

Emergence of Modern Europe



Renaissance

- Rebirth of European learning and science
- Rediscovery of Greco-Roman ideas
- Starts in the northern Italian city states because of the money from the spice trade
- Mostly an artistic movement in southern Europe (Italy)
- Mostly a literary movement in northern Europe (England)

**Religious
Reforms**

**Interest in
Social Issues**

**Artistic
Achievements**

**New Forms
of Literature**

**Exploration &
Colonization**

RENAISSANCE

HUMANISM

SECULARISM

**QUESTIONING OF IDEAS,
TRADITIONS & INSTITUTIONS**

Humanism

- Really an old idea from Ancient Greece and Rome
- Based on the Socratic and Platonic ideas of observation and reasoning
- Idea that man, not God, was the center of the universe
- Man controls his own destiny
- Man can learn about and understand his world by observation and reason without God's help
- Helped spark a new age of secular learning and the development of early modern schools and universities such as Oxford and Cambridge
- Led many to question both governments and the institutional Church

The Three Parts of Humanism

1- Revival of Greco Roman culture, literature, philosophy, etc...

2- Questioning, Skeptical spirit, Human improvement, Individualism, Concept of the Renaissance Man

3- Study ancient/original texts of the church, reform of the Church, challenge traditions of the church

HUMANISM ~ *Spirit of the Age*

Renaissance movement based on the literature and ideas of Ancient Greece and Rome, such as the worth of each individual. Renaissance scholars refer to humanism as the “*Spirit of the Age*”.

Historians define Renaissance Humanism in several ways:



1st

Early humanists were primarily interested in the study of classical (Greek and Roman) writers, especially Cicero and Virgil. Old manuscripts were studied and the classical writing style was copied. This interest in classical learning, however, was more than just a fascination with ancient times.

HUMANISM Cont.



2nd

Later the study of humanism expanded to mean a new outlook on life, including a general critical (questioning/ skeptic) spirit, a belief in achievement and education, and a secular (worldly) view. This led to great achievements in literature and the arts. The term “**humanities**” originates from the era. Among the most important beliefs was individualism, an emphasis on the dignity and worth of the individual person. Another important belief was the idea of human improvement, that people should develop their talents through many activities: politics, sports, and the arts. A “Renaissance” man would have these characteristics and broad interests.



3rd

In Northern Europe a form known as Christian Humanism developed. Instead of classical interests, the emphasis of study would have been the original texts of the Church (Hebrew and Greek). The goal for this form of humanism is reform of the Church. With independent thinking, people began to challenge long-accepted traditions, assumptions, and institutions. As they made all sorts of unsettling discoveries, it further validated their desire to challenge and question nearly everything---even long-standing church traditions.

HUMANISM

Rebirth of the Greek and Roman Culture
Solid, Stable, Enlightening, Out of the Darkness

Questioning Spirit, Individualism, and Human Improvement
Skeptical, Quest for Knowledge, Fame, Multi-Talented

Reform the Church
Revolutionary & Corruption

The Renaissance ~ “*Rebirth*”

The Italian City-States

- Renaissance began c. 1350 in the northern Italy city-states.
- These cities had dominating trade routes b/c of their location.
- Patrons – supporters of the arts, merchants and bankers who had the wealth to acquire libraries and fine works of art.
 - Medici’s were bankers who had branches in cities all over W. Europe.
 - Lorenzo de Medici (1449-1492) best known family member was a scholar, architect and poet.

The Recovery of Classical Culture

- Wealthy Italians (15th century) liked and wanted to study ancient Roman art and classical manuscripts.
- Humanities – subjects concerned with humankind & culture, as opposed to science. Language, literature, composition, history & philosophy. Music and mathematics were sometimes studied as well.

The Renaissance ~ "*Rebirth*" Cont.

Petrarch: A Pioneer of Humanism

- Francesco Petrarch (Italian poet born in 1304) led the early development of Renaissance humanism.
- Studied Roman literature & philosophy
- Collected Roman manuscripts & rediscovered forgotten authors

New Attitudes

- Interest in earthly life
 - Petrarch & other humanist tried to understand the entire civilization of the ancient world
 - The people of the Renaissance believed life on earth should be lived as fully as possible

The Renaissance ~ “*Rebirth*” Cont.

Development of Individual talents

- people of the Renaissance were interested in the unique qualities that someone stand out
- the rich benefited from the new spirit of the times

Public Service and politics

- upper-class Italians valued public service & praised those who were useful to society
- believed that an education in the humanities was a sound preparation for a rewarding life
- famous people turned to handbooks on how to succeed in politics
- In his book *The Prince* (1513), Machiavelli pointed out that rulers often lied, broke treaties, & often killed

The Renaissance ~ "Rebirth" Cont.

