

Chapter 1 : TOP 25 QUOTES BY FRANCESCO GUICCIARDINI | A-Z Quotes

Francesco Guicciardini: Francesco Guicciardini, Florentine statesman, diplomat, and historian, author of the most important contemporary history of Italy, Storia d'Italia. Guicciardini was born of an aristocratic Florentine family that played a prominent role under Lorenzo de' Medici (the Magnificent).

The Guicciardini were well-established members of the Florentine oligarchy as well as supporters of the Medici. Like his father, Francesco received a fine humanist education and studied the classics, learning both Latin and a little Greek. His father, however, "thought the affairs of the Church were decadent. He preferred to lose great present profits and the chance of making one of his sons a great man rather than have it on his conscience that he had made one of his sons a priest out of greed for wealth or great position. At 23, he was appointed by the Signoria of Florence to teach legal studies at the Florentine Studio. In , he married Maria Salviati, the daughter of Alamanno Salviati, cementing an oligarchical alliance with the powerful Florentine family. In the same year, he wrote the *Memorie di famiglia*, a family memoir of the Guicciardini family, the *Storie Fiorentine* *The History of Florence* , and began his *Ricordanze*, a rudimentary personal chronicle of his life. He had doubts about accepting the position because it came with so little profit and would disrupt his law practice and take him away from the city. His Spanish correspondence with the Signoria [7] reveals his power of observation and analysis, a chief quality of his mind. At the Spanish court, he learned lessons of political realism. In his letters back home, he expressed appreciation for being able to observe Spanish military methods and estimate their strength during the time of war. However, he also distrusted the calculated gestures of Ferdinand and referred to him as a model of the art of political deceit. During his time in Spain, the Medici regained power in Florence. Under the new regime, his embassy in Spain dragged on, frustrating Guicciardini as he yearned to return to Florence and participate in its political life. Leo X made him governor of Reggio in and Modena in This was the beginning of a long career for Guicciardini in papal administration, first under Leo X and then under his successor, Clement VII. These high offices rendered Guicciardini the virtual master of the Papal States beyond the Apennine Mountains. As he later described himself during this period: Guicciardini advised an alliance with France and urged Clement to conclude the League of Cognac in , which led to war with Charles V. Later that year, as the forces of Charles V threatened to attack, Clement made Guicciardini lieutenant-general of the papal army. Guicciardini was powerless to influence the commander of papal forces, Francesco Maria della Rovere, Duke of Urbino , to take action. However, in April , Guicciardini succeeded in averting an attack on Florence from a rebellious imperial army, which turned toward Rome instead. Guicciardini served three popes over a period of twenty years, and perhaps because of his experiences, he was highly critical of the papacy: Nevertheless, the position I have enjoyed with several popes has forced me to love their greatness for my own self-interest. Indeed, without such supports, republics can hardly last. Because of his close ties to the Medici, Guicciardini was held suspect in his native city. In March , as a result of his service to the Medici, Guicciardini was declared a rebel and had his property confiscated. Under the command of Clement VII, Guicciardini was assigned the task of punishing the Florentine citizens for their resistance to the Medici, and he dealt out justice mercilessly to those who had opposed the will of the Pope. Guicciardini supported Cosimo as duke of Florence; nevertheless, Cosimo dismissed him shortly after rising to power. He died in without male heirs. It was not until that the first sixteen of the twenty books of his *History of Italy* were published. The first English "translation" by Sir Geffray Fenton was published in In that year, his descendants opened the Guicciardini family archives and committed to Giuseppe Canestrini the publication of his memoirs in ten volumes. Francesco Guicciardini - public life, and political thinking, by Romanian historian Andrei Otetea , PhD thesis written in His many personal encounters with powerful Italian rulers serves to explain his perspective as a historian: Not any individual, be it noted, but those in positions of command: For he was impeded not only by his timidity of spirit, which was by no means small, and by a strong reluctance to spend, but also by a certain innate irresolution and perplexity, so that he remained almost always in suspension and ambiguous when he was faced with those deciding those thing which from afar he had many times foreseen, considered, and almost revealed. His approach was already evident in his early work

The History of Florence Guicciardini was on a somewhat higher social standing than his friend, but through their letters, a relaxed, comfortable relationship between the two emerges. The historical consciousness that becomes visible in their work is a significant rupture in our thinking about the past Human agency was a central element in the historical thought of Machiavelli and Guicciardini, but they did not have a modern notion of individuality The following list contains alternate names used for his works in Italian and English:

Chapter 2 : Francesco Guicciardini (Author of Maxims and Reflections)

Francesco Guicciardini (Italian: [franˈtʃesko ɡiˈkwittʃarˈdiːni]; 6 March - 22 May) was an Italian historian and statesman. A friend and critic of Niccolò Machiavelli, he is considered one of the major political writers of the Italian Renaissance.

