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## 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 long-standing 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.

MIKAEL HÖRNQVIST teaches at the Department of the History of Science and Ideas at Uppsala University in Sweden.

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IDEAS IN CONTEXT 71

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*To Justine, Véronique, and Shohreh*

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## *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:

*The Prince*, trans. W. K. Marriott (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, 1908).

"The Prince," in *The Portable Machiavelli*, eds. Peter Bondanella and Mark Musa (London: Viking Penguin, 1979), pp. 77–166.

*The Prince*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield Jr. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985).

*The Prince*, eds. Quentin Skinner and Russell Price (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988).

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.