The Printing Press

- The Renaissance was a time of change & technology
- The most exciting was the printing press
- Johann Gutenberg was credited with printing the 1st book, the Bible
- The invention of movable type had 3 main effects
 - literacy became more widespread
 - more books could be published
 - improved communication brought advances in technology



The Northern Renaissance

- Printing helped carry the spirit & ideas of the Renaissance north from Italy to France, England, Germany, & the Netherlands
- Erasmus was a respected influential humanist
 - studied both humanities & the Christian teachings
 - thought the Church was getting greedy & corrupt & he called for a return to the simple faith of early Christianity
 - In The Praise of Folly, he criticized scholars, scientists, philosophers, & clergy for being narrow-minded
- Sir Thomas More
 - wrote the book Utopia (Greek for nowhere)
 - it described an ideal, peaceful society
 - criticized politics, society & religion

Renaissance ~ Literature & Art

Renaissance Literature

- Cervantes – greatest Spanish writer of the Renaissance, he wrote the book, Don Quixote (mocked medieval codes of chivalry)
- Rabelais – a monk who wrote Gargantua & Pantagruel, which made fun of those who did not take the humanist point of view
- Shakespeare – Julius Caesar, Anthony & Cleopatra, Hamlet

Features of Renaissance Art

- Individualism – The expression of art that was mainly expressed through the creativity of the artists who expressed their religious feelings
- Balance & Proportion – artists tried to show people, trees, buildings & mountains in their proper sizes
- Use of Perspective – impression of depth & distance on the flat surface of a painting.

New materials – oil based paints became more popular

Renaissance ~ Literature & Art Cont.

3 Geniuses of Renaissance Art

- Raphael – combined religious art w/Renaissance spirit (famous for his Madonna's)
- Michelangelo – painter, poet, architect, sculptor
 - Statue called the Pieta
 - Painted the Sistine Chapel
- Leonardo da Vinci – skilled painter
 - Painted The Last Supper and the Mona Lisa

Artists of the Northern Renaissance

- Brueghel & Rembrandt – painted realistic scenes with the use of light & shadow

The Reformation: Causes

Political

1. Loss of prestige of the papacy from its past power struggles with strong monarchs, and particularly from its humiliation during the “Avignonese Captivity” and the Great Schism.

Avignonese (Babylonian) Captivity- (1305-1377)

- Papacy under the influence of the French monarchy. Pope Clement V moved his court from Rome to Avignon, France. He appointed only French cardinals and people feared that the papacy would be dominated by the French monarchy.

Great Schism- (1378-1417)

- Pope Gregory's XI dies → Roman mobs forced the Cardinals to elect an Italian pope. The cardinals declared the election invalid, insisting they had voted under pressure. They elected a 2nd pope, who settled in Avignon, France. Italian pope refused to resign → Church faced dilemma of being led by 2 popes. Pope's authority seriously undermined and caused serious divisions in the Church.
2. Revolts in the Germanies gave princes the opportunity to increase their authority at the expense of the HREmpperor.

The Reformation: Causes Cont.

Economic

1. Monarchs resentment over increased vast land holdings of the church, resulting in the loss of royal revenue.
2. Protestant revolt gave monarchs (& princes of Germany) the chance to seize these lands and increase their own revenue.

Social

1. Criticism of the corruption w/in the church (often exaggerated) had greatly increased during the 14th and 15th centuries.
2. Resentment over the more public abuses of the church, such as:
 - Simony- the buying and selling of church office
 - Nepotism- favoritism to relatives in church appointments
 - Sale of Indulgences- pardon sold by the Catholic Church to reduce one's punishment for sins
3. In addition, there was a nationalistic feeling of resentment against a church that was an Italian church.

The Reformation: Immediate Cause

Immediate Cause was granting the privilege to sell indulgences between 1514 and 1517 by Pope Leo X

- Purpose to aid Prince Albert (Hohenzollern family) with his payments necessary for his appointment to a 3rd archbishopric.
 - The Fugger banking family had advanced the money to Prince Albert.
 - Prince Albert was to receive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the proceeds from the indulgences & the papacy the other $\frac{1}{2}$ (used for the rebuilding of St. Peter's Cathedral).
- Created much resentment in Germany, outside of the Hohenzollern holdings.

