

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI
THE PRINCE

A new translation by Peter Bondanella



The Prince, Niccoló Machiavelli

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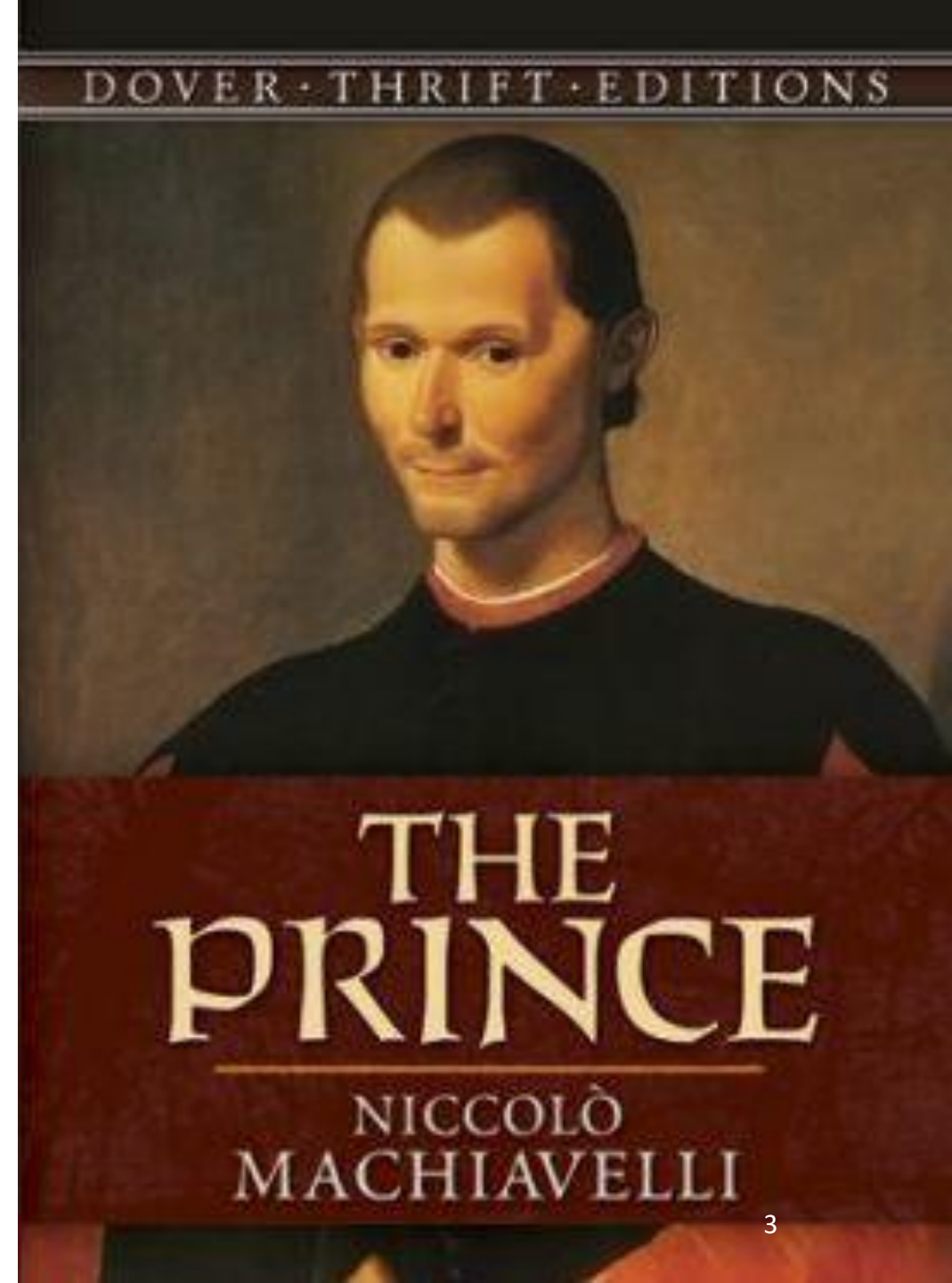
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About the Author : Niccoló Machiavelli

- Machiavelli was born in Florence on May 3, 1469.
- He was an Italian diplomat, philosopher, politician, historian and writer who lived during the Renaissance.
- He served as a defence secretary in the Florentine Republic with responsibilities in diplomatic and military affairs.
- He is called as the father of modern political philosophy and political science.
- He is best known for “The Prince” written in 1513.

Source: Machiavelli, Niccolò *The prince* (1513) page 3-20

<https://readingessence.com/2019/10/24/the-prince-by-niccolo-machiavelli/>, accessed on 25/05/2021, at 13:26.



About the Book: The Prince

- The Prince is an advisory letter to leader of Florence, Lorenzo de Medici.
- The Prince represents Machiavelli's effort to provide a guide for political action based on the lessons of history and his own experience as a foreign secretary in Florence.
- The book analyses what the state was like at that time and how a prince should behave to achieve success and stay in power.
- The Prince is sometimes claimed to be one of the first works of modern philosophy.
- The book was originally published in 1532 and is divided into 26 chapters.

Source: Machiavelli, Niccolò *The prince* (1513) page 3-22

<https://www.coursero.com/it/The-Prince/infographic/>, accessed on 25/05/2021, at 13:35.



