

# The Master Machiavellian

VOL. I #10 - A P.B.O.P.-M.S. PUBLICATION -

27 May 1975

## Dispatchio di Machiavelli

Greetings, readers of this publication, and seekers after diplomatic dexterity. Good luck in all your endeavors, whether they be honest or otherwise:

At this time there are six princes assigned to the Colonia conflict. These princes should receive copies of the rules and mans this issue. As soon as two more leaders are discovered, the world will be plunged into global war! Also, there remain two more positions in the third of The Master Machiavellian's Diplomacy contests.

I have, of course, been watching the recent events concerning the S.S. Mayaguez with the greatest of interest. It has been eminently satisfying to see my principles expounded by the United States of America. The United States did not worry about being thought cruel, which is wise. A prince must not mind incurring the charge of cruelty for the purpose of keeping his subjects united and faithful: for, with a very few examples, he will be more merciful than those who, from excess of tenderness, allow disorders to arise, from whence spring bloodshed and rapine; for these as a rule injure the whole community, while the executions carried out by the prince injure only individuals. I know that everyone will admit that it would be highly praiseworthy in a prince to possess trustworthiness, mercy, generosity, patience, and humaneness; but as human conditions do not permit all of the above characteristics, he must not mind incurring the scandal of those vices, without which it would be difficult to save the state, for if one considers well, it will be found that some things which seem virtuous, would, if followed, lead to one's ruin, and some others which appear vices result in one's greater security and well-being.

Following the termination of the Das Deutsches Afrika Korps article currently under way in this periodical, the Staff intends to commence a series of articles both native and by foreign writers concerning the best strategic and tactical courses of action in the game of Diplomacy, and extensive critiques covering the diplomatic manueverings.

I know that you will be both stimulated and enriched by this publication. I know that through The Master Machiavellian you will gain greater knowledge of the qualities of the lion and of the fox, of force and of fraud.

\* \* \* \* \*

NOTE: Plans for a L.A. "Dinki-Con II" under way: more next ish! -- Staff

The Master has been... a...  
 and... Subscribers are...  
 fee is \$1 or \$1.50 for Colonia, and does not include a sub. IMM is...  
 bel every fourth Tuesday... Copyright...  
 500 Harrison, Boston 02118, was invented by Alan Calhaver... Please make  
 all checks payable to Michael G. Homler.

STAFF: Editor-in-Chief, Financial Editor: Michael G. Homler; Front Page  
 Editor: Peter...; General Adjudicator:...  
 Agent: David H. Calvert. Contributing...  
 \* \* \* \* \*

1974HO ITALY FALLS OUT AS AUSTRIA CARRIES ON

ENGLAND (Zimmermann): F, Rth, Hol; F, Hol; A, Lan, Yor; F, Rth, ...

FRANCE: Por, Bre, ~~Yst~~, ~~Spa~~ -- lose 2

GERMANY: Home, Den, Swa, Bal, ~~Wol~~, Par -- even

ITALY: Home, Tun, Mar, Spa -- blds 1

RUSSIA: Sev, Mos, ~~Wol~~, ~~Wol~~ -- lose 2

TURKEY: Home, Bul -- blds 1

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Ankara Herald-Advocate, 27 Sept. '09: "His Imperial Majesty The Sultan...  
 issued today that any and all reports concerning his conduct with the wife  
 of the Russian Ambassador or printed in American newspapers are utterly false.  
 They are obviously the result of vicious slander and libel on the part of  
 the writers and editors of those papers, and said persons responsible shall  
 be subject to suit in American, Turkish, and International courts if they  
 persist in these actions." (Press cont. next page)

SUPPLY CENTER CHART -- 1974HO; Winter 1903:

AUSTRIA: Home, Ser, Gro, Rum -- blds 1	ITALY: Home, Tun, Mar, Spa -- blds 1
ENGLAND: Home, Nor, StP, <u>Hol</u> -- blds 1	RUSSIA: Sev, Mos, <del>Wol</del> , <del>Wol</del> -- lose 2
FRANCE: Por, Bre, <del>Yst</del> , <del>Spa</del> -- lose 2	TURKEY: Home, <u>Bul</u> -- blds 1
GERMANY: Home, Den, Swa, Bal, <del>Wol</del> , Par -- even	

((correction: Ger takes War, blds 1))

GAMERS NOTE: If you see any time that we've erred, we would appreciate it  
 if you would let not only the other gamers know, but please  
 tell us, too, 'cause we do goof. Thanks! -- staff

