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THE RELEVANCE OF MACHIAVELLI'S HUMAN NATURE THEORY IN 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT
The thoughts of Machiavelli is one of the most significant ones in the field of Political Science. As he is considered as the thinker who marks the beginning of modern political thought. The 'Human Nature Theory' describes humans as dark in character and immoral in society. This papers intends to seek whether the theory only relates to the problems of human behaviour of Machiavelli's contemporary era or its relevance is still visible in the present times. It also discusses the fact that the theory of human nature has went on to influence Thomas Hobbes in later period, who also mentions the same equalities of humans in his 'state of nature' theory. Accordingly, this paper attempts to see through its relevance in the current notion of modern civilized society. The paper also studies the postmodernism perspective of multiple realities, to relate that different human nature may exist differently in different time and place. That the realities faced by Machiavelli might have been just his version of reality. In the line, it also accepts the realist philosophy of power and domination, relevance in the present day context, which Machiavelli propounded, by providing example of the conflicts in 21st century. It intends to contemplate the success which the people have been able to achieve in developing ourselves morally and rationally to act in a peaceful and cooperative manner for the greater good of the society.

KEYWORDS: *Immoral, Realist, Postmodernism, Conflicts, Ungrateful, Cowardly*

INTRODUCTION
One of the most influential political thinkers Niccolo Machiavelli, was a realist thinker. His ideas and philosophies were based on pragmatic solutions to then existing problems of society. Machiavelli was born in Florance, Italy (1469-1527). During that time of the Italian history, a very turbulent period existed in the land. The reason was the fragmentation of the nation into smaller units and they were divided, making them a weak nation as a whole. His theory of 'Human Nature' has drawn a dark picture of human behaviour. He described humans as selfish, cowardly, opportunist, etc., as the description entails the life situation in 15th and 16th century, a relative form of human behaviour is seen to be reflected in the 21st century as well. This significant nature eventually bounds to provide the world with human-made disasters, conflicts and wars, even today. This paper cordially visualizes that the human nature has mostly of all remain the same as said in human nature theory explained, with the examples of conflicts in the world today.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY
1. To study the progress of human nature.
2. To relate today's turbulence with relation to Machiavelli's theory.
3. To study the postmodernism and multiple realities conception.
4. To examine the evil nature of human ways as given by Machiavelli.

METHODOLOGY
The paper follows the qualitative method of research. It relies on secondary data like books, scholarly articles and websites. This study is based on theoretical perspective of analysis. The method is to compare and signal Machiavelli ideas with the contemporary situation.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS
The Human Nature theory of Machiavelli
The theory of Human Nature theory entails by describing humans as "all men are evil" (Mauricio Bueno da Rosa, 2019), this straight statement given by Machiavelli have a potential to give birth to doubts in the minds of the people whether they really are evil or good. He also went on to describe human nature as ungrateful, fickle, sly, cowardly, and ambitious for money; while providing them with benefits, all are with you, offering you blood, possessions, life, children etc. The theory describes that men are over ambitious and have never ending wants, which eventually leads to problems in society, '...every individual is interested in keeping what he posses and acquiring more. This inevitably leads to struggle and conditions of anarchy...' (P. Arora, G. Grover, 2021). It is stated that men are wicked because they are ready to sacrifice or do away the

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collective good for achieving personal gain. Men are also described as ungrateful, fickle, deceitful, cowardly, and avaricious as mere animals driven by the motives of fear, lust for power, vanity and scheming self-interest.

To seek the answer whether this nature has prevailed only during his time of the history or it is still relevant is an interesting concept of discovery to be made and studied. By learning the nature of people we can know how the society is built, and who are those consisting the society in all. The theory says that 'a man may forgive the murderer of his father but will not forgive the theft of his property'' (P. Arora, G. Grover, 2021), this statement proves that men are more interested in material relations than that of the blood relations, which in the perspective of morality is an unwisely thought and behaviour. Which needs to be taught to people through morality teaching and rationality.

Machiavelli wanted to solve the problems of Italy for which he wrote strategy and advise for the rulers. And while giving advise to rulers Machiavelli went on to say '..it was unavoidable that they should place particular reliance on 'deceptions, … tricks and schemes' (G. R. Berridge, 2001). He intends to say that the people are not likely to change their behaviour in the society, hence the ruler should focus on doing only the actions that are necessary to govern the people, and ruler is allowed to follow deception, tricks and schemes for administration. As humans are evil, immoral judgements and rules on them do not necessarily need to have morality contained rules and regulation. Which is countering immorality with immorality. As the people are not morality based in nature, the ruler need not to be moral in character.

