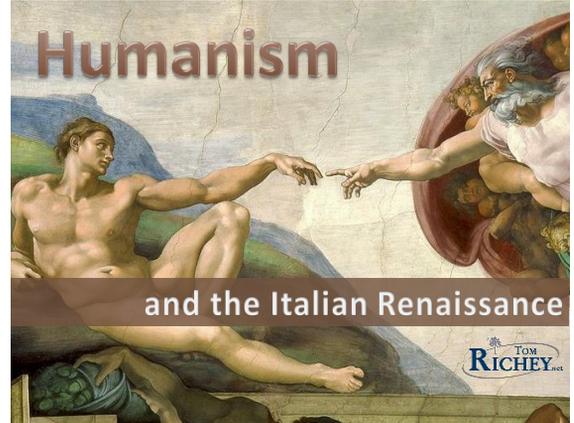


The Italian Renaissance

-Key Concepts-
Chapter 12



The Renaissance

- French for “rebirth”
 - (from re [again] and nascere [to be born])
- Origins: Italy, 14th c.
- “High Renaissance,” 1450-1527
 - Art flourished most during this period



Understanding the Renaissance

The Values:

- I. Humanism
- II. Individualism
- III. Secularism

The Vehicles:

- IV. Commerce
- V. Invention

Early Renaissance



What was the Renaissance?

- Period following the middle ages (1450-1550)
- Renaissance = Rebirth
- Jacob Burkhardt

- *Civil. of the Renaissance in Italy* (1860)



- "Rebirth" of classical Greece and Rome
- Began in Italy
- Moved to northern Europe
- Urban Society
- Emphasis on individual ability



Objectives

- During the middle ages
 - Find God
 - Prove pre-conceived ideas
- During the Renaissance
 - Find man
 - Promote learning



"The Renaissance gave birth to the modern era, in that it was in this era that human beings first began to think of themselves as *individuals*. In the early Middle Ages, people had been happy to see themselves simply as parts of a greater whole – for example, as members of a great family, trade guild, nation, or Church. This communal consciousness of the Middle Ages gradually gave way to the individual consciousness of the Renaissance."

– McGrath, Alister, *In the Beginning*, Anchor Books (2001), p.38.

Causes of the Renaissance

- Lessening of feudalism
 - Church disrespected
 - Nobility in chaos
 - Growth of Middle Class through trade
- Fall of Constantinople
 - Greek scholars fled to Italy
- Education
- Nostalgia among the Italians to recapture the glory of the Roman empire

I. Why in Italy at this Time?

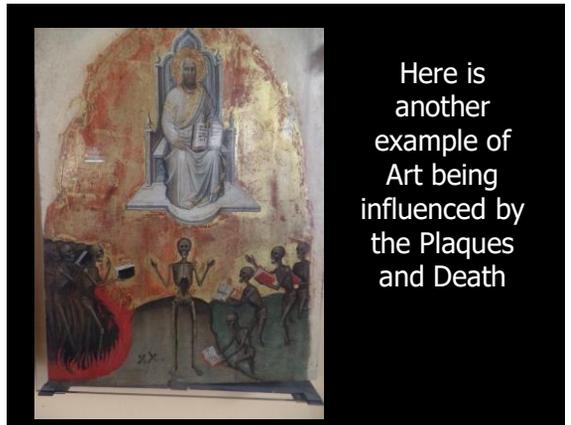
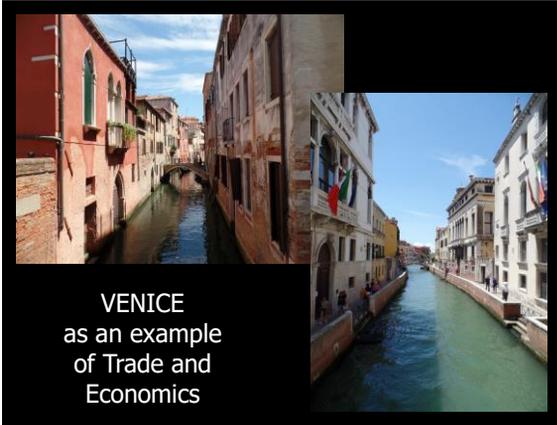


- Revival of Commerce and Town Building was more intense in Italy
- Feudalism had less of a grip on Italy
- Two competing lords for control of Italy were losing influence
- Presence of antiquity was stronger in Italy than elsewhere in Europe