In his masterpiece, *The History of Italy*, Guicciardini paved the way for a new style in historiography with his use of government sources to support arguments and the realistic analysis of the people and events of his time. The Guicciardini were well-established members of the Florentine oligarchy as well as supporters of the Medici. Like his father, Francesco received a fine humanist education and studied the classics, learning both Latin and a little Greek. His father, however, "thought the affairs of the Church were decadent. He preferred to lose great present profits and the chance of making one of his sons a great man rather than have it on his conscience that he had made one of his sons a priest out of greed for wealth or great position. At 23, he was appointed by the Signoria of Florence to teach legal studies at the Florentine Studio. In 1505, he married Maria Salviati, the daughter of Alamanno Salviati, cementing an oligarchical alliance with the powerful Florentine family. In the same year, he wrote the *Memorie di famiglia*, a family memoir of the Guicciardini family, the *Storie Fiorentine* *The History of Florence*, and began his *Ricordanze*, a rudimentary personal chronicle of his life. He had doubts about accepting the position because it came with so little profit and would disrupt his law practice and take him away from the city. His Spanish correspondence with the Signoria [7] reveals his power of observation and analysis, a chief quality of his mind. At the Spanish court, he learned lessons of political realism. In his letters back home, he expressed appreciation for being able to observe Spanish military methods and estimate their strength during the time of war. However, he also distrusted the calculated gestures of Ferdinand and referred to him as a model of the art of political deceit. During his time in Spain, the Medici regained power in Florence. Under the new regime, his embassy in Spain dragged on, frustrating Guicciardini as he yearned to return to Florence and participate in its political life. Leo X made him governor of Reggio in 1510 and Modena in 1511. This was the beginning of a long career for Guicciardini in papal administration, first under Leo X and then under his successor, Clement VII. These high offices rendered Guicciardini the virtual master of the Papal States beyond the Apennine Mountains. As he later described himself during this period: Guicciardini advised an alliance with France and urged Clement to conclude the League of Cognac in 1526, which led to war with Charles V. Later that year, as the forces of Charles V threatened to attack, Clement made Guicciardini lieutenant-general of the papal army. Guicciardini was powerless to influence the commander of papal forces, Francesco Maria della Rovere, Duke of Urbino, to take action. However, in April 1527, Guicciardini succeeded in averting an attack on Florence from a rebellious imperial army, which turned toward Rome instead. Guicciardini served three popes over a period of twenty years, and perhaps because of his experiences, he was highly critical of the papacy: Nevertheless, the position I have enjoyed with several popes has forced me to love their greatness for my own self-interest. Indeed, without such supports, republics can hardly last. Because of his close ties to the Medici, Guicciardini was held suspect in his native city. In March 1527, as a result of his service to the Medici, Guicciardini was declared a rebel and had his property confiscated. Under the command of Clement VII, Guicciardini was assigned the task of punishing the Florentine citizens for their resistance to the Medici, and he dealt out justice mercilessly to those who had opposed the will of the Pope. Guicciardini supported Cosimo as duke of Florence; nevertheless, Cosimo dismissed him shortly after rising to power. He died in 1532 without male heirs. It was not until that the first sixteen of the twenty books of his *History of Italy* were published. The first English "translation" by Sir Geffray Fenton was published in 1565. In that year, his descendants opened the Guicciardini family archives and committed to Giuseppe Canestrini the publication of his memoirs in ten volumes. Francesco Guicciardini - public life, and political thinking, by Romanian historian Andrei Otetea, PhD thesis written in 2004. His many personal encounters with powerful Italian rulers serves to explain his perspective as a historian: Not any individual, be it noted, but those in positions of command: For he was impeded not only by his timidity of spirit, which was by no means small, and by a strong reluctance to spend, but also by a certain innate irresolution and perplexity, so that he remained almost

always in suspension and ambiguous when he was faced with those deciding those things which from afar he had many times foreseen, considered, and almost revealed. His approach was already evident in his early work *The History of Florence*. Guicciardini was on a somewhat higher social standing than his friend, but through their letters, a relaxed, comfortable relationship between the two emerges. The historical consciousness that becomes visible in their work is a significant rupture in our thinking about the past. Human agency was a central element in the historical thought of Machiavelli and Guicciardini, but they did not have a modern notion of individuality. The following list contains alternate names used for his works in Italian and English: Francesco Guicciardini, *Selected Writings*, London: *Scritti autobiografici e rari*, his diary, ed. *Dialogue on the Government of Florence* Cambridge, , p. *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance* New York: Volume IX Sydney Alexander, op. *Machiavelli and His Friends: Their Personal Correspondence*, James B. Atkinson and Davis Sices, Trans.

