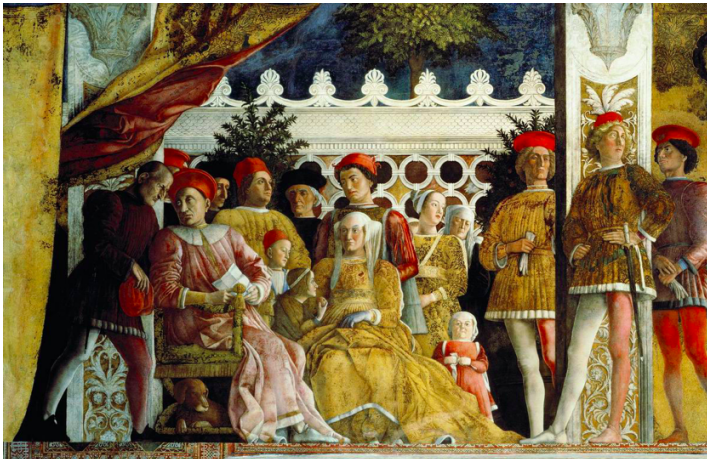


# The Renaissance

## Introduction



## Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?



Italy had become a crossroads for travel  
more cities than other nations in Europe  
ruled by aristocrats

“merchant princes” lived right alongside the aristocracy  
the wealthy supported the arts  
in the presence of antiquity

# Renaissance Society

stratification now based on wealth as well as title (patrician/burgher)

Baldassare Castiglione:  
*The Book of the Courtier*

profit-makers indulged in philanthropy

the accumulation of wealth led to a desire to use it to enjoy the pleasures of life

very patriarchal

marriages were arranged to solidify business relationships

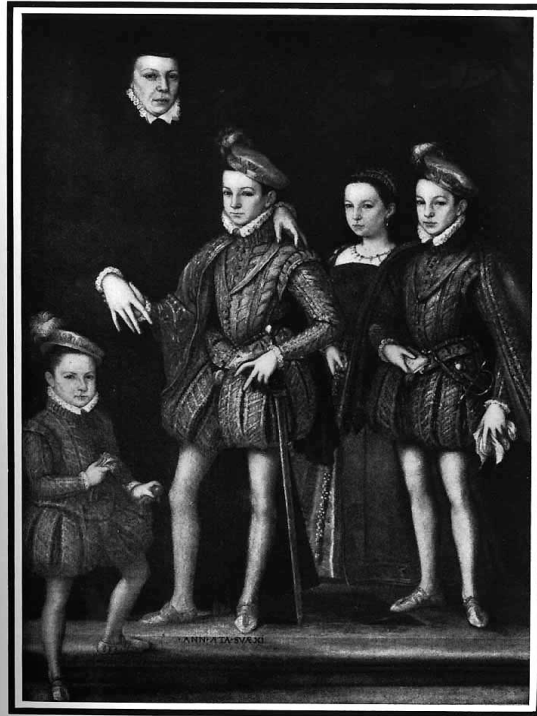


PLATE XXXV. CATHERINE DE' MEDICI AND HER FAMILY. 1501  
Shottesbrooke Park. By kind permission of Miss Oswald-Smith

## Renaissance Italy Politics

Five major territorial states of Italy:  
Rome, Venice, Milan, Florence, and the  
Kingdom of Naples

Many Italian coastal cities became  
centers for trade and commerce.

The leading citizens of these cities  
were very wealthy business people.

The government was called a signoria  
and the signore ruled the city.

They lived in beautiful homes and  
employed great artists.







# Renaissance Florence

the center of the Italian Renaissance



Florentine gold coin (the *florin*) was the standard coinage throughout Europe  
the city guild members planned and voted on city issues



guild members included textile workers,  
bankers, masons, builders, sculptors, lawyers  
members of the guilds were wealthy and held  
positions in government

*the Palazzo Vecchio [left], constructed in 1299,  
the home of the Florentine guilds*

contributed to the construction of grand cathedrals

a competition developed between the rich merchants to see who could commission  
the grandest buildings

# Florentine Wool Trade



much of Florence's wealth  
was dependent on  
the manufacture or trade of wool



Florentine  
textile workers  
cleaned, carded,  
spun, dyed, and  
wove the wool  
into cloth of  
excellent  
quality



artist guilds  
regulating  
trades were  
the basis of  
Florence's  
commercial  
success

the most powerful guilds were those that represented textile workers



Giovanni de Medici

# The Medici Family

leaders of Florence

The Medici family controlled Florence throughout much of the Renaissance.

