



# The Capitol Hill Playbook: A Machiavellian Guide for Young Political Professionals

Nicholas Balthazar

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## The Capitol Hill Playbook: A Machiavellian Guide for Young Political Professionals

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The Capitol Hill Playbook: A Machiavellian Guide for Young Political Professionals Nicholas Balthazar In presenting the ideal skills, abilities, and qualities of a successful politico, *The Capitol Hill Playbook* speaks to today's generation of staffers like no other book before it. Weaving together Renaissance-era political philosophies and contemporary illustrations, Nicholas Balthazar enlists the help of Niccolò Machiavelli, author of the venerable political treatise *The Prince*, and Baldassare Castiglione, author of *The Book of the Courtier*—the authoritative account of Renaissance court life—to demonstrate two models of political life and their applicability today.

Balthazar offers readers a path between these two methods, exploring the mechanics of working for elected officials but also discussing the philosophies behind contemporary political work. *The Capitol Hill Playbook* answers all the questions a newly hired staffer might want to ask:

- Why do politicians run for office?
- Why is devotion so important in politics?
- Why must a staffer be a good communicator?
- Why are friendships such an essential and elusive part of political life?
- How do you win a political knife fight?
- Why should a political staffer never wear a bow tie to the office?
- And more!

A provocative and informative read, *The Capitol Hill Playbook* will be indispensible to any political aspirant and, with an intriguing look back to the Renaissance, reveals how politics today has both changed and remained the same through the centuries.



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