Francesco Guicciardini was born in Florence into a prominent mercantile family. After graduating in civil law from the University of Pisa, he began a successful practice with clients drawn from the leading Florentine families, merchant organizations, and monastic orders.

An historian and statesman; born at Florence , ; died there, 23 May, His parents , Piero di Jacopo Guicciardini and Simona Gianfigliuzzi, belonged to ancient Florentine families , attached to the party of the Medici. He increased his aristocratic and Medicean connexions by his marriage with Maria Salviati , whose family was bitterly opposed to the then dominant republican regime. In , though legally too young for the post, he was sent as Florentine ambassador to the King of Spain. During his absence, the Medici were restored in Florence. On his return , he entered their service, from which he passed into that of the Church. He was influential with Clement VII in forming the anti-imperial League of Cognac , and was lieutenant-general of the army that, through no fault of his, failed to prevent the sack of Rome in For a while, Guicciardini kept on terms with the restored republican government of Florence; but, at the beginning of the siege, he joined the pope , and was declared a rebel by the democratic party. On the surrender of Florence to the papal and imperial armies, he returned to the city Sept. From June, , to September, , he ruled Bologna as papal vice-legate. Henceforth, although until his death Guicciardini held various public offices in Florence , his influence was at an end. Its vast accumulation of details does not obscure the main lines of the terrible story. His minor works, such as the earlier "Storia Fiorentina" and the dialogue "Del Reggimento di Firenze" circa , are less artificial in style. While mistrusting all patriotism, and regarding the profession of noble motives as a mere cloak for personal ends, he declares that the three things he most longs to see are the establishment of a well-ordered republic in Florence , the liberation of Italy from the barbarians, and the overthrow of the rule of bad ecclesiastics throughout the world. He admits that, had not his own personal interests been bound up with the temporal success of two popes , he would have loved Martin Luther as himself. Much of his political correspondence has been preserved. About this page APA citation. In The Catholic Encyclopedia. Robert Appleton Company, This article was transcribed for New Advent by Douglas J. The editor of New Advent is Kevin Knight. My email address is webmaster at newadvent. Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Chapter 4 : Francesco Guicciardini - Wikimedia Commons

Guicciardini, Francesco. Dialogue on the Government of Florence. Translated with introduction and notes by Alison Brown. Cambridge, U.K., and New York, In the same year a new, thoroughly annotated edition of the original text was published: Dialogo del reggimento di Firenze.

Francesco Guicciardini Italian historian, diplomat, statesman, and political writer. Many early commentators, for example, found his attitude toward history and politics cold and cynical. Today, however, his writings are admired largely for their close attention to detail and their vivid evocation of Renaissance Italy. Biography Much of what is known about Guicciardini can be found in his two-volume diary or Ricordanze , He was born in the city-state of Florence to an aristocratic family. He pursued a law degree at 15 and graduated with a doctorate in civil law in In he married Maria Salviati, possibly in order to connect himself with her politically influential powerful family. At about this time, he began work on the Storie Fiorentine ; History of Florence. Written after the ouster of the Medici and during the initial tenure of the Florentine Republic, it is also critical of the tyranny of the Medici family. Guicciardini attained increasingly important posts in the Republic. From to , he served as ambassador to Spain. During this time he started writing a book of political aphorisms known as the Ricordi ; Maxims and Reflections of a Renaissance Stateman. While Guicciardini was still in Spain, the Florentine Republic fell and was replaced once again by the rule of the Medici. Impressed with his work as governor, Leo X made him commissioner of the papal armies in It was during this time that Guicciardini met Machiavelli. The two men became friends, and their work has frequently been compared by critics who see in both writers a loyalty to Florence linked with a reliance on realpolitik. When the Medici returned to power in , he expected to continue to rise under the leadership of Cosimo Medici. This time, however, the hoped-for advancement did not occur. Disappointed, Guicciardini withdrew from politics and spent the rest of his life working on his History of Italy. This History and the Maxims and Reflections of a Renaissance Statesmen which Guicciardini worked on from to , are regarded as his two most significant contributions to Renaissance literature. The History of Italy, on the other hand, is written in a "grave," more complex style. It is the work of a man in retirement facing the closing years of his life, and it looks on the domestic affairs of Italy as well as its European encounters from to in a pessimistic light. Some of his own Italian contemporaries hated him for his support of the tyrannical Medici family. For this attitude he has been condemned as cynical and opportunistic, sharing the same cold adherence to realpolitik as his friend Machiavelli. Once again Guicciardini came under criticism for his aristocratic prejudices, and was at that time compared unfavorably to the more plebian Machiavelli. De Sanctis admired Guicciardini for his formidable intelligence but criticized him for his coldness. Twentieth-century critics have tended to be less judgmental. Mario Domandi, for example, applauds the fact that Guicciardini was able to separate ethics from politics in his Maxims. And Sidney Alexander considers Guicciardini distinctly mo-dem for his focus on the individual rather than the group in his histories.

