MACHIAVELLI AND EMPIRE

Mikael Hörnqvist challenges us to rethink the overall meaning and importance of Machiavelli’s political thinking. *Machiavelli and Empire* combines close textual analysis of *The Prince* and *The Discourses* with a broad historical approach, to establish the importance of empire-building and imperial strategy in Machiavelli’s thought. The primary context of Machiavelli’s work, Hörnqvist argues, is not the mirror-for-princes genre or medieval and Renaissance republicanism in general, but a tradition of Florentine imperialist republicanism dating back to the late thirteenth century, based on the twin notions of liberty at home and empire abroad. Weaving together themes and topics drawn from contemporary Florentine political debate, Medicean ritual, and Renaissance triumphalism, this study explores how Machiavelli in his chancery writings and theoretical works promoted the longstanding aspirations of Florence to become a great and expanding empire, modeled on the example of the ancient Roman republic. Original and thought-provoking, this book makes a major contribution to our understanding of the Renaissance, and of the history of European ideas.

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Machiavelli and Empire
I D E A S  I N  C O N T E X T

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MACHIAVELLI AND EMPIRE

MIKAEL HÖRNQVIST
To Justine, Véronique, and Sbohreh
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Acknowledgments

This project began as a doctoral dissertation in the Department of the History of Ideas at Uppsala University and has evolved into a book after a long process of restructuring and rethinking. It would have been impossible to follow this crooked path had it not been for the guidance and encouragement from good friends and respected colleagues.

The author wishes to thank Rolf Bagemihl, Alison Brown, Salvatore Camporeale, Lorenzo Casini, Gunnar Eriksson, Riccardo Fubini, Ken Gouwens, Stephen Greenblatt, James Hankins, Johan Köhler, Harvey Mansfield, John Najemy, Patricia Osmond, Marco Pellegrini, Mats Persson, and Quentin Skinner for their critical advice and support in this venture.

Institutional support has been received from the Department of the History of Science and Ideas at Uppsala University, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the Villa I Tatti: The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies in Florence, and the Instituto Nazionale dei Studi sul Rinascimento in Florence.

I owe a special thanks to the many institutions that have provided financial support for this venture. I am particularly indebted to the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for the main source of funding without which the project would not have reached completion. Generous funding was also provided by the Swedish Research Council, the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, the Melville J. Kahn Fellowship Fund, the Swedish Institute, the Sweden–America Foundation, and the Wennergren Center Foundation.

My greatest debt is to my family, Justine, Véronique, and Shohreh. It is with pleasure and a sense of deep gratitude that I dedicate this book to them.
On the use of Machiavelli’s texts

For the renditions of Niccolò Machiavelli’s Prince in English, I have consulted the following translations to offer translations of my own:

For Machiavelli’s Discorsi sopra la prima deca di Tito Livio, I have relied on Harvey Mansfield and Nathan Tarcov’s translation in Niccolò Machiavelli, Discourses on Livy (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996) with minor adaptations.

Unless otherwise stated, all other translations in the text are my own.

As a rule, Machiavelli’s name has been omitted in the notes.