The Renaissance

Unit V
Renaissance

- the rebirth of art and culture from antiquity (Ancient Greece and Rome)
Renaissance

- Period following the middle ages (1450-1550)
- "Rebirth" of classical Greece and Rome
- More secular society develops
- Began in Italy
- Moved to northern Europe
Objectives

- During the middle ages
  - Find God
  - Prove pre-conceived ideas
- During the Renaissance
  - Find man
  - Promote learning
How had the Church lost so much power before the Renaissance again?

- Loss of a “holy war” (The Crusades)
- Loss to another religion
- The Great Schism
- The Black Death
- Vernacular bibles
- Serfdom and feudalism
- Women begin to gain status as well
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
- Most importantly, the CRUSADES
  - Learn from Muslims they fought there, the Moors nearby, and through trade with “enemies”
Italian Background

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

Effect:

• played crucial roles in the Italian politics of the time
• prospered from trade with the Byzantine, Islamic, and Mediterranean civilizations
• set up trading centers in the east due to the Crusades
• exchanged goods with merchants in England and the Netherlands
The Republic of Florence

- dominated the Tuscany region
- in the fourteenth century a wealthy group of merchants controlled the Florentine government
- led a series of successful wars against their neighbors, and established Florence as a major city-state
The Rise of Florence

- Central point of the Italian Renaissance
- Merchant city
- Ruled by the Medici family
  - Financed wool trade
  - “Unwritten” rulers
- Commercial Revolution
The Medici paid to build a massive domed cathedral for Florence.
Machiavelli (1469-1527)

- Advisor to the Medici
- Very powerful
- Founder of modern political science
- Lead with an “ends justifies the means” mentality
- “The Prince”
- Machiavellianism- key idea of the Renaissance
Animated Book Review for
The Prince by Machiavelli
Machiavelli

Description:

• authored *The Prince*
• one of the most influential works on political power in the Western world
• how to get and keep political power
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

From this arises the question whether it is better to be loved more than feared, or feared more than loved. The reply is, that one ought to be both feared and loved, but as it is difficult for the two to go together, it is much safer to be feared than loved, if one of the two has to be wanting. For it may be said of men in general that they are ungrateful, voluble [changeable], dissemblers [liars], anxious to avoid danger, and covetous of gain; as long as you benefit them, they are entirely yours; they offer you their blood, their goods, their life, and their children, as I have before said, when the necessity is remote; but when it approaches, they revolt. And the prince, who has relied solely on their words, without making preparations, is ruined.

1. How does Machiavelli describe human nature?

2. Summarize his advice for rulers. (What is he telling a prince to do in order to keep power?)
Machiavelli

Old Political Thought:

- previous authors stressed that princes should be ethical and follow Christian principles

Machiavelli’s Political Thought:

- argued the prince’s attitude toward power should be based on understanding that human nature is self-interested
- a prince should not act on moral principles but on behalf of the interests of the state
Machiavelli

Impact:

• first to abandon morality as the basis for analyzing political activity

• influenced political leaders who followed
Stop and Think!

How do Machiavelli’s ideas reflect changes from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance?
Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

- Born and raised in Florence
- Widely considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time and the most diversely talented person of all-time
- “Renaissance Man”
- Mona Lisa, Last Supper
Renaissance Man

- Broad knowledge about many things in different fields
- Deep knowledge of skill in one area
- Able to link areas and create new knowledge
Medieval Woman
Mona Lisa

proportion
The Last Supper
The Last Supper

depth of field
Michelangelo (1475-1564)

- Famous Renaissance painter and sculptor
- From Florence
- “Renaissance Man”
- Sistine Chapel, Pieta, statue of David
Sistine Chapel
Pieta, statue of David
- Leonardo da Vinci
  - Painter, sculptor, inventor, scientist, *Mona Lisa*
- Michelangelo Buonarroti
  - Sculptor, poet, architect, painter, *Sistine Chapel ceiling*
- Donatello
  - Sculptor, painter, *statue of David*
- Raphael Sanzio
  - Painter, architect, *School of Athens*
• Donatello
• David
• 1400s
• Raphael
• Madonnas
• 1483-1520
• Raphael
• School of Athens
• 1510
• Jan van Eyck
• Giovanni Arnolfini and Bride
• 1434
Humanism

- Renaissance belief that focused upon the “self”
- Recognition that humans are creative
- Life could be enjoyable
- Love of a classical past
- Da Vinci, Michelangelo's work
- Previously, it had been focused upon religion
- People became more secular
Petrarch (1304-1374)

Known as the “Father of Humanism”

Scholar and poet

Model for Italian Language was created using Petrarch’s work

His work became a model for lyrical poetry

First to develop the concept of the “Dark Ages”
Dante (1265-1321)

- Known as “Father of the Vernacular”
- Also known as “Founder of the Italian Language”
- Writes the *Divine Comedy* (The Inferno)
- Writes in Italian
Erasmus (1466-1536)

- Dutch Humanist
- Catholic Priest, social critic, teacher and theologian
- Wrote in pure Latin
  - Translated old testament
- Accepted authority of Pope with criticizing.
  - Preached about a “middle ground”
Protestant Reformation

- Movement to **remove corruption from the Church (not Christianity)**
- Several unrelated movements away from the Church
- Anger at corruption in the church, as well as political leadership looking to split from the church
- **Individuals role** in personal salvation is reevaluated
Martin Luther (1483-1546)

- Monk on a mission in Wittenberg Germany
- Writes the **95 Theses** about the problems of the Church
- Causes a **SPLIT** of the Church
- Local leadership eventually split with the church
- Small German principalities began to join
- Founds **Lutheranism**
- Followers known as “protestors” thus Protestant
John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Originally a humanist lawyer
- Protestant leader who starts *Calvinism*
- Flees to Geneva from France
- Geneva breaks away from church
  - Later becomes *Presbyterianism*
- *Predestination*
Counter Reformation

- Catholic Response to the Reformation
  - Princes in the Holy Roman Empire are converting to protestant faiths
  - The Pope and Church needed to create major reforms as the Church began to crumble under the reformation
Council of Trent (1545-1563)

- Catholic Response to the Protestant Reformation
- The Church wanted to make a uniform response to the Reformation
- Church has final say on interpretation of Bible
- Christians must have faith and perform good deeds
- Indulgences were expressions of faith
Jesuits (Est. 1534)

- Founded by Ignatius of Loyola (Spain)
- Society of Jesus
- Established during the Counter Reformation
- Three Goals
  - Schooling
  - Conversion
  - Stop the Protestant faith/movement
English Reformation

- Movement to reform the Church in England
- Motivated by the desire of Henry VIII for an annulment of his marriage
Henry VIII (1491-1547)

- Had been the “Defender of the Faith”
  - (Had attacked the reformers who left the Church, Pope thanked him)
- Had trouble producing a male successor
- Pope’s decision on marriage motivates him to split from Church
- Establishes the Church of England
- Remains “Catholic” in practice
Elizabeth I

- Queen Elizabeth
- Took power after her Catholic half sister Mary (Bloody Mary)
- Officially establishes the Church of England as the Anglican Church
- Crown remains the head of the Church of England
Gutenberg’s Printing Press

- German inventor of the printing press
- Creates literacy in the world
- Enabled the Reformation and the Renaissance to take shape and spread
- Vernacular use + printing press = every day people reading the Bible
- Circulates information