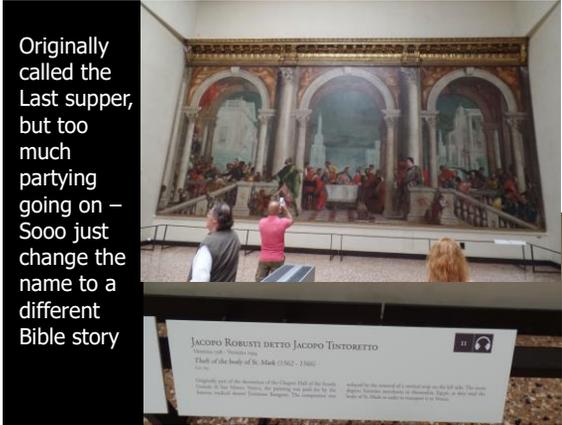
II. European Economic Recovery



- Dramatic recovery of European commerce
- Important industries flourish in Northern Italy
- The significance of printing and mining as new industries
- The fifteenth-century banking empire of the Medici family in Florence





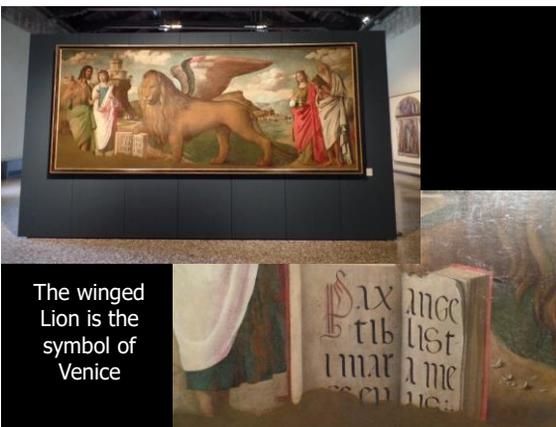




Notice in this part of the painting we see people of color and physical abnormalities



WOW, look at the detail! And Perspectives



The winged Lion is the symbol of Venice



Here is Mr. Duncan outside the wall of Montenegro. Do you see the symbol in the background?



Here is Neptune/Poseidon pouring out wealth at the feet of Venice, notice she just points as if to say, place it over there with all the other wealth ☺

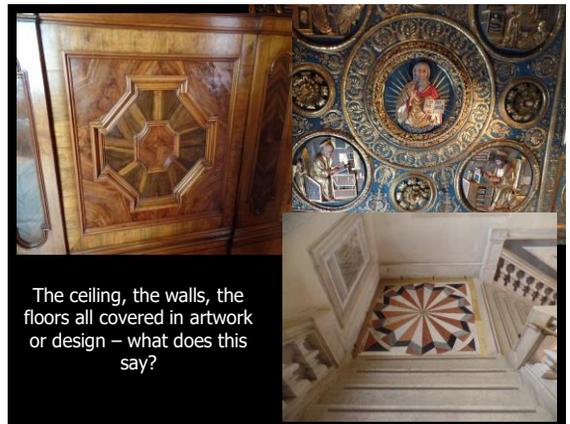
And yes, not all art hangs on a wall!

Here is a statue for example



Notice this painting of a High Priest of the Old Testament, see the breastplate with a stone representing each tribe of Israel?

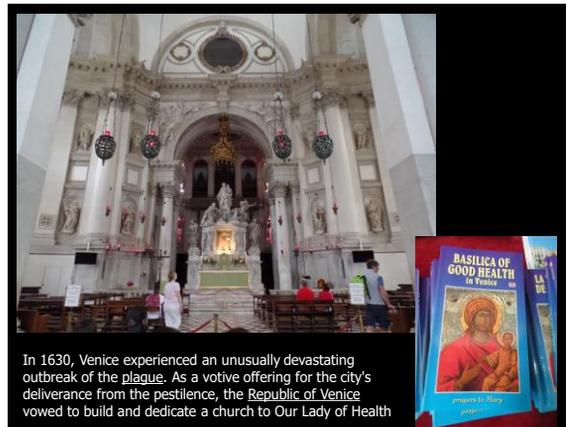
So you can paint Jews, but what are the place of Jews in Renaissance Society?



The ceiling, the walls, the floors all covered in artwork or design – what does this say?



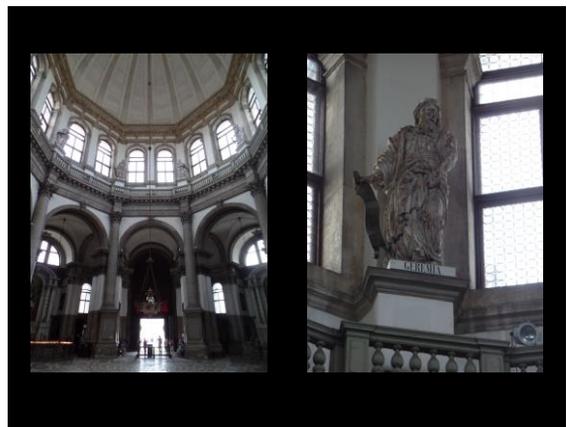
What are the advantages / disadvantages of having canals instead of roads and alleyways?

