



# RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION, PT1

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World History

# The Waning of the Middle Ages

- Starting in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, life in Europe began to change. The **Crusades** brought new goods from the East to Europe, stimulating a rebirth of trade. They also weakened the Byzantine Empire, contributing to its later collapse.

# The Waning of the Middle Ages, cont'd

- New trade led to the growth of towns, the development of a middle class, and the greater use of money. Instead of performing services for their feudal lord, many people began using money to pay the lord instead. Other events that contributed to the end of the medieval period were the Great Famine, the Black Death, the Hundred Years War, and the Great Schism.

# The Great Famine (1313-1322)

- Unusually heavy rains led to flooding. Eventually, crops spoiled and livestock drowned in waterlogged fields. The result was the **Great Famine**. Farm animals needed for work were slaughtered for food, and seed grain was eaten. This shortage of grain increased grain prices by more than 6 times. Millions of people died from the famine. Many questioned the Church why this catastrophe was happening.

# The Black Death (1347-1351)



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- The **Black Death** (*bubonic plague*) occurred only 25 years after the Great Famine. Rats with fleas carrying the disease entered Europe from Asia on trading ships. Between 1347 and 1351, 25 million people, about one-third of Europe's population, died in the epidemic. People were buried in mass graves without receiving any blessing from the Church.

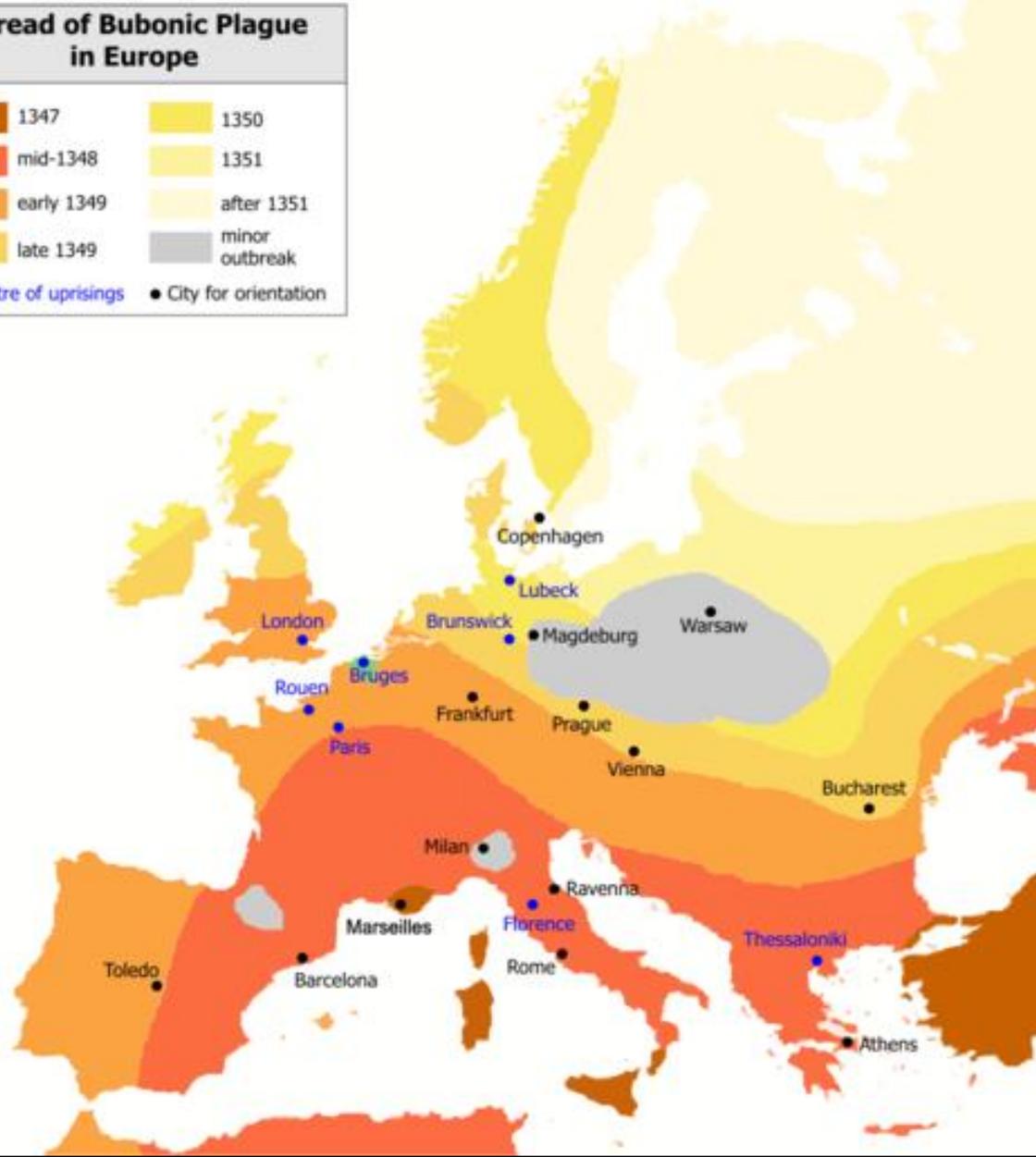
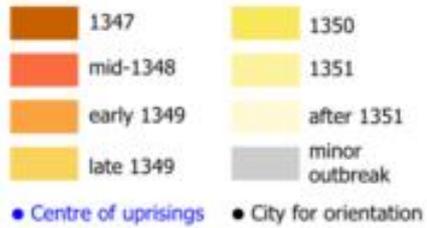