The Reformation

The Need for Church Reform

- Church corruption
- Indulgences – church pardons took the place of “good works”

The Birth of Protestantism (*Martin Luther*)

- Luther's faith – believed that men & women could only be saved by the grace of God.
- Luther's challenge to the Church – nailed a list to a church door (95 Theses)
 - Document attacked the sale of indulgences and invited debate
 - Believed that people should read the Bible to find the path to faith
 - Did not think people had to rely on interpretations by the Pope or clergy
- Excommunication – early in 1521 the Pope excluded him from membership

The Reformation

The Spread of Protestantism

- People became Lutherans for religious & political reasons
- People attracted to his teachings → read the Bible themselves
- Reformation spread where opposition to the Church had been mounting

Calvinism

- John Calvin joined the reformers in Geneva and developed the Protestant beliefs called Calvinism
- Believed that the Bible was the supreme authority in the matters of faith.
- Main idea → Predestination – belief that salvation was not a choice, but was rather pre-decided by God from the beginning of time
- Hard work and devotion were signs of God's grace
- French Calvinists became known as the Huguenots (**French Religious Wars**)

The Reformation

The Act of Supremacy

- English parliament was persuaded to approve a break w/the Church of Rome
- (1534) Parliament passed the Act, making the monarch the head of the Church of England (Anglican Church)
 - Henry VIII – sought to divorce his wife, Catherine of Aragon
 - Pope would not annul the marriage
 - Henry sought to make himself Head of the Church in England

The Counter-Reformation

- Alarmed by the spread of Protestantism, the Church began reforms
- Took actions to strengthen & spread the Catholic religion.
- Council of Trent – established that Catholics were to continue to accept the basic teachings (1545)
 - Only the Church could explain the Bible
 - Both faith and good works were necessary for salvation
 - The Pope was the highest authority in the Church

The Counter Reformation Cont.

- Banned sale of indulgences & tightened discipline on clergy
- Ordered the establishment of seminaries to train clergy
- The Inquisitions (Church courts) – many throughout Europe
 - Threatened Protestants with imprisonment or death
 - Index– catalogues of forbidden books (could not read, own or sell) & some had rules composed by the council

Effects of the Reformation

- Religious unity in W & central Europe (Middle Ages) vanished
→ divided into Catholics & Protestants
- Reformation strengthened the state at the expense of the Church
- Encouraged the spread of education
- Strengthened the middle class

The Reformation: Effects Cont.

- Destroyed the medieval political unity of Europe and fostered the spirit of modern nationalism.
- Strengthened the authority of the state over its people.
- Revived an interest in religion, but one based on authority—the Bible for Protestantism, the church for Catholicism
- Contributed to the rise to prominence of the middle class.
- Economically, gave capitalism a boost by making interest and investment of capital respectable (through Calvinism).
- Led to the terrible religious wars, in which it has been estimated that more Christians were slaughtered by Christians than all the victims of the raiding Huns of ancient Europe.
- Reflected in the struggles of the European nations in the contest for areas of the “New World”. (b/tw Spain & French Huguenots, & b/tw Spain & England)

The French Religious Wars

Henry II & Calvinism in France

- French King Henry II (1547-59) persecutes Calvinists
- Calvinism spreads despite this threat

Religious Background – State of the French Church

- 1516 French king got the right over appointments to bishoprics, convents
- Appointments often political

Economic Situation

- War w/Spain ended in 1559
- Finance war, Henry II borrowed from French bankers at high interest rates, by 1559 the crown is bankrupt
- Damage to French economy

Calvinism & French Nobility

- Lesser nobility deprived of feudal share in govt
- After 1559 → 50% of French aristocracy joins Calvinists

The French Religious Wars ~ Continued

Political Factions & Weakness of the Crown

Henry II dies 1559 → Francis II became king of France at 15

- Francis II was weak, 3 major noble families began to struggle for control of France:
 - **Guises** (geez) E. France → most powerful & fanatical Catholics
 - Gain control of the young monarch & rule the state of France
 - **Bourbons** S. France & **Montmorency - Chatillons** central France
 - Mostly Catholic—political reasons—support the Protestants

French Protestants (Calvinists) → Huguenots (hoo-guh-no)

- Bourbon & M - C families leaders in the movement
- Huguenots represented very small part (8%) of the French pop. (1560)

Francis II died in 1560 after only 1 yr as king

The French Religious Wars ~ Continued

Charles IX (9 yrs old) assumed the throne (ruled 1560-1574)

- Too young to serve as king, his mother, **Catherine de Medici** became regent (ruler of a kingdom when king is incapable of exercising that rule)

Catherine understood the Guises were a threat to her & Charles

- Became close to other families (B & M-C) → cultivate support of the Huguenots
 - Illegal for Huguenots to worship publicly (over 2000 Huguenot churches 1561)
 - Allowed Huguenots to public worship *outside* of towns (1562)
- She wanted France to remain Catholic & did not want Guises to rule
- Chip away political power of the Guises & increase political power other families (B & M-C) & Protestant allies

