



RESEARCH PAPER

Narendra Modi a Machiavellian Prince: An Appraisal

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ABSTRACT

The comparison of Narendra Modi and Machiavellian Prince is very important as policies of Modi are creating problems within India and beyond the borders. The Prince is the book of Niccolo Machiavelli a great philosopher of his time. If Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi qualifies as a Prince of Machiavelli is a very important question. This is answered in the light of his policies and strategies to become the undisputed political leader of India. Much of the Machiavellian Prince deals with the problem of how a layman can raise himself from abject and obscure origins to such a position that Narendra Modi has been holding in India since 2014. The basic theme of this article is revolving around the question that is following: Can Modi's success be attributed to techniques of The Prince in important respects? This article analyzed Narendra Modi's policies and strategies to develop an analogy between Machiavellian Prince and Modi in terms of characteristics and political strategies. This research work examines, how Narendra Modi became the strongest person in India.

Introduction

If these examples are examined deeply there is another aspect of his actions. He may have followed the advice of Machiavelli in which he advised the prince to destroy his enemies. Muslims and other non-Hindu minorities in India are enemies of the Hindu majority that is base of the Modi vote bank and part of the ideology of RSS. Modi is the worker of this RSS that is a Hindu extremist and terrorist organization. Narendra Modi has become accustomed to how to handle the masses by applying fear. In his regime, the citizens who condemn the government to have painful regulations, longer sentences, and publically lynching that has become Modi's natural laws. India has become a state engulfed with state's dissidents, and in the name of loyalty for India people are being killed in the streets and in police custody by the favor of Modi. There is no law enforcement institution that could appeal on behalf of the dissidents who are being detained by police that is equipped with Mossad's modus operandi. This article has brought into light the different aspects of Modi political life and style of governing India that are very important as a Hindu supremacist ideology has destructed the secularism of India and democratic spirit in the country. Modi is building confinement centers and introducing the regulations to seize citizenship from his opponents, which can result in very serious implications for the region.

Literature Review

"The Prince" is a work of Machiavelli a great political philosopher, who was sent as a gift to the Duke of Florence by Niccolo Machiavelli. By offering him this manuscript, Machiavelli assumed that the duke would attract him and let him go back into public life. This book, however, is a source of guidance to all leaders who would like to learn from the past how a ruler must keep his things as they are. The book includes much information and insight into what the 'political' game is based on. Almost all rulers still use to read today the recommendations made by Machiavelli in his book. Even if many of them have so far not read his works; but now they can read Machiavelli's advice in his book very well. In this work, the relevant advice of Machiavelli is cited in this new work to develop a profile sketch of Narendra Modi as his work is imperative for the current study. (Tharoor, in his book "Paradoxical Prime Minister," analyzed the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's modus operandi. Tharoor, a member of the opposition party in India, inscribed that Modi's régime is ignominy. Since Modi's inception as Indian prime minister, the economy of India has gotten a summersault, religious harmony got undone to political criticism. As per Modi is explained by Tharoor, Modi is below average personality with speechmaking talent, who tumbledown economy and Indian social symmetry. The author writes that Modi's many projects are just the retitled description of projects of Manmohan Singh, his predecessor. All his economic boost-up policies are catastrophes and discourse about his nonsense egoistic attitude, some of his key interior policies have destroyed the fabric of Indian society. Modi's foreign policy is tumbling as Indian relations with neighboring even Nepal have become worse (Tharoor, 2018). This book provides a lot of information that is useful for the current paper. The work of Shashi Tharoor is very important as he is a politician and being an opposition leader monitoring Modi modus operandi very closely.

Hypothesis

India as a nation is passing through a very crucial stage in history and the dogmas of Narendra Modi are dangerous for a secular, democratic India as he is ruling in the style of the Machiavellian prince.

Profile of Machiavellian Prince

Those who learn about it... are astonished to find that almost all men, or the most of them, who have achieved heroic acts in their lives, and who have been exceptional among the men of their age, have both in their roots and their origin been modest and unknown, or have been struck by luck in exclusive," writes Machiavelli in the first lines of *Castruccio*. Since they've all been vulnerable to harsh creatures or they had such filthy parents in their lives that they've turned themselves into sons of Greek god Jupiter or some other out-of-shame god (Machiavelli, Bondanella, & Musa, 1979, 519). The self-made ruler named a Machiavellian prince is usually a man who has no élite origin but is obscure, preferred by his luck; who is competent to manipulate resources in the process of becoming a ruler of a country due to his exceptional personality traits. There are attributes that Machiavellian philosophy values in a projected ruler.

