

Renaissance Notes

Renaissance- rebirth; an intellectual and cultural awakening; period in European history (1350-1600) when Greek and Roman (Classical) works of art were reinvestigated. Largely an urban development concentrated in the city-states of Italy. Eventually spreads to Northern Europe through wars, invitations to artist from monarchs, and word of mouth via Italian merchants.

Characteristics:

Humanism- a focus on secular (worldly) themes rather than on the religious ideas that had concerned medieval thinkers and artist. Petrarch- considered the father of humanism. Humanist studied the classic manuscripts, valued daily life, encouraged individual talent, and many wrote in their vernacular language

Individualism- the emphasis on the dignity and worth of the individual person. The idea of human improvement. People should develop their talents through many activities: politics, sports, and the arts.

Italian City States (see map pg. 399)

Three major- Milan, Venice, Florence

Milan -was one of the richest cities.

Venice -served as a link between Asia and Western Europe, and drew traders from all over the world

Florence - ruled by the Medici Family.

Renaissance Society

Nobility only constituted 2-3% of the population, but still continue to dominate society. They retained their land and titles, hold high political post and serve as advisers to the King.

85-90% of the population was still peasants, but serfdom continued to decrease.

Rise of a middle class: Patrician- wealth came from trade, industry, and banking. They dominate an increasingly urban society. Burghers- shop keepers, artisans, guild masters, guild members. Below them are the workers who made poor wages. Last were the unemployed

Renaissance Art

Artist of the Renaissance are know for showing emotions and lifelike figures in their works. They developed a new technique called perspective- which gave their paintings depth. They studied anatomy so they could portray human figures more accurately and naturally. Much of their work consisted of frescoes- paintings done on damp plaster.

Giotto- (jee-AH-toh) given credit for this new style

Masaccio- (muh-ZAH-chee-oh) employed lighting and perspective thus creating more realism

Leonardo da Vinci- painter, writer, scientist, and inventor. Works of Art: *Mona Lisa*, *The Last Supper*. His notebook pictured parachutes, flying machines, and other mechanical inventions far ahead of his time.

Michelangelo Buonarroti- began as a sculptor. *David*, *La Pieta*. 1508 Pope Julius II hired him to work at the Vatican painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel with scenes of the Bible. He also designed the dome of the new St. Peter's Basilica.

Raphael Santi- completed a series of paintings on classical and religious themes for the pope's apartment. *The School of Athens*. He also designed many buildings in the Vatican.

Renaissance Literature

Latin is still widely used, but many writers began to write in the vernacular- the language spoken in their own region. Scholars of the Renaissance began to challenge long accepted traditions, assumptions, and institutions--- including the Catholic Church.

Johannes Gutenberg- inventor of the movable type printing press. Effects: books were published at a greater speed, more people could afford books, learning increased.

Dante- *Divine Comedy* – a story about the soul's journey to salvation

Geoffrey Chaucer- *The Canterbury Tales*

William Shakespeare- English playwright.

Michel de Montaigne- created a new literary form called the personal essay, a short prose composition written to express clearly the personal view of a writer on a subject.

Thomas More – *Utopia* – criticized society by comparing it with an ideal society where all were equal.

Machiavelli – *The Prince*- book that suggested rulers should be feared rather than loved in order to hold power

The Protestant Reformation

Prelude to Reformation

I. Early attempts at reform:

1. John Wycliffe (mid 1320s- 1384) – a scholar at England's Oxford University. He criticized the Church's wealth, corruption among the clergy, and the Popes' claim to absolute authority. He wanted secular rulers to remove church officials who were immoral or corrupt. He claimed the Bible was the only source for religious truth; not the Catholic Church. He translated the Bible from Latin to English; an act of heresy. His followers are called Lollards. The Lollards criticized the Church, destroyed images of saints, ridiculed the Mass, and ate communion bread with onions to show it was no different from ordinary bread. Wycliffe died peacefully in A.D. 1384, but his ideas spread.

