

UNIT 1, SECTION 2: THE RENAISSANCE - 1350-1600

The Italian City-States - the Renaissance (or "rebirth") began in Italy, then spread to the rest of Europe

Why Italy? - Ren. marked by a new interest in ancient Roman culture

- northern city-states (Florence, Milan, Venice, Genoa) were prosperous trade/manufacturing centers
- a wealthy, powerful merchant class promoted cultural rebirth - they had economic/political power, stressed education, spent lavishly on the arts

Florence and the Medicis - the Medici family (successful bankers) used their wealth to influence the culture and politics of Florence

- the family became a patron (financial supporter) of the arts

What Was the Renaissance?

A New Worldview - creative Renaissance artists were spurred by a reawakened interest in the classical learning of ancient Greece and Rome

- medieval scholars - focused on life and death
- Renaissance thinkers - explored the richness/variety of human experience in the "here and now" - they also emphasized individual achievement - the ideal was a person with talent in many fields (a "Renaissance man/woman")
- Ren. supported a spirit of adventure/curiosity (explorers, artists, scientists, writers all had this spirit)
- humanism - movement focused on worldly subjects rather than the religious issues that occupied medieval thinkers

A Golden Age in the Arts

Humanist Concerns - Ren. artists portrayed religious figures set against Greek/Roman backgrounds - painters produced portraits of well-known figures of the day (showing an interest in individual achievement)
- Donatello sculpted a life-size statue of a soldier on horseback (1st such figure since ancient times)

New Techniques - perspective - by making distant objects smaller than those close to the viewer, artists could paint scenes that seemed 3-D

Women Artists - some women became professional artists (Italian noblewoman Sofonisba Anguissola was court painter for King Phillip II of Spain)

Architecture - architects rejected the Gothic style of the Middle Ages - they used arches, columns and domes like the Greeks and Romans
- Filippo Brunelleschi created Florence's majestic dome

3 Geniuses of Renaissance Art

Leonardo da Vinci (1452- 1519) - artist who also studied botany, anatomy, optics, music, architecture, engineering - painted the *Mona Lisa*, *The Last Supper*

Michelangelo (1475-1564) - sculptor, painter, engineer, architect, poet - sculpted *David*, *Pieta* - painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican in Rome (took 4 years), designed the dome for St. Peter's Cathedral (world's largest church) in Rome (a model for the U.S. Capitol building)

Raphael (1483-1520) - painted *The School of Athens*, many portrayals of Mother Mary and Christ

Italian Renaissance Writers

Baldassare Castiglione - wrote the handbook *The Book of the Courtier* - described the manners, skills, learning and virtues that a member of the court should have - the ideal courtier was a well-educated, well-mannered aristocrat who mastered many fields, from poetry to music to sports - said that men and women should have different ideals

Niccolo Machiavelli - published *The Prince* in 1513 - a guide to rulers on how to gain and maintain power - he stressed that the "end justifies the means" (rulers should use whatever methods necessary to achieve their goals) - getting results is more important than keeping promises - his work continues to spark debate because it raises important questions about the nature of govt. and the use of power

THE RENAISSANCE MOVES NORTH**Artists of the Northern Renaissance**

Albrecht Durer - German artist who traveled to Italy in 1494 to study techniques of the Italian masters - known for his engravings (artist etches a design on a metal plate with acid; plate is then used to make prints) - helped spread Italian Renaissance ideas through his art and essays - became known as the "German Leonardo"

Jan and Hubert van Eyck - Flemish painters who developed oil paint

Pieter Bruegel - Flemish artist who used vibrant colors to portray lively scenes of peasant life

Peter Paul Rubens - blended realistic tradition of Flemish painters with classical themes and artistic freedom of the Italian Ren.

Northern Humanists

Erasmus - Dutch priest who called for a translation of the Bible into everyday language of ordinary people - said an individual's duties were to be open-minded and of good will toward others

Thomas More - English humanist who pressed for social reform - wrote *Utopia* - in this book, he describes an ideal society in which men and women live in peace and harmony - everyone is productive and educated, and justice is used to end crime rather than to eliminate the criminal

Francois Rabelais - French humanist who wrote books in which his characters were used to offer opinions on serious subjects like religion and education

William Shakespeare - most influential English poet and playwright of the Renaissance - between 1590 and 1613, he wrote 37 plays - wrote about young people in love (*Twelfth Night*), power struggles of English kings (*Richard III*), the love of two people crushed by powerful forces (*Romeo and Juliet*) - 1,700 English words (many of which are commonly used today) appeared for the first time in his works

Miguel de Cervantes - Spanish author who wrote *Don Quixote* (novel about a foolish but idealistic knight, Don Quixote, and his faithful servant, Sancho Panza) - made fun of the romantic notion of medieval chivalry

The Printing Revolution

Johann Guttenberg - 1456 - printed the first complete edition of the Bible using the first printing press in Mainz, Germany - by 1500, more than 20 million volumes had been printed

- immense changes resulted from this revolution:

