

The first section of *The Prince* discusses the different types of states and principalities that a prince can rule. Each type has its own strengths and weaknesses, way of government, and methods of attaining. The first principality is “hereditary”- it is passed on to the prince

because he is a part of the ruling family.

This type of principality is easier to maintain because the citizens are already used to the family’s status as their ruler. That can be pictured in the top right image where the

prince is receiving the crown from his father. Next, Machiavelli goes over the “mixed principality” in which the prince is a newcomer and needs to prove to his people that he is worthy and capable of ruling them. That occurs in the bottom right photo where there is a crowd of people surrounding a central figure.

Thirdly, he mentions the ecclesiastical principality, which is a religious state governed by God. This type of principality is different from the others because its subjects are loyal to the religion. That is pictured in the top left, where people are ruled by a religious figure symbolized by

the holy light and angels in the background. Finally, Machiavelli goes over how to measure the strength of a principality. One thing he mentions is that the kingdom needs to focus on its defenses in order to protect against his neighboring

states. If an invader destroys the citizen’s homes and threatens their safety then they will turn against their ruler. That is pictured in the bottom left, where a Prince-like figure is rallying his troops outside the walls of his state.