2. Jan Hus (1372-1415) - a preacher and professor at the University of Prague in modern day Czech Republic. The Czechs wanted to end German control of their country and backed reforms in the Catholic Church. The Czechs produced religious pamphlets and copies of the Bible in Czech and criticized the corruption of leading church officials, many of whom were German. The Church and the German political leaders condemned the works and a violent wave of riots swept the area. In A.D. 1415 a council at Constance, Germany called Jan Hus to defend his views. The Holy Roman Emperor guaranteed his safe travel, but the guaranteed was ignored and Jan Hus was burned at the stake as a heretic. His followers called Hussites, resisted the Church and the Holy Roman Emperor and 5 crusades were launched to put down the Hussite rebellion; all failing. The Church and the Emperor compromised with the Hussite leaders and allowed them religious liberties in return for their loyalty.

II. Protestant Reformation: name given to the religious reform movement that divided the Roman Catholic Church into Catholic and Protestant groups. Begun by Martin Luther. First Protestant religion is Lutheranism.

III. Need for Reform

- a. Corruption was one reason for the need. Church officials used their church offices to advance their careers and their wealth
- b. **Sale of Indulgences** - issued by Pope Leo X to raise money in order to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica - certificate bought in order to gain forgiveness of sins. They can reduce or cancel punishments for sins, for future sins, and for the sins of dead relatives in purgatory- place in the afterlife where people are made fit for heaven. John Tetzel "Once you hear the money's ring, the soul from purgatory is free to spring." The selling of indulgences was Pope Leo X's method for raising money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome
- c. Christian Humanism
- d. **Desiderius Erasmus** - believed in ability of human beings to reason and improve themselves
- e. **The Praise of Folly** = criticized aspects of society that he believed were most in need of reform. In his work he claimed that the popes were so corrupt that they were no longer practicing Christianity. It is said that "Erasmus laid the egg that Luther hatched."

Martin Luther

- I. **Luther's development:** in 1505 he was nearly struck by lightning. He felt God was punishing him so he knelt and prayed and promised to become a monk.
- II. monk and professor of theology – study of religion at Univ. of Wittenberg, Germany.
- III. **Catholic teachings stressed faith and good works in salvation, and that the Bible and Church teachings are sources for religious truth; Luther developed the idea of **salvation/justification by faith alone** after reading St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans: "He who through faith is righteous shall live." He also taught that the Bible is the only source for religious truth, and that the Church is not a hierarchy, but a community of believers.**
- IV. **Ninety-Five Theses**
 - a. Was greatly upset with the sale of indulgences
 - b. Oct. 31, 1517 sent 95 theses to superiors criticizing church abuses and sale of indulgences
- V. **Break with the Church**
 - a. 1520 Luther began to aggressively attack Church teachings
 - b. was excommunicated in 1521
 - c. **Edict of Worms.** A council of German Princes met to bring Luther back to the church. He refused to recant and had to be hidden in a castle by Prince Frederick of Saxony. While in hiding Luther translated the New Testament into German.
- VI. **Rise of Lutheranism**
 - a. **Changed services to include: Bible readings, preaching, and song. Service held in vernacular rather than Latin. Claimed all occupations are callings, not just clergy positions.**
 - b. 1524 Luther backed the nobles in a peasant revolt

The Spread of Protestantism

Zwinglian reformation

- I. **Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)** priest from Zurich, Switzerland that introduced religious reforms
 - a. Abolished relics and images
 - b. Replaced Catholic mass with new service without any Catholic features
 - c. Established a theocracy- church-run state.
 - d. Was killed in war against Catholics because of Protestant missionary activity.

Calvin and Calvinism

- I. John Calvin (1509-
 - a. Published *Institutes of the Christian religion* – a summary of Protestant thought- and was made an instant expert and leader of Protestantism
 - b. Believed in justification by faith, emphasized an all-powerful and knowledgeable God, and developed the concept of predestination- God predetermined who was to be saved and who was damned
 - c. Reformed Geneva, Switzerland “City of God”- outlawed dancing, singing obscene songs, drunkenness, swearing, and card playing ; all were punishable
 - d. Calvinism replaced Lutheranism as most important Protestantism by mid 16th century

Anabaptists

- I. Voluntary community of adult believers -adult baptism, and considered all believers to be equal
- II. Many denied the authority of local govt. to direct their lives, and refused to hold political office, bear arms, swear oaths, and many lived separated from a society they saw as sinful. Most were peaceful, but others became radicals (zealots)
- III. These zealots caused disliked by both Catholics and other Protestants. In Munster, Germany they seized the government and private property, burned books, and practiced polygamy.
- IV. In 1600s many Anabaptist left Europe for N. America. Helped to develop the principles of religious liberty and separation of church and state. Today's Baptist, Mennonites, and Amish trace their ancestry to the Anabaptist.

