

AP European History Summer Assignment
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Read- *The Prince*:

- a. Students must purchase the following edition of *The Prince*:
Author: Niccolo Machiavelli
Translator: Harvey C. Mansfield
Publisher: University of Chicago Press, Second Edition, 1998
ISBN: 0226500446
- b. Read the introduction by Mansfield. There is an introduction for a reason-it gets you thinking by introducing you to some of the major themes and ideas. It is certainly worth your time.
- c. After reading the introduction, delve into *The Prince*.

Assignment

A. Background on Machiavelli

For some background on Machiavelli, feel free to use the internet or an encyclopedia. It's important to know the context (time, place, situation) in which he's writing, in order to understand his purpose. The following sites give quick summaries of Machiavelli's life:

<http://www.philosophy.com/ph/macv.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/machiavelli>

<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/philosphers/machiavelli.html>

B. Read *The Prince* and write an essay Due August 1

Your reading of *The Prince* contains two purposes. The first is to write a 3-4 page paper that pertains to the questions listed below. Your essay should be in narrative form. Essays need to be well constructed and use specific examples to prove your points. Because this is college level work, grammar, spelling and punctuation should be flawless. Essays need to be double-spaced in size 12 font with Times New Roman or Arial font. You may submit your essay to the front office or via email at jcaulfield@stbernardhs.com.

Read *The Prince* and prepare for discussion

The second is to prepare for class discussion on the text. You should be prepared to fully participate in this discussion. In order to do this, please take notes from the book for each of the questions so as to be ready to answer these questions in class.

-You should take notes for each of the questions.

-Notes should include major points, ideas and examples that help you answer the

question AS WELL AS the **page number** on which you found the information (so that we can examine the passage as a class)

-Your notes do not have to be in complete sentences and will not be graded for spelling, punctuation, neatness, etc.-they're your notes...simply make sure you can read them!

-I will be collecting your notes after the discussion.

-You may share ideas with a colleague, but simply copying a friend's notes will be considered cheating and result in a zero.

Questions

1. In Chapter 18, Machiavelli advises that a ruler ought to take both the lion and the fox as his models. What exactly does Machiavelli mean by this advice? How does it fit into the argument of Chapter 18, and how does it influence our overall understanding of *The Prince*?
2. What is Machiavelli's view of human nature? In what passages is this stated most clearly? In your opinion, are his views of human nature accurate?
3. Why does Machiavelli say that it is better for a prince "to be loved and feared"? Is it possible for a prince to be both? Explain.
4. Does Machiavelli believe that ethical considerations have a role to play in the conduct of a prince? Explain.
5. Does *The Prince* present justice as nothing more than the interest of the stronger? Explain.
6. Why did Machiavelli write *The Prince*?