

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Strategic action illustrated via conference realignment resembles action in Machiavelli’s 16th century work, *The Prince*.
- Principles of Machiavelli’s *The Prince* are specific to attitudes, strategies, and tactics that lead to attaining and maintaining power.
- Outcomes that are beneficial to some groups may help to produce inequality relative to other groups.
- Conference realignment may be fueled by institutional ambitions for specific outcomes.
- Exploration of a strategic model to explain university and athletic conference roles in conference realignment draws upon contemporary examples and historical context.

Leaders must be active in understanding their environment at the betterment of the university without regard or concern of other institutions

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. In what ways would conference realignment benefit or hinder your institution and athletic department?
2. What practical solutions would help make conference realignment equitable for your institution?
3. What leadership strategies are utilized within department in order to sustain or strengthen your institution’s power within your conference?



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Additional Resources:

- [NPR - Machiavelli’s ‘Prince’ Still Inspires](#)
- [Realignment lesson: Don’t get Comfortable – USA Today](#)

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