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 26 Machiavelli's Contribution to Political Thought
 Machiavelli has been considered as the first modern political thinker. His contribution to political thought is as follows:

(1) Distinction between Religion and Politics
 Credit goes to Machiavelli for boldly and clearly divorcing religion from politics. The religion should have no place in state schemes. The prince should not act according to the wishes of the Pope.

(2) Distinction in Public and Private Morality
 Machiavelli's another contribution to the political thought was that for the first time he distinguished between public and private morality, which he felt must be separated from each other.

(3) Rejection of Natural and Eternal Law
 Machiavelli was the first political thinker of his times to abandon the idea of natural law. In its place he gave the idea that the law was positive, i.e. created by sovereign in the state. He did not believe that there were certain eternal laws. He rejected the idea of natural or eternal law.

(4) Rejection of Divine Law
 Machiavelli also did not contribute to the idea of Divine law. Man has no super-natural ends and as such it is wrong to believe that Divine Law has any purpose to perform.

(5) State as an end
 As a modern thinker Machiavelli made a valuable contribution by saying that the state was an end in itself. He did not care for the morality of means. He believed that the end always justifies the means. For the first time, he put forth the idea that individual conscience

29 should be sacrificed over the state. Like a realist he believed that the history was an illustration of the strength and nothing else. Therefore he worshipped power as the only deity to be worshipped. Without power there is nothing a Prince could rely upon.

(6) Nationalism
 Machiavelli was a symbol of nationalism. He pleaded that there is nothing above or beside it and that it is an end in itself. It may not sound as of much importance today but it was his greatest contribution to the era in which he was living.

(7) Secularism
 Machiavelli was the first political thinker who believed in secularism. Living in the days of theocracy he stood for secularism which can in no way be underestimated.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood." - Marie Curie

(8) Naturalistic Theory of State
 Another contribution of Machiavelli to the modern Political thought is that for the first time he pleaded that man had no super-natural ends and was not governed by the divine law. He thus made the conception of naturalistic theory of the state a logical one.

(9) Psychological Treatment
 Machiavelli was the first political thinker who said that a ruler should try to deal psychologically with his subjects and should consider that before action.

(10) Farewell to medieval philosophy
 Another contribution of Machiavelli was to the philosophy of middle ages. His conception of autonomous authorities, with which he replaced central authority is both original and novel in so far as his age was concerned. In an age of feudalism he shook its very basis and thus invited the wrath of the feudalists and forced that.

"It is easy to flatter; it is harder to praise." - Jean Paul Richter

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 31 (ii) Elected Authority
 Machiavelli was modern in suggesting that the republican form of government is the best one. He stood for elected head of state fully materialised rather than a hereditary head of the state. His conception of elected head of state fully materialised in the theory of general will as expounded by Rousseau.

(12) Logical Concept of Sovereignty
 Credit also goes to Machiavelli for attempting to give logical conception of sovereignty by defining it as independent and supreme authority both internally as well as externally. Even today this definition is considered as the most logical one. It was put on scientific basis by Austin.