These attributes are encapsulated in the versatile word virtue, which can be translated as talent, competence, imagination, or skill; audacity, forcefulness, bravery,

imperiousness, temerity, or valor; and also in the drive, enthusiasm, intensity, cheerfulness, or power, depending on the political background. The other essential quality is *prudenzia*, which can be translated as cleverness, foresight, intellect, or wisdom, depending on the context. These features are presented in a candidate of the Prince when he was in his youth. However, these features can be developed and perfected through training about the war and the skill of war. Since “not only does it keep others who have been born Princes, but it also allows men of private wealth to rise to that rank” (Mansfield, 1998, 58). In addition, a candidate of Prince ought to read memoirs of great leadership, so that “replacement of some prominent man, who set out to resemble some features of his predecessor, who was deemed worthy of glory and prestige, always using his activities and acts as a prototype for himself (Machiavelli, Skinner & Price, 1988, 53). Virtue along with *prudenzia* can be important but not indispensable for the good performance of a Prince. As before said, a candidate for Prince requires favors from the *fortuna* (Machiavelli, Skinner & Price, 1988, 85-87). An individual of exemplary virtuosity, outstanding *prudenzia*, can understand his tireless determinations to come to fruition if he does not have *fortuna* on his side. Anyone who would allow themselves “be ruled by nature” was scorned by Machiavelli. An aspiring Prince relies solely on his own virtuosity and abilities, especially his ability to use force, to offer as little as necessary to luck.

“Moses, Cyrus, Romulus, Theseus, and the like” and many others who “owed nothing to luck but the ability to shape the stuff into the style that seemed right to them.” They were “armed prophets” who triumphed against all obstacles by persuading people to “believe by intimidation (Mansfield, 1998, 22-24). Hiero of Syracuse is “worth mentioning in this context,” despite being “a less significant example.” He, too, rose from humble beginnings to become the king of his homeland. His success had nothing to do with luck, apart from the chance. For when the Syracusans were in critical need of an Army General, they selected him, and he was rightly deserved to become their leader. By dissolving the longstanding military, he reorganized new troops; by broking up old coalitions, he decided to create new alliances; and once he had organized his troops and united the trusted supporters, he might perhaps create whatever structure he sought on these bases. As a result, gaining control was challenging for him, but maintaining it was even more difficult (Machiavelli, Skinner & Price, 1988, 22). As a result, force is a necessary means for any ambitious Prince.

Hiero had the old army's mercenaries “all hacked to bits”. However, force alone was insufficient; it must be supplemented by deception. A good ruler or Prince must possess the intelligence needed to “get around men's brains. (Mansfield, 1998, 69). The treachery of the new Prince allows him to lure dangerous opponents and dissidents into devastating traps. Even though a ruler or prince should “avoid evil wherever possible,” he must also “know how to venture into evil when compelled by others (Mansfield, 1998, 70). Cruelty, however, must be “well used” to be successful. Those that can be considered well used (if it is lawful to speak well of evil) are those that are performed in a flash, out of a need to protect his own life, and after it no need to pursue this further, then again instead are twisted to as much use for the matter as possible. Individuals brutalities that, while few at first, increase in number over time and not be defeated” (Mansfield, 1998, 37-38). Hatred and disrespect must be avoided by a Prince. To dodge being insulted by the majority of citizens, he ought to, as before said, keep the rate of taxes truncated. However, he would only be able to do so if he stays away from overspending. Not being despised is just as critical as not being hated. “What makes him horrible is that he is kept unpredictable and the soft, weak,

coward, and confident as qualities that a prince can avoid" (Mansfield, 1998, 72). Another rationale for the following parsimony is that poverty makes a Prince despicable. "For there is no comparison between one who is armed and one who is unarmed. A prince's cabinet must be carefully chosen because "the first observation that is to be developed of a lord's brain is to see the men he has around him"(Mansfield, 1998, 92)

