Contents

Preface: The Thinker of a Thousand Faces ix

- From Humanism to Politics 1
 Paradise Lost 1
 Revolution! 8
 The Constant Reading of Ancient Things 16
 The Sustained Experience of Modern Things 23
- 2. The People's Prince 33
 Illusion, Foundations, and Flux 33
 The Prince as a "Mirror" 37
 The Prince as a "Counsel" 42
 Instrumental Virtues 53
 The Art of Bonds 62
- What If? Learning from the Past's Futures 69
 The Discourses on Livy and the "Discourse Form" 79
 Constitutional Engineering 86
 In the Footsteps of Dionysius 93

Positive Conflicts (and Other Brilliant Ideas) 98

How Republics Die 107

Civic Religion: The Ancients and the Moderns 114

How Republics Survive 118

4. Comeback Kid 125
Politics, Again 125
Florence on the Stage: The Mandrake 128
The Invention of Tactics: The Art of War 134
Political Theory by Other Means:
The Florentine Histories 146

5. Beyond 161
A Contested Legacy (1523–1539) 161
Condemnations and Adaptations (1540–1815) 172
In the Mirror of the French Revolution (1816–1945) 184
In the Mirror of the Weimar Republic (1946–Today) 199

Chronology 211

Further Readings 215

Index 227