

Cesare Borgia (1475 – 1507) – a Renaissance prince, political opportunist, bishop and cardinal

was born an illegitimate son of Rodrigo Borgia (Pope Alexander VI). He was given a number of benefices by his father and was made a bishop of Pamplona at the age of 15. Three years later, when he father was elected the Pope, he was made Cardinal at the age of 18. He is accused by many of his brother Giovanni's murder. In 1498 he became the first person to resign from cardinalate and decided to pursue a military and political career. Cesare was appointed commander of the papal armies and later ruler of some Italian cities. In his *Il Principe*, Machiavelli uses Cesare (Valentino) as an example of a Renaissance ruler.