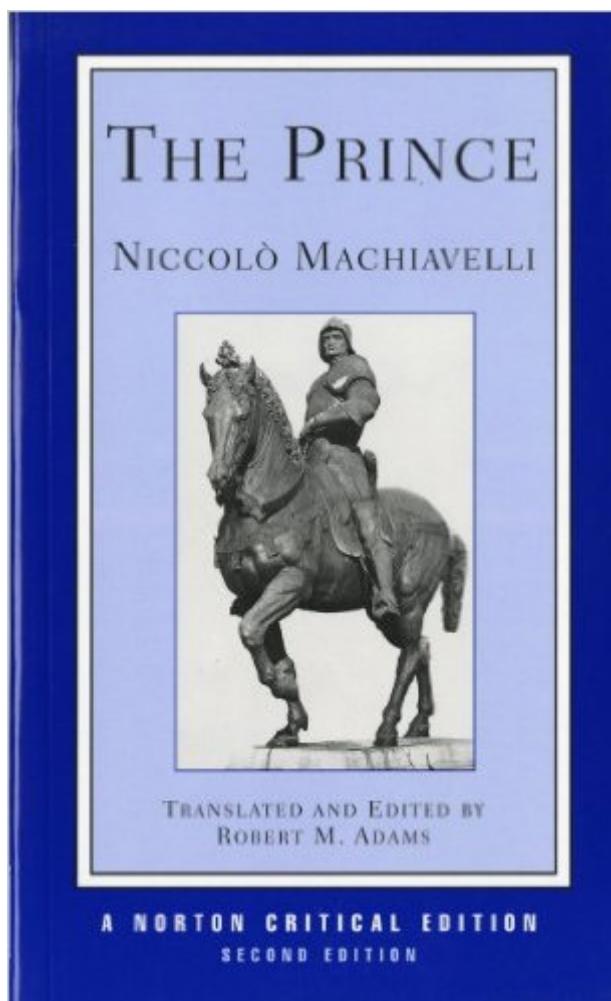


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The Prince (Norton Critical Editions)



Synopsis

Robert M. Adamsâ™s superb translation of Machiavelliâ™s best-known work is again the basis for this Norton Critical Edition. Accurate, highly readable, and thoroughly revised for the Second Edition, this translation renders Machiavelliâ™s 1513 political tract into clear and concise English. "Backgrounds" relies entirely upon Machiavelliâ™s other writings to place this central Florentine in his proper political and historical context. Included are excerpts from *The Discourses*, a report from a diplomatic mission, a collection of private letters, and two poems from *Carnival Songs*. "Interpretations" retains three of the previous editionâ™s seminal essays while adding five selections by Felix Gilbert, Federico Chabod, J. H. Whitfield, Isaiah Berlin, and Robert M. Adams. "Marginalia" is an eclectic collection of writings germane to both Machiavelli and *The Prince*. Of the eight selections represented, five of them are new to the Second Edition, including Pasquale Villariâ™s comic portrayal of Machiavelliâ™s first diplomatic post in 1499, Francesco Guicciardiniâ™s lofty rebuttal to Machiavelli, and a collection of Tuscan Sayings to further the readerâ™s understanding of this timeless text. An updated Selected Bibliography is also included.

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Customer Reviews

The original text of *The Prince* was written in 1513 and dedicated to Lorenzo deâ™ Medici, after NiccolÃ Machiavelli had been accused of conspiracy. In this text, Machiavelli analyzes the actions taken by popes and historical and Biblical princes in events that have taken place in Italy and throughout Europe during his lifetime to give advice on how to become a great prince. Machiavelli starts with the basics by describing various ways of rising to power: using oneâ™s own arms and

energy, using other peopleâ™s arms and luck, through crime, and by a choice of fellow citizensâ• (27). He continues by giving advice on every single aspect of being a prince: from military duties and selecting private counselors to acquiring a reputation and dealing with luck. While his work has been seen as controversial, the supporting evidence of the analysis of past events allows Machiavelli to make compelling arguments. It has been approximately 500 years since Machiavelli wrote *The Prince*, but it is striking to see the relevance of his work today. We may not live in a society of princes, but some of the advice can be applied in modern daily life as people find themselves in various leadership roles. For example, Machiavelli states that âœif a prince conducts himself with patience and caution, and the times and circumstances are favorable to those qualities, he will flourish; but if times and circumstances change, he will come to ruin unless he changes his method of proceedingâ• (68), explaining that one must be flexible and change once the times indicate that the methods used will not work. Although some of the advice can be extreme, the reader can find something Machiavelli proposes and apply it to daily life.

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