

IBO OA.1239

Della Casa, Alessandro, 'Da monista a "liberale": i Machiavelli di Isaiah Berlin' ['From Monist to "Liberal": Isaiah Berlin's Machiavellis'], *Rinascimento* 59 (2019), 97–116

Abstract

This article traces the evolution of Isaiah Berlin's reading of Machiavellian thought from the 1950s to the 1970s. Based on unpublished letters and archival materials, and a comparison of the editions of Berlin's essay on Niccoló Machiavelli. Examination of the historical and intellectual context of Berlin's study allows us to highlight the influences and conditioning that led Berlin to switch from his early monistic interpretation of Machiavellian writings to a clearly pluralistic and even liberal one. Comparing Berlin's interpretation of the Florentine secretary with those provided by Leo Strauss and Reinhold Niebuhr, the last part of the article explains the key role played by reflections on Machiavelli in the development of Berlin's realistic liberalism within the framework of the ideological conflict of the Cold War.