

Renaissance and Reformation

Italian Renaissance

Humanism

Humanism is the interest and adoption of classical work along with Greek and Roman ideas and thought. The Humanist way of thinking was different from medieval thinking; however, both did have an effect on literature. Unlike in medieval times, people believed in fulfillment in life and that everyone had dignity and worth. Writing from this period talked about life and feelings of people.

Inspiration of the Renaissance

Italy was important to trade on the Mediterranean, so Italy especially prospered during this time. Italians also were attached to classical traditions and kept in contact with the Byzantine Empire. These factors led to the Italian Renaissance.

Florence

Florence was the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance because it was a wealthy port where a lot of trading went on. Florence was also ruled by the incredibly powerful Medici family.

The Medici family was a powerful banking family that took control of Florence and fostered the spirit of Humanism.

Cosimo Medici introduced income taxes and established peace with nearby areas. He also was a patron of the arts and paid artists to create works of art.

Lorenzo Medici also supported artists, philosophers, writers, and festivals.

Rome

Rome replaced Florence as the leading Renaissance city in the 16th century.

At this time, the pope and cardinals made up the wealthiest class of people. The popes rebuilt the Roman city and had ornate churches and palaces built. St. Peter's Basilica was the largest of these Christian churches. The Vatican Library also had manuscripts that attracted scholars from all over.

Popes also behaved like signori, or powerful leaders trying to restore peace to Italy, and they overlooked their religious duties to handle political affairs and to collect taxes. Pope Alexander VI spent the tax money on his own family. Popes began to live lavishly, like Pope Leo X. Leo X was known for using the money to buy exotic animals for entertainment and for tossing out expensive plates after every meal. Because of this, Martin Luther did not like the popes (*see Lutheranism*).

Venice

Venice maintained a trade monopoly with Asia that attracted traders and became the wealthiest city-state in Italy. At its strongest, it stretched from the Adriatic Sea to Milan. Also, Venice had a republican government.

Achievements

People studied anatomy to make drawings more accurate, perspective gave depth, and architecture included columns, spires, and glass windows.

Renaissance Artists

Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci was a great Renaissance artist who was a painter and a scientist. He is known for works such as the *Mona Lisa* and the *Last Supper* and for detailed illustrations of inventions.

Michelangelo

Michelangelo Buonarroti was a Renaissance artist known for his paintings and sculptures. He did a famous marble statue of David and he also painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

The Spread of the Renaissance

The Renaissance spread to northern Europe through war, trade, travel, and the printing press.

Spread of the Renaissance

When France invaded Italy, the ideas of the Renaissance were introduced to the French. They brought Italian artists and scholars to France, promoting the entry of the Renaissance into northern Europe.

Italian traders set an example for northern merchants, and these merchants began to spend their money on education, fine houses, and material goods.

Northerners also began travelling to Italy, creating a privileged and educated middle class.

Printing Press

The invention of the printing press also helped the Renaissance spread. A German metalworker named Johannes Gutenberg invented a new printing technique using a printing press. This helped books be printed faster and cheaper, so more people could have them.

Lutheranism

Lutheranism was the first Protestant faith, and it was started by Martin Luther.

The Catholic Church before Reformation

The Catholic Church at the time was not good and had corrupt popes that cared more about their own gain than the faith and the followers of Catholicism. Pope Leo X is a prime example of one of these corrupt popes. Leo X was a young pope that wasted the Church's money. Under him, indulgences were sold in order to raise money. Indulgences were pieces of paper that were purchased and gave a person a "ticket" to Heaven, no matter how severe or how often they sinned. John Tetzel was the seller of these indulgences.

Martin Luther

Martin Luther was a man who wanted to clean up the Catholic Church and he wanted a reformation. He is known as the founder of Lutheranism and he also is credited for translating the New Testament into German.

Teachings of Luther

Luther stressed several teachings, including:

- No amount of good works can win God's approval for salvation, and only trust in God's love will provide salvation.
- Religious truth and authority lie only in the Bible.
- Church is not a hierarchy of clergy, but a community of believers.

These teachings appealed to merchants and artisans.

95 Theses

Martin Luther created the 95 Theses, which challenged the teaching of the Catholic Church, including the sale of indulgences and the Pope's authority. He nailed these 95 Theses to the doors of the Wittenberg Church, and they were further spread by use of the printing press.

Diet of Worms

In the early 16th century, Luther was brought to Worms for questioning, and he was told to recant, or take back, what he said about the Church and the Catholic faith. He does not recant and claims that the popes are corrupt. Some people agreed while some did not, and he was eventually excommunicated.

New Testament

In order to keep Luther safe, Frederick of Saxony kidnaps and hides him. It is during this time that Luther translates the New Testament into German. This means that more people could read the Bible themselves and this also created the schism between the two faiths.

