Machiavelli suggested that a ruler should behave both "like a lion" and "like a fox." Analyze the policies of two of the following European rulers, indicating the degree to which they successfully followed Machiavelli's suggestion (1999, #5).

Elizabeth I of England
Henry IV of France
Catherine the Great of Russia
Frederick II of Prussia

Introduction:

Machiavelli stated that a ruler must rule by law or by force and that the most strategic and effective ruler should rule by both. Law is what is understood as the way of person and force is understood as the way of beasts. "So as a prince is forced to know how to act like a beast, he must learn from the fox and the lion; because the lion is defenseless from traps and a fox is defenseless from wolves. Therefore one must be a fox in order to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten off wolves." -Machiavelli. Machiavelli believed that a ruler should be like a lion (politically and militarily strong) and like a fox (cunning). Two different rulers from different parts of Europe best exemplified this. Catherine the Great of Russia and Elizabeth I of England were the two rulers that were able to have traits of both Machiavelli's lion and fox. Elizabeth was able to act as a "lion" by suppressing the Congregationalists and establishing the Convencible Act, executing Mary Queen of Scots, and defeating the Spanish Armada; she was able to act like a "fox" by establishing the Act of Supremacy, the Act of Uniformity, by not marrying, and by effectively using the Sea Beggars. Catherine the Great was able to act like "lion" by suppressing the revolt of the serfs in Russia and acquiring land for Russia in the partition of Poland; she was able to act like a "fox" by receiving the loyalty of nobles in exchange for control of serfs and by bring and by implementing Enlightenment ideas into her government. Though Elizabeth and Catherine were able to become like a "fox and "lion", Catherine was able to follow Machiavelli's ideas further because she was an absolute monarch compared to Elizabeth's constitutional monarchy.

I. Machiavelli's Ideas-
   a. He saw Italy in shambles by invasions and wanted a strong Absolute Monarch to emerge and unite Italy
   b. Only a strong man, he concluded in the end, could impose order on divided and selfish people
   c. Ruler should act like a "lion" and a "fox"
   d. Ends justify means
   e. Said that leaders need to possess virtu: the ability to act heroically and decisively for the good of their country

II. Elizabeth as a "Lion"

1. Suppressing of Congregationalists and Establishment of Convencible Act
   a. Elizabeth had two different types of religions in Parliament that wanted reform
   b. the Puritans were not separatists and worked through Parliament to create an alternative national church governed by Presbyterians
   c. Elizabeth acted firmly but subtly with this group, exceeding nothing that lessened the hierarchical unit of the Church of England
   d. the more extreme of the groups wanted every congregation to be autonomous, a law unto itself, with neither Episcopal nor Presbyterian control
   e. Elizabeth and her second archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, refused to tolerate this group, whose views on independence they found patently subversive.
   f. The Convencible Act of 1593 gave such separatists the option of either conforming to the practices of the Church of England or death.
2. Executing Mary Queen of Scots
   a. These events undermined English and Spanish relations
   b. Mary Stuart was the daughter of King James V of Scotland and Mary of Guise and had resided in France from the time that she was 6 years old.
   c. This thoroughly Catholic queen had returned to Scotland after the death of her husband, the French king Francis II, in 1561. In 1568 a public scandal forced Mary's flight to her cousin Elizabeth in England.
   d. In 1586 Elizabeth's vigilant secretary, Sir Francis Walsingham, uncovered a plot against Elizabeth, the so-called Babington Plot (after Anthony Babington who was caught seeking Spanish support for an attempt on the queen's life). This time Walsingham had uncontestable proof of Mary's complicity.
   e. Elizabeth consented to Mary's execution on February 18, 1587.

3. Defeating the Spanish Armada
   a. The execution of Mary I sparked the war between the English and the Spanish
   b. Spain's war preparations were interrupted in the spring of 1587 by Sir Francis Drake and the successful shelling of the port city of Cadiz.
   c. On May 30 of that year, a mighty fleet of 130 ships bearing 25,000 sailors and soldiers under the command of the duke of Medina-Sidonia set sail for England.
   d. In the end, the English won a stunning victory.
   e. The swift English and Netherlands ships, helped by what came to be known as an "English wind".

