

Chapter 21 The Late European Middle Ages and the Renaissance



1300s	Renaissance begins in Italy
1400s	Renaissance spreads north of Alps
1461–1483	Reign of Louis XI of France
1485–1509	Reign of Henry VII Tudor of England
1480	Russians terminate Mongols' occupation
1500s	New monarchies, new concept of state
1511	"Third Rome" idea broached in Russia

The Renaissance

- Renaissance, "rebirth", had two distinct facets
 - Change in economic and social conditions
 - Artistic and cultural movement based on that change
- Differed south and north of the Alps
- Italian Renaissance more secular, anticlerical
- North more religious, less concerned with individual excellence

The Rise of Italian City-States

- Began in Florence, Venice, Milan, Pisa all rich from trade, finance
- Attained independence pitting papal claims to those of the Holy Roman Empire
- Wealth of Italian cities
- Genoa and Venice controlled sea trade in Mediterranean and Atlantic
- Florence center of textile, leather and metal production
- Papacy makes Rome center of art and culture
- Oligarchies
 - Government run by wealthy aristocrats, headed by prince
 - Huge gap between rulers and the people



Renaissance Attitudes

Individualism

- Wealthy wanted to separate from masses
- Encouraged new pride in human potential
- Secularism
 - Focus of attention from eternal to worldly affairs
 - Saw life as opportunity for glory and pleasure
 - Man is the measure of all things
- Revival of Classical Values
 - Greeks and Romans became focus of interest
 - Collecting, editing of ancient texts

Northern Renaissance

- Rather different character: more reformist, less self-centered
- Humanism
 - Humanists were scholars aware of corruption of society, wanted changes
 - Reawakened sense of Christian duties and responsibilities
 - Confidence in power of the intellect to find truth: use reason, not dogma

Northern Renaissance Thinkers

- Thomas Moore's Utopia
 - Written as satire of society
 - People in Utopia looked out for others; were totally equal; lived by reason
 - Saw <u>society</u> as reason for problems of the world, not individual sinners
- Erasmus
 - Praise of Folly
 - Indictment of world, plea for return to simple virtues
 - New edition and translation of the New Testament
 - Two basic themes: inner nature of Christianity, importance of education
 - Inadvertent forerunner of Protestant Reformation



Francis G. Mayer/Corbis Art/Corbis

Political Economy of Renaissance Europe, Theory of the State

- State has three essential attributes:
 - Legitimacy,
 - Sovereignty,
 - Territory
- Royalty only the servant, protector of the state
- New style of monarchy with only one goal: power
- Machiavelli and The Prince power as it is in fact, not as it "should" be



Bosch, Hieronymus/The Art Gallery Collection/Alamy Limited

Royal Governments

France

- Recovered quickly from Hundred Years War
- Charles VII created first truly royal army
- Louis XI gained middle class support, expanded area of royal domain
- England
 - Magna Carta
 - Confirmed royal privilege
 - Monarchy bound by laws
 - Royal power weakened; Parliament strengthened by Hundred Years War
 - War of the Roses
 - Henry VII rebuilt royal power, avoided foreign wars

Royal Governments: Holy Roman Empire

- Struggles between Emperor and Papacy destroys centralized power
- Emperor was elected by seven leading princes and bishops
- Votes exchanged for concessions
- No bureaucracy, royal army, national parliament or power to tax
- Confederation of principalities
- Habsburg Dynasty became major ruling family
- Territories came to include Spain and overseas empire



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Royal Governments: Russia

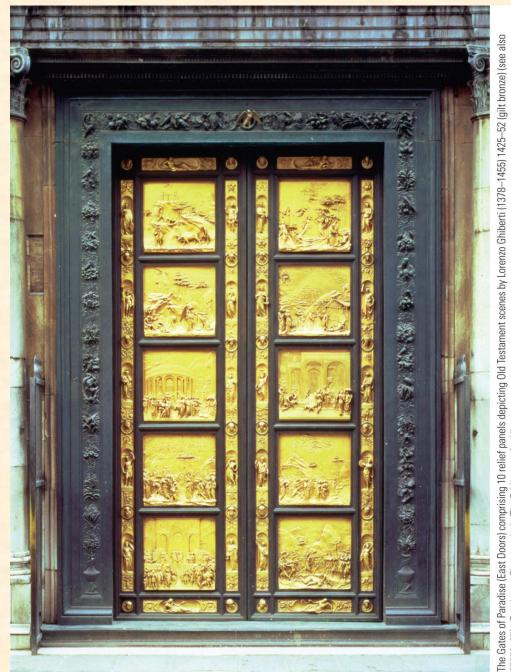
- Principality of Kiev strong ties with Byzantine Empire
- Informed religion, literature, and law
- Under Mongols Russia became isolated from Latin and Byzantine worlds
- Princes of Moscow able to establish independence from Mongols in 1480
- Claiming to be the Third Rome, take title of 'tsar' or ceasar
- Exercised more absolute power than any other European rulers
- Lack of a middle class

