince to have all the good qualities I have enumerated, but it is very necessary to appear to have them.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Hatred is gained as much by good works as by evil.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

There is no avoiding war; it can only be postponed to the advantage of others.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Results are often obtained by impetuosity and daring which could never have been obtained by ordinary methods.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

For a long time I have not said what I believed, nor do I ever believe what I say, and if indeed sometimes I do happen to tell the truth, I hide it among so many lies that it is hard to find.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Every one sees what you appear to be, few really know what you are, and those few dare not oppose themselves to the opinion of the many, who have the majesty of the state to defend them.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Ability and perseverance are the weapons of weakness.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

One should never fall in the belief that you can find someone to pick you up.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

He who blinded by ambition, raises himself to a position whence he cannot mount higher, must thereafter fall with the greatest loss.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The prince must be a lion, but he must also know how to play the fox.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men sooner forget the death of their father than the loss of their patrimony

~Niccolo Machiavelli

When fortune wishes to bring mighty events to a successful conclusion, she selects some man of spirit and ability who knows how to seize the opportunity she offers.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

There is nothing so difficult or so dangerous as to undertake to change the order of things.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

It is not titles that honor men, but men that honor titles.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Few men are brave by nature, but good discipline and experience make many so.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

There is no surer sign of decay in a country than to see the rites of religion held in contempt.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men judge generally more by the eye than by the hand, for everyone can see and few can feel. Every one sees what you appear to be, few really know what you are.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

I hold strongly to this: that it is better to be impetuous than circumspect; because fortune is a woman and if she is to be submissive it is necessary to beat and coerce her.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Impetuosity and audacity often achieve what ordinary means fail to achieve.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The promise given was a necessity of the past: the word broken is a necessity of the present.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

For government consists in nothing else but so controlling subjects that they shall neither be able to, nor have cause to do [it] harm.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Appear as you may wish to be

~Niccolo Machiavelli

God is not willing to do everything, and thus take away our free will and that share of glory which belongs to us.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men are more apt to be mistaken in their generalizations than in their particular observations.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

For, besides what has been said, it should be borne in mind that the

temper of the multitude is fickle, and that while it is easy to persuade them of a thing, it is hard to fix them in that persuasion

~Niccolo Machiavelli

When neither their property nor their honor is touched, the majority of men live content.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Before all else, be armed.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A wise prince will seek means by which his subjects will always and in every possible condition of things have need of his government, and then they will always be faithful to him.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men seldom rise from low condition to high rank without employing either force or fraud, unless that rank should be attained either by gift or inheritance.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Princes should delegate to others the enactment of unpopular measures and keep in their own hands the means of winning favours.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A battle that you win cancels any other bad action of yours. In the same way, by losing one, all the good things worked by you before become vain.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

When you disarm your subjects, however, you offend them by showing that either from cowardliness or lack of faith, you distrust them; and either conclusion will induce them to hate you.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

The new ruler must determine all the injuries that he will need to inflict. He must inflict them once and for all.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

One arises from a low to a high station more often by using fraud instead of force.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

A prince need trouble little about conspiracies when the people are well disposed, but when they are hostile and hold him in hatred, then he must fear everything and everybody.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

I believe that it is possible for one to praise, without concern, any man after he is dead since every reason and supervision for adulation is lacking.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Men are always wicked at bottom unless they are made good by some compulsion.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Good order makes men bold, and confusion, cowards.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

No one should therefore fear that he cannot accomplish what others have accomplished, for, men are born, live, and die in quite the same way they always have.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

He who is the cause of another's advancement is thereby the cause of his own ruin.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

War is a profession by which a man cannot live honorably; an employment by which the soldier, if he would reap any profit, is obliged to be false, rapacious, and cruel.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

So in all human affairs one notices, if one examines them closely, that it is impossible to remove one inconvenience without another emerging.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Nature creates few men brave, industry and training makes many.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

Whoever is the cause of another becoming powerful, is ruined himself.

~Niccolo Machiavelli

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