

The alternative to Machiavellian politics is what Havel calls "living in the truth," a politics based on a compassionate spiritual connectedness with other human beings, the whole earth, and the mystery of the universe itself. Understanding that each human being is subjective and unique means that we must reject the bureaucratic mentality that reduces individuals to replaceable cogs in government's machinery.

This politics is not about maintaining incumbency for the Prince, but about service, about aligning government with the needs of people and the planet.

It is a remarkable irony that Richard Nixon was buried during the same week that Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa.

Richard Nixon was the leading symbol of Machiavelli's creed in our time. He built the Watergate State, a web of interest-group intrigue designed to perpetuate an elite in power. In Nixon's global vision, Nelson Mandela was a hapless political prisoner whose fate was unimportant compared to the larger interest of preserving South Africa as a "strategic asset" of American foreign policy. For Nixon, South Africa was about gold, diamonds and anti-communism, not about the oppression of humanity.

Nixon could not imagine that the soul of Nelson Mandela in a cell on Robben Island would prove more powerful than the police forces and atomic arsenal of the South African state.

The Sixties was about greater enfranchisement and political reform, but it was also about defending the human soul against mutilation and denial.

Politics of the Spirit - A Dream of California