

Michael Porter

Andreas Elpidorou

HON-331-09-4248

Mon, August 26, 2024

Reading Reflection - Module 2

I will compose a reading reflection response to the second prompt; "According to you, which of the three Dark Traits is the worst of the three? Why is this trait the worst? And in what sense is it the worst?"

Machiavellians are the worst of the three Dark Traits. Machiavellian is more like a more tame and subtle Psychopath and Narcissist. Based on the articles we were provided and the Dark Triad Personality Test, Machiavellians are very manipulative and will try to get what they want by whatever means they can. "Machiavellianism is the personality trait of being unprincipled and manipulative, cynical and an acceptance of "by whatever means necessary"" (openpsychometrics.org). Say Machiavellians want to raise their grade in a class, they will attempt to gaslight the person in charge of the grades or even fake screenshots to make them believe that they deserve extra credit when in reality, it is quite the opposite or even will plagiarize and cheat off others in order to raise their grade. "Not surprisingly, psychopaths and Machiavellians were found to claim extra credits they had not earned (Paulhus & Jones, 2012)." (Furnham, Richards, & Paulhus, 2006, p. 207), "Compared to the other two, Machiavellians are more likely to plagiarize essays (Nathanson, Paulhus, & Williams, 2006a) and avoid risky bets (Jones & Paulhus, forthcoming)" (Furnham, Richards, & Paulhus, 2006, p. 203).

What makes Machiavellians even worse than the other two is that they are more deliberate in their planning and schemes than both Psychopaths and Narcissists. Machiavellians will not let provocation get the better of them as they think of the consequences of such actions beforehand, and even use both 'hard' and 'soft' tactics of manipulation to get what they want from people such as using 'soft' tactics on susceptible people and 'hard' tactics on those that are not-so susceptible. "It is beyond debate that psychopathy and Machiavellianism are highly correlated, almost to the point of singularity in some studies. However, Machiavellianism and psychopathy (the two most highly correlated Dark Triad traits) predict different outcomes and, therefore, are dissociable. For instance, psychopathy is sensitive to provocation whereas Machiavellianism is not (Jones & Paulhus, 2010); Machiavellianism is associated with the use of 'hard' and 'soft' tactics of manipulation, whereas psychopathy is only associated with 'hard' tactics (Jonason, Slomski, & Partyka, 2012); and Machiavellianism is unrelated to relationship motives whereas psychopathy is (Jonason, Luévano, & Adams, 2012)" (Koehn, Okan, & Jonason, p.10)."

## References:

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