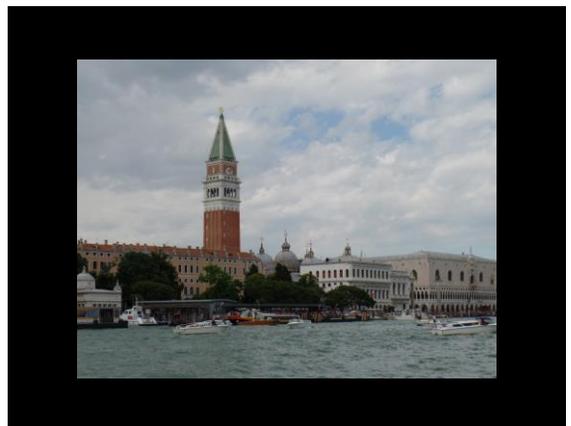
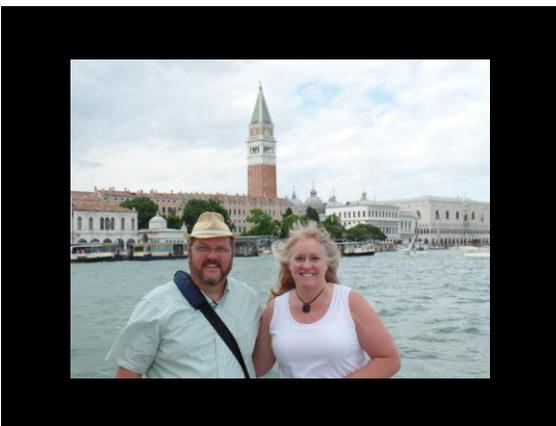
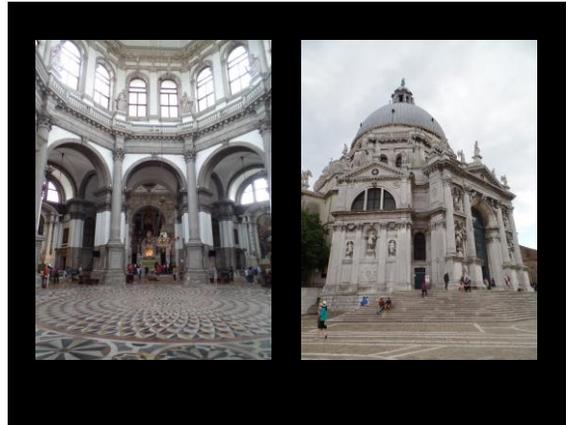


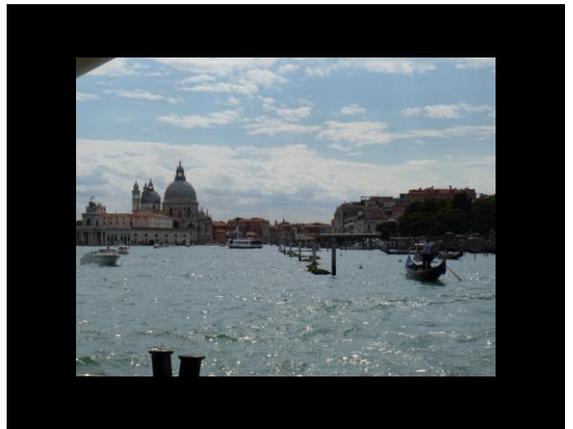
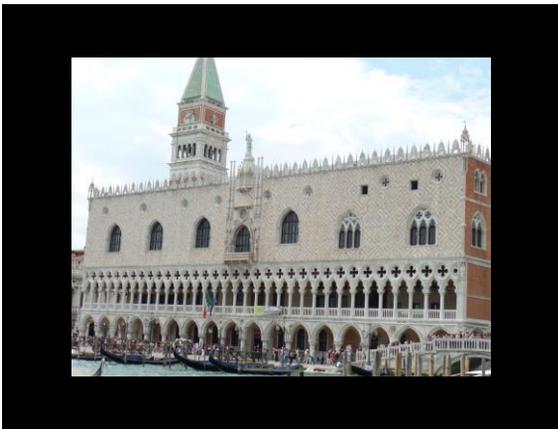
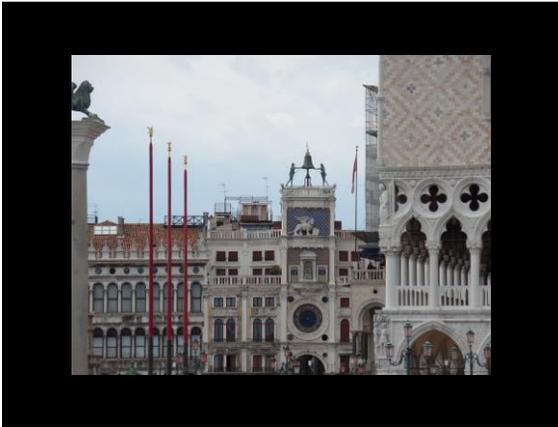
In 1630, Venice experienced an unusually devastating outbreak of the plague. As a votive offering for the city's deliverance from the pestilence, the Republic of Venice vowed to build and dedicate a church to Our Lady of Health