Spread of Lutheranism

Merchants carried Lutheranism to France, England, the Netherlands, and the Scandinavian countries. Princes helped spread Lutheranism as well by making it the state religion.

Religion in Europe: Other Important People and Groups

Huldreich Zwingli

Huldreich Zwingli was a Swiss priest who led the Protestant Reformation. He believed in salvation by faith alone and denounced many Catholic beliefs and practices. Unlike Luther, Zwingli wished to completely break away from Catholic tradition and establish a theocracy, which is a church-run state. He achieved this goal in Zurich in 1525.

John Calvin

John Calvin was another reformer known for establishing the most powerful reformed group, and he did this in Geneva. The cornerstone of his theology was the belief that God possessed all-encompassing power and

knowledge. He also believed in the theology of predestination, which stated that God determines the fate of every individual.

John Calvin tried to turn Geneva into a model religious community. A church council in Geneva called the Geneva consistory made up of twelve members was given the power to control the lives of the people. There were laws against swearing, fighting, drunkenness, and gambling. Geneva became known as the "City of God".

John Knox

John Knox was a leader of the reformation in Scotland who used Calvin's teachings to encourage people to overthrow tyrannical leaders.

The Anabaptists

The Anabaptists were several new Protestant sects that initiated the practice of baptizing and believed that only people who could make a choice to become Christians should be allowed to do so. Catholics baptized babies, but Anabaptists baptized older people. They usually denied the authority of local governments but were relatively peaceful. They did, however, seize power in Munster and burn property.

Ignatius Loyola and the Jesuits

The Society of Jesus, also known as Jesuits, was founded by Ignatius Loyola. It was part of a missionary offensive against Protestants in order to reclaim Catholic lands. Jesuits were obedient to the pope and lived simple lives, and they developed schools and universities.

Henry VIII

Henry VIII

Henry VIII was the King of England from 1509 until 1527. He is known for moving England away from the Catholic faith and for having six wives in the hopes of producing a male heir. His actions while he was king changed the course of history forever.

When Henry VIII was younger he was an attractive man. He was lean and athletic and had an intelligent mind. He enjoyed sports like tennis and jousting, and he also enjoyed music and discussions about geometry and astronomy. He composed music and wrote a book as well.

Henry VIII's Religion

Henry VIII was a devout Catholic, but he eventually broke ties with the Catholic Church after the pope refused to let him divorce his first wife. He was granted more authority over the English clergy and became the head of the English Church.

Catherine of Aragon

Henry VIII's first wife was Catherine of Aragon and she had many children during their marriage, but only one, Mary, survived. Henry VIII desperately wanted a male heir, so he decided to divorce Catherine once she became too old to produce another heir.

Henry VIII wanted to divorce Catherine and remarry Anne Boleyn, but the pope would not let him do so. Catherine's nephew was the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, and the pope depended on him. Charles V wanted Catherine to remain the queen because he himself benefitted from it. Henry broke off from the Catholic Church,

and in 1534 the Church of England became separate. Henry VIII became the head of the English Church and he finally was able to go through with the divorce.

Anne Boleyn

After the divorce from his first wife, Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn in the hopes that she would produce a male heir. Anne Boleyn gave birth to only one child, Elizabeth. A few years after the birth of her daughter, Anne was beheaded for treason.

Jane Seymour

Jane Seymour was the third wife of Henry VIII, and she finally gave him the male heir he had hoped for, Edward. Twelve days later, however, she herself died.

Anne of Cleves

Henry VIII was briefly married to Anne of Cleves, but from the start he was not attracted to her and referred to her as a 'Flanders mare'. She agreed to an annulment and she lived very independently in England for the rest of her life. She was also treated as an honored guest.

Catherine Howard

Catherine Howard was Henry VIII's fifth wife. She was young and flirtatious, and she was arrested for adultery after only seventeen months of marriage. Much like her cousin, Anne Boleyn, she was beheaded for her crimes.

Catherine Parr

Catherine Parr was Henry VIII's last wife, and she outlived him. After his death, she married Thomas Seymour, the brother of Henry VIII's third wife Jane Seymour.

Changes in Religion

The Inquisition

The Inquisition was a church court based in Italy who tried to find and judge heretics. It was supposed to get rid of non-Catholics and to restore the pope's authority.

The Council of Trent

The Council of Trent met to define official doctrine. They strictly defined Catholic doctrine, especially teachings that the Protestants had challenged. Salvation, the Council declared, could not be achieved by faith alone, but faith and works together. The Council of Trent also stopped many Church abuses and forbade the selling of indulgences.

Religion by 1545

The Church strengthened its following and reclaimed some of its previous territories. The reformation helped correct the abuses of the Catholic Church but it did not eliminate Protestantism, it only slowed the spread of it. Europe remained Protestant in the north and Catholic in the south.