Reformation in England

- I. Prelude to Reform:
 - a. War of the Roses; Lancaster (Red Rose) vs. York (White Rose.) Descendents of King Edward III fight over the English throne. War ends when Henry VII (Lancaster) marries Elizabeth of York. This begins the Tudor Dynasty. Their son is Henry VIII.
 - b. Henry VIII marries Catherine of Aragon, Spain. Their daughter is Mary Tudor (Catholic). Henry seeks a divorce from Catherine because he claims she cannot produce a male heir and that his marriage to her is incest because she was married to his brother first. Henry is afraid that after his death the lack of a male heir will cause another civil war.
- II. Break from Rome
 - a. Pope denies the divorce, and Henry kicks the Catholic Church out of England
 - b. 1533 Thomas Cranmer of Canterbury ruled the marriage null and void
 - c. Henry VIII then marries Anne Boleyn and has daughter Elizabeth (Protestant) He is excommunicated from Catholic Church
 - d. 1534 Henry VIII is declared the head of the English Church—Act of Supremacy
 - e. Act of Succession—Catholic Mary in not the heir to the throne
- III. Church of England /Anglican Church- mixture of Catholic and Protestant features
 - a. Henry goes on to have six wives; killing two
 - b. Third wife produces a son Edward VI-dies as a young king
 - c. Official sequence of religions in England: Catholic (Henry VIII) --- Church of England (Henry VIII and Edward VI) --- Catholic (Mary Tudor; Bloody Mary- burned 300 Protestants) --- Church of England (Elizabeth I)
 - d. Puritans- opponents of Catholic Rituals in the Protestant English Church. Many fled to America.

The Counter Reformation or The Catholic Reformation

During the Protestant reformation, most of the people in Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, and southern Germany remained Catholic. See map pg. 419

Nevertheless, Catholicism's power was threatened by Protestantism's increasing popularity in Northern Europe.

As a result, the Catholic Church enacted reforms that eliminated many abuses, clarified its theology, and reestablished the pope's authority over church members. It sought to stop the spread of Protestantism

Pope Paul III called a council of bishops at Trent, Italy in 1545.

Council of Trent—met until 1563; reaffirmed Catholic teachings that had been challenged by the Protestants.

1. Salvation comes through faith and good works
2. Church tradition is equal to the Bible as a source of religious truth
3. Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible was made the only acceptable version of scripture.
4. Forbade the selling of indulgences
5. Clergy were ordered to follow strict rules of behavior
6. Each diocese had to establish a **seminary**—theological school—to ensure a better educated clergy
7. Strengthened the Inquisition by censoring humanist and Protestant thinking. Published the **Index of Forbidden Books**, a list of works considered too immoral or irreligious for Catholics to read.
8. Mass- Catholic church services- should be said only in Latin
9. Maintain the Church's elaborate art and ritual

Catholic Reformation helped spark a new style of art and architecture called **baroque (buh•ROHK)**—stressed emotion, complexity, and exaggeration for dramatic effects.

Renaissance art had shown restraint, simplicity, and order.

Spreading Catholicism

Church set out to win converts and strengthen the spiritual life of Catholics.

1540—new religious order called **Society of Jesus, or Jesuits**. Founded by Ignatius of Loyola

1. Followed a strict spiritual discipline and pledged absolute obedience to the pope
2. Wore black robes of monks, lived simple lives, but did not withdraw from the world.
3. Helped the poor, set up schools, advisors in royal courts, and founded universities. Taught theology, physics, astronomy, math, archaeology, and other subjects.
4. Missionaries in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

A Divided Europe

Catholic Holy Roman Emperor Charles V tried but failed to stop the spread of Protestantism in his domains. 1555 Charles and the German princes signed the **Peace of Augsburg** – allowed each prince—whether Catholic or Lutheran-- to choose the religion of his subjects.

1. Divided Europe into a Protestant north and a Catholic south—a division that remains today.
2. Many German princes choose Protestantism in order to increase their power. They placed the new churches under their control and seized the lands and wealth owned by the Catholic Church.
3. **1500-1600 religious wars engulfed Europe**, bringing widespread killing and destruction. St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre Aug. 24 1572 violence erupted that led to the killing of 3,000 **Huguenots**- French Protestants.