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Print ISSN: [3006-2497](#) Online ISSN: [3006-2500](#)Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)**A Is Mechiavelli Still Matter? Analyzing Corporate Leadership through a Mechiavelli Lens****Warda Akhtar**

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[S2022188035@umt.edu.pk](mailto:S2022188035@umt.edu.pk)**BSTRACT:**

This article is deeply rooted in the writings of Machiavelli philosophy as topic puts the idea that Machiavelli and his writings matters in the modern era of algorithm political system. Famous philosopher Niccolo Machiavelli as was born in the society where at that time was much instability in the region of Italy where the new era of reason and science was started as known as renaissance. Because of uncertainty of political system and for the sake of state he wrote his famous work as "the prince" and for this work Machiavelli got fame in the realm of philosophy and for long time this book provided strong pattern, planning and it assisted leaders for their survival in political system.

Machiavelli is considered to be the father of political realism as he puts the ideas that to be in power leaders have the authority for their ultimate means and for outcomes which are expected to come as per their desires, it also put the cruel nature of leader for end means. This research work is conducted to re-examine the work of Machiavelli to modern world as his ideas convey that the domain of power and planning for leader survival and for state survival are still compulsory and do assist the means of leaders.

For the sake of this study as many framework are applied to conduct study and as one of his famous central theme which is about the gain of corporate. This article also determine that current political system are also aligned with the ideas of Machiavelli political ideas he put out for the pursuance of power and to gain ultimately end means. For the sake of this study as multiple source have been analyzed to conduct this study coherent and relevant as like the text of the famous work the prince and other which is discourse on Livy have been analyzed.

To conduct this study many lens and framework have been applied as policy papers and texts and documentaries and historical views are also included to collectively put some relevant study. As for the sake of this study many studies also been analyzed as business related case studies are also been assessed, companies like amazon and other documentaries are included.

As Machiavelli philosophy is been much relevant in the age of modern political system, it not only assisted the realm of politics but also to put many strong points in achieving power and in decision making policies, so outcome are drawn that Machiavelli philosophy is much relevant and exist in many realist states as currently power maximization between India and Pakistan is one of the biggest example which is relevant to Machiavelli ideas.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Niccolo Machiavelli is best known the father of political science or political realism and as he got fame by one of his famous work which is the renowned book "The Prince" which was written to give some advice to the king of Italy as there was new era of reason and science was up better

known as renaissance. This era which is found back in history in the times of Roman Empire when Italy was on its peak and was center to the world power. So in renaissance, Italian people again got that type of life and power in hands. As there was instability at upper level during renaissance so Machiavelli wanted to put some advices for prince as outcomes of his experiences. His work was surrounded with ideas like power, legality, and control.

This article or study is conducted to investigate the relevancy of Machiavelli ideas to the contemporary political system in other words like, is there any space for Machiavelli in modern day leadership and in political system? As in the modern day governance system as there is much competition among states and all states and leader are behind the power to get influence and keep in power. In this era of digitalization age, states are shifted from welfare state towards the competitive state. Every state wants the power and there is no power.

There is much critique on the philosophy of Machiavelli thought and as his teachings and ideas are relevant to cruelty in political system and one of his idea which is about calculated truth over the traditional way of virtue and on ethics and on moral philosophy. One of his famous quote which is about "if you are going to build some business in the realm of virtue and ethics in every direction of life then there is absolutely the tussles between them".

This article is written to reassess the ideas of Machiavelli philosophy and to put framework that many states and leader are still adopting the ideas of Machiavelli philosophy. For the sake of this study as the later section which is consist of objectives, theoretical lens, hypothesis, and on literature. Which would collectively provide the best study and analysis of this topic and its adherence to modern political thought.

#### **RESEARCH PROBLEM:**

As we have studied much historical and philosophical literature on the philosophy of Machiavelli but still some ideas are lagging as his classical theory which is still to be explored. Particularly the ideas of Machiavelli about the power which is about the central theme of his philosophy. As the idea of corporate political system of governance which talks about the moral and ethical means often reject the central point of Machiavelli philosophy and political thought? So here is compulsory to reassess the ideas of Machiavelli which absolute explain the power maximization than the ideal and moral claims.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- ❖ To conceptually evaluation of his ideas relevance to current political thought of Machiavelli
- ❖ To determine the ideas of Machiavelli like the power, ultimate goals and absolute authority are found in leadership
- ❖ To analyze the moral values and means of Machiavelli philosophy to the power and leadership

#### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

- ❖ To what value the ideas of Machiavelli still have relevance in planning and in leadership?
- ❖ How the ideas of Machiavelli and concept of desire which is known by Fortuna resemble with contemporary decision making system?
- ❖ Which kind of moral and civic values do not exist when Machiavelli ideas are put in political system?

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW:**

There is much literature on the philosophy of Machiavelli ideas and on western political thought as it is marked the as collectively the mix ideas of both philosophy and politics in modern world. As this study is conducted to evaluate the ideas of power politics and end justify means, which are core concepts of Machiavelli philosophy and in which way they influence the modern day

politics. Much of his work has not been touched as remained unexplored like the ideas on corporate leadership and on power struggle of states.

As the work of his philosophy like the book discourse on Livy and the famous one which is The Prince, also put the ideas like planning and strategies which base on the ideas of realist perspective as refer towards to demand power and nasty nature of humans.

As researcher and philosopher also wrote much on the ideas of Machiavelli and some of them were the followers of Machiavellian ideas. As one of the discipline which was introduced like leadership psychology and in this domain there came the concept of Machiavellianism which posits the ideas that it is the combination of several key concepts like emotions, power and other aspect of realism are also included in this concept. And this concept was also discussed by other philosophers and they put the ideas that, Machiavellianism concept which totally side line the original text of realism.