Influence on Thomas Hobbes

Another important figure of thinkers in the 17th century, Thomas Hobbes was also a realist thinker like Machiavelli. In the theory of 'Social Contract' Hobbes described that humans are self-centred, egoist, ungrateful, hunger for power etc. which is the same description of human nature image as done by Machiavelli. It is believed that Hobbes was influenced by Machiavelli in this aspect. Hobbes described human life in the state of nature as '…life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short' (Lloyd, Sharon A. and Susanne S., 2002). This description makes one think about the reality of this world, about how the humans really are in society. Hobbes also said that men hunger for power, which backs him to seek power after power and more glory which eventually lead to death. Thereby, sparking a sight of a wrongful reality in society. It can be examined that the conflicts in the human society have their origin from the human nature, which is evil in character as advocated by Machiavelli.

The conflicts in the world in 21st century

The several deadly conflicts in the world today could be answered by relating with the Human Nature theory of Machiavelli. As he describes humans as evils, the turbulence in the world could have been caused by nothing much other than by the evil ways of people. Conflicts like Afghanistan War (2001-2021), Iraq War (2003-2011), Russia-Ukraine War (2014-present) (ETimes., Dec 10, 2024). All these conflicts that have massively affected human society, it relates that human's never ending ambition for power and greed is prevalent and have major implications in the 21st century, comparing with the situation that prevailed in the time of Machiavelli. The remedy has been a focus of study since the beginning, and education has been a major tool to uplift human ways of thoughts and behaviour in society. Though it is debatable whether the lives and human thoughts have improved over time for the greater good.

The strive for Human Development in Moral Education

At this stage it can be argued that little have changed since the past, in matters of peace-building, and value implication through knowledge and moral growth. Because the present human nature has not become much of an innocent and noble structure; probably a lack of rationality as well. As the statement says the following '…education is important for economic prosperity, peace and security.' (D. F. Runde, R. Bandura and M. McLean, 2023). As education is significant for the upliftment of moral ambition and guide for societal vision for prosperity. Globally it is clear that all children, youth, and all population are imparted with education, yet the condition of the world today seem like a situation, a normal human would not want to see, which is that of a high tense and conflicting scenario. In this case there could be few more things to be done for improving the human nature, through moral education, and to strive for better quality of life.

The Postmodernism Perspective

The concept of multiple realities as propounded by postmodernist theory is relatable with Machiavelli's Human Nature, in the sense that the reality experienced and observed by Machiavelli was nothing but the reality exposed to him. The humans being selfish, coward, hater against neighbour etc., are all the dark picture drawn of human image by him. There could be multiple realities and truth, in that sense everyone is right generally in their own way. The meaning of post-modernism is that '…postmodernist believes that truth is relative and is up to each individual to determine of himself.' (A. Kaur and N. Sharma, 2020). Hence reality is a perception, and truth could be different for any body and reality experienced by people different for different people.

CONCLUSION

The 'Human Nature Theory' of Machiavelli by drawing a dark picture of human behaviour has provided the realist perspective, where human strive for power and domination in society. It cannot be denied that the relevance is strong and enduring in the 21st century. With many unexpected conflicts globally, and the never ending fight of neighbour with a neighbour are one of the proven facts, and also distrust among people. His theory has inspired many people globally like Thomas Hobbes and provided insight for the realist school of thought. As he advised to be value neutral while practicing official actions and to do what is right, rather than what is ought to be morally done. The activity of education has always strived for inspiring the society for peaceful means and moral upliftment. This paper concerns to suggest that there is yet a few more yards to go for the human civilization at large, and to change from the comment 'all men are evil' to 'all men are

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noble'. The postmodernism perspective yet provides another way of thought that multiple realities exist. However, the general notion of dark human character seems to be relevant as of today. The theory of human nature by Machiavelli has not been fading, rather it keeps on highlighting the reasons for human conflict, because of selfish ends. And the human nature of Machiavelli theory is still living. The today's world has been a proof for realist victory in terms of societal value and life as a whole.

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