

Excerpts from Machiavelli's *The Prince* (adapted)

Directions: For each claim by Nicolo Machiavelli about how a ruler (a prince) should act, prove it or disprove it using logic or real examples from history. If you agree, add "This is true because" after it, then explain why. If you disagree, add "This is false because" after it, and then explain why.

- 1) Rulers should not try to conquer lands that are not similar in custom/language to his native land.
- 2) If a ruler conquers a nation, he should live there.
- 3) All problems that arise in a nation should be dealt with at the present time and not delayed.
- 4) Never betray your political allies.
- 5) If a ruler invades a nation, they should wipe out all political heirs to the throne.
- 6) It is easier to conquer a nation where there are several states within, each controlled by a different person, but all headed by one ruler, than to conquer a nation where everyone is solely dependent on one ruler.
- 7) When a ruler conquers a nation, he should either allow that nation to continue living as it did, or destroy it, those options are the only ways that a ruler can keep a conquered land.
- 8) A ruler should always try to please the common people before the nobles.
- 9) A ruler should be familiar with war strategy, theory, and history, for this is what makes him the ruler – that he knows how to protect a nation.