Art and its Patrons

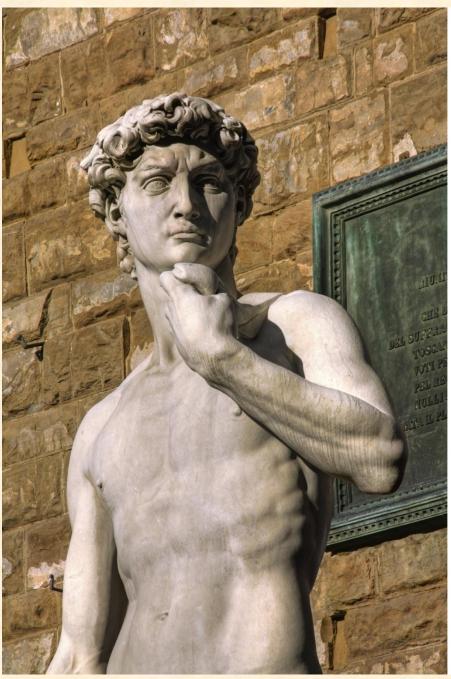
- Tremendous creative outburst in Italy
- Northern art, architecture more overtly religious
- Art was supposed to show artistic skill, experimentation
- Mastery of perspective, realism
- Sculpture saw human body as beautiful
- Architecture
- Adaptation of classic temples with columns and domes
- Gothic style rejected
- Artists like Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael respected, powerful members of society
- Patrons used art to display their wealth, treated artists as equals



The Story of David and Goliath, one of ten relief panels from the Gates of Paradise (East doors), 1425–52 (gilt bronze) (see also 87652–59 & 87661–67), Ghiberti, Lorenzo (1378–1455)/Baptistery, Florence, Italy/The Bridgeman Art Library



The Gates of Paradise (East Doors) comprising 10 relief panels depicting Old Testament scenes by Lorenzo Ghiberti (1378–1455) 1425–52 (gilt bronze) (see also 87652–67), /Baptistery, Florence, Italy/The Bridgeman Art Library



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Family Life

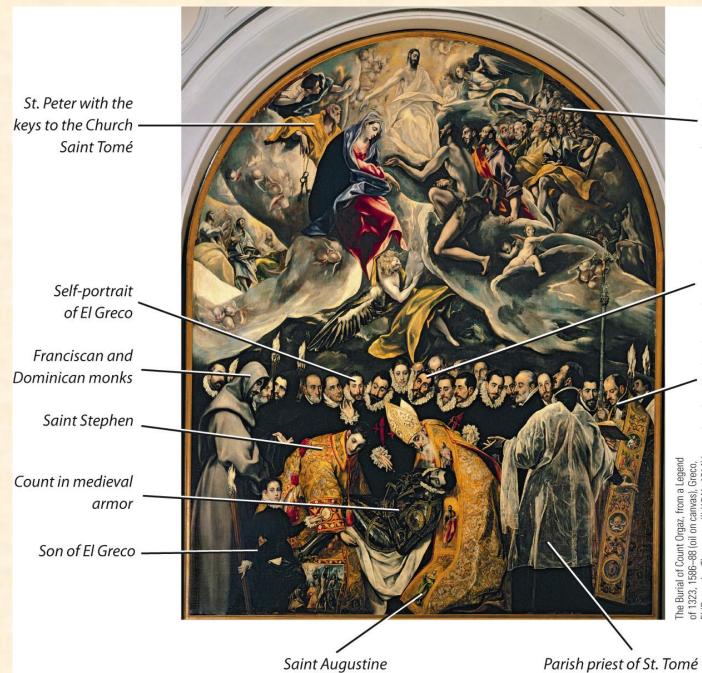
- Men still married late, women much younger
- Dowries required
- Large, extended families among the wealthy
- Women
 - Expected to run household expertly
 - Upper class women's position declined
 - Middle class women had greater responsibility, nearly equal role
 - Wives of artisans, merchants often partners in business
 - Working-class women
 - Spinning, weaving, care of livestock
 - Urban workers often did the same jobs as men
 - Victims of 16th century witch hunts

Education

- Education of Men
 - Educated for careers in commerce or crafts
 - Literacy was common in middle and upper class urban populations
- Education of Women
 - Study in home
 - Focused on vernacular literacy, music, domestic arts
 - Intellectual women had more outlets to express themselves

Children

- Children of the wealthy
 - Cared for by wet-nurses and mother as young children
 - When they reached age of seven fathers supervised education
 - Beatings, harsh punishments not unusual
- Children of lower classes
 - About half reached age of seven
 - Represented potential labor, social security for family



King Phillip II of Spain (who was still alive in 1688)

Don Juan de Silva, the official who certifies miracles

Prominent Toledans in sixteenth-century dress, whose ancestors would have assisted at the burial.

Greco, -1614) Spain/Giraudon/The neotocopuli) (154 Toledo, S.Tome, Spain/Giraudon Bridgeman Art Library Giraudon 00 (I)omeni

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