Beginning in the summer of 1630, a wave of the plague assaulted Venice, and until 1631 killed nearly a third of the population. In the city, 46,000 people died whilst in the lagoons the number was far higher, some 94,000







YOU have been summoned to visit the Doge in his palace



Mouth of Secret Accusations at Doge's Palace in Venice Secret "denunciations against those who hide favors and offices or collude to hide the true income of them" ancient whistleblowing

Lets go up the stairs, notice the art work at the top of them



These pictures are just from the entry hallway, what do you notice, WHY does it look like this?



Now let's enter the Doje's receiving room – WHAT do you notice?



Impressed or Intimidated?







Around the edge are pictures of past Dojes

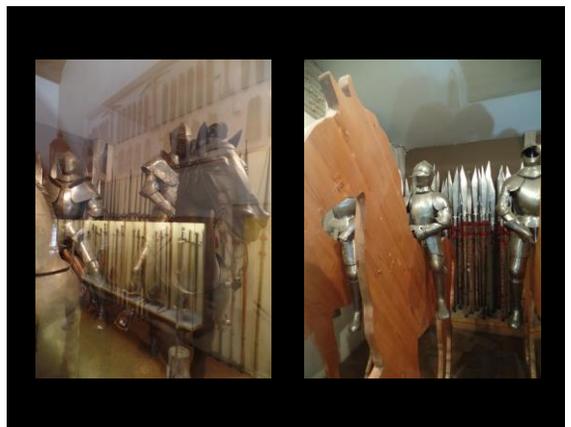
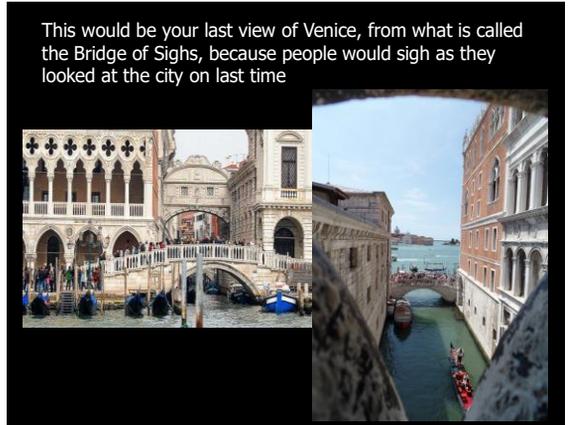


Dojes well remembered

Notice one of them has been painted over with a black cloth – What does that mean? And NO he didn't die in office, many of them did they were chosen when old so they would not rule forever!

The Hat of the Doge, remember hat shapes often let you know about a person or occupation

