



RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

S. Anderson

World History

The Waning of the Middle Ages

- Starting in the 12th 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)

- 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.

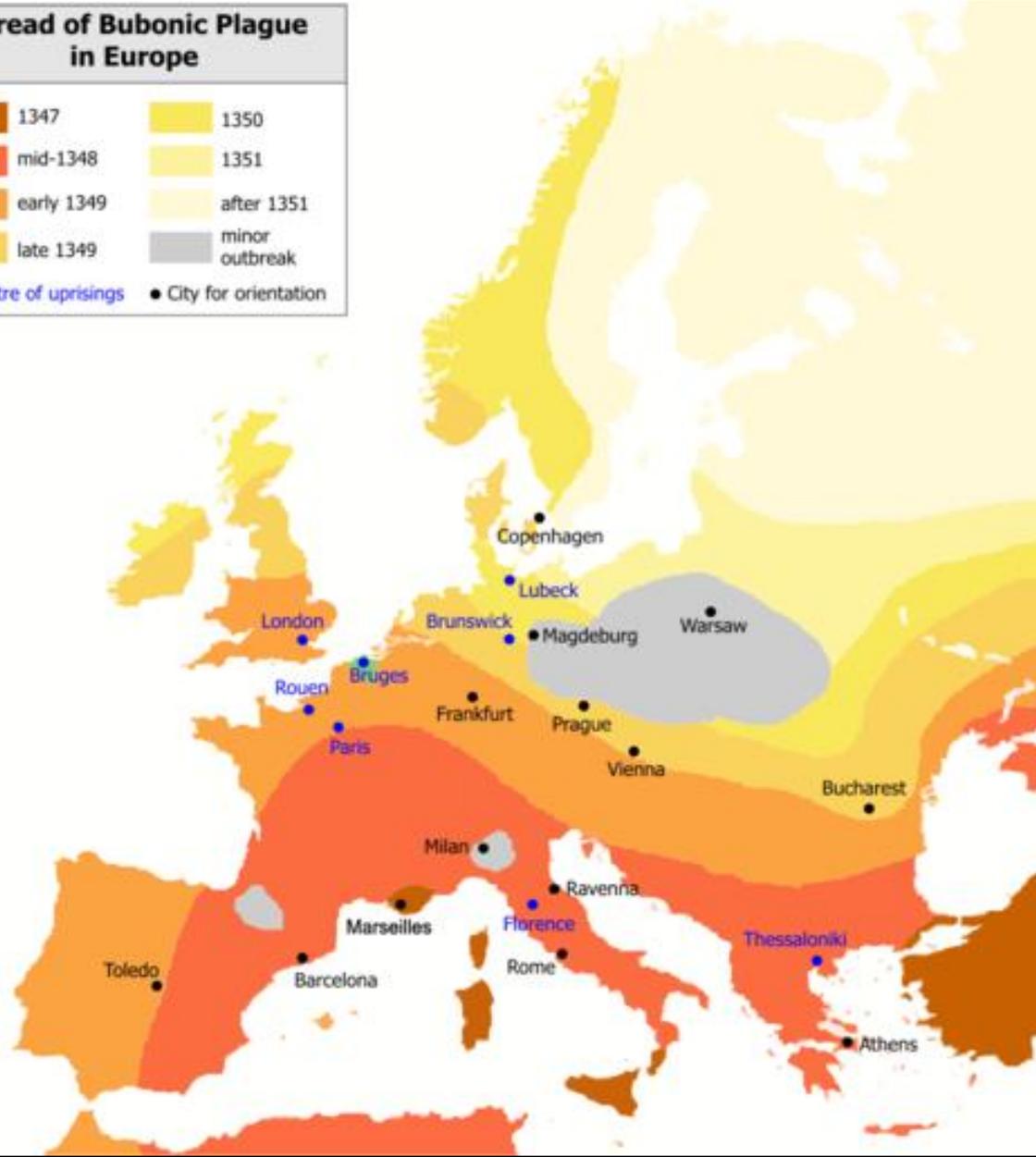
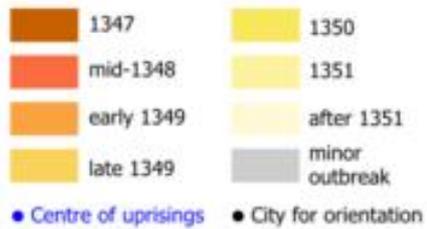