# The Black Death, cont'd

## (1347-1351)

- Some blamed Jewish people for poisoning the wells; others claimed the plague was God's punishment for sinful living. The Black Death created a labor shortage in Europe. Large numbers of peasants escaped from serfdom when landowners and towns, needing laborers, offered them freedom in exchange for work.

## Spread of Bubonic Plague in Europe



# The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)

- The Hundred Years' War between England and France broke out when the French king died without an heir, and the King of England claimed the French throne. This long period of warfare slowly strengthened royal power in both countries. Instead of relying on a feudal army based on the service of his nobles, each king developed a standing army of foot soldiers.

# The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)

- New weapons emerged, such as the English long bow. Later gunpowder and cannons were introduced from China. Knights became less important in battle. Both England and France also developed greater national feeling, and loyalty to their kings.

# The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)

- **Joan of Arc**, a young French maiden, rallied French troops around the heir to the throne. She turned the tide when she successfully drove the English out of the city of Orleans and crowned the new French king at Rheims Cathedral.

Later, Joan was captured and burned at the stake by the English as a witch. But within 20 years after her death, the war was over.



# Joan of Arc



# The Great Schism (1378-1417)

- The Pope often clashed with Europe's **secular** (*non-religious*) rulers. Kings sought the right to appoint bishops, who controlled vast areas of land; they also wanted to try priests in royal courts, and to tax Church lands. The Pope resisted these demands.

# The Great Schism, cont'd

## (1378-1417)

- In 1305, a Frenchman was elected Pope. He moved the Papacy from Rome to Avignon in France, where it fell under the French King's influence. In 1378, an Italian was elected Pope, who decided to move the Papacy back to Rome. French cardinals claimed the election was unlawful and elected a French Pope to keep the Papacy in Avignon. This **schism** (*split*) greatly weakened the Church's authority.

# The Great Schism, cont'd (1378-1417)

- A Church Council made matters worse by electing a third Pope in 1409. Finally, a new Church Council deposed all three Popes, and elected a single Pope in 1417, but the church's prestige was greatly weakened.



# The Renaissance

- A new interest in learning about the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome developed in the city-states of Italy in the 1400's. This led to a period of great intellectual and artistic creativity, known as the **Renaissance**, meaning “rebirth.” The renaissance is often considered as one of the great turning points in the history of Western Civilization.

# The Renaissance, cont'd

- The Renaissance began in Italy in part because of its strategic location on the Mediterranean Sea. As trade between Asia and Europe increased, the cities of Italy emerged as centers of banking, commerce, and handicrafts. Genoa, Pisa, and Venice became important centers of Mediterranean trade. As home to the Popes, Rome collected revenues from throughout Europe.

# The Renaissance, cont'd

- The city-states of Milan, Florence, and Sienna grew wealthy from banking, farming, and making goods. Italian city-states also flourished because no single ruler, as in France, had united the peninsula and crushed their independence.