Summary

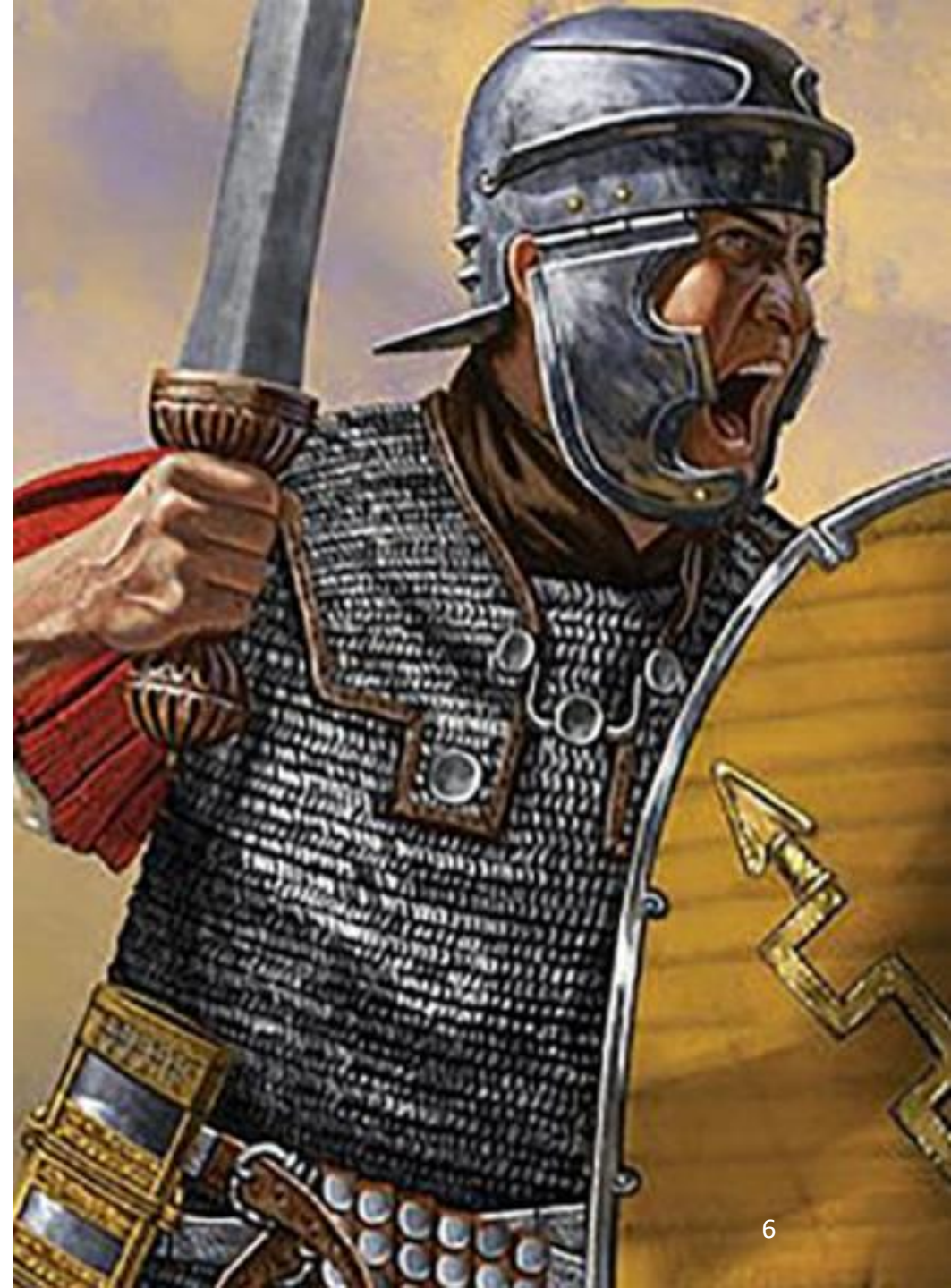
- The prince is about the art of having power and subsequently command and control of the state.
- Machiavelli initially discusses different types of principalities: hereditary principalities, brand-new principalities, and mixed principalities, and how to acquire them.
- New states are his primary focus, since those are the hardest to deal with.



Summary

- Also, a prince should strive to rise to power on his own merits with good laws and good arms, consisting of citizen soldier.
- In the later part he discusses the character and behavior of the prince, and advice the prince how to strengthen their power.
- In the end, it describes Italy's desperate political situation and Machiavelli pleas to the Medici family to lead Italy out of foreign domination under a strong, centralized leadership.

Source: <http://turningpointsoftheancientworld.com/index.php/2018/08/12/evolution-roman-legionary-armour/>, accessed on 25/05/2021, at 13:56.



Critical Analysis

- “Fortune is a woman, and if you want to keep her under, it is necessary to beat her and force her down.”
(Chapter XXV)
- “Its better to be feared than loved, if you cannot be both.”
(Chapter XVII)
- “A prince should be a great pretender and dissembler.”
(Chapter XVIII)
- “Princes must delegate distasteful tasks to others, while pleasant ones they should keep for themselves.”
(Chapter XIX)



Source: Machiavelli, Niccolò *The prince* (1513) page 53-62.

<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Prince/infographic/>, accessed on 25/05/2021, at 14:04.

Leadership principles in daily life

A leader should focus on pursuing the goal at any cost.

A leader should be intelligent to select good advisors around him and know when to listen to them (avoid flattery).

To protect a country, it needs its own army, not mercenaries or auxiliaries. The same holds true for businesses.

Countries can be easy to conquer, but hard to rule, or vice versa – and markets are the same.

Leader should represent cleverness and deceitfulness as a fox and courage and ferocity as a lion.



Conclusion

- “The Prince, is regarded as the most influential and controversial books published in western literature.
- Machiavelli describes how political rulers can use both good and evil, no matter how immoral it is, to rule their principalities.
- Although, this book was written about 500 years ago but still, its big portion, is applicable in this era.



Thank you!