New York Freedom, 28 Sept. '03: "The second political convention of the 'American Party' convened here early this morning. The party quickly adopted a platform calling for restrictions to be placed on such publications as William Randolph Hearst's New York Journal and Joseph Pulitzer's New York World, among others, as damaging to American interests by spreading malicious and usually trumped-up rumours as to the activities of certain foreign figures. The Party was quick also to demand that the United States Government act in a more responsible manner concerning the recent U.S. British-Turkish difficulties, and that the Government adopt a more sensible course of negotiation rather than its present one, which, the Party asserts, is leading towards all-out war. NOTE: As the American Party's membership increases, more and more citizens are deserting the traditional U.S. political parties, the Republicans and the Democrats, in favor of a more moderate yet militarily prepared course."

Washington Post, 1 Oct. '03: "Regarding the difficult position of the French nation at this time, President Roosevelt stated in his press conference of this afternoon that he has extended an offer to the French president, M. Poincaré, to trade 15 modern U.S. Navy battleships of the Connecticut class in exchange for the now-French territories of Madagascar and Indo-China. Final approval is still forthcoming from the French side."

Applied Eagle, 9 Oct. '03: "H.I.M. The Sultan today announced the purchase from France of her holdings in the West Indies, French Guiana, French Somaliland, and Morocco. The reason behind the purchase was revealed as President Generoff's desire to sell France's overseas possessions to us rather than lose them to England and Germany, should France fall. Negotiations are under way concerning the transfer of other French colonies, and a favorable outcome is expected."

Canadian Tribune, 10 Oct. '03: "It was released today by the Home Office that the nation's economy is almost beyond repair, the country remaining afloat of this latest severe economic crisis only with the aid of American financial aid. Due to Canada's ties with the United States, the Home Office has issued a statement condemning the action of Great Britain in sending capital naval forces into the Western Hemisphere. Coupled with the protests of those Canadian citizens of French descent against our support of Britain's position in the current war, this country's government is expected to announce the severance of relations with Britain, and the dissolution of all Commonwealth ties."

Massachusetts Renouncer, 24 Oct. 1903: "It was announced today that the Imperial National Assembly has approved the treaty which was just concluded between the Sultan, H.I.M. The Sultan has agreed to purchase the Netherlands East India, the Belgian Congo, and the Danish Virgin Islands from the respective governments-in-exile in London. Also, the transfer of the islands protecting the N.W.I. and D.V.I. was agreed to, in order that we may protect our new holdings from foreign intervention."

The Times, 30 Oct. '03: "In response to the aggressive action taken by the United States against the new Turkish holdings in the Western Hemisphere, Kaiser Wilhelm has ordered the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th fleets to aid the Turkish fleet in defense of said holdings. Should anything happen to these islands, it will be considered an overt act of war by the U.S. and appropriate steps will be taken."

Washington Post, 31 Oct. '03: "The governments-in-exile here of Holland, Denmark, Portugal, and Spain have just completed a joint conference with representatives of the U.S. government, whereby the United States has agreed to maintain the territorial integrity of the above nations' possessions by military force if necessary, until they are restored to their rightful owners. Also, spokesmen for the Republican/Democratic Congress today declared that, in light of Turkey's claim to 'true democracy', that in order to ease relations between the two nations, Turkey should grant the independence of her empire, granting them a 'commonwealth' status similar to the British system."

- 1. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 2. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 3. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 4. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 5. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 6. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 7. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 8. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 9. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.
- 10. ITALY (Lancro): F Alb-Ita; A Scot-Gre; A Pis-Ital.

Credible! Everything's still going smoothly! Next deadline 26th June 1975. Please send in Winter builds with Spring moves 1972 (builds first; orders in Spring may be conditional on Winter builds). GM's address: 1143 Jonesboro Dr., L.A. CA 90049. How to the Supply Center Chart:

**SUPPLY CENTER CHART -- 1975AV Fall 1901:**

- AUSTRIA: Home, Gie -- bids 1
- ENGLAND: Pdi, Liv, Lof, Nwy -- even
- FRANCE: Home, Bel, Sps, Lon -- bids 3
- GERMANY: Home, Den -- builds 1
- ITALY: Home, Ser -- bids 1
- RUSSIA: Home -- even
- TURKEY: Home, Bul, Skum -- bids 2

PRESS: Vienna Tribune, 22 Sept. '01: "His Majesty the King-Emperor today sent a letter to King Weswig I of Italy protesting that country's invasion of the Dual-Monarchy. The Austrian and Hungarian Parliaments both sent messages to His Majesty backing his action, and stated that they would support any further action short of war he takes. Negotiations are under way to rectify the situation, and a favorable outcome is expected."

