ess of Forli, after her consort, count Girolamo, had been killed. In her case the fortress gave her a refuge against the assault od the populace, where she could wait for succor from Milan and then recover the state. Circumstances were such that the people could not obtain support from outside. But subsequently fortresses proved of little worth even to her, when Cesare Borgia attacked her and then her hostile subjects joined forces with the invader. So then as before it would have been safer for her to have avoided the emnity of the people than to have had fortresses. So all things considered, I commend those who erect fortresses and those who do not; and I censure anyone who, putting his trust in fortresses, does not mind if he is hated by the people."[1]

What does this paragraph say to a system administrator or security officer seeking insight to defend her systems?

1. Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, George Bull *trans*., Penguin Books, New York, NY ©1995, p. 69