

YOU ARE MACHIAVELLI

Choose what you think is the best answer to these questions, according to Machiavellian principles. You should refer to specific parts of *The Prince* as you make your decisions.

There may be more than one right answer depending on various circumstances; see if you can imagine the consequences of each choice.

1. You live in a nation where citizens have the right to bear arms. How should you, as the nation's chief executive, handle this right?
 - a. Allow things to remain as they are, with some citizens having weapons and others not. You assume you can call on weapons-owners to join a militia if the need arises.
 - b. Give weapons (guns) to all the citizens who don't have them, so they can also serve in a militia if the need arises.
 - c. Take weapons away from those who have them, because you don't trust them not to use them against you or your allies in power.

2. You are a successful business owner who has just bought/taken over a smaller rival company which shows a lot of potential. How might you want to proceed?
 - a. Allow the company to continue working as it has always done, without much oversight.
 - b. Allow the company to continue working as it has always done, with a rigorous system in place for reporting their successes, failures, profits, and procedures to you.
 - c. Fire all of their senior staff and replace them with people totally loyal to you.
 - d. You do not want to run the company yourself; shut down the company and sell it for a large profit, which you will then spend on bonuses for your employees at the parent business.
 - e. You do not want to run the company yourself; shut down the company and sell it for a medium profit which you will then re-invest in your parent business.

3. You are an American billionaire. How should you use your money to best enhance your global reputation and personal power?
 - a. Spend it on personal items and property.
 - i. Option A1: you are ostentatious with your wealth.
 - ii. Option A2: you are a private person and do not flaunt your wealth.
 - b. Spend it on large-scale, but frivolous projects – sending a car you've made into space, for example.
 - c. Spend it on large-scale projects concerned with public health or cultural impacts: disease eradication, cancer research, building new museums, etc.
 - i. Option C1: you do this quietly, through anonymous donations.
 - ii. Option C2: you do this publicly, through a foundation which bears your name.
 - d. You should run for President, citing your skills in business as appropriate for skillfully running a government.
 - i. *Another option:* you do not run for president, but you openly spend most of your wealth on donations to political campaign funds.