**World History – Weiss  
Machiavelli & Popular Culture**

How does Machiavelli appear in music, movies and art? Choose a way that he has been appropriated or depicted, and write a commentary about whether this use of Machiavelli does justice to the political philosopher’s writings. Below are some Machiavelli references in popular culture:

**Requirements:**

You need to make 5 connections to Machiavelli. You can use TV characters, movie characters, video game characters, athletes, actors / actresses, musicians, cartoons, or just do a [news search](https://www.google.com/search?q=machiavelli&tbm=nws) of how Machiavelli is being applied in today’s news. You can use the same person / example for all or as many different as you wish. You must make comparisons to the writings and sayings you have been exposed to from Machiavelli’s, *The Prince*, or you can pull in additional examples from *The Prince.*

One connection = Machiavelli example / quote / ideology compared to your example. You can use PowerPoint, poster, etc. but need to have visual representation in addition to written explanation / analysis.

**EXAMPLE**

**Tupac & Machiavelli:**Tupac Shakur adopted the stage name of Makaveli and used the moniker in some of his lyrics.

Chapter Fifteen:

“About those factors that cause men, and especially rulers, to be praise or censured”

What is being said here?

1. **Machiavelli** writes:
   1. *“my hope is to write a book that will be useful, at least to those who read it intelligently, and so I thought it sensible to go straight to a discussion of how things are in real life and not waste time with a discussion of an imaginary world”*

**Shakur** had rapped about things that many people felt were too raw for music.

Example: Hit 'em with a little Ghetto Gospel

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_5QCFWZNlk>)

Those who wish to follow me  
(My Ghetto Gospel)  
I welcome with my hands  
And the red sun sinks at last into the hills of gold  
And peace to this young warrior without the sounds of guns

If I could recollect before my hood days  
I'd sit and reminiscence thinkin' of bliss of the good days  
I stop and stare at the younger my heart goes to em  
Ain't tested it was stress that they under

And nowadays things change  
Everyone's ashamed of the youth  
'Cuz the truth look strange and for me it's reversed  
We left them a world that's cursed and it hurts

'Cuz any day they'll push the button and all good men  
Like Malcolm X and Bobby Hutton died for nothin'  
Told 'em they could get teary the world looks dreary  
When you wipe your eyes see it clearly

There's no need for you to fear me  
If you take your time to hear me  
Maybe you can learn to cheer me it ain't about black or white  
'Cuz we're human I hope we see the light before it's ruined  
My Ghetto Gospel

1. **Machiavelli** in the same chapter mentions that a person with power can not always be perceived as having good qualities.  He says that there are things that are virtuous but will lead to your downfall and things that are bad but will make you prosper.

**Tupac** also rapped about how this quality for instance in “Changes” saying “I ain’t never did a crime I ain’t have to do/ but now I’m back with the facts giving them back to you”, displaying that he has faults but is now committed to educating the masses.

3:30 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osUnNXAwwgU>

Chapter Seventeen:

1. “About cruelty and compassion; and about whether it is better to be loved than feared” correlates with the albums that Tupac released during (Me Against the World) and after (All Eyes on Me) his imprisonment.

His song “Hit ‘Em Up” is a prime example of the anger he displayed toward his enemies where the chorus was:

*“Grab your glocks when you see Tupac/Call the cops when you see Tupac/ You shot me but your punks didn’t finish/Now you bout to feel the wrath of a menace”*

How do you think people would react to this? What could this lead to? How could that help illustrate that “it was better to be loved than feared” or that “the ends justified the means”?

1:00 (Chorus) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQNGeeUP47w>