And if the meeting does not go well, then you might be taken here











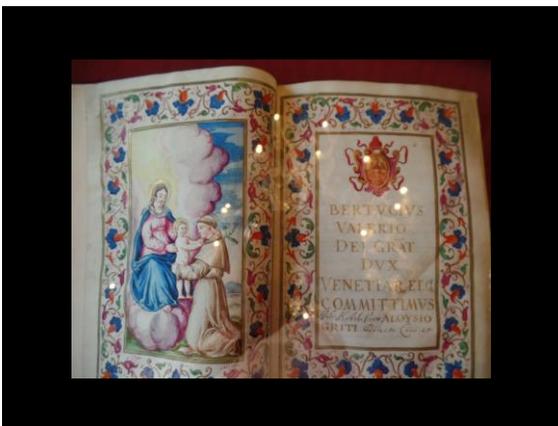
A multi barrel gun

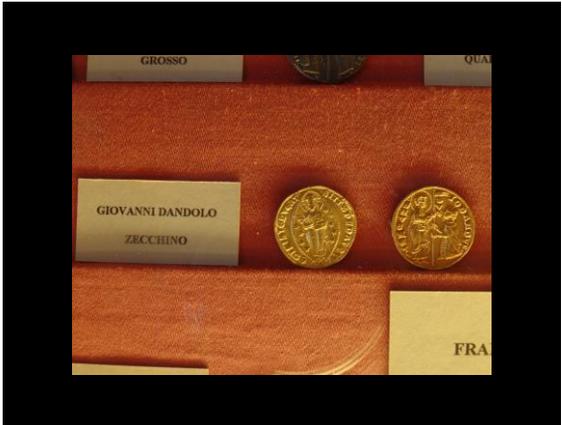


And now to show off the library of the Doje



BOOKS – Look at the covers





And then maybe a trip to the Venice Arsenal to watch a ship being built in ONE DAY



At the peak of its efficiency in the early 16th century, the Arsenal employed some 16,000 people who apparently were able to produce nearly one ship each day, and could fit out, arm, and provision a newly built galley with standardized parts on a production-line basis not seen again until the Industrial Revolution.



The Venetian Arsenal's ability to mass-produce galleys on an almost assembly-line process was unique for its time and resulted in possibly the single largest industrial complex in Europe prior to the Industrial Revolution. So much so, that it was mentioned in Dante's *Inferno*:

As in the Arsenal of the Venetians
Boils in winter the tenacious pitch
To smear their unsound vessels over again
For sail they cannot; and instead thereof
One makes his vessel new, and one recaulks
The ribs of that which many a voyage has made
One hammers at the prow, one at the stern
This one makes oars and that one cordage twists
Another mends the mainsail and the mizzen...[11]



The Arsenal often kept up to 100 galleys in different stages of production and maintenance

By 1450, over 3,000 Venetian merchant ships were in operation, both as supply ships for Venetian merchants and as warships for the Venetian navy.





So are you
impressed,
intimidated, or
inspired?

And when you
went home,
what did you
tell people?

Invention

Printing Press

- 1454 - Gutenberg experiments with movable type
- Gutenberg Bible (1456)
 - About 180 copies produced



Information can spread
more quickly than ever
before... and at a fraction
of the cost!



Printing

- The Chinese were the first to invent printing in 868.
- In the mid-1400's, Johan Gutenberg of Germany invented a printing press using moveable type.
- Now books could be printed with greater speed and less effort.
- The Gutenberg Bible is considered one of the first books ever printed.

Impact of Printing

- The Impact of Printing
 - Johannes Gutenberg
 - Gutenberg's Bible (1455 or 1456)
- The spread of printing
 - Lay literacy
 - Price of books dropped 80%
 - More books printed in first 30 years of printing press than copied in all the middle ages



Map 12.1: Renaissance Italy

III. Renaissance Economics



- Profit-making became more important than Church doctrine
- To overcome guilt, profit-makers indulge in philanthropy
- Influence of guilds declining
- High profits led to economic diversification

III. Renaissance Economics (cont)



- “Cottage Industry”
- Art became the way to advertise economic success
- Intensified commercial competition created the need to be efficient

Social Changes in the Renaissance

- The Nobility (2nd Estate)
 - Reconstruction of the aristocracy
 - Aristocracy: 2 – 3 % of pop.
- Baldassare Castiglione (1478 – 1529)
 - *Book of the Courtier* (1528)
 - Service to the prince

Commerce

Usury

- Lending money with interest
- Prohibited by RCC during Middle Ages
- LIMITED INVESTMENT

Medici Family

- Prominent in **Florence**, Italy
- Medici Bank
- **Patrons** of the Arts



Lorenzo de Medici

IV. Renaissance Society



- Renaissance is an elitist historical phenomenon
- Northern Italy was urban and commercial while Southern Italy mostly was not
- Very family-oriented society

Peasants and Townspeople

- Peasants
 - Peasants: 85 – 90% of pop.
 - Decline of manorial system/serfdom
- Urban Society
 - Patricians
 - Petty burghers, shopkeepers, artisans, guildmasters, guildsmen
 - The poor - unemployed
 - Slaves

Family and Marriage in Renaissance Italy

- Marriage
 - Marriages were frequently arranged to strengthen business ties
 - Husband –head of family
 - Wife managed household
- Children - Many
- Sexual Norms - different

What was the relationship between husband and wife in Renaissance Italy, and how did this differ from the middle ages?



What was the role of women in Renaissance Italy? Who was Battista Sforza? Isabella d'Este?



