



Political Decadence and Ruling Entropy in Hamlet

By Mark Schauer

GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Condition: New. 20 pages. Dimensions: 10.0in. x 7.0in. x 0.1in. Research Paper from the year 2011 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: A, Northern Arizona University, language: English, abstract: Even in high school during which my teacher interpreted Hamlet as a psychological drama with a cowardly, indecisive and disturbingly Oedipal main character, I saw Hamlet as primarily a depiction of a political showdown between Hamlet and Claudius. Having reigned for only two months, during which time he has, despite his country's weakened position, used diplomatic maneuvering to defuse the violent ambitions of the young Fortinbras, married his sister-in-law, and maintained the goodwill of the multitude shows that Claudius is a remarkably crafty and charismatic, even seductive, politician. His furtive murder of his brother also demonstrates his ruthlessness and cunning. As for Hamlet, his profoundest frustration is not the loss of his father or the marriage of his mother to Claudius: It is that Claudius has usurped what Hamlet perceives is his rightful place in the succession for the throne, a fact that he obsessively discusses with most of the play's principal characters. In their first interaction of the play, Claudius publicly reassures Hamlet that he remains...



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