# The Renaissance, cont'd

- During the Renaissance, wealthy Italian merchants and nobles acted as patrons, supporting artists, writers and scholars. **Secularism** increased as people began to show greater interest in this world than in the life hereafter. People used observation and experience to explain the world, rather than simply relying on traditional Church teachings.

# The Renaissance, cont'd

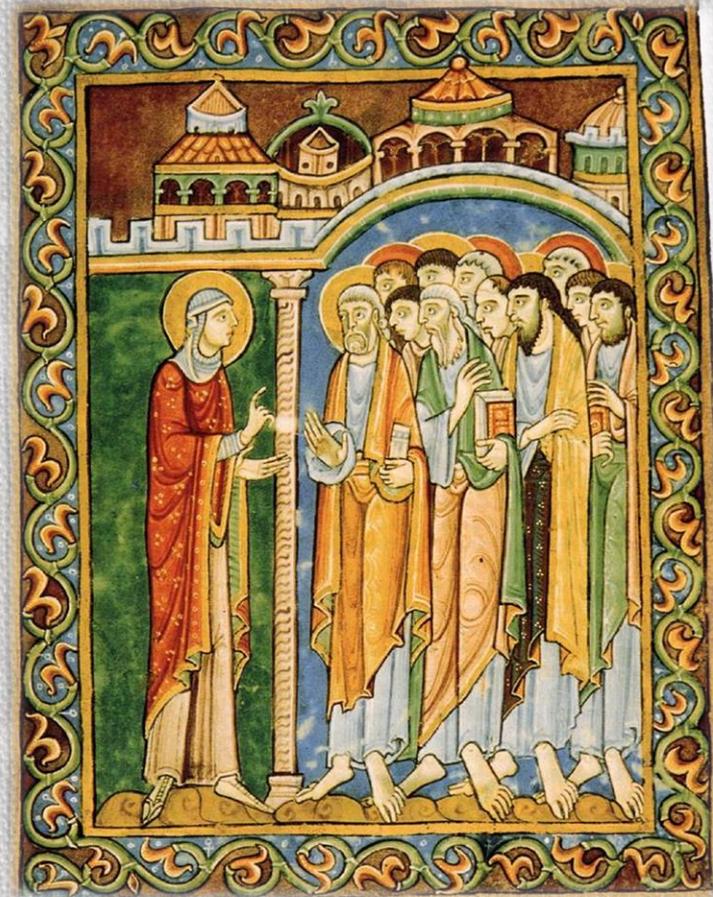
- In Italy, scholars were still surrounded by the remains of ancient civilizations. They were impressed by the achievements of pre-Christian artists and thinkers. Like the ancient Greeks, Renaissance thinkers believed in the power of human reason to explain the world. They looked on man as the focus of all things. **Humanists** placed great emphasis on the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of each person.

# The Impact of the Renaissance

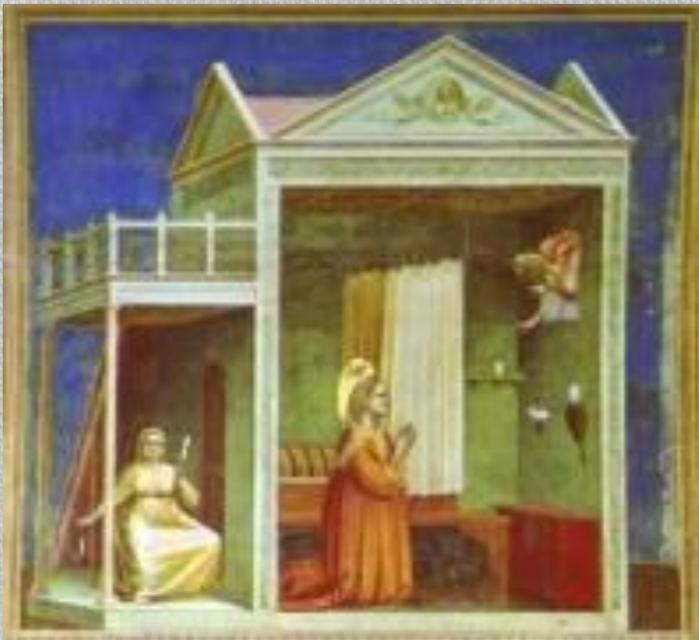
- Renaissance artists, architects, scholars, and writers and scientists created a legacy of achievement that still influences us today.