The Black Death, cont'd

(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

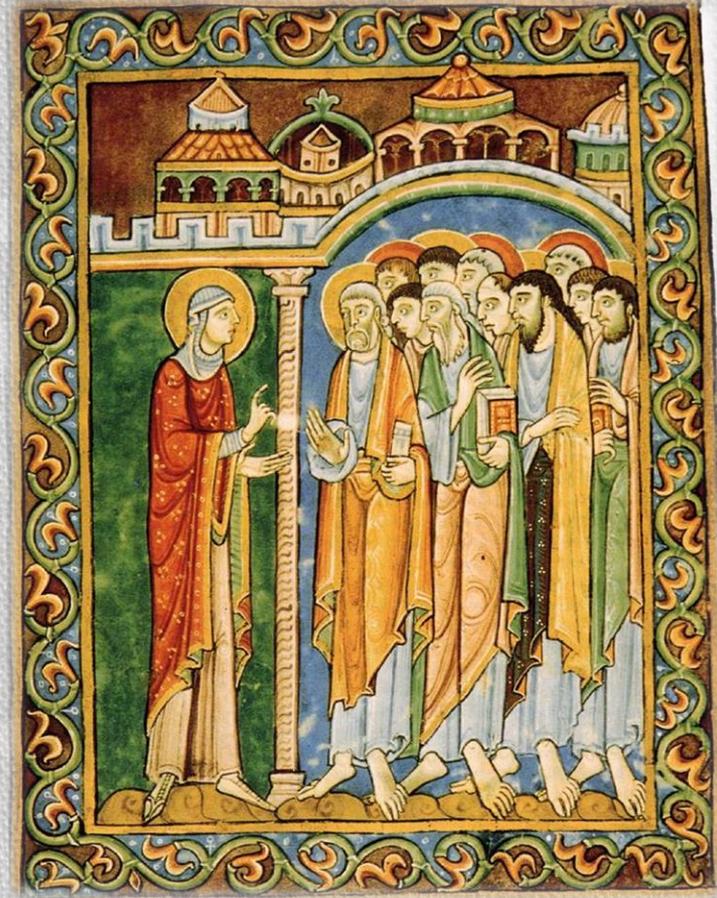
- In Italy, scholars were still surrounded by the remains of ancient civilizations. They were impressed by the achievements of pre-Christian artists and thinkers. Like the ancient Greeks, Renaissance thinkers believed in the power of human reason to explain the world. They looked on man as the focus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

The Impact of the Renaissance

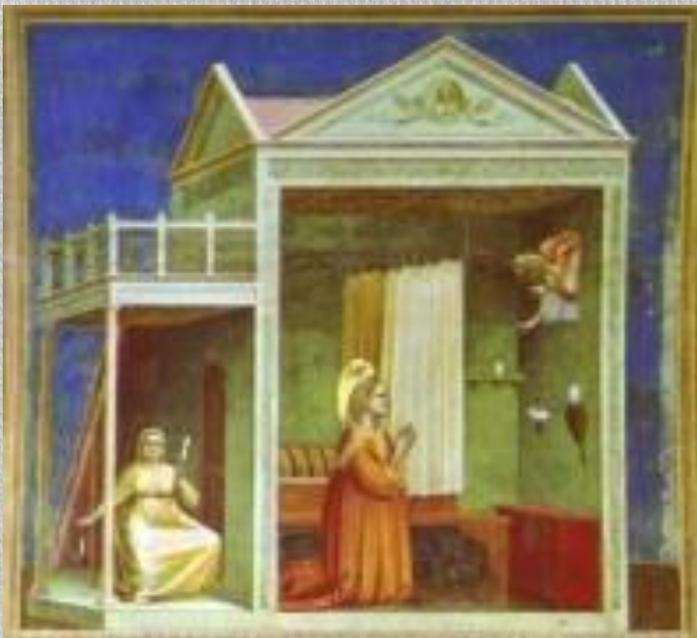
- Renaissance artists, architects, scholars, and writers and scientists created a legacy of achievement that still influences us today.

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.