Machiavelli in his philosophy mostly discuss the concept of power in every domain, one the theorist like Jeffrey Pfeiffer put his ideas on acquisition of power and its overall concept that, we side line the power in the domain of planning and in leadership or decision making but it is the compulsory aspect to put decisions in reality. He also said that many people have the power and influence the society and many do not have the power to influence. It also claim that Machiavellian principles and ideas influence the society more than the ideas of ethics, civic virtue and other welfare means. Philosopher like Mintzberg as was the much famous and relevant thinker, he added that stay always with good manners and ethics and moral ideas and be calm and merciful but you have to keep this in mind how to play and when to play in terms of power if needed.

As we have reviewed the literature and there is little bit gap on which we have to draw our study, as ethics and morality also there in politics as Machiavelli is against these ideas. This research also bridge the gap in a way that, to put some better points for political leadership by stay connecting with Machiavelli ideas.

### **THEORATICAL FRAMEWORK:**

This section of study is consist of many Machiavellian models as theoretical and philosophical models to explain the concept like virtue and Fortuna as the core ideas od Machiavellian philosophy.

#### **1. CORE IDEAS OF MACHIAVELLI**

As one of the first core idea is about Virtue, Machiavelli as was Italian philosopher and he gave the concept of virtue, he explained virtue in a way that, it's not about to act ethically or morally but it's all about how decision are taken and leader do work as per adaptability. And he also determined that a succeeded leader must need to behave like in ethical way and he must come to know about how to put plans as per requirement in the theatre of war and when there is need to act. As the second concept which base on Fortuna as this word refers that the concept of fate, it also puts the idea that a powerful leader through his planning and ideas can strength his fate and able to write it by own.

#### **2. Theory of leadership:**

Modern scholars and thinkers worked more on the concept of Machiavelli ideas as the famous thinkers like **drory and gluskinos**, these two thinkers puts the ideas that ideas of Machiavelli philosophy are enough to gain goals in every dimension. They also put the ideas that a power leader do not rely on ethical and moral values but on practical realist values as power and others.

#### **3. CORPORATE SYSTEM:**

In this concept as this is the center point of this research and conveys the ideas that in modern world many states come under the domain of competitive society where all people are under

influence of each other, because this world reflect the concept of competitive society by leaving the welfare society behind. As many states like Pakistan and other as USA and other all major come under the competitive societies and they adopt the strategies and concept of Machiavelli philosophy as per the study.

#### **HYPOTHESIS:**

- ❖ Contemporary political leader decision making ideas do align with the concept of Machiavelli corporate society.
- ❖ The key concepts of Machiavelli philosophy as Virtue and Fortuna concepts inter relate with current system and corporate surroundings.

#### **METHODOLOGIES:**

The research consist of qualitative studies and including with many case studies and interviews of many experts to make study much authentic and relevant.

As this study come up with many evaluation and analysis. As for the sake of this study many texts of Machiavelli philosophy has been analyzed as the prince texts and texts of discourse on Livy and many cases has been also analyzed for the sake of this study. And for the sake of primary data many experts' interviews have been conducted to support this research article.

#### **POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE:**

Many texts are included and other like people working at biggest firms and famous business tycoon are interviewed.

And as for the sake of sample to analyze the study coherency experts and senior members of policy makers institutions like business corporations are included in sample size as 10 members each from every top 10 industries is interviewed.

#### **SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:**

As for this study we have applied the purposive sampling technique because we had to collect data which align with our study and make us confident and provide actual data. And another technique which is snowball sampling tool is been applied to collect data.

#### **DATA COLLECTION METHODS:**

To collect data as we have studied many policy papers and texts of Machiavelli philosophy and other means to collect data were remain the interview of experts and analysis of many case studies also included in this study to make relevant to our research topic.

#### **ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:**

##### **MACHIAVELLI CORE IDEAS LIKE EXECTIVE PLANNING:**

This article which is consist of many analysis and many texts, as we included the section of interviews in which we interviewed many businessman and they responded back that with the concept of Machiavelli core ideas each state able to enhance influence at international arena. As the core ideas were all about manipulation of other means and to show aggressiveness in behavior and power to gain the ultimate level of fate or Fortuna.

The follower of ethical values and means ever lag behind and suffer one of the core quote of Machiavelli that is, you **do not get success with ethical means or ideal means**. One of the example of structure like this where the businessman Jeff Bezos who adopted the concept of virtue and shifted its corporation to this concept and made it globally recognized through aggression acts and policies.

##### **MORAL POINTS AND BOUNARIES:**

As it's very famous about the philosophy of Machiavelli that his writings and ideas totally neglect the concept of being ethical and to believe in moral values. His writings support the aggressive behavior in politics and also put the power aspect on the top to rule in society and set the strict policies for people and also suggest to adopt cruel strategies for ruler or philosopher king.

**ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE OR ASPECTS:**

As the study reveals that if there is no clear and visible policy and if there is no straight forward decision making then your strategies would lead towards the poor outcomes. And this concept we have put into real world actions like its lead towards the much risky outcomes. For example as Theranos put the suggestion and real world experience that poor planning and ethical oriented ideas lead towards the faulty outcomes and decision making.

**CONCLUSION:**

This research concludes that the philosophical foundation for realist world, Machiavelli ideas are still much relevant and assessing the stakeholders who are supposed to adopt the core ideas of this philosopher. His ideas assess the in the realm of decision making, manipulation of others, power and in adaptability for leaders and also in extraordinary leadership skills.

But as Machiavelli gave these points when there was instability at state level and he gave these points in the era of renaissance, this era marked as era of reason and science. So these ideas were much relevant at that time but now the world has shifted towards the ethical and moral values. This research also has determined that, states and leader may use these ideas with ethical values.

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