✓ **COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING GAPS USING THE APPROPRIATE WORD FROM THE BOX:**

policy/policies	**politics**	**political**	**politic**	**politician/politicians**

Niccolò Machiavelli (1469–1527) was an Italian Renaissance thinker, diplomat, and _____ (**1**) whose works laid the groundwork for modern _____ (**2**) science. His most famous treatise, *The Prince*, addresses the strategies and principles of power, examining how rulers acquire and maintain control over state _____ (**3**).

Machiavelli argued that leaders must often make pragmatic decisions rather than strictly moral ones, asserting that it is prudent and _____ (**4**) for a sovereign to adapt to changing circumstances. Unlike traditional moralists, he analyzed _____ (**5**) actions based on their actual outcomes rather than abstract ideals. His insights into foreign _____ (**6**) and domestic governance highlighted the necessity of balancing strength and cunning.

During the Renaissance, the volatile state of Florentine _____ (**7**) heavily influenced Machiavelli's perspective, as rival factions fought for control. Throughout history, various _____ (**8**) have drawn inspiration from Machiavellian thought to justify statecraft decisions, while reform-minded _____ (**9**) leaders have often debated the ethics of his proposed _____ (**10**).

Today, scholars continue to study his writings to better understand international relations, defense _____ (**11**), and the fundamental dynamics of leadership within contemporary _____ (**12**) institutions.

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