

The Renaissance

1300 - 1550

Causes of the Renaissance:

The Middle Ages ended in approximately 1450 AD and the Renaissance Period began in Florence and soon spread to the other city-states.

So, what really caused the Renaissance to occur where and when it did?

- ❖ The **Crusades** and an increase in trade led to the spread of culture and ideas to Europeans.
- ❖ The Catholic Church was in decline and people began to have doubts.
- ❖ Trade increased and a new class- **the middle class**- began to emerge as families began to accumulate more money. Those with more wealth indulged more than before.
- ❖ The wealthy families and **oligarchs** wished to show off their wealth to others with similar social standing; thus, they sponsored more artists and strived to be more educated.
- ❖ Italian cities were generally built on top of the ruins of Ancient Rome, and some wished to restore their home to its former glory.

Humanism:

Humanism is a philosophy and part of an intellectual movement that occurred during the Renaissance. While many humanists were religious, many believed that life in the present should be one's focus instead of the afterlife.

The main points of Humanism:

- ❖ Admiration Of Greco-Roman Culture
- ❖ Enjoying the Present
- ❖ Less Focus On Afterlife
- ❖ Humans Are At the Center Of the Universe
- ❖ Change the World Through Actions and the Government
- ❖ Guidance On Personable Behavior
- ❖ More Focus On Education
- ❖ Reforming the Church

Who were the humanists?

- ❖ **Desiderius Erasmus (1465-1536)** ✎ The "Prince of Northern Humanists" known for his translations of the Greek and Latin versions of the New Testament. His *In Praise of Folly* satirizes the ambitions of the world, especially those of church members.
- ❖ **Thomas More (1478-1535)** ✎ A northern humanist most famous for his *Utopia*, which depicted the world if people correctly followed the social and political ideals of Christianity. He is also known for his dislike of Henry VIII breaking from the Catholic Church, and eventually he was executed.
- ❖ **Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374)** ✎ Known to be the first humanist of the Renaissance, Petrarch was inspired by the ancients and wrote poetry, letters, and papers dedicated to them.
- ❖ **Baldassare Castiglione (1478-1529)** ✎ Author of *The Courtier*, a book detailing proper behavior for sophisticated members of society, Castiglione brought humanistic ideas to more individuals, especially those of the higher classes.

Renaissance Art:

A dramatic shift in art styles occurred between the Renaissance and the Middle Ages.

Renaissance Art:

- ❖ Often Dealt With Religious Topics Or Secular Themes
- ❖ Achieved Greater Realism
- ❖ Sculpture Celebrates the Individual and “Pagan” Spirit
- ❖ Emulated Greeks and Romans

Renaissance Artists and Writers:

- ❖ **Donatello (1386-1466)** ✎ The father of Renaissance sculpture, Donatello is known for his David statue.
- ❖ **Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)** ✎ A painter and inventor best known for *The Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa*.
- ❖ **Bruneschelli (1377-1446)** ✎ An architect, Bruneschelli is known for encompassing the new style of architecture and for creating the largest dome built in Europe since ancient times.
- ❖ **Michelangelo (1475-1564)** ✎ A sculptor and painter known for painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
- ❖ **Christine de Pizan (1364-1430)** ✎ A female writer, she is known for her poetry.
- ❖ **Machiavelli (1469-1527)** ✎ Known for writing *The Prince*, Machiavelli describes how leaders can achieve and hold power by first acting in self-interest but also doing what is best for their land; he believed that a leader, while striving to be loved and feared, should be feared primarily rather than loved.

Renaissance Monarchs and Families:

- ❖ **Henry VIII (1491-1547)** ✎ The second monarch of the Tudor dynasty, Henry VIII is known for his five wives and three heirs, including the famous Elizabeth I. In order to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, he broke away from the Catholic Church and founded the Anglican Church.
- ❖ **Mary I (1516-1558)** ✎ A Catholic, Mary I is known for her persecution of Protestants after the death of her younger brother Edward VI.
- ❖ **Elizabeth I (1533-1603)** ✎ Gaining the throne after Mary, Elizabeth I adopted Protestantism and passed the Elizabethan Settlement, which controlled outward conformity towards the English Church but didn't push inward conformity. Her reign also saw the defeat of the **Spanish Armada (1588)**, marking the end of Spain's golden era.
- ❖ **Louis XI (1423-1483)** ✎ Louis XI began to move France towards absolutist policies and took care of his opposition by the time of his death. Inheriting the nation soon after the **Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)** ended, he managed to help France become a modern nation.
- ❖ **Isabella of Castille (1451-1504) and Ferdinand of Aragon (1452-1516)** ✎ Isabella and Ferdinand not only supported exploration like that of Christopher Columbus but also started the **Inquisition (1479)** and got rid of Jewish and Moorish peoples and influences in Spain.
- ❖ **The Medici Family** ✎ The Medici family was a family of wealthy bankers who controlled politics and culture in Florence.
- ❖ **The Borgia Family** ✎ The Borgias were a wealthy banking family who controlled the area of Milan.

Wars and Conflicts:

Wars and conflicts during this time saw a change in weaponry including:

- ❖ Gunpowder
- ❖ Artillery
- ❖ Muskets
- ❖ Rifles

Renaissance Conflicts to Know:

- ❖ **Habsburg-Valois Wars (1494-1559)** ✕ Political in nature, the Habsburg-Valois Wars were between France and Spain/HRE over control of the Italian states and led to the hindering of German unification. The wars were ended by the **Treaty of Cateau-Cambrèsis (1559)** and led to the Habsburgs having control over Italian lands instead of the French.

Age of Exploration:

A number of factors led to the increase of exploration, including:

- ❖ Desire For Fame and Adventure
- ❖ Christian Zeal
- ❖ Quest For Knowledge
- ❖ Italian Port Cities Taking Away Profits
- ❖ Turks Took silk Road Area
- ❖ Revival Of Greek Studies