HELGOLAND: "British warships have just been seen passing through, their destination unknown but feared they might interfere with German occupation plans in Holland."

LONDON: "When asked to comment on his brief stay in England, Wiley Carter commented, 'It's really nice. Have it wrapped -- I'll pick it up later.' When asked what he thought the English fleet would do about it, he said, 'If all we have to worry about is the good ship Figgys France has no troubles. Besides, what does it take to sink a fleet of bathtubs?'"

Budapest Blazer, 29 Sept. '03: "H.M. the King-Emperor today protested the attempted Russian invasion of Galicia. Our ambassador in St. Petersburg has reported that Tsar Russell I was not available for talks, and that he would continue to attempt a reconciliation with the Russian Imperial Gov't. The Parliaments again sent supporting letters to H.M., and some peaceful demonstrations in support of his actions were reported here and in Vienna."

ABOARD FIZZY: "Mike, get in ~~here~~ here! I've decided we will break off the Southern Task Force, for duties in the protection of Holland."

"But, Jon, didn't Behnen express that he wants ~~no~~ no interference in either French or German affairs? Why, to cross him would cause you a court martial!"

"You bloody fool, how can you expect me to sit by while a country is destroyed? By God, man, have you no feelings at all?"

"Damn right I do, sir -- I've just got the feeling you're getting yourself in unneeded trouble. Nevertheless, you are in command, and I'll have the ships turned toward Holland."

"You're right, bloody well right, that I'm causing myself trouble! But I've come to fight for freedom and I'll not sit by while our supposed leader deals with others' lives. If he decides to get rid of me, all the better!"

"Well, sir, I'll get those orders to the other vessels immediately. I hope that you've made a wise decision. I'm sure that you have."

"Thanks, Mike. I feel it is the best course of action."

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "Puzzle" and other illegible scribbles.

...to E...  
...NOTA...  
...of you"

...The steam has...  
...year, American...  
...to prove...  
...Italy...  
...Yeah, uh huh, sure!!

...Prague Press, 13...  
...Austrian and Hun...  
...would have 75...  
...members were to...  
...November, and the...  
...January. It is hoped that...  
...greater cooperation between the Hungari...  
...and the Austrians, and that a more efficient government will result, if...  
...both parts of the Empire will retain internal autonomy...  
...the new system." ((What about the Croatsians, Bosnians, & Herzegovinians))  
...Smyrna Daily News, 7 Nov. '03: "In response to the...  
...Italian invasion of our Bulgarian province, H.M. The Sultan has re...  
...National assembly issue a declaration of war on Italy. In...  
...assembly, he stated that he wanted the people's represen...  
...war, and stipulated that he...  
...only in attempting to recover the province. A response...  
...is expected pending the outcome of our attempted recovery...  
..."

...Washington Capital Observer, 8 Nov. '03: "In order to maintain peace...  
...and the U.S., President Roosevelt today stated that he has...  
...the oceanic border of the United States an additional 138 miles to a...  
...of 140 miles east of the U.S. East Coast as a buffer zone between...  
...the British Royal Navy and the U.S. Navy. The President said that...  
...ships violated the peacekeeping zone, American retaliation...  
...terrible, and total." "

A RISING STAR  
by Peter Homier

...That evening, Jason rode up to the house alone. Over his horse...  
...body of my father. My eyes filled with many tears as I real...  
...never hear again that powerful, commanding voice impelling me...  
...never have that wise counsel, that understanding heart...  
...of mental brilliance, before me again.  
...Jason came to my room, bearing a package. "Your father...  
...should ever pass away for all time, to deliver...  
...speaking, he unrolled the bundle and drew from it first...  
...and shining, with jewels set into the hilt, and strange runes...  
...of this sword, for it has great power, and will try...  
...to its. But if you can retain control, you will be able to...  
...of hidden things, and attack monsters, and especially dragons...  
...". He next took from the package a wand and a staff, saying...  
...powerful weapons. With the wand, you can project a flame of great...  
...that will incinerate whatever it touches. This staff held much of your...  
...power. Possessing it, you can control the actions of men, animals...  
...". The last grew, as Jason took them after them from the pile and...  
...explained the function and use of each. Last of all he handed me...  
...letter, bowed gravely, and left. Scanning the outside of the letter, I...  
...that it had been sealed with the signet of our house. I opened the let...  
...and read:

...Your seeing this letter can only mean that I am come to...  
...reality. Therefore all that was mine is now bequeathed unto you...  
... (cont. page 8)

Part VI: Italian Army and Air Force in North Africa

The CV 33/32 and 33/35 tankettes, the L6/40 light tank and the M-11/39 were all in Italian service at the beginning of the North African Campaign. A general characteristic was that they all possessed various combinations of the previously mentioned faults and weaknesses.