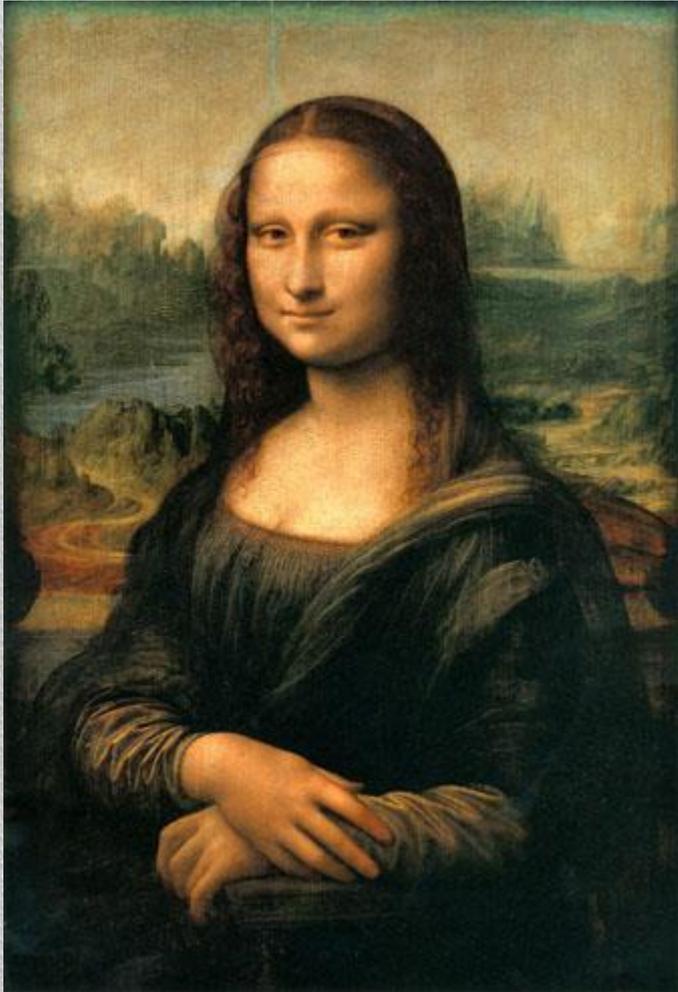


- In the 1300s, the painter Giotto (1276-1337) had already astonished Italians by painting in an entirely new style, using scenes with figures in lifelike space. Giotto's figures stood firmly on the ground, became smaller as they receded in space, were given depth by realistic shading, and showed emotions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



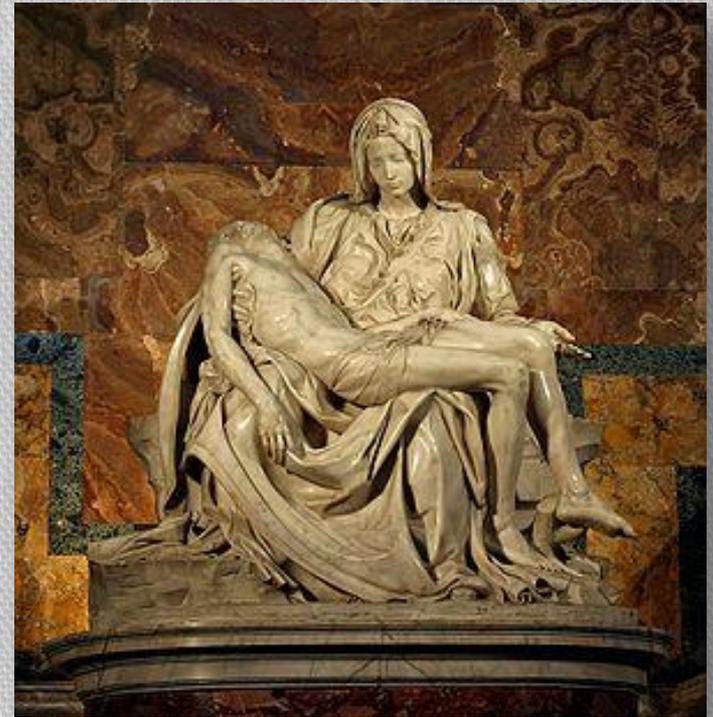
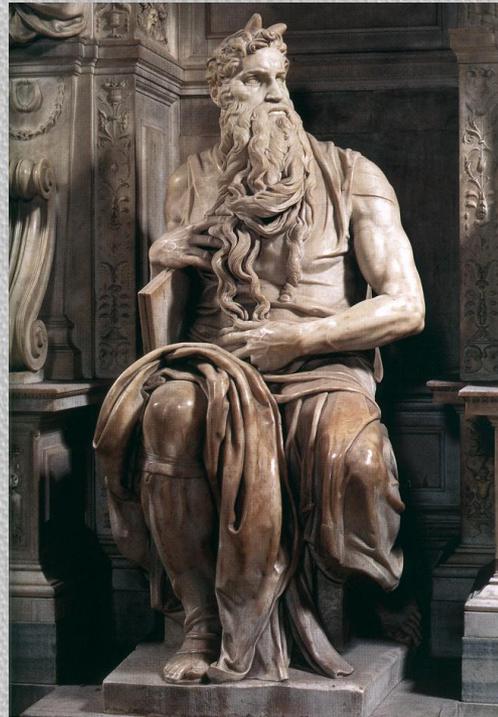
original