The French Religious Wars ~ Continued

Guises slaughtered (province of Champagne) unarmed men, women, & children [**beginning of the French Wars of Religion (1562-1598)**]

Catherine did not want a Protestant France (play both sides)

Catherine helped the Guise family plot assassination of M-C family member (major leader of the Huguenots)... assassination failed

Balancing game over → Huguenots were furious at Catherine & Guises

Catherine → Charles IX the Huguenots were plotting his overthrow

St. Bartholomew Massacre → royal forces executed over 20,000 Huguenots

- Most bloody & systematic extermination of non-combatants in Europe until WWII

Protestants fighting (reformed church) → fighting for survival against Catholics

Protestant movements transformed → militant movements

The French Religious Wars ~ Continued

1576 **Henry III** took the throne → youngest brother of Francis II & Charles IX.

(Guises) **Catholic League** → violent / fanatical & **Huguenots** → vengeance

Henry → middle of the conflict → popular support

- St. Bartholomew Massacre → troubled moderate Catholics
- Conflict upset moderate Huguenots → **politiques** ("politicians") political & social stability of France not their religious beliefs

Catholic League aided by Philip II (Spain) overthrow Protestant church in other countries

(Mid-1580's) Catholic League → control of France

Henry attacked League (1588) → out of Paris & massacre rivaled St. Bartholomew's

Henry III made alliance → Huguenot cousin, Henry of Navarre (politique)

- Peace & security of France more important than religious views

The French Religious Wars ~ Continued

Henry III was killed by a fanatical Dominican friar (1589)

Henry III → no heir, Henry of Navarre (next in line) King of France → Henry IV (1589-1610)

Only way France would find peace → ruled by tolerant *Catholic* king

July 25, 1593 → rejected his Protestant faith and officially became Catholic.

On April 13, 1598, ended religious wars in France → **Edict of Nantes**

- Edict granted Huguenots the right to...
 - Worship publicly
 - Occupy public office
 - Assemble
 - Gain admission to schools & universities
 - Administer their towns

The Thirty Years War 1618 - 1648

Last major war of religion

About politics & religion

Germany (Holy Roman Empire) 360 autonomous states

- State that levied taxes/tariffs, had own armies, made own \$\$, & enforced its own borders
- Religious differences fueled the fires of the political and economic rivalries between these separate states.
- About half the states were predominantly Protestant while the other half were predominately Catholic.

The Thirty Years War ~ Continued

Treaty of Augsburg recognized Lutheranism, but did not recognize Calvinism

- Calvinism great strides → territories in the latter 1/2 of the 16th century
- (1559) Frederick III & converted to Calvinism
- Calvinist state → allied w/England, the Netherlands, & France against the Spanish (1609)

Formed a Catholic League to counter the spread of Protestantism (Calvinism)

(1618) 2 regions erupted into war (outdo all the other religious wars
→ destructiveness)

"1st" World War fought in Europe → nearly every state became involved

Amount of casualties & human destruction → most disastrous war of European history before the 19th century

Ended w/the **Treaty of Westphalia** (1648)

- It reaffirmed the Treaty of Augsburg
- Allowed each state w/in the Holy Roman Empire to decide its own religion
- Important innovation of the treaty was the recognition of Calvinism

The Age of Discovery & Exploration

Motives: “Gold, Glory, and God”

Economic motive (“Gold”)

Sea route to the Far East to break the Italian & Muslim monopoly on the trade of textiles & spices (necessary for the preservation of meat) from the east.

- Desire for the goods of the east had been originally stimulated by the crusades (1096-1291) & by Marco Polo’s long visit to China (1275-92)
- Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 insured all-Muslim control in the near east.

Reinforced by the European States’ adoption of the economic doctrine of mercantilism in the early sixteenth century.

- Based on the belief that the real wealth of a nation resulted from its stores of gold and silver.
- This was dependent on a “favorable” balance of trade
 - More exports than imports
- Colonies could furnish the raw materials needed by the mother country, & in turn be a new market for exports from the nation.

The Age of Discovery & Exploration Cont.

Spirit of Adventure ("Glory")

- Reflected the spirit of the renaissance (c.1350- c.1600) with its great energy inquiring attitude & accent on the worth of the individual
- The opportunity was open for almost anyone to gain fame if he were courageous enough to enter unknown waters and unknown lands.

Religious Motivation ("God")

- Reflected Christian resentment toward the Muslims, who now controlled the trade between the Far East & the Near East.
- Represented the desire to convert the heathen native populations to Christianity.