Built in the early Thirties, the CV or Carro-Velocis (Fast Car) weapons carriers owed their origin to England's Carden-Lloyd series of machine-gun carriers, from which they were direct descendants. However, unlike a more famous contemporary, the Bren infantry carrier, the CV tankettes did not establish a very successful record in battle.

The CV 33 carried an 8mm Breda machine gun and was manned by a crew of 2. Armor was very thin, with the frontal only  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick. Performance was especially poor, the 4-ton vehicle moving at a top speed of only 25 mph and having a range of 60 mi.

The CV 35 had the same chassis as the CV 33, the main differences in the armament, which was increased to 2 Bredas and in the thicker armor plating.

These AFVs performed satisfactorily in reconnaissance and scouting duties, but proved to be extremely vulnerable in battle, with their armor and firepower no match for anything more than light cavalry. Unfortunately for the Italian Army, it was just this type of equipment that appeared in the greatest numbers in North Africa, a fact that contributed in no small way to the defeat of the Italian forces.

Introduced in 1940, the L6/40 light tank was not a very impressive vehicle in combat. Although it was armed with a long 20mm gun in an offset turret, the tank had no auxiliary machine guns. Armor was negligible for its class, with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. of plating in the front and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. in the sides and rear. The 6-ton vehicle had a delicate engine as well as a nasty reputation for throwing its tracks. The L6 had a 2-man crew, a speed of 29 mph and a range of 60 mi. cross-country and 120 mi. on the road.

Many comparisons can be drawn between the L6 and the CV 33 and 35. Both AFVs had cramped quarters and performed indifferently in the desert, both had been tested in battle during the Spanish Civil War and had been found unsuitable; and both had to be transported to the battlefield in order to arrive in some semblance of battle-worthiness.

The L6 was used in recon units, where its 20mm gun could do the most good (or least harm) to its crew. Performance was so disappointing that the vehicle was discontinued as a tank, the chassis being converted to self-propelled guns (Semoveites), mounting a 47mm gun. By the end of 1942, these reworked L6s, now known as Semoveite L6s, had replaced the CV 33 and 35 for patrol and light contact work.

In the same class as the American M3 Grants, the M-11/39 was a more interesting proposition. Built as an infantry assault tank, this 11-ton AFV had 2 machine guns in a small turret and was mounted with a 37mm gun with limited traverse in a side sponson. Like the US Grant tank, the M-11 suffered from having its main armament built so low that it would expose its bulk in order to engage an enemy. Armor was an inch thick in the front and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. everywhere else.

While the M-11 had a speed of 20 mph and a range of 160 mi., the engine was underpowered and unreliable. Nevertheless, the M-11/39 proved to be one of Italy's better tanks, its 37mm gun being superior to Germany's 20mm cannon. Also, the chassis became the basis for its successor, the M-13/40.

The M-13/40 became Italy's main battle tank of World War II, replacing the L6 and M-11 in this role. Equipped with a 47mm anti-tank gun with a coaxial Breda machine gun in the turret and 2 more Bredas in the hull, the 13-ton M-13 suffered from the same problems as its predecessors: thin armor (only 1 1/2 in. thick), poorly-shaped plating, an appalling lack of crew comfort, and insufficient firepower. The penetration power of the 47mm gun dwindled as it faced heavier and heavier enemy armor, until it became worthless against Shermans and Grants. Designed to fight in the Alpine frontiers, the M-13 had a high fuel consumption and a limited range (125 mi.), with a speed of 25 mph. The tank had also inherited the M-11's engine and its resulting problems. During the first engagement with M-13 tanks, more of them were disabled because of a lack of sand filters and then to enemy fire, to cite one example. These difficulties notwithstanding, the biggest problem that plagued the M-13 was the chronic shortage of diesel fuel, which resulted in many M-13s falling intact to the British, who gratefully used them against their former owners.

In 1941, the M-14/41 was introduced. This tank was an improved version of the M-13, having a longer-barrelled 47mm gun and a more powerful and reliable engine, but which also demanded continuous expert maintenance.

