**Machiavelli**

A. Exposure to Politics

1. Machiavelli felt the biggest need of his day was a strong political and military leader

who could bring together northern Italy, ridding it of French and Spanish influence

2. In his work for the executive council in Florence, he had the opportunity to observe the

workings of foreign affairs firsthand

a. He got to meet with other political leaders to see how their countries were ruled.

b. He carried out several diplomatic missions to Germany, Spain, and other Italian city-states.

3. In 1512 the Medici family regained power in Florence

a. Machiavelli was forced out of his job and temporarily imprisoned

b. He returned to his country estate after his release and wrote The Prince, which was dedicated to Lorenzo de Medici in an attempt to gain favor

with the ruling family

B. The Prince (published in 1532—five years after his death)

1. Machiavelli composed The Prince as a practical guide for ruling

2. The Prince is unique, not because it explains how to take control of other lands and how to control them, but because it gives advice that often disregards all moral and ethical rules

a. “it is necessary for a prince…. to learn how to be able to be not good and to use this and not use it according to necessity."

b. Machiavelli also advocates the use of evil to acquire a principality

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3. Machiavelli discusses is what qualities apply to a prince so that he can maintain the best control.

a. military knowledge

b. to be loved or to be feared

c. trustworthiness

d. good and bad reputations.

4. The Prince offers political instruction about conquering local competitors and maintaining control over them. He recommends employing any means possible.

5. Machiavelli's reasoning was right for his time because his time was a time of frequent war and advice on the art of war was needed.

a. Machiavelli is still relevant. This is answered by the

500 years of wars, treachery and genocide. These traditions were disliked by Machiavelli, but he recognized them as inherent to human interaction.

People have not changed, and governments continue to turn against their neighbors and their own people with regularity.

b. Machiavelli is just as relevant as ever, some details may need updating, but the essence remains vital