restored



- **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.



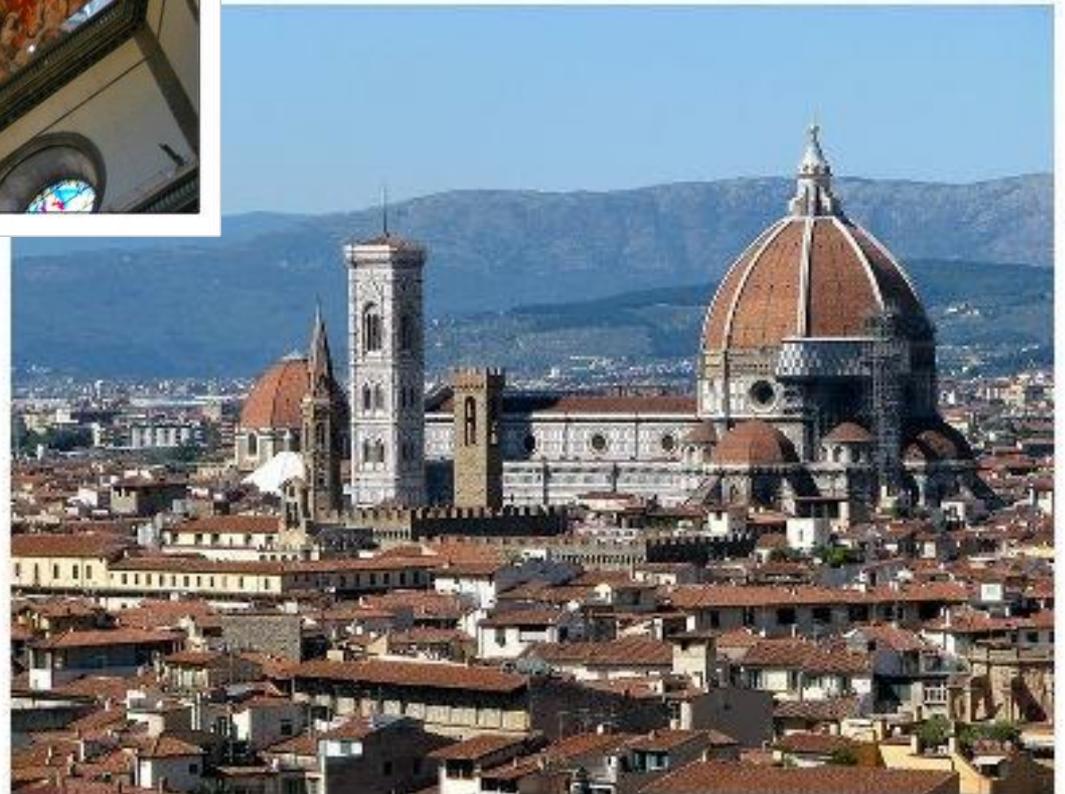
The Sistine Chapel



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

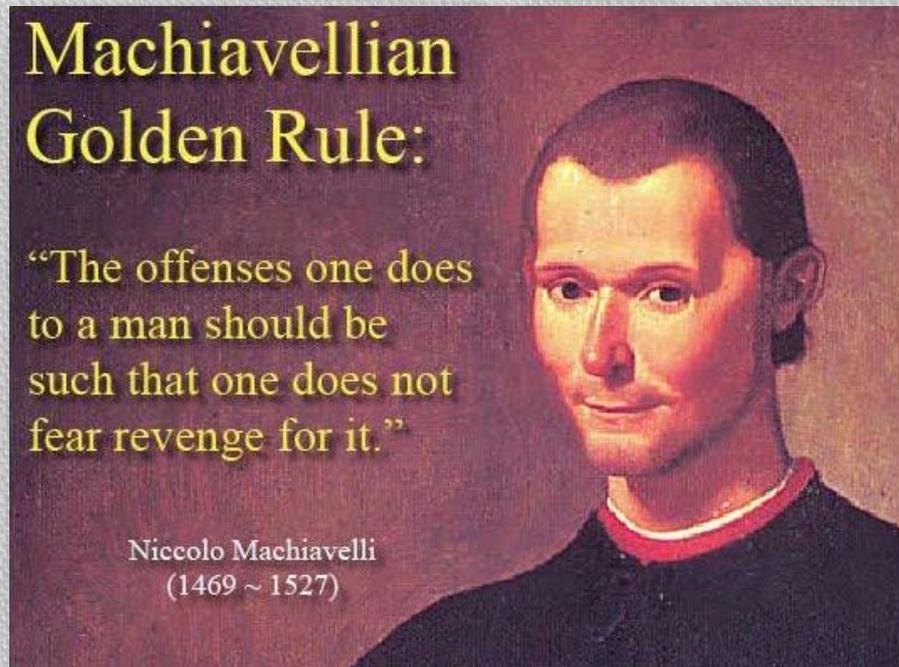


The Intellectual Impact: Scholarship and Literature

- 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



The Intellectual Impact: Science and Technology, cont'd

- **Galileo Galilei** (1564 – 1642) was a famous Italian scientist. His studies of motion laid the foundation for modern physics. Galileo's observations with one of the first telescopes strengthened his belief in Copernicus' theory. Charges were brought against Galileo by the Catholic Church. He was told that he could no longer publicly state that the Earth moved around the sun. In 1632, he was ordered to appear before the Inquisition in Rome. At his trial, he was found guilty and was confined to his home.

Galileo Galilei



Gutenberg's Revolution in Printing

- For thousands of years, Europeans had copied all of their scrolls and books by hand. Most of these works were found in monasteries and Church libraries. Block printing was invented in China and introduced to Europe in the 1300s. The printer cut out every word on the face of a wooden block, leaving the letters raised. The block was inked, then the paper was laid on it and pressed down. With block printing, the printer could make copies of a book, but the blocks took a long time to cut, and each block could print only one page.
- **Johann Gutenberg** developed a printing press with movable type in Germany around 1450. Gutenberg created individual letters of metal, which were held together in a frame. The type for each page could be broken down and reused. It was much easier to reset type than to carve an entirely new wooden block.

Gutenberg's Revolution in Printing, cont'd

- The invention of movable type, along with the use of a special press and oil-based inks, allowed the mass production of printed books for the first time. This encouraged the spread of new ideas. More people also began to learn to read.