The prince will be respected for his intelligence if they are competent and obedient, but he will not be valued if they are not. A prince must also create an environment in which people can speak the truth to him. Perhaps, a wise Prince must choose wise advisors, and they should be given the courage to express the truth to him, but only about the issues he asks about. He should ask them about everything and receive feedback; then he should make his own decisions, in his own way; and he should act in such a way with any of these councils and each representative of them that everyone understands that the more openly he talks, the more he will be welcomed. Apart from that, he has no need to listen to anyone; he should get right to the point and be adamant about his judgments(Mansfield, 1998, 94). To be respected, a ruler or a Prince must materialize as victorious from prosecutions within the court; or he should be victorious in battle with formidable foes: Short of suspicion. Rulers turn out to be successful once they conquer obstacles posed to them and resistance modeled to them. So luck, particularly as soon as tries to brand a new ruler or prince a leader, because he has the qualification to establish credibility than an inherited or dynastic ruler or prince. The luck brands rival against the Prince and they went on missions to defeat the Prince, this provides him the chance and reason to defeat his rivals and rise high position using the rivalry as a ladder that luckily his rivals have erected for the new Prince.

As a result, several people believe that an intelligent ruler or new prince should shrewdly cultivate some enmity when the opportunity arises so that when he crushes it, his greatness shines through even more brightly (Mansfield, 1998, 85). In inter-state relations, he should aid of someone against someone else, a ruler or Prince ought to turn as a 'real friend and real enemy,' perpetrating himself "without skipping a beat (Mansfield, 1998, 89) When it comes to gaining respect, impressions are just as important as actions, if not more so. As a result, the Prince should take great care to seem to those who see and listen to him to be extraordinarily merciful, reliable, and straight up and down, compassionate, and deeply religious. And, perhaps most importantly, it is necessary to appear religious. Because everybody can see you, but only a few can make contact with you. What you look to be, can be seen by everyone. As you will not interact with everyone and have only chosen one half thru private familiarity with your real face and character. The people having direct access to you have never have the courage to question the common opinion, which gets support from the magnificence of the stance of the ruler(Machiavelli, Skinner & Price, 1988, 62-63).“ Above all, a ruler must strive to set up a reputation as a great man of exceptional intelligence through all of his words and deeds.” (Machiavelli, Skinner & Price, 1988, 77)

Machiavellian Sketch of Narendra Modi

Machiavelli's assessment that he developed about the origins of the majority of leaders is very interesting when the origins of Narendra Modi are assessed. His ancestors are obscure, if his origin was not abject by the norms of the times in which he grew up, his origin can at least be said a shameful background. Narendra Modi has an obscure family background as he was born into a family associated with the occupation of oil pressing

(Taili in Urdu). His family was registered in India as Other Backward Class (OBC) (Wallace, 2015, 56). Looking at the family of Narendra Modi his father's name was Damodardas Molchand Modi and his mother is Heeraben Modi. Narendra Modi was the third child of his parents as they had six female and four male children. Narendra Modi, who has no political background in his family, is taken into account, among the most successful self-made leaders in history.

Modi faced many difficulties and obstacles in his childhood days, but with the strength of his character and courage, he turned all challenges into opportunities. In this way, his early life was very struggling. Comparing Modi with the Machiavellian Prince, Modi in his youth had a wish to join the armed forces and this is intact in him. Despite the fact that he was Prime Minister of India, he often visited the armed forces and wore uniforms of forces. In his infantile years, he had a wish to join the Armed Forces of India and tried to get into Sainik or military School. This is a matter of fact that he could not fulfill his desires as his family was not able to support him (Sharam, 2014, 03) When he came to the age of 17 he decided to leave the family due to the tough life at home, the size of the family has overburden his father, and Modi decided to test his own luck. Making an analogy of his life between the Prince of Machiavelli who had luck and Fortuna. Luck played an important role in the life of the Prince and so in Modi. According to the traditions of the Ghanchi community, Modi was married to Jashoda Ben Chimanlal in 1968 at the age of 18. According to reports, it has been said that Modi was not divorced from his wife, but still, both of them separated from each other. Modi's wife Jashodaben used to work as a teacher in a government school in Gujarat, but now she has retired. Modi has no children.

