

Stephen Greenblatt – argues Jew represent embodiment of everything Marlowe’s Christian audience loathes and fears but Barabas is the true representative of Maltese society – they are all motivated by money – “Barabas’ avarice, egotism, duplicity and murderous cunning do not signal his exclusion from Malta”

Dena Goldberg – ritual sacrifice – someone is sacrificed for the good of the community – Marlowe is parodying the very concept – Marlowe provokes audience to witness the “phenomenon of sacrifice with analytic detachment rather than tragic empathy”

Prologue

- Marlowe is parodying the figure of Machevill – religious leaders follow Machiavellian ideas to attain power – “they read me and thereby attain/To Peter’s chair” – corrupt in attaining status, power, wealth – not openly following but in secrecy
- Sets the theme of play to be mocking religion – using religion as a motive to gain political power and status – expressing Machiavellian ideas – “I count religion but a childish toy”
- “grace him as he deserves/ And let him not be entertained the worse/ Because he favours me” – Barabus resembles Machevill but asks his readers/audience not to judge Barabus because he favours Machiavellian views
- Barabus is considered as an outsider due to his religion and his Machiavellian methods of attaining wealth and power – compared to Ferneze who hides his cunning ways

How is Barabus a Machiavellian character

- The attempted murder of Calymath in cauldron to get power of Turks and Malta
- Poisoning of Rumsey
- Contrasting the fight between Redwick and Mathias
- Teasing the friars by questioning which one to kill and his mockery of converting to Christianity – highlights friars’ corruption because whoever Barabus joins he will give them his wealth – conveys hypocrisy of religion
- Manipulation of religion

Ferneze as a Machiavellian character

- Taking the Jews’ money
- Not paying the Turks and keeping the money for himself