

44. Machiavelli redivivus

If the conquered countries were used to live free and according to their own rules, there are only three means in order to keep them under occupation:

- the first is to completely *ruin them*;
- the second is to colonize them with another population;
- the third is to leave them their own laws, to impose them only the payment of a tribute and to instruct a small number of their citizens with the preservation of this possession. Being able to maintain themselves only by the power and the protection of the invader, these governors are interested in using everything in order to make permanent the existing state.

Niccolò Machiavelli,
Italian philosopher, founder of
politology
(1469-1527)