

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: (*see rubric as well*)

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 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.

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:
 - a. *“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_5QCFWZNIk)

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

2. **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:

3. “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>