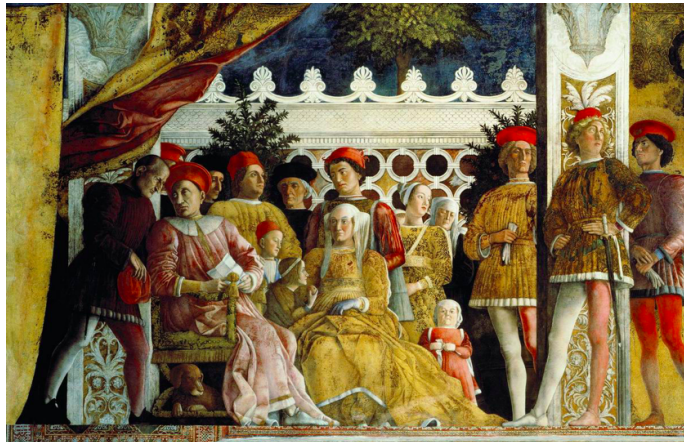


# The Renaissance



## Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?



Italy had become a crossroads for travel  
more cities than other nations in Europe  
ruled by aristocrats  
had “merchant princes”  
arts supported by the wealthy  
in the presence of antiquity

# Renaissance Society

stratification now based on wealth  
as well as title

Baldassare Castiglione:  
*The Book of the Courtier*

profit-makers indulged in  
philanthropy

wealthy wanted to use their wealth  
to enjoy the pleasures of life

very patriarchal society

marriages were arranged

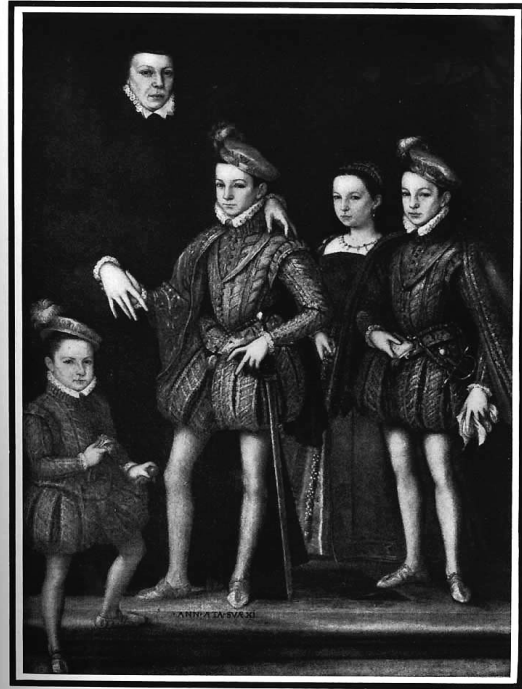


PLATE XXXV. CATHERINE DE' MEDICI AND HER FAMILY. 1561  
Shottesbrooke Park. By kind permission of Miss Oswald-Smith

# Renaissance Italy Politics

5 major Italian states:

**Rome**

**Venice**

**Milan**

**Florence**

**the Kingdom of Naples**

many Italian cities were  
trade centers

signoria: city-state government

wealthy business people became  
these cities' leading citizens

lived in beautiful homes  
employed great artists to  
decorate them





# 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 in his life.

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

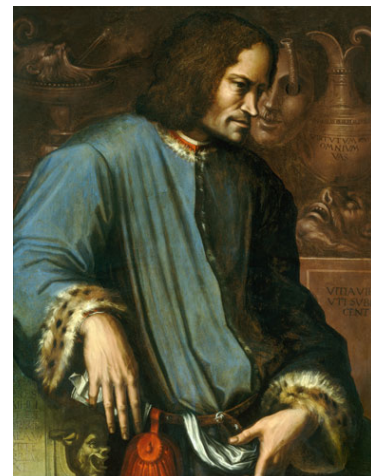


Cosimo's grandson, Lorenzo de' Medici, was known as 'Il Magnifico.'

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 the most important city-state in Italy and the most beautiful city in all of Europe.



# Girolamo Savonarola



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

Savonarola began preaching against the immorality of the Renaissance.

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

He burned any books he considered immoral.

In 1495, Savonarola went too far when he challenged the authority of Pope Alexander VI.

Savonarola lost his support, was declared a heretic, and was 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 and their political machinations, but not for their theology, morality, or spirituality.

These popes became both religious and 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...



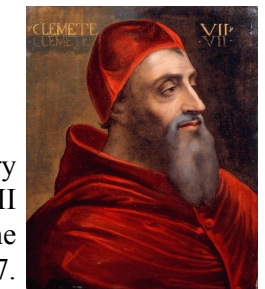
Nicholas V (1447-1455) was best-known for the rebuilding of St. Peter's Basilica, which began during his reign.



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.