Modi and his wife were separated a few days after the wedding. Narendra Modi's early education was completed at the local school in Vadnagar. Public school is the source of the early education of Narendra Mod. Where he went to get higher secondary education is a mystery, no one knows, how he completed higher secondary education in 1967. He left his home and wander here and there for many years and at the age of 20 in 1970, he was so much influenced by the RSS that he became a full-fledged RSS pracharak or member. In 1971, Modi formally joined the RSS that is a Hindu terrorist and extremist religious organization inspired by the ideology of the Nazi party of Germany and striving to clean India from all minorities. According to the record presented by Modi after assuming power in Gujrat, he in 1978 joined Delhi University for higher education, meanwhile, he also joined Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad a Hindu religious and extremist organization. He joined Gujarat University in Ahmedabad for a master degree in political science and also joined as the active local leader of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) (Vashisht, 2019, 3-7)

He sought degree of political science to learn the course of leopard and fox, acted in line of Machiavelli advices, who advised to The Prince to enhance his education and skills of impersonation to deceive the people around. RSS is Hindu extremist organization based on the ideological work of Servarker who was inspired from the ideology of Hitler and Mussolini. Modi came in contact with the RSS a Hindu religious and supremacist organization when he was only 8 years old and from this age his journey with RSS started and is still intact after assuming charge of Prime minister of India, despite the fact India claims to be a secular state (Leidig, 2020, 215-239) Modi joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the year 1985. After a long stint with the RSS, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, and then his political journey gained momentum when he was elected Chief Minister of Gujarat. Narendra Modi joined politics as a political activist. He was assigned the task of

writing in the RSS. In 1985, Modi became part of Bharatiya Janata Party that is political face of the RSS. In 1987, Narendra Modi developed a strategy to organize the BJP in Gujrat state and he led the campaign to win the Ahmedabad municipal elections and succeeded. The journey to becoming India's prime minister started when Narendra Modi joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1987 as a provincial leader, he rose rapidly through the ranks, because he was a very shrewd man. He encouraged Hindu values and supported the privatization of businesses, small government concept.

In the same year, he was elected as the General Secretary of the Gujarat branch of the party. Modi's abilities within the party were recognized with the help of Lal Kirshan Advani, who with him conduct his religious Ayodhya Rath Yatra in 1990. In the majority Hindu population, this was his first political work that attracted the Hindu vote. After that, in 1991-92, Murali Manohar Joshi's Ekta Yatra took place under the leadership of BJP. Modi took charge of the BJP Gujrat's chapter and reorganized the party on the line of the Machiavellian prince, who was advised to disband the old troops and reorganized his own troops, and this move of Modi was also very close to the Machiavelli philosophy. By this he established his foot in the BJP of Gujrat and his skills were endorsed in 1990 and 1995 elections, as in 1995 elections he secured 121 seats and first time brought BJP in power, but ended in September 1996. He was given charge of party activities in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in 1995 when he became secretary of the BJP and he shifted to New Delhi. In 1998, when the internal leadership dispute was going on in the BJP, Modi paved the way for the BJP's election victory during that time, which successfully helped in resolving the disputes. Later this year, Modi was appointed general secretary.

Narendra Modi first contested the Vidhan Sabha elections in 2001 and won one of the 2 seats in Rajkot. After which he became the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Modi took the oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat on 7 October 2001 after this, his successive victories went on. He first won the by-election for the 'Second Constituency' in Rajkot on 24 February 2002. He defeated Indian National Congress candidate Ashwin Mehta by 14,728 votes (Wallace, 2021, 61-62). As well as being gifted with prudenzia and virtue only three days later to Narendra Modi won the by-election, a huge incident of communal violence took place in Gujarat, which brought about the killing of 58 people as a train was set on fire that was filled with hundreds of Hindu passengers near Godhra. This episode turned into an issue between Hindu extremists and Muslims and the riots spread all over Gujarat. When communal riots started in Gujarat, about 900 to 2,000 people lost their lives in these riots. During that time there was Modi government in the state, due to which he was accused of spreading these riots. When all allegations were made against Modi, pressure had increased from all fronts, due to which he had to resign from his Chief Minister's post.