## The Artistic Impact: Painting and Sculpture

Before the Renaissance, art in Italy was greatly influenced by Byzantine styles. Religious paintings were highly decorative, often with gold and jewels, but appeared flat and un-lifelike. Figures often floated in space without shadows. The size of a figure was based on its importance, not where it was placed in the picture.



- In the 1300s, the painter Giotto (1276-1337) had already astonished Italians by painting in an entirely new style, using scenes with figures in lifelike space. Giotto's figures stood firmly on the ground, became smaller as they receded in space, were given depth by realistic shading, and showed emotions and gestures.



- During the Renaissance, each generation of Italian artists made improvements to make their paintings more realistic. Their challenge was to show three dimensional space on a two-dimensional surface. **Masaccio** (1401-1428) and other artists developed the rules of **perspective**, using guidelines to calculate how things recede in the distance until they reached a vanishing point. These artists also introduced shadows and other realistic effects.

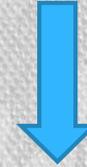




- Italian painting reached its peak during the “High Renaissance” with paintings of **Leonardo Da Vinci** (1452-1519) was a sculptor and inventor as well as painter of such works as the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*. Da Vinci discovered how to use shadowing and blurred lines, especially on the eyes and mouth, to make his subjects appear incredibly lifelike. Leonardo also had one of the best scientific minds of his time. To understand human anatomy, he dissected human corpses. His notebooks include designs for a parachute and machine gun.



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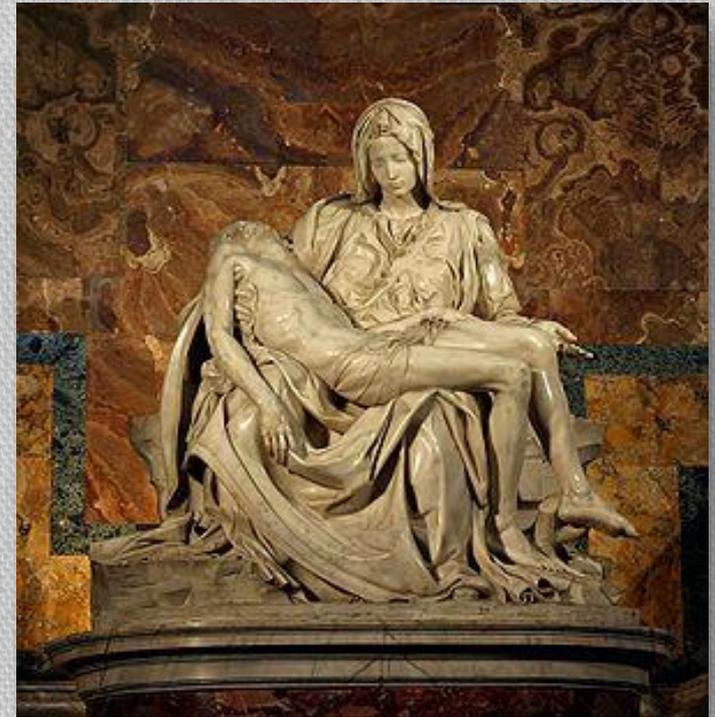
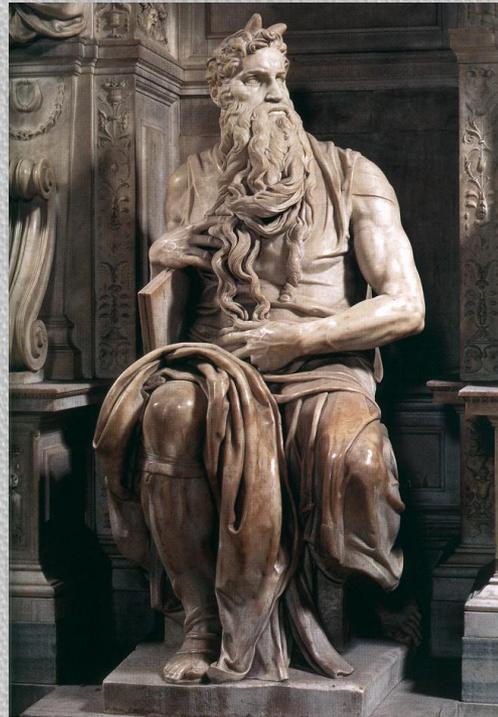
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# Leonardo Da Vinci



