“CRUELTY AND MERCY, AND WHETHER IT IS BETTER TO BE LOVED OR FEARED”

A Lecture by Professor Benedetto Fontana

In a discussion of the relative merits and utility of love and fear as instruments of rule, Machiavelli seems to suggest fear as more realistic and more reliable than love. Though ideally rule ought to be based on both love and fear, and certainly the Prince ought to strive to gain the love of his people, in practice one will preclude the other and so prudence may compel the ruler to evoke fear.


Benedetto Fontana, Professor and Chair in the Department of Political Science at Baruch College, CUNY, specializes in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Political Theory. He is the author of Hegemony and Power: On the Relation Between Gramsci and Machiavelli (University of Minnesota Press, 1993), and the co-editor of Talking Democracy: Historical Perspectives on Rhetoric and Democracy (Penn State University Press, 2004), among others. He has published in numerous journals, including Rivista di Studi Italiani, History of Political Thought, The Philosophical Forum, and Journal of the History of Ideas.

Monday, Nov. 24th, 2014
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Pearson Hall, Room 106
16 Talbot Ave.
Tufts University

Reception to follow in Laminan Lounge, Olin Center

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