

Name: _____
Date: _____

Machiavelli

Niccolo Machiavelli was one of the most influential writers of the Renaissance. He believed Italy could not be united unless its leader was ruthless. In 1513, he wrote *The Prince*, where he advised rulers to be kind only if it suited their purposes. Otherwise, he warned, it is better to be feared than loved.

"You must know there are two methods of fighting, the one by law, the other by force; the first method is of men, the second of beasts; but because the first is frequently not sufficient, one must have recourse to the

second. Therefore it is necessary for a prince to understand how to use the methods of the beast and the man . . .

A prince . . . ought to choose the fox and the lion; because the lion cannot defend himself against traps and the fox cannot defend himself against wolves. Therefore, it is necessary to be a fox to discover the traps and a lion to terrify the wolves. Those who rely simply on the lion do not understand this."

-- Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*
(1513)

Fill in the Blanks

Niccolo M_____ believed that I_____ could not be u_____ unless the *p_____’s ruler was r_____. He a_____ rulers to be k_____ only if it suited their p_____. He believed that it was better that a ruler was f_____ than l_____.

Answer in Complete Sentences

*1. Do you agree with Machiavelli that it is more important that a ruler be feared than loved? Explain your answer.

2. What is the college level dictionary definition of Machiavellian? Name a famous person who you think fits this description.

3. When do you feel it is appropriate for a ruler to be a fox, and when is it appropriate to be a lion? In other words, when is it important to use physical strength, and when is it for a ruler their use their wits?