IV. Renaissance Society (cont)



- Father's authority over his family
- Some wealthy women played an important role in Italian city-states
 - Isabella d'Este of Mantua
- Concentration of wealth among great families
 - "populo grosso"

IV. Renaissance Society (cont)



- Extreme social stratification divided into factions around the wealthiest families
- Poor increasingly attempting to improve their social status
 - The Ciompi Revolt (1378)
 - "populo minuto"
- "The Cult of the Individual"

IV. Renaissance Society (cont)



- Number of portraits painted during this era illustrates focus on the individual
- A true nobleman
- Growing humanism and secularism in a Christian context
- Focus on man's free will
- Rewards for living excellently came in this life

Baldassare Castiglione

The Book of the Courtier

— A guide on how to be a respectable (and respected) gentleman (or lady)



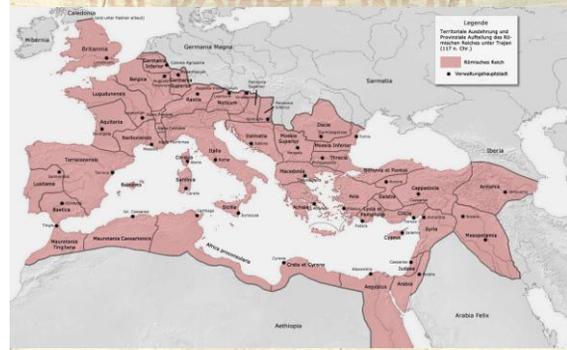
Portrait of Baldassare Castiglione by Raphael

CIVIC VIRTUE

The Art of Leadership



THE ROMAN EMPIRE



V. Renaissance Politics



- Same pattern and problems as those of the Greek city-states
- Inter-city warfare led to new advances in diplomacy -- "balance of power"
- Northern Italian "communes"
- The Peace of Lodi (1454)

Italian Background

- Major city centers
 - Venice: Republic ruled by oligarchy, Byzantine origins
 - Milan: Visconti and Sforza families
 - Florence (Tuscany): Republic ruled by the Medici
 - Papal States: Ruled by the Pope
 - Kingdom of Naples: King of Aragon



Italian Background

- Florence
 - Medici's—family of physicians
 - Money in banking
 - Financed wool trade
 - Became defacto rulers of Florence



Italian Background

- Cosimo de Medici
 - Advanced arts and education
- Piero de Medici
 - Continued father's artistic support
- Lorenzo de Medici
 - Poet
 - Friend of Michelangelo
 - Rebuilt University of Pisa
 - Continued to invite scholars to Florence



Italian Background

- Piero de Medici
 - Forced to make military and commercial concessions to King of France
 - Medici's forced out of the city
- Savonarola
 - Friar who decried money, power
 - Gained power in lower class, but lost pope's support
 - Excommunicated and hung



V. Renaissance Politics (cont)



- Rome, Venice, Milan, Florence, and the Kingdom of Naples
- Renaissance Venice
- Renaissance Florence
 - Lorenzo the Magnificent (1449-1492)
- 1300's republicanism became 1400's despotism—with the exception of Venice

V. Renaissance Politics (cont)

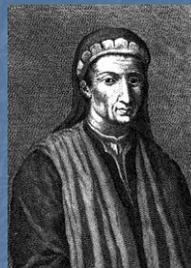
Machiavelli and the New Statecraft



- Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527)
 - "The Prince"
 - The goal of the prince must be power
 - Cynical view of human nature
 - Fear is a better motivator than affection
 - Politics as the art of deception

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IGBKu6qM7Y&feature=related>

V. Renaissance Politics (cont)



- Ancient and contemporary examples of effective political leaders
 - Cesare Borgia
- A new realism in political thought
- 1400's "Civic" humanism
- Leonardo Bruni's *The New Cicero*
- Henry VIII as a Renaissance prince

The Birth of Modern Diplomacy

- Product of Ren. Italy
- Changing concept of the ambassador
 - Resident ambassadors
 - Agents of the territorial state

Machiavelli

The Prince

- Advice to rulers
- “Machiavellian”
- The end justifies the means



VI. Intellectual Renaissance

Renaissance period
Leonardo daVinci
Michelangelo
Raphael
Petrarch
Erasmus
Pico della Mirandola

Why were there so many Renaissance men during the Renaissance?

- Lack of boundaries between disciplines
- Knowledge was just knowledge

"I don't buy the notion that the world is organized the way universities and companies are. Ideas don't know what discipline they're in. We might kidnap them and say, 'That's a marketing idea' or 'That's an anthropology idea.' But if you walked up to an idea on the street, it wouldn't know about that."

– Gerald Zaltman, Professor of Business Administration at Harvard, personal communication, October 2003.

