• Italy is simultaneously thriving and in the midst of war (Italian renaissance v. divided principalities)

**Personal Background and Beliefs**
- Diplomat and writer (not an academic)
- Italian patriot: goal to recreate Italy: heavily involved in military issues
- Realist (concrete ways to govern)
- When Machiavelli was born in Florence the Medici family was ousted from power. Machiavelli became the Second Chancellor of the Republic of Florence and when the Medici returned in 1512, Machiavelli is accused of conspiracy. He wrote *The Prince* to attempt to regain his status with the family (dedicated to Lorenzo di Medici).
- Discourses on the Ten Books of Titus Livy (1517): unity in a virtuous republic:
  - Virtuous people
  - Balanced constitution
  - Good laws
  - Popular participation
  - Parties competition
  - Citizen army
  - Strong and wise leadership

**Text: The Prince (1513)**
- Realist: what is, not what ought to be
- Scandalous: ignores Christian morality and tradition and is geared towards political efficiency – secularises thinking on power
- Structure: organised around 4 axes:
  - Typology of different states
    - How to conquer and defend the state
    - Relations between prince, subjects and allies
    - Remedies to Italian decline
- Key point: duration – an ancient prince has the legitimacy of dynasty but a new prince (conquered dynasties) must root his legitimacy in strength and maintenance of power.
- The king rises to power either through:
  - Fortuna: chance, destiny, trust in human action – will have a hard time keeping power
  - Virtu: vital strength, vitality of the prince (man of action and courage rather than morality) – will have a hard time getting power but will be easy to maintain
  - Necessity: not always a good prince: fear is stronger than love. The ability of a ruler to do whatever must be done in order to achieve success.
- For new conquests added to older states:
  - Install colonies of one’s own people there
  - Indulge the lesser powers of the area without increasing their power
  - Put down the powerful people
  - Not to allow a foreign power to gain reputation
• Sovereign cannot breach covenant
• Majority have consented
• Sovereign cannot be accused of injustice or put to death
• Sovereign has the right to do whatever he thinks necessary for the preservation of peace and security
• Prescribes rules of civil law and property
• Judges all cases
• Makes war and peace (commands the army)
• Chooses officers
• Can reward and punish
• Establish laws about honour and worth
  o Hobbes rejects the separation of powers and he is in favour of censorship
• Modern or Authoritarian?
  o Modern
    ▪ Consecration of the covenant idea
    ▪ Individualist philosophy: each individual accepts the pact and willingly consents to power
    ▪ Legitimacy of the sovereign rests on the goals of power (security) not its origins i.e. the ends justifies the means (Machiavelli)
    ▪ Representation as an idea
    ▪ Absence of religion
    ▪ Recognises other systems
    ▪ Law and natural law theories
  o Authoritarian
    ▪ Criticised as an apology of tyranny
    ▪ Theorist of the totalitarian state? (unlimited power of the sovereign, no right of resistance)
    ▪ Control

Robert Filmer

Works
• The Freeholders Grand Inquisition
• The Necessity of the Absolute Power of All Kings
• The Anarchy of a Limited or a Mixed Monarchy
• Patriarcha

Context
• English Civil Wars (1642-1651)

Personal Background and Beliefs
• Studied at Cambridge
• Royalist in English Civil Wars
• Defended the divine right of kings
• Wrote critiques of Hobbes, Milton, Grotius and Aristotle
• Francisco Suarez