The Protestant Reformation

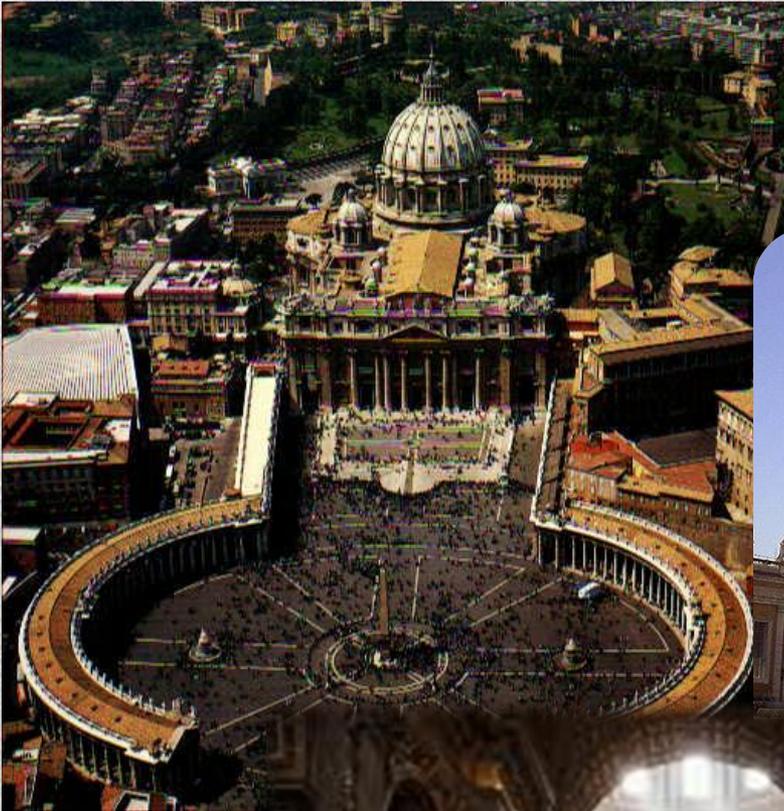
- The spirit of inquiry of the Renaissance, as well as the knowledge of the widespread corruption of the Church, led to new challenges to the Pope's authority. Many had entered the clergy to gain power and wealth rather than because of faith. They sometimes held more church positions than they could properly fulfill, or had secret spouses or children. The Papacy experienced a growing loss of spiritual influence, as the Pope and members of the Church hierarchy acted more like secular princes than spiritual leaders. People like **Erasmus** in Holland and **Sir Thomas Moore** in England sought reform within the Catholic Church, but Church leaders were slow to respond.

Luther and His Ideas

- In the early sixteenth century, the Catholic Church had fallen into the practice of selling **indulgences** – pardons from punishment for committing a sin, allowing the sinner to enter Heaven. This practice brought in a great deal of revenue for the Church. The Pope was using money from the sale of indulgences to construct St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.
- **Martin Luther** (1483 – 1546) was an Augustinian monk. In 1517, Luther posted **Ninety-Five Theses** (*statements*) on a church door in Germany. His theses challenged the Pope's right to sell indulgences.



St. Peter's Basilica



Luther and His Ideas, cont'd

- Luther believed that neither priests nor the Pope had special powers to provide salvation to individuals. Like St. Augustine, he valued faith in God. Luther concluded that only through faith in God could a person be saved and go to Heaven. He also believed that each individual must read and understand the Bible for himself or herself to achieve this faith.
- Because of his writings, the Pope **excommunicated** Luther – expelling him from the Church. In defiance, he publicly burned the Pope's decrees. Luther was next summoned to appear before **Charles V** (the Holy Roman Emperor) and representatives of the German states at the city of Worms. When Luther refused to recant at the Diet (*assembly*) of Worms, Charles V banned him as an outlaw.

