

# NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI'S *THE PRINCE*:

## “CRUELTY AND MERCY, AND WHETHER IT IS BETTER TO BE LOVED OR FEARED”



A Lecture by Professor Benedetto Fontana

.....

*In a discussion of the relative merits and utility of love and fear as instruments of rule, Machiavelli seems to suggest fear as more realistic and more reliable than love. Though ideally rule ought to be based on both love and fear, and certainly the Prince ought to strive to gain the love of his people, in practice one will preclude the other and so prudence may compel the ruler to evoke fear.*

Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527): The Renaissance Historian, Politician, Writer, Humanist, and the Influence of his Remarkable and Revolutionary Thought on Today's Political Landscape.

.....

Benedetto Fontana, Professor and Chair in the Department of Political Science at Baruch College, CUNY, specializes in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Political Theory. He is the author of *Hegemony and Power: On the Relation Between Gramsci and Machiavelli* (University of Minnesota Press, 1993), and the co-editor of *Talking Democracy: Historical Perspectives on Rhetoric and Democracy* (Penn State University Press, 2004), among others. He has published in numerous journals, including *Rivista di Studi Italiani*, *History of Political Thought*, *The Philosophical Forum*, and *Journal of the History of Ideas*.

Monday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Pearson Hall, Room 106  
16 Talbot Ave.  
Tufts University

.....

*Reception to follow  
in Laminan Lounge, Olin Center*

*Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science, Frank C. Colcord Fund; the Department of Romance Languages' Program of Italian Studies, Theodore Chamberlain Fund; the Department of Classics, the International Relations Program, and the History Department.*