

IMPORTANCE OF THE RENAISSANCE POLITICAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CURRENT GOVERNANCE OF SRI LANKA (REFERENCE TO NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI)

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The Renaissance period witnessed a significant intellectual and political revolution, giving rise to many new ideas and philosophies. Niccolo Machiavelli, an influential political philosopher, contributed to this era with his seminal work, "The Prince." This paper explores the importance of Renaissance political thoughts, particularly Machiavelli's theories, for understanding and addressing contemporary governance challenges in Sri Lanka. Qualitative research methodology was used here. Data collection was done through the literature survey. In this method, secondary sources were used. As secondary sources, the internet and other sources of publications were used. The Renaissance witnessed a departure from medieval ideologies, embracing a more secular and humanistic perspective. Machiavelli's Political thoughts emphasised realism, the practical function of power, and the acquisition and establishment of political power. His ideas offered a pragmatic approach to rulers, challenging conventional moral and ethical considerations. Diverse challenges, including political instability, power struggles, and social and economic issues, characterise Sri Lanka's current governance landscape. Machiavelli's ideas primarily revolve around political realism and rulers' strategies to maintain power and political stability. He often emphasised the pragmatic use of power, manipulation, and cunning to achieve political goals. Therefore, Sri Lankan rulers can use Machiavelli's thoughts to rescue Sri Lanka from political instability and achieve particular goals as a nation. It highlights vital Machiavellian principles such as realism, effective leadership, power dynamics, political power and stability, and effective use of force and diplomacy that can offer valuable insights into the current Sri Lankan governance context. Given Sri Lanka's history of political unrest, authorities should concentrate on creating dependable institutions to meet the populace's demands. Making painful decisions may be necessary to consolidate control and avert catastrophe. Sri Lanka faces economic difficulties, such as high debt levels and unemployment. Leaders could use Machiavellian pragmatism to prioritise economic development and growth while enacting measures to entice foreign investment, boost indigenous industries, and reduce poverty. The most appropriate Machiavellian teaching that could be cautiously applied to overcome specific challenges in Sri Lanka is "Maintaining Power and Stability."

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