One interesting sidenote as to the overall performance of the M-13 is from a British evaluation of captured M-13s in Allied service, in which it was concluded that only the 47mm main armament was "worth-while."

The importance of mobility, especially in artillery, was not lost on the Italians, whose non-mechanized army suffered most heavily in fluid battles that raged across North Africa. The life of the obsolescent M-11 chassis was extended as the all-round traverse of the 47mm gun was eliminated and much heavier caliber artillery pieces with limited traverse installed in place. The resulting self-propelled guns, or Semoventes, tremendously increased the effectiveness of Italian guns.

One common conversion was the Semovente 75/18 howitzer, which featured a WWI 75mm howitzer placed in a cut-down M-13 hull. Weighing 15 1/2 tons, the Semovente 75/18 had a speed of 24 mph, which was even then an improvement over traditional wheeled artillery. Since it was designed as a fire-support weapon, the Semovente had thin armor that precluded any direct form of combat. A Breda AA gun was mounted on top of the vehicle.

Another successful conversion was the emplacement of the excellent 90mm AA gun in the specially-lightened chassis of M-13 and M-14 tanks. Armor was ballistically shaped and sloped and was the best-protected tank in Italian service. Called the Semovente 90/53, it was Italy's most powerful anti-tank gun on a tracked chassis, having a greater range, higher muzzle velocity, and greater traverse than Germany's Rhinoceros, which featured the formidable 88mm AA/At gun on a Mark III or IV chassis.

(A RISING STAR-cont.) "as my sole heir. You will find great wealth and powerful magic as part of the estate. Do not overvalue the gold, for by the magic it was acquired, and if it should be lost tomorrow, through the power of magic it could be regained the day after. I would advise you to go in search of adventure yourself, as I have done. You have yet to taste the glory of standing firm with sword drawn, ready to meet the Evil Ones as they charge and the fireballs erupt and the lightning bolts crash beside you. I give you this magic in the hope that you will put it to good use. Chrystar, you have tremendous potential. Your combination of great strength and high intelligence makes you able both to fight in hand-to-hand combat, and also to use magical spells and artifacts. Therefore, it is imperative that you go forth to do battle with the forces of Chaos! You have that greatness within you that will take you far. Farewell! -- Listadir."

I had already gone on a few expeditions before, but nothing very dangerous or exciting. But after reading my father's letter, I was tremendously eager to go on another party into the dungeons. When I spoke of this to Jason, he told me of an expedition he knew of that was going in a few days to visit an underground dungeon some hours ride away. When this party set out a few mornings later, I made sure that I was there.

In our party we had three magicians, a couple of curates from the town church, two elves, three fighters, and one warrior-seer, myself. Our excitement grew as we approached the area. To our surprise there were no moss-grown heaps of rubble, but instead numerous ramps and stair ways cut into the hard rock, all leading down into the bowels of the earth. Picking an entrance at random, we carefully hid our mounts and proceeded into the depths of The Labyrinth.

We had only descended the stairs for a few feet when we found ourselves at its bottom. Leading away from us as far as our torches permitted us to see - was a long hallway. Along the hallway to either side were set numerous doorways and passageways. We proceeded to the first door on our left. Listening carefully, we determined the next room to be empty. Our fighters in front quickly forced the door open, and we saw a small passageway leading away from us for some distance. We could see no apparent doors.

As the party proceeded down this passageway, we looked for hidden doors along both sides. By the time we had reached the block end of the passageway, we had found none, so we promptly turned around and headed back, still searching. At last our thoroughness paid off when one of the elves finally found a hidden door. This was quickly forced open.

The room that this door opened into was a tiny one-by-one room with two doors, one on the left hand and one on the right hand side. I stepped into the small room and listened at the left hand door, while one of the fighters did the same at the other door. Again we heard nothing.

Simultaneously, the fighter and I broke down the left hand door, which opened into a five-by-five room, seemingly empty. Just as we were about to enter and search this room, the door leading from the main hallway into our passageway swung open, and as the surprised rear-guard members of our party turned round, there stood a tall robed figure holding a shimmering sword and an ancient scroll. A split second after the door had opened, this evil magician let loose at the party with a mini lightning bolt. The effect was devastating.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

The Master Machiavellian  
c/o Michael George Homer  
238 N. Bowling Green Way  
L.A., CA 90049 USA

1st class mail  
Eekdon  
Rod Walker  
4069 Jackdaw St  
San Diego, CA 92103

trade  
 subscription  
 please plug me