- **Michelangelo** (1475-1564) was a Florentine artist. His major sculptures, such as *David*, *Moses*, and the *Pieta*, were startlingly realistic, just like the paintings of the time. Each sculpture was carved from a single slab of marble. His giant fresco painting of Bible scenes on the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel** in Rome is considered one of the greatest works of art of all time. A **fresco** is a painting made on fresh plaster. Michelangelo's sculptures and paintings equally glorified the human form.



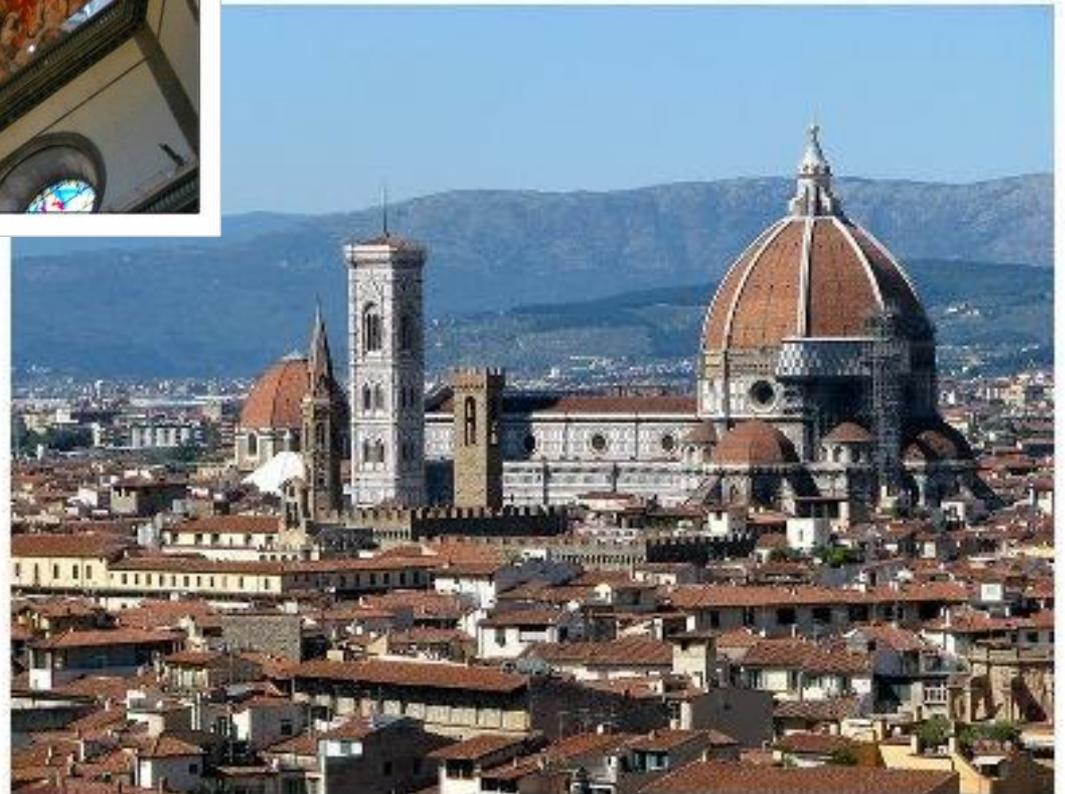
# The Sistine Chapel



# The Artistic Impact: Architecture

- Renaissance architects studied the ruins of buildings from ancient Rome to develop a new Renaissance style. They abandoned the pointed arches and ornamentation of the Middle Ages. They used the columns and circular arches of ancient architecture for a simpler classical style. In early Renaissance Florence, citizens built a large cathedral but did not know how to complete its giant roof. They held a competition among architects. **Filippo Brunelleschi**, who had studied Roman buildings, was chosen as the winner. He developed a dome that created an immense interior space. At the time, the cathedral in Florence was the largest church in the world. These accomplishments in art demonstrated the Renaissance fascination with this world rather than the next, as well as the technical achievements possible from the application of reason.