IV. Intellectual Renaissance

Broad knowledge about many things in different fields

Deep knowledge of skill in one area

Able to link areas and create new knowledge

Renaissance Man

- Ancient:
 - Plato (daVinci)
 - Aristotle

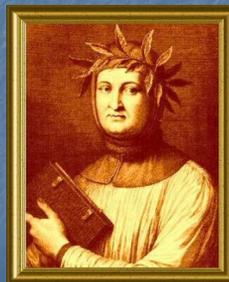


VII. Renaissance Education and Philosophy



- Humanistic age
- Various types of humanism
- Great fervor displayed in finding and collecting old documents
- Leads to critical examination of documents
 - Lorenzo Valla
- Education produces moral uplift

VII. Renaissance Education and Philosophy (cont)

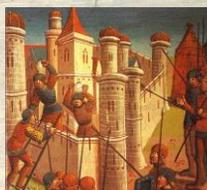


- A true liberal education
- Humanist education for women
- Love for the study of history most of all
- A Greek language fad after 1454
- Petrarch (1304-1374): the Father of Italian Renaissance humanism
- Focus on the individual and his dignity

Greek Literature

Fall of Constantinople (1453)

- Turks close Christian universities
- Greek scholars flee to Italy with Ancient texts
- Plato's complete works translated into Latin for the first time.



"In 1423...a Sicilian adventurer named Giovanni Aurispa returned from Constantinople with a hoard of 238 manuscripts written in Greek, a language that scholars in Italy had learned only in the previous few decades. Among these treasures were six lost plays by Aeschylus and seven by Sophocles... But there was also a complete copy of the works of the geometer Proclus of Alexandria and, even more important for engineers, a treatise on ancient lifting devices, the *Mathematical Collection* of Pappus of Alexandria. In the decades that followed, so many manuscripts on Greek mathematics and engineering emerged that it is possible to speak of a "renaissance of mathematics" in fifteenth-century Italy."

– King, Ross, *Brunelleschi's Dome*, Penguin Books, 2000, p. 63.

Classical Studies

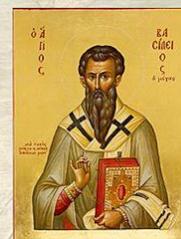
- Humanism
 - "the study of humanity"
 - From *studia humanitatis*
 - coined by Cicero to describe the education of a cultivated human being
- Classics
 - Prominent works of Greek, Roman, and Biblical literature
 - Emphasis: original languages



Classics in the Christian Era

St. Basil the Great (c. 333-379)

- Bishop and Theologian
 - Address to Young Men on the Right Use of Greek Literature

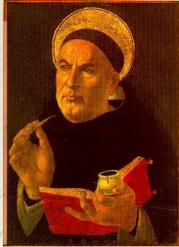


Classics in the Christian Era

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

– *Summa Theologica*

- Attempt to reconcile Aristotle's philosophy with Christian teaching



Classics in the Christian Era

Classical literature seen as a **means to an end...**



The Rebirth

of Classical Studies

Petrarch (c. 1304-1374)

- “Father of Humanism”
- “The First Tourist”

Recovered crumbling Latin texts, including some of Cicero's works

“Dark Ages”



Petrarch

The Rebirth

of Classical Studies

“Each famous author of antiquity whom I recover places a new **offence** and another cause of dishonor to the charge of earlier generations, who, not satisfied with their own disgraceful barrenness, permitted the fruit of other minds, and the writings that their ancestors had produced by toil and application, to perish through insufferable neglect... **they robbed posterity of its ancestral heritage.**”



Petrarch

[Read Petrarch's Letter to Posterity](#)

The Robbery

The *Periochae* of Livy

<http://www.livius.org/li-in/livy/periochae>

The Fall of Carthage

as summarized by some unknown medieval monk:

When Hasdrubal surrendered to Scipio during the final stage of the siege, his wife, who had -only a few days before- been unable to convince her husband to escape to the victor, threw herself from the citadel into the flames of the burning city with her two children.

Textual Criticism



Lorenzo Valla

Discourse on the Forgery of the Alleged Donation of Constantine [\[Text\]](#)

Secularism

Although Petrarch and other Renaissance humanists were devout Christians, they studied the classics for his own enjoyment and edification...

an end in themselves.