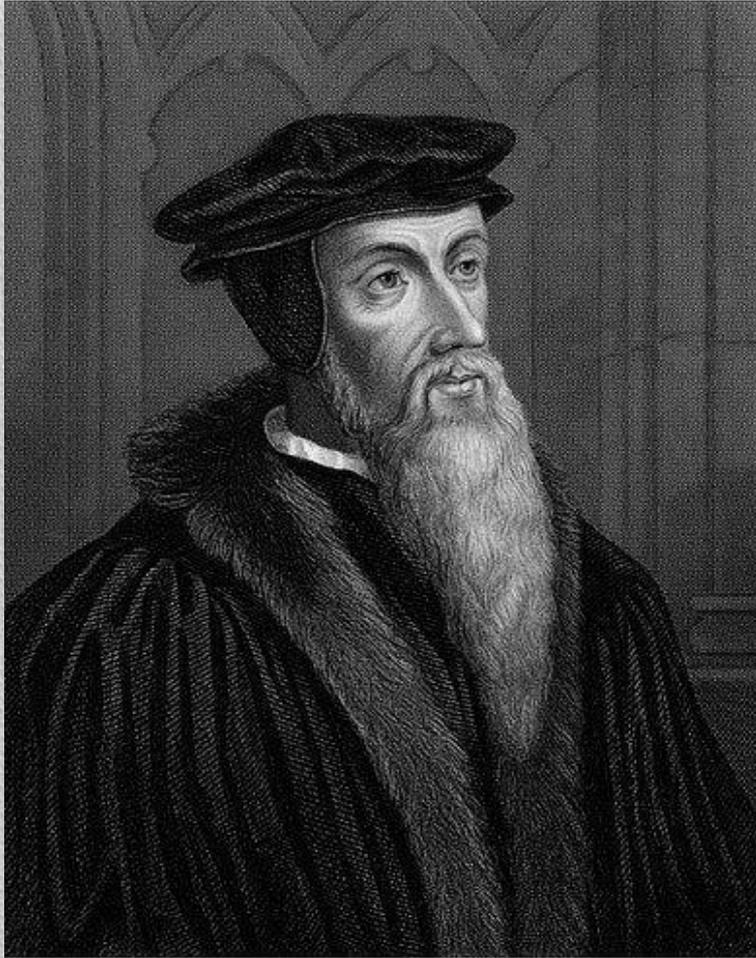
Luther and His Ideas, cont'd

- Luther was able to obtain protection from several German princes, who helped him to succeed. He appealed to their feelings of German patriotism against sending money to a Pope in Italy. Luther responded to the Pope's condemnation by establishing the **Lutheran Church**. He felt believers did not need special priests: each person could read the bible on his or her own. For this reason, Luther translated the **New Testament** into German and wrote a number of pamphlets to persuade others. The reformers became known as **Protestants**. Many German princes adopted Protestantism. They also used this as an opportunity to seize Church lands and close monasteries. When German peasants rebelled in 1524-1525, Luther sided with the princes. He had attacked the Pope, but he supported secular authority.

Martin Luther



Later Reformers



- Gutenberg's invention of movable type helped Luther and his followers spread their ideas throughout Europe. Other reformers followed Luther's lead. **John Calvin** (1509 – 1564) started a new Protestant Church in Geneva. Calvin reasoned that since God was all-knowing, it was **predestined** (*already decided by God*) who would be saved and who would be damned. While faith was the key to salvation, it was God who gave faith to some and denied it to others. Only the "Elect" would be saved. Calvinists encouraged hard work and a strict moral code. They saw worldly success as a sign of God's favor.

The Catholic Counter-Reformation

- As Protestantism swept across many parts of Europe, the Catholic Church reacted by making limited reforms and curbing earlier abuses. This movement is known as the **Catholic Counter-Reformation**. At the **Council of Trent**, the Church redefined Catholic beliefs and ended the sale of indulgences. The Church also banned Protestant books and established the **Inquisition**, a court whose purpose was to punish **heretics** – those who denied Church teachings.



The Political Impact of the Reformation

- Under the leadership of the Pope and with the support of the Holy Roman Emperor, Catholics checked the further spread of Protestantism and even won some areas back to Catholicism. In general, France, Italy, Spain, and Southern Germany remained Catholic. Northern Germany, Holland, and Scandinavia became Protestant.
- At first, England remained Catholic. However, when the Pope refused **Henry VIII's** demand for a divorce from his Spanish wife, Henry broke with the Catholic Church and turned to Protestantism. Henry closed English monasteries, seized all Church lands, and declared himself head of the English Church in the **Act of Supremacy**. (1534).

The Political Impact of the Reformation, cont'd

- Wars between Catholics and Protestants began in the 1520s and lasted for more than a century. During the **Thirty Years War** (1618 – 1648), as many as one-third of the German population was killed.
- The Reformation tended to strengthen the power of secular rulers. In Protestant countries, people no longer had allegiance to the Pope: the secular ruler became the highest authority. In Catholic countries, the Church gave more power to secular rulers to help fight Protestantism.
- **Queen Elizabeth I** of England was a good example of a strong secular ruler. Although a woman, she won the loyalty and affection of her subjects. Elizabeth maintained a moderate form of Protestantism and defended England from attacks by Catholic Spain.

The Artistic and Economic Impact

- The Reformation affected art, as different styles emerged in Catholic and Protestant countries. Catholic art glorified Jesus, Mary, and the Saints. Many Protestants felt it was wrong to depict God. They specialized in landscapes or “still life” scenes. By creating art about secular subjects, Reformation artists could glorify God by portraying the natural beauty of God’s creation. The weakening of Papal authority may also have stimulated economic growth in Northern Europe, where the Church no longer collected taxes. Religious wars resulted in widespread destruction, but also stimulated economies by creating a need for new goods.

The Renaissance

