

WHAT TO WATCH



Is it better to be loved or feared? Alan Yentob and Peter Capaldi

Imagine... Who's Afraid of Machiavelli?

BBC ONE, 10.35PM; WALES, 11.05PM; NI, 11.35PM

Niccolò Machiavelli's *The Prince*, a searing treatise on the means of securing and holding on to political power, remains one of the most fascinating books in literature. Celebrating 500 years since it was written, Alan Yentob presents tonight's documentary dissecting the book's meaning and asking whether it has as much relevance today as in Renaissance Florence. Do the ends justify the means? Is it better for rulers to be feared than loved? Is it vital to get a deputy to do your dirty work? The general consensus among Yentob's coterie of experts, among them *Game of Thrones* creator George RR Martin and former Tory Chief of Staff Michael Dobbs, is affirmative - that a ruthless streak is required to succeed in both politics and business, with Mrs. Thatcher's and Tony Blair's behaviour cited as examples.

It was clever of Yentob to ask Peter Capaldi - who played *The Thick of It*'s ruthless spin doctor Malcolm Tucker - to present passages from *The Prince*; Capaldi spits them out in Tuckeresque style to give a brutal air to the book's cynical although fairly measured, some might say sensible, message. Yentob also briefly explores the counter argument, that removing human goodness from politics is a recipe for a bleak new world and not necessary - after all, compassion worked for the likes of Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Yentob's easygoing style is appealing; he avoids the hectoring tone of many a TV historian and allows his commentators to do the talking. An intelligent look at a complex subject. **Vicki Power**

BBC ONE

6.00 am Breakfast [4]

9.15 Heir Hunters

(R) (S) [

10.00 Homes Under the

(S)

11.00 Caught Red Hand

(AD)

11.30 Operation Hospital

(AD) (R) (S) [

12.15 pm Bargain Hunt

(AD) (R) (S) [

1.00 News; Weather (S)

1.30 Regional News and

Weather (S) [9

1.45 Doctors (AD) (S)

2.15 The Doctor Blake

Mysteries (S) [

3.10 Pressure Pad

3.55 Escape to the Co

(R) (S) [

4.40 Flog It! (R) (S) [

5.15 Pointless (R) (S) [

6.00 News

6.30 Regional News

7.00 The One Show Live

and topical report

7.30 EastEnders (A

8.00 Holby City The pa

new surgeon Guy

(AD)

9.00 Last Tango in Ha

inadvertently reve

secret Gillian has

keeping since she

See What to watch

(AD) (