The history of Italy, translated from the Italian of Francesco Guicciardini, by Austin Parke Goddard, Esq; The third edition. In ten volumes Volume 1 of

Europe, to Francesco Guicciardini was the greatest historian of the Renaissance. His family rose to prominence under the Medici regime a nascent principate operating behind a republican facade. During his lifetime the Medici were expelled from Florence and a republican regime restored, two members of the Medici family were elected to the papacy Leo X and Clement VII, the Medici regained control of Florence but lost it again briefly, and finally established themselves as hereditary princes. In external affairs, a French army invaded Italy in 1519, and the Valois monarchy subsequently attempted to establish hegemony there, but was challenged and ultimately defeated by the supranational Habsburg empire of Charles V, which from c. 1550. During the early modern period, Guicciardini was known throughout Europe for his *History of Italy*, and for his *Ricordi* Maxims and reflections. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries all of his writings were published, providing a much more complex picture of the man, and at the beginning of the twenty-first century new editions, translations, and studies continue to appear. Over three thousand Florentine males were permanent members of the voting assembly on which the political system was based—an extraordinarily high number in comparison to most other European states at that time, though a small fraction of the population. But political participation and influence were strongly correlated to social position, so most of the leading individual actors were members of prominent families, had aristocratic views, and favored a stronger role for the executive and the creation of a permanent senate to represent their interests, while a few supported the Savonarolan movement and others collaborated secretly with the Medici. In Guicciardini drafted his first political treatise, the *Discorso di Logrognò* Discourse composed in Logrognò, a set of proposals for refining the republican government. Like Machiavelli, Guicciardini tried throughout his life to gain an intellectual grasp of how political and military events are determined. They did not have modern social science to aid them, or any experience of parliamentary government by organized political parties, but they were imbued with ancient Greek and Roman literature on war, politics, and conquest, and their own experience of war and politics was much closer to that of the ancient world than it was to that of people living in the nineteenth, twentieth, or twenty-first centuries. Hence they placed great emphasis on the character of individual leaders and their advisors, and the process of deliberation. Guicciardini did exercise power directly, but not in the context of Florentine politics. He was a senior administrator in the northern part of the Papal States somewhat like a Roman proconsul, or a colonial governor, and his *Ricordi* are largely based on that experience. Each of them is a gem of insight into character and conduct, prudent choice of course of action, and the mutability of fortune. Four Florentine leaders debate the good and bad aspects of Medici rule and the prospects for the current broadly based republican regime, and the one with the most foresight is Guicciardini. The theme of the *History of Italy* is not politics as such but European interstate conflict during the epochal period from 1494 to about 1610. The modern state was coalescing throughout western Europe, and the European state system was assuming the dynamic form it was to retain throughout the early modern period. Italy became the theater and victim of Habsburg-Valois conflict because its own sophisticated state system was too small in scale to withstand the impact of the large armies led there, or sent there, by the monarchs of France and Spain. Another is his profound insight into the complex, systemic way overall outcomes are determined, as numerous individual decision makers and their advisors throughout Italy and Europe, with all their personal idiosyncrasies, continually assess the intentions, capacities, words, and deeds of all the others, and choose their own courses of action. *Dialogue on the Government of Florence*. Translated with introduction and notes by Alison Brown. In the same year a new, thoroughly annotated edition of the original text was published: *Dialogo del reggimento di Firenze*. The *History of Florence*. Translated by Mario Domandi. New York, 1965. Translation of the *Storie fiorentine* dal 1494 al 1532. The most recent edition of the original text is *Storie fiorentine dal 1494 al 1532*. Edited by Alessandro Monteverchi. The *History of Italy*. Translated and abridged by Sidney Alexander. New York, 1965. Repr. *Maxims and Reflections of a Renaissance Statesman*. Introduction by Nicolai Rubenstein. New York, 1965.

