

CHAPTERS XII-XIV

According to Machiavelli, having powerful and organized armies means having proper and effective laws. This statement was used by Machiavelli in order for him to describe the association between the development of states and wars. The three different armies Machiavelli introduces to us are the prince's personal troops, mercenaries, and auxiliaries. However, he explains that both the mercenaries and auxiliaries are useless and unsafe. He criticizes mercenaries by pointing out that they are undisciplined, disloyal, and would most likely run away once a war begins. Machiavelli also claims that Italy's failure comes from relying on mercenaries during battles, especially when facing foreign forces. He thus explains that the ruler should have his own army and perform as the leader rather than borrowing or depending on outside troops — he believes that this is the sole way to make progress. In fact, he quotes that “a republic with a citizen army is less likely to fall victim to a coup than a republic paying for mercenary armies” (Machiavelli 49). Most importantly,

Machiavelli claims that mercenaries only care about developing their status and are the major reason that “brought Italy to slavery and humiliation” (Machiavelli 52). In the following chapter, he explains how auxiliaries are useless as well. Auxiliary armies are armed forces of a ruler outside of your town and

are employed when you need help in a battle. Machiavelli explains the consequences of bringing in auxiliary troops — if the auxiliaries lose the battle, you also lose, but if they win the battle, “you are at their mercy” (Machiavelli 53). He also describes that auxiliaries should only be utilized when you are aiming for a no-win situation. To sum up the two purposeless armies, Machiavelli says that “the big danger with mercenaries is their indecision, with auxiliaries their determination” (Machiavelli 54). Winning the war with outside troops doesn't count as a victory. A state needs its own army with loyal men who are willing to sacrifice and defend

the city. Ultimately, in the next chapter, Machiavelli states that a military man should have his own army and should not obey a man who doesn't. A ruler should be prepared and involved in wars both physically and mentally to receive trust and respect.

