



The Prince (Oxford World's Classics)

Niccolò Machiavelli, Peter Bondanella, Maurizio Viroli

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'A prince must not have any other object nor any other thought...but war, its institutions, and its discipline; because that is the only art befitting one who commands.'

When Machiavelli's brief treatise on Renaissance statecraft and princely power was posthumously published in 1532, it generated a debate that has raged unabated until the present day. Based upon Machiavelli's first-hand experience as an emissary of the Florentine Republic to the courts of Europe, *The Prince* analyses the usually violent means by which men seize, retain, and lose political power. Machiavelli added a dimension of incisive realism to one of the major philosophical and political issues of his time, especially the relationship between public deeds and private morality. His book provides a remarkably uncompromising picture of the true nature of power, no matter in what era or by whom it is exercised.

This fluent new translation is accompanied by comprehensive notes and an introduction that considers the true purpose of *The Prince* and dispels some of the myths associated with it.

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