Philadelphia, Translation of Ricordi politici e civili. The Sweetness of Power: Translated with introduction by James V. Atkinson and David Sices. Secondary Sources Gilbert, Felix. Politics and History in Sixteenth-Century Florence. Republican Realism in Renaissance Florence. A wide-ranging assessment of Guicciardini from the perspective of the history of political thought, with an English translation of the Discorso. William McCuaig Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography. Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World. Retrieved November 11, from Encyclopedia. Then, copy and paste the text into your bibliography or works cited list. Because each style has its own formatting nuances that evolve over time and not all information is available for every reference entry or article, Encyclopedia.

Chapter 6 : Francesco Guicciardini Quotes - BrainyQuote

An historian and statesman; born at Florence, ; died there, 23 May, His parents, Piero di Jacopo Guicciardini and Simona Gianfigliuzzi, belonged to ancient Florentine families, attached to the party of the Medici.

From to Guicciardini studied civil law at Florence , Ferrara, and Padua and subsequently set up legal practice at Florence. In he married Maria, daughter of Alamanno Salviati. In the same year, he began to write his family memoirs and his *Storie fiorentine* History of Florence from to Elected in as Florentine ambassador to King Ferdinand of Aragon, he was at the Spanish court when in the Florentines, under the pressure of Spanish troops, restored the Medici, who had been exiled in Until Guicciardini served the papacy almost continuously. As governor of an exposed and recently acquired part of the Papal States , in which he had to face internal disorders as well as external dangers, Guicciardini showed outstanding administrative gifts. His severe and sometimes ruthless measures were effective in restoring order but also caused him unpopularity. The outbreak of the war in northern Italy between King Francis I of France and the Holy Roman emperor Charles V , with whom Leo had concluded an alliance, turned Reggio into a military outpost of the Papal States, and in July Guicciardini was appointed commissioner general of the papal army. During this time, Guicciardini became also a prolific political writer, composing numerous memorandums and treatises , mostly in the form of discourses on political problems of the day, often in connection with his official duties. A number of them deal with the government of Florence, on which he also wrote, between and , the *Dialogo del reggimento di Firenze* Dialogue on the government of Florence. In this he advocates an aristocratic regime on the Venetian model as the ideal constitution for his city. In his capacity as commissioner general, he prevented, by his courage and determination, Parma from falling into French hands in December But the death of Leo X in the same month jeopardized his career temporarily; after the election of Pope Adrian VI , he was at first deprived of the governorships of Modena and Reggio but recovered them at the end of Reggio capitulated , but Modena was held by Guicciardini against superior odds. In the critical situation after the Battle of Pavia , when the army of Charles V was preparing to advance south, Guicciardini conveyed to the pope much advice, and in January he was called to Rome. There he played a prominent role in the papal counsels , advocating an alliance with France against Charles V. The resulting League of Cognac , concluded in May , was to no small extent his work, and in June he was appointed papal lieutenant general with the army of the league. The failure of the league to prevent the imperial army under the duke of Bourbon from advancing on Florence and Rome involved him once more in the fate of his native city. When, on the arrival of the duke of Urbino with his army near Florence, the Medici left the city to welcome him April 26, , a revolt broke out. Guicciardini, who had arrived shortly before to help protect the city, succeeded in preventing the duke from assaulting the palace of the Signoria by negotiating a free pardon in return for surrender. In March he was condemned as a rebel at Florence. Between and Guicciardini worked on his second history of Florence and compiled the most concise and varied expression of his views on society and politics in his collection of maxims and observations, the *Ricordi*. He began the work probably in ; the final revision was not completed when he died. Written by a statesman closely associated with many of the events he described, and by a historian who in his critical use of evidence followed and surpassed his humanist predecessors, the *History of Italy* is the most important contemporary history of Italy during the period of upheaval and invasion in the early 16th century. After the murder of Alessandro in , he helped secure the succession for Cosimo , probably hoping to limit the ducal powers which he considered excessive.

Chapter 7 : Francesco Guicciardini Facts

Francesco Guicciardini (6 March - 22 May) was an Italian historian and statesman. A friend and critic of Niccolò Machiavelli, he is considered one of the major political writers of the Italian Renaissance.

Chapter 8 : Francesco Guicciardini Critical Essays - www.nxgvision.com

Francesco Guicciardini (5 October - 1 September) was an Italian politician. He was born in Florence. He served as minister of agriculture, commerce and industry from to in the cabinet of Prime Minister Antonio Starabba, Marchese di RudinÃ.

Chapter 9 : Francesco Guicciardini - Encyclopedia Volume - Catholic Encyclopedia - Catholic Online

Francesco Guicciardini Life, Man, God, Together, Men, Ambition The affairs of this world are so shifting and depend on so many accidents, that it is hard to form any judgment concerning the future; nay, we see from experience that the forecasts even of the wise almost always turn out false.