III. Elizabeth as a "Fox"

1. Act of Supremacy and Act of Uniformity
   a. In 1559 an Act of Supremacy passed by Parliament that repealed all anti-Protestant legislation of Mary Tudor and asserting Elizabeth's right as "supreme governor" of both spiritual and temporal affairs.
   b. An Act of Uniformity in the same year mandated a revised version of the second Book of Common Prayer for every English parish.
   c. The issuance of the Thirty-Nine Articles on Religion in 1563—which were a revision of Thomas Cranmer's original forty-two—made a moderate Protestantism the official religion within the Church of England.
   d. These act allowed Elizabeth to gain power and the trust of the Parliament because she was working through the Parliament.

2. Not Marrying
   a. Elizabeth never married in her life
   b. She had many different offers for her marriage and even the Spanish monarch attempted to marry Elizabeth.
   c. By marrying to someone she knew that her power would be lost because the real ruler would be the king.
   d. So, by not marrying Elizabeth preserved her power as queen of England.

3. Sea Beggars
   a. They were an international group of anti-Spanish exiles and criminals
   b. Elizabeth had ties with them and secretly sent them to the Netherlands to fight the Spanish
   c. In 1572 the Beggars captured Brill
   d. To prevent any international problems Elizabeth had to disassociate herself from them
IV. Catherine as a “Lion”

1. Suppressing the revolt of the serfs in Russia
   a. Serfs in Russia revolted for rights but were squashed by Catherine
   b. Catherine also passed a law that gave nobles control over serfs for loyalty to Russia
   c. But, the slave revolts escalated during Pugachev’s rebellion
   d. during Pugachev’s rebellion Pugachev promised the serfs freedom from the nobles and land of their own
   e. These riots swept across Southern Europe
   f. Luckily for Catherine they were conservative in nature
   g. Nonetheless, Pugachev was captured and his revolts squashed as well.

2. Partition of Poland
   a. The Russian military successes obviously brought Catherine much domestic political support.
   b. The success of Catherine’s military also made the other states uneasy.
   c. These anxieties were overcome by an extraordinary division of Polish territory known as the First Partition of Poland.
   d. The Russian victories along the Danube River were most unwelcome to Austria, which also harbored ambitions of territorial expansion in that direction.
   e. After long complicated negotiations the powers of Russia, Austria, and Prussia had come to a decision.
   f. Catherine agreed to leave the conquered Danubian areas and in return she would get a large portion of Poland with almost 2 million inhabitants.
   g. Poland was partitioned two more times, and every time Russia gained land and erased Poland off the map.

V. Catherine as a Fox

1. Controlling the Nobles
   a. Catherine was able to get the loyalty of the nobles by giving them control over their serfs.
   b. She also stressed the idea of the charter of the nobility.
   c. She ranked her nobles like Peter the Great.
   d. She based there status on the amount of service they did for the state.
   e. Because of the support Catherine was able to rule absolutely over Russia.

2. Enlightened Ruler
   a. Catherine was convinced that Russia had backward people and because of this she installed Enlightened ideas into her absolute monarchy.
   b. She met and had discussions with Enlightenment thinkers such as Diderot and Voltaire.
   c. The revision of the Russian law, however, did not occur for more than half a century.
   d. After the French Revolution Catherine, however, she threw all elements of the Enlightenment in her government out the window.

VI. Conclusion

The efforts of Elizabeth and Catherine to follow the ideas of Machiavelli improved their countries position in Europe. By defeating the Armada, controlling Parliament, and stopping internal problems Elizabeth was able to pave the path for England to be a major superpower over the next century. With Catherine’s “Enlightened” Absolutism, the squashing of the serfs, and acquiring of land around Russia she was able to place Russia in the sphere of Europe and allowed Russia to be a part of international relations in Europe. As Machiavelli said, “Politics have no relation to morals”. He wanted a monarch to be absolute, and to have the final say. The ends justified the means, and because of that he would like Catherine’s Russia over Elizabeth’s England.