Machiavelli’s Prince
Traditions, Text and Translations
edited by Nicola Gardini and Martin McLaughlin

One of the high-points of Italian Renaissance humanism, Machiavelli’s The Prince immediately transcended the time and culture from which it had sprung, circulating throughout Europe and paving the road to an astonishing variety of discussions on power and liberty for centuries to come. Indeed, one could hardly think of a literary work whose reception has been more controversial and arguably more crucial to the fashioning of modernity. This volume gathers together the proceedings of a conference held in Oxford, in November 2013, to mark the 500th anniversary of the composition of The Prince. It explores pivotal aspects of the text’s complex identity, focusing on three interrelated areas: 1. The Prince’s own ways of appropriating ancient and modern traditions of political thought and ethics; 2. the textual history and interpretative details of the work; 3. translations of the treatise into foreign languages (including English and other translations), with their cultural adaptations and reconceptualizations of the original. All chapters offer highly original insights by leading experts on The Prince, shedding light on hitherto neglected topics and locating Machiavelli’s masterpiece in an intriguing network of intersecting perspectives.

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