# Florence Cathedral

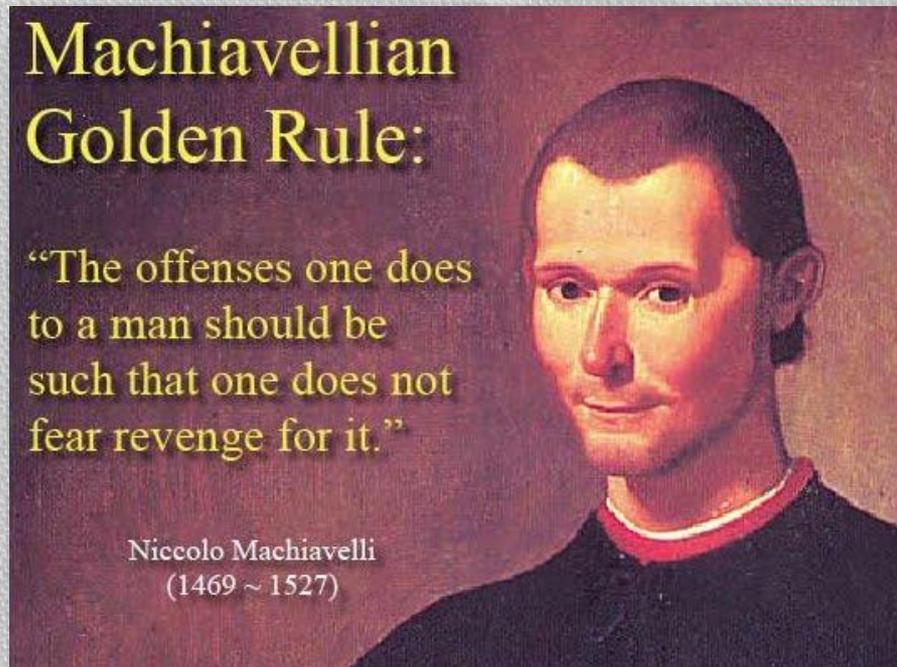


# The Intellectual Impact: Scholarship and Literature

- Renaissance humanists studied classical Roman and Greek literature, poetry, and philosophy. The Italian scholar **Petrarch**, the “Father of Humanism,” collected and studied ancient texts. New methods of criticizing texts led some, like **Erasmus**, to question the Church. Other Renaissance authors wrote on **secular** (*non-religious*) subjects.
- Renaissance writers described the dignity of man, celebrated the pleasures of the senses and instructed nobles in how to behave in a prince’s court. Many writers, like Boccaccio, wrote in the **vernacular** (*local*) language instead of Latin. As the Renaissance spread, writers such as **Rabelais** in France, **William Shakespeare** in England, and **Cervantes** in Spain completed works in their own native languages.

# The Political Impact

- **Niccolo Machiavelli** was a courtier and politician in Florence, the most powerful Renaissance city-state. His book, ***The Prince***, was a guidebook in how to secure and maintain political power. Machiavelli argued that the most successful rulers were not those who acted according to laws or conscience, but those who were willing to do whatever was necessary to hold power: “the end justifies the means.”



# The Political Impact

- The wealth of the Italian city-states, the weakening of the Church, the reasoning of writers like Machiavelli contributed to the Renaissance concept of “reason of state.” Rulers justified taking whatever measures they needed to strengthen their state in order to survive. They collected taxes and raised armies, often by hiring professional soldiers. They also exchanged ambassadors, creating modern diplomacy. Rulers in larger states like France soon copied these practices.

# The Economic Impact

- Renaissance ideas and products quickly spread all over Europe. People strove to improve their material conditions, while the wealthy accumulated more luxury goods. This encouraged and increase in trade, a greater variety of products (*especially clothes, foods, wines, and furnishings*), and the growth of cities.

## The Intellectual Impact:

### Science and Technology

- The Renaissance spirit of inquiry also led to important discoveries in science. The Church taught that the Earth was the center of the universe. **Nicholas Copernicus** (1473 – 1543), a Polish scientist, took careful measurements that led him to conclude that the Earth orbited the sun. His work was banned by the Church, since it opposed Church doctrine.

# Nicholas Copernicus