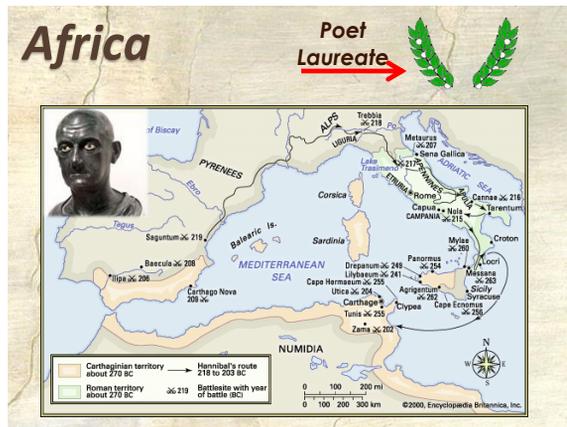
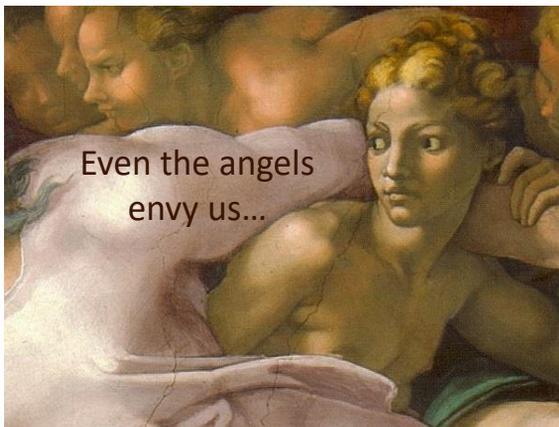
NOTE: Secularism does not necessarily imply an anti-religious or irreligious mindset.



Petrarch

Humanism

- Pursuit of individualism
 - Recognition that humans are creative
 - Appreciation of art as a product of man
- Basic culture needed for all
- Life could be enjoyable
- Love of the classical past



Canzoniere

Poet Laureate 

Collection of Petrarch's **vernacular** poetry

- Mostly Sonnets
- Mostly to “Laura”

Links:

- [English/Italian](#)
- [Full English Text](#)
- [Full Italian Text](#)



*V*Na candida cerasa copra l'etra
uella mappata con duo coma doro
fra due ruote all'ombra diuno alloro
leuato dal sole ala flagione a zorra
era fia uita fi doloe i superba
chi laiciati per foguara ogni lauoro
come lauato alioe oc car thafino
chon dilacla luffino dilaerba
N affiam mistochi al bel colto dimorno
terpno auca di diuinanti & di topazi
liena fierati ai mo uelae panare
et era i fol ga uoluo al mezzo giorno
gliochi miei itanchi di mirae non fazi
quando cada nella quae et ella fipare

I come eterna uita d'auer dio
ne pia fi beati ne beuare piu lice
cofi me donna i uol uelae felice

Laura

The Love of Petrarch's Life 

Laura, illustrated by her virtues and well-celebrated in my verse, appeared to me for the first time during my youth in 1327, on April 6, in the Church of Saint Claire in Avignon, in the first hour of the day; and in the same city, in the same month, on the same sixth day at the same first hour in the year of 1348, withdrew from life, while I was at Verona, unconscious of my loss.... Her chaste and lovely body was interred on the evening of the same day... her soul, as I believe, returned to heaven, whence it came.



<http://petrarch.peterson.com/laura.html>

– Written in a Manuscript of Virgil

"When a mural or altarpiece came to be judged not for its pious effulgence and fitness for the spot in need of decoration, but instead for what we now call its aesthetic merit, art for art's sake was just below the horizon. Aesthetic appreciation is something more than spontaneous liking; a good eye for accurate representation is not enough; one must be able to judge and *talk about* style, technique, and originality."

– Barzun, Jacques, *From Dawn to Decadence*, Perennial, 2000, p70. :

VII. Renaissance Education and Philosophy (cont)



- First influenced secondary education
- Extreme vanity of Renaissance scholars
- The importance of law and rhetoric in Renaissance education
- Classical political ideals were cultivated
- Knowledge needed to be useful

- Education in the Renaissance
 - Liberal Studies: history, moral philosophy, rhetoric, letters (grammar and logic), poetry, math, astronomy and music
 - Education of women
 - Goal of ed. = complete citizen
- Humanism and History
 - Secularization
 - Guicciardini (1483 – 1540), *History of Italy, History of Florence*

VII. Renaissance Philosophy (cont)



- Renaissance philosophy flourishes during Greek revival after 1450
- Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499)
- The teachings of Hermeticism the occult sciences: astrology, alchemy, and magic philosophy and theology panthesim (God in nature)
- Giovanni Pico Mirandola (1463-1494) --*Oration on the Dignity of Man*

The Rebirth - Believed human learning was based on basic truths

of Human Dignity

Pico della Mirandola
(1463-1494)

- *Oration on the Dignity of Man*
 - The “Manifesto of the Renaissance”
- **900 Theses** - Wrote set of 900 theses to cover all knowledge
 - Syncretism