In 2009, the Supreme Court formed a team to investigate the matter. After a thorough investigation, this team presented a report in the Supreme Court in 2010, in which Modi was given a clean sheet in the said case. However, in 2013, the investigation team was accused that they had hidden evidence that was found against Modi. When Modi got a clean chit from the court, he was again appointed as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. In 2012, Modi's term as the Chief Minister ended for the third time. And again this year, assembly elections were held in Gujarat. And like every year, Modi won this year too and was allowed by the party to take over as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for the fourth time. The BJP's victory in the 2014 general election became a historic victory. This year, the BJP won 282 seats out of

534 that was an absolute majority. And thus Narendra Modi introduced himself as a candidate for Prime Minister of India. After winning the Prime Minister's post, on 26 May 2014, Narendra Modi took the oath of Prime Minister and in this way, he was appointed as the 14th Prime Minister of the country. After Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, people started expecting a lot from him. As Machiavellian prince identified how to impersonate the lion and the fox and Castruccio inflict fear in the mind of the house of Lucca as new prince and Modi was taking Muslim vote bank as the leading reason of Indian National congress victories. For this reason, he has been thriving violently against the Muslim community that had been one of Castruccio's specialties since 2014. The 2002 Gujarat riots were the biggest controversy of Modi's career, under which critics said that Modi was the mastermind behind instigating this riot. In 2002, Teesta Setalvad blamed Modi for killing her husband at Gulberg Society. Narendra Modi's name also came up for Ishrat Jahan's fake encounter (Gopal, 2002).

He was held responsible for this by victims. According to Machiavelli, most loyal followers of the new Prince are often found not among his authentic loyalists, but among the people, he had previously treated with suspicion. Narendra Modi converted into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s unquestionable leader after he managed it to remarkable success in the general elections of 2014. With that win, a change was stimulated in the party even as its founders like Murli Manohar Joshi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, and some others were relocated out of the decision-making process, the first stage to political insensibility. Narendra Modi had relegated all senior leadership of BJP such as Yashwant Sinha, Arun Jaitley, L.K. Advani, Venkaiah Naidu, and Sushma Swaraj and had anticipated himself as the sole spearhead to advance his popularity. (Republic world, 2021) There were portraits of Narendra Modi all up the city. He introduced new faces in the BJP and enhanced his grip on party matters. Like the fox, who "gets around men's brains," Modi engaged in deception to grab power and get rid of rivals and challengers. How admirable it is for a prince to keep his mouth shut.

Nonetheless, the princes who have achieved heroic acts are those who have done care very little to keep their promises and who have mastered the art of manipulating men's minds through cunning (Mansfield, 1998, 154) Modi becomes the perfect politician to suit the Machiavellian description of a good prince. Machiavelli says that "it is not essential for a prince to have all talents, but it is essential for him to look as if to have them. Modi is indeed very religious, and for the whole nine days, he fasts during Navratri every year, even if he is traveling. Other than being well gifted with virtue and Prudenzia, Modi received countless favors from Fortuna (Ali, 2007).

Conclusion

Narendra Modi, a Machiavellian Prince, is examining the whole episode in which Modi takes up the role of uncontested political supremacy in India. Prince as the ruler or founder of a new nation or regime from personal fortune, perhaps from dark and abject origins. Of course, this was done by Narendra Modi. The success of Narendra Modi in all or most significant respects is attributed to Machiavellian methods. He has not violated any of the maxims, since he ignored several, and scorned an especially important instruction; although he followed most of the principles, what does this tell us about Modi in power. There was the additional Machiavellian motive for taking on China and Pakistan: they were outstanding rivals of India, both much hated in intellectual circles in India. If Modi emerges

successfully from the encounter with them, it will be to his endless credit. Remember that, agreeing to Machiavelli, when Fortuna desires to make a newfangled Prince great, she catches challenging rivals for him to overcome, so that their very antagonism to him offers the ladder to rise for glowing repute. People beyond Indian boundaries do not know if he really is popular or not. Some conclude that Modi and Hindutva in India are greatly hated, but some do not feel so sure and believe that the majority of the population has apparently supported him. In this sense, calling him a "Machiavellian Prince" is not wrong.

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