1. printed books were much cheaper than hand-written ones
2. more people could afford them -> more learned to read -> readers gained access to a broad range of knowledge -> helped contribute to the religious turmoil of the 1500s

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Abuses in the Church

- involvement in worldly affairs
- Church had fought long, costly wars to protect the Papal states from invasion
- popes lived a lavish lifestyle, spent enormous amounts on art (patron of the arts)
- to pay for these expenses, Church increased fees for baptisms, marriages and funerals
- sale of indulgence - the reduction of punishment a sinner would suffer in purgatory

Luther's Protest

Martin Luther - German monk who started the Protestant Reformation

- Johann Tetzel - German priest - said that people who bought indulgences would get into heaven (so would their dead relatives) - this angered Luther - led him to draw up 95 Theses, or arguments against the Church, in 1517- posted on door of Wittenburg's All Saints Church
- 95 Theses called for the Church to reform (change) its corrupt policies
- 3 main ideas: 1. a sinner is saved by faith alone 2. the Bible, not the pope, is the true authority in the Church 3. read the Bible for yourself
- Church's reaction: Luther excommunicated by Pope Leo X in 1521
- Luther called to the Diet of Worms - meeting with Holy Roman Emperor Charles V - told to recant, or give up his views - he refused
- many supported his cause - German princes stopped the flow of taxes to Rome, seized Church lands
- The Peasants' Revolt - 1524 - attacked Church + nobles, demanded end to serfdom - Luther against it (denounced violence)

The Peace of Augsburg - 1555 - after wars between German princes and the HRE, Charles V signed an agreement with princes: each could choose which religion (Catholic or Lutheran) would be followed in his lands - northern German states became Lutheran, south remained Catholic

John Calvin - French priest and reformer who started Calvinism (started in Geneva, Switzerland) - believed in predestination - idea that God had chosen who would gain salvation - world made up of saints and sinners - Calvinists believed in living good lives to prove that they were chosen for salvation

Spread of Calvinism - spread to Germany, France, Netherlands, England, Scotland - led to bloody religious wars across Europe

John Knox - Scottish Calvinist preacher who helped overthrow Mary, Queen of Scots (Catholic monarch) - set up the Scottish Presbyterian Church

Henry VIII (1491-1547) - member of the Tudor royal family - "Defender of the Faith" (Catholicism) - hated Martin Luther

His Six Wives:

1. Catherine of Aragon (Ferdinand + Isabella's daughter) - she and Henry had a daughter, Mary Tudor, but never had a son (he wanted a male heir)
- Pope denied his request for an annulment - Parliament took English church from the pope's control, placed it under Henry's rule
- 1534 - Act of Supremacy - made Henry VIII leader of the Church of England (later called the Anglican Church) - Catholics who denounced the act were executed for treason (e.g., Thomas More)
2. Anne Boleyn - had daughter, Elizabeth I - Anne accused of adultery - beheaded
3. Jane Seymour - had only male heir, Edward VI (she died soon after giving birth)
4. Anne of Cleves - German princess - not a good match - divorced her
5. Catherine Howard - committed adultery - beheaded

6. Catherine Parr - outlived Henry VIII (he died in 1547)

Henry VIII died in 1547 - son Edward VI became king at age 10 - his advisers brought Protestant reforms to England

Mary Tudor - became queen when Edward died in his teens - she was a devout

Catholic, ordered hundreds of Protestants to be burned at the stake ("Bloody Mary")

Elizabeth I - became queen in 1558 upon her half-sister's death - known for her careful dealings with Parliament - "religious compromise" - she accepted a middle ground between Protestant and Catholic practices - she helped keep many Catholic traditions, but made England a firmly Protestant nation

The Catholic Reformation

- as Pr. Ref. spread across northern Europe, Catholic Church responded with their own ref. (also known as the Counter Reformation) - 1530s-1540s - Pope Paul III set out to revive moral authority of the Church, appointed reformers to end Church corruption

The Council of Trent - 1545 - held many meetings for almost 20 years:

1. reaffirmed traditional Catholic views 2. reformed Church finances 3. established schools to create a better-educated clergy who could challenge Protestant teachings
- by 1600, reforms did slow the Protestant tide and returned some areas to the Church
- Europe still remained divided into a Catholic south and a Protestant north

The Inquisition - to deal with Protestant threat, the Church used secret testimony, torture and execution to root out heresy - a list of banned books was created (some were those written by Luther and Calvin)

Widespread Persecution

Witch Hunts - 1450-1750 - tens of thousands of Europeans died as victims

- people at the time saw a link between magic and heresy - in troubled times, many look for scapegoats (people on whom they can blame their problems) - persecution of witches occurred during wars of religion (Catholics vs. Protestants)

Jews and the Reformation

- strong pressure on Jews (a religious/cultural minority) to convert to Catholicism
- by 1516, city govt. in Venice ordered all Jews to live in a separate quarter of the city, called a ghetto (from the Italian word for copper/iron foundry)
- many Jews expelled from European lands, many forced to live in walled ghettos