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The first modern treatise of political philosophy, *The Prince* remains one of the world's most influential and widely read books. Machiavelli, whose name has become synonymous with expedient exercises of will, reveals nothing less than the secrets of power: how to gain it, how to wield it, and how to keep it. But curiously, this work of outspoken clarity has, for centuries, inspired myriad interpretations as to its author's true message.

The Introduction by noted Italian Renaissance scholar Albert Russell Ascoli provides a perfect opening to Peter Constantine's illuminating new translation of this seminal work.

"Constantine elegantly captures in English the pith of Machiavelli's brilliant Italian prose."

-Edward Muir, Clarence L. Ver Steeg Professor in the Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University

"Peter Constantine's excellent translation belongs in everyone's library. Perhaps now more than ever we have much to learn from this Renaissance thinker, present at the birth of the modern world."

-John Jeffries Martin, professor of history, Duke University