





RISE OF FLORENCE'S POLITICS

- Several factors combined to spur the growth of towns in Northern Italy.
 - First the Crusades and later the growth of the Mongol Empire fostered long-distance trade and outbreak of plague drove up wages and created a demand for labor.
 - Florence benefitted from these developments growing into an important center for the manufacture of wool cloth in the 1300s.
- During this period, Florence was an independent city-state with a republican form of government.
 - The republic was controlled by wealthy merchants and artisans making it an ideal place to do business.

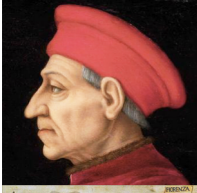

RISE OF FLORENCE'S ECONOMICS

- Guilds regulated trade and manufacturing to ensure economic benefit and limited risk for members.
 - Political independence and guild regulation fostered continued growth resulting in Florence becoming a major financial center in the 1400s.
- The development of the financial institutions of Florence was orchestrated by the Medici family who established a bank in Florence with branches in Flanders, London and other cities of Italy.
 - The Medici bank made major advances in financial services including checking accounts and lending.
 - Florence also saw the development of shareholding companies in this period.
 - All of these factors contributed to the accumulation of vast wealth by many of the citizens of Florence.

RISE OF FLORENCE'S ECONOMICS

- The wealthiest of all was Cosimo de Medici who used his wealth and control of the banking industry to take control of the government.
 - While Cosimo de Medici maintained the appearance of a republic he ruled Florence as a dictator.
 - This continued under his son Lorenzo de Medici.
 - Under Medici leadership, Florence continued to thrive as a center of commerce.
 - The vast wealth held by the residents of Florence funded major cultural developments in art and architecture.


ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RENAISSANCE

- During the Medieval period sculpture and painting were considered the work of tradesman.
 - Most of the work was commissioned by the church and was limited to the depiction of scenes from the bible.
 - The techniques used were generally very rudimentary leading to the production of painting and sculptures that were fairly simple and relied heavily on symbolism to convey their meaning.
- This pattern changed with the Renaissance which started in Italy and later spread to Northern Europe.
 - Wealthy patrons in Italy willing to pay for high quality works inspired a new approach to the arts.
 - Artist like Botticelli, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci found inspiration in the Greek and Roman use of realism and approached the visual arts as an intellectual pursuit.
 - This new approach led to major advances in techniques like the use of perspective and shading.
 - Highly realistic paintings like da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Raphael's *School of Athens* conveyed human emotion, movement, and space in a way that had never been done before.
 - In sculpture, Michelangelo's *David* depicted muscle tone, bone structure and emotion in marble.




LITERARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RENAISSANCE

- Literature also took a turn to the realistic.
 - Authors like Boccaccio, Petrarch, and Shakespeare wrote stories steeped in human emotion.
 - Authors began to move away from the tradition of writing in Latin and instead chose the much more accessible vernacular of their homes.



SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RENAISSANCE

- This period also saw advances in other intellectual pursuits.
 - In the eleventh century, Greek manuscripts were reintroduced to Europe.
 - Much of this work had been lost in Europe after the fall of Rome but it was preserved and built upon in the Arab world.
 - When this work was reintroduced to Europe and translated into Latin it inspired European intellectuals to pursue studies in mathematics, medicine, geography and science.
- A renewed interest in scientific inquiry led to the growth of colleges in the 1200s and the development of modern universities in the 1300s.



<p style="text-align: center;">HUMANISM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Medieval European intellectual life was dominated by the study of the bible and the pursuit of salvation.❑ While intellectuals of the Renaissance remained devotedly Catholic a new intellectual movement encouraged individuals to also pursue secular concerns.❑ The Humanist argued that the faithful could live an enjoyable life full of worldly pleasures without offending God.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Humanism was inspired by the Greek classics and focused on the study of history, literature, and philosophy (called the Humanities).▪ The movement idealized intellectual curiosity and versatility and celebrated human potential and achievement.	<p style="text-align: center;">HUMANISM <i>in a nutshell</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Putting human beings and other living things at the centre of your moral outlook2. Seeing the world as a natural place and looking to science and reason to make sense of it3. Promoting and supporting human flourishing across all frontiers, and championing human rights for everyone
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