In 1397, Giovanni de Medici, banker to the Papal Court, established headquarters in Florence.

Giovanni held almost every political office in Florence at some point.

Giovanni died in 1429, leaving behind a legacy of patronage for the arts and a son, Cosimo de Medici.

Cosimo took over the family banking business and built up his father's fortune, establishing business connections all over Europe.

Cosimo de Medici



# Lorenzo the Magnificent

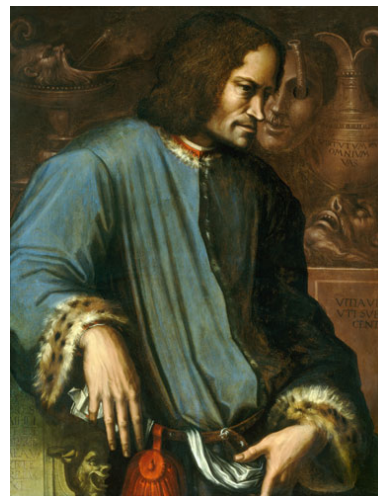


Cosimo's grandson, Lorenzo de Medici, was known as 'Il Magnifico.'

Lorenzo lived more elegantly than had Cosimo.

Under Lorenzo's control, the Florentine economy expanded significantly

During Lorenzo's rule, from 1469 to 1492, Florence became undeniably the most important city-state in Italy and the most beautiful city in all of Europe.





# Girolamo Savonarola



The Medici family was ousted by a popular uprising spawned by a fanatical priest, Girolamo Savonarola.

Savonarola began preaching against the worldliness and paganism of the Renaissance.

After the Medici were ousted in 1494, Savonarola assumed power and drafted a new draconian constitution.

He had burned many books he considered immoral.

In 1495, Savonarola went too far when he called for the deposal of Pope Alexander VI.

By this time very little support remained in Florence for him, and he was declared a heretic and burned at the stake.

# Niccolò Machiavelli



In 1502 Niccolò Machiavelli was appointed as political adviser and protégé to Piero Soderini, elected chief magistrate for life of Florence. Soderini's soon surrendered to the attacking Medici, however, signaling the end of Machiavelli's dreams of political greatness.

Machiavelli then asked for a job with Giovanni de Medici's new regime, but instead, the Medici sent him into solitary exile.

While in exile Machiavelli composed *The Prince*, a manifesto which came to symbolize a new breed of politics that was shrewd but without morality. He remained in exile for the rest of his life. His legacy was his name and his manifesto.

*"Since love and fear can hardly exist together, if we must choose between them, it is far safer to be feared than loved..."*

*"I see that one is obliged to look to the results of an action, and not to the means by which it was achieved..."*

*"The fortunate man is he who fits his plan of action to the times."*

# The Renaissance Papacy



The Renaissance popes were known for their sponsorship of the arts, their expensive entertainments, and their political machinations, but not for their policies, theology, morality, or spirituality.

In addition to being the head of the Church, the Pope became one of Italy's most important secular rulers, signing treaties with other sovereigns and fighting wars.

They used the papal military to enforce and expand upon the longstanding territorial and property claims of the papacy. With ambitious expenditures on war and construction projects, popes turned to new sources of revenue from the sale of indulgences and bureaucratic and ecclesiastical offices.

The popes became absolute monarchs but unlike their European peers, they were not hereditary, so they could only promote their family interests through nepotism.

*(The word nepotism originally referred specifically to the practice of creating cardinal-nephews; it appeared in the English language about 1669.)*

## Renaissance Popes

Good and, well...

Nicholas V (1447-1455) was best-known for the rebuilding of St. Peter's Basilica, which began during his reign.

Julius II (1503-1513) commissioned Michelangelo to decorate the Sistine Chapel. He also became known as "the Warrior Pope" for his use of bloodshed to increase the territory and property of the papacy.

Leo X (1513-21) was said to have remarked: "Let us enjoy the papacy, since God has given it to us."

The diplomatic and military campaigns of Pope Clement VII (1523-1534) resulted in the Sack of Rome in 1527.

Alexander VI (1492-1503) had four acknowledged children.

