

Abstract:

At the end of 15th and the beginning of 16th century, Italy found itself in a deep political crisis. Although Italy was the most developed part of Europe at that time both culturally and economically, large parts of the peninsula were under direct influence of foreign powers. As a great Florentine and Italian patriot Machiavelli was greatly saddened by development and reflected this situation in his writing. Two greatest pieces of his work *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy* each offer a different solution to this crisis. In *The Prince* Machiavelli tries to find a way back to Italy's lost freedom and greatness through one extraordinary man – the prince, while in *Discourses* he concludes that only republican institution and just laws can be the solution. This paper aims to introduce both of these solutions presented by Machiavelli and by comparing them within the correct historical-political context ultimately decide which one of them would Machiavelli himself favour.