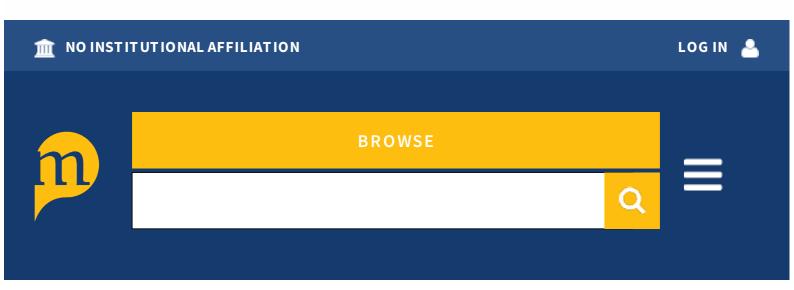
Kautilya's Arthasastra on war and diplomacy in ancient India.

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Rautilya's Arthasastra on War and Diplomacy in Ancient India

Roger Boesche

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KAUTILYA's Arthasastra was one of the greatest political books of the ancient world. Max Weber recognized this. "Truly radical 'Machiavellianism,' in the popular sense of that word," Weber said in his famous lecture "Politics as a Vocation," "is classically expressed in Indian literature in the Arthasastra of Kautilya (written long before the birth of Christ, ostensibly in the time of Chandragupta [Maurya]): compared to it, Machiavelli's The Prince is harmless."

 Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in Weber: Selections in Translation, ed. W. G. Runeiman, trans. Eric Matthews (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978), 212–25, see 220.

Roger Boesche is Professor of Politics and Arthur G. Coons Professor of the History of Ideas at Occidental College in Los Angeles. His most recent book is *The* First Great Political Realist: Kautilya and His Arthashastra.



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