

European Renaissance and Reformation, 1300–1600

Two movements, the Renaissance and the Reformation, usher in dramatic social and cultural changes in Europe.

European Renaissance and Reformation, 1300–1600

SECTION 1 Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

SECTION 2 The Northern Renaissance

SECTION 3 Luther Leads the Reformation

SECTION 4 The Reformation Continues





Section 1

Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

The Italian Renaissance is a rebirth of learning that produces many great works of art and literature.



SECTION

1 Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

Italy's Advantages

The Renaissance

- **Renaissance**—an explosion of creativity in art, writing, and thought
- Started in northern Italy
- Lasted from 1300–1600

City-States

- Crusades spur trade
- Growth of city-states in northern Italy
- In 1300s bubonic plague killed 60% of population, disrupts economy

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continued **Italy's Advantages**

Merchants and the Medici

- A wealthy merchant class develops
- More emphasis on individual achievement
- Banking family, the Medici, controls Florence

Looking to Greece and Rome

- Artists, scholars study ruins of Rome and Latin, Greek manuscripts
- Scholars move to Rome after fall of Constantinople in 1453

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Classical and Worldly Values

Classics Lead to Humanism

- **Humanism**—intellectual movement focused on human achievements
- Humanists studied classical texts, history, literature, philosophy

Worldly Pleasures

- Renaissance society was **secular**—worldly
- Wealthy enjoyed fine food, homes, clothes

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continued **Classical and Worldly Values**

Patrons of the Arts

- **Patron**—a financial supporter of artists
- Church leaders spend money on artworks to beautify cities
- Wealthy merchants also patrons of the arts

The Renaissance Man

- Excels in many fields: the classics, art, politics, combat
- Baldassare Castiglione's *The Courtier* (1528)
- The book teaches how to become a “universal” person

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continued **Classical and Worldly Values**

The Renaissance Woman

- Upper-class, educated in classics, charming
- Expected to inspire art but not create it
- Isabella d'Este, patron of artists, wields power in Mantua

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The Renaissance Revolutionizes Art

Artistic Styles Change

- Artists use realistic style copied from classical art, often to portray religious subjects
- Painters use **perspective**—a way to show three dimensions on a canvas

Realistic Painting and Sculpture

- Realistic portraits of prominent citizens
- Sculpture shows natural postures and expressions
- The biblical David is a favorite subject among sculptors

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***continued* The Renaissance Revolutionizes Art**

Leonardo, Renaissance Man

- Leonardo da Vinci—painter, sculptor, inventor, scientist
- Paints one of the best-known portraits in the world: the *Mona Lisa*
- Famous religious painting: *The Last Supper*

Raphael Advances Realism

- Raphael Sanzio, famous for his use of perspective
- Favorite subject: the Madonna and child
- Famous painting: *School of Athens*

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continued **The Renaissance Revolutionizes Art**

Anguissola and Gentileschi

- Sofonisba Anguissola: first woman artist to gain world renown
- Artemisia Gentileschi paints strong, heroic women

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Renaissance Writers Change Literature

New Trends in Writing

- Writers use the **vernacular**—their native language
- Self-expression or to portray individuality of the subject

Petrarch and Boccaccio

- Francesco Petrarch, humanist and poet; woman named Laura is his muse
- Boccaccio is best known for the *Decameron*, a series of stories

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continued **Renaissance Writers Change Literature**

Machievelli Advises Rulers

- Niccolò Machievelli, author of political guidebook, *The Prince*
- *The Prince* examines how rulers can gain and keep power

Vittoria Colonna

- Woman writer with great influence
- Poems express personal emotions

Section 2

The Northern Renaissance

In the 1400s, the ideas of the Italian Renaissance begin to spread to Northern Europe.

SECTION

2 The Northern Renaissance

The Northern Renaissance Begins

Renaissance Ideas Spread

- Spirit of Renaissance Italy impresses visitors from northern Europe
- When Hundred Years' War ends (1453), cities grow rapidly
- Merchants in northern cities grow wealthy and sponsor artists
- England and France unify under strong monarchs who are art patrons
- Northern Renaissance artists interested in realism
- Humanists interested in social reform based on Judeo-Christian values



Artistic Ideas Spread

Renaissance Styles Migrate North

- Artists, writers move to northern Europe fleeing war in Italy (1494)

German Painters

- Albrecht Dürer's woodcuts and engravings emphasize realism
- Hans Holbein the Younger paints portraits, often of English royalty

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continued **Artistic Ideas Spread**

Flemish Painters

- Flanders is the artistic center of northern Europe
- Jan van Eyck, pioneer in oil-based painting, uses layers of paint
- Van Eyck's paintings are realistic and reveal subject's personality
- Pieter Bruegel captures scenes of peasant life with realistic details

Northern Writers Try to Reform Society

Northern Humanists

- Criticize the Catholic Church, start Christian humanism
- Want to reform society and promote education, particularly for women

Christian Humanists

- Desiderius Erasmus of Holland is best-known Christian humanist
- His book, *The Praise of Folly*, pokes fun at merchants and priests
- Thomas More of England creates a model society in his book *Utopia*

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continued **Northern Writers Try to Reform Society**

Women's Reforms

- Christine de Pizan, one of the first women writers
- She promotes education, equal treatment for boys and girls

The Elizabethan Age

Queen Elizabeth I

- Renaissance spreads to England in mid-1500s
- Period known as the Elizabethan Age, after Queen Elizabeth I
- Elizabeth reigns from 1558 to 1603

William Shakespeare

- **Shakespeare** is often regarded as the greatest playwright
- Born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564
- Plays performed at London's Globe Theater

Printing Spreads Renaissance Ideas

Chinese Invention

- Around 1045 Bi Sheng of China invents movable type
- It uses a separate piece of type for each character

Gutenberg Improves the Printing Process

- Around 1440 **Johann Gutenberg** of Germany develops printing press
- Printing press allows for quick, cheap book production
- First book printed with movable type, Gutenberg Bible (1455)

The Legacy of the Renaissance

Changes in the Arts

- Art influenced by classical Greece and Rome
- Realistic portrayals of individuals and nature
- Art is both secular and religious
- Writers use vernacular
- Art praises individual achievement

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continued **The Legacy of the Renaissance**

Changes in Society

- Printing makes information widely available
- Illiterate people benefit by having books read to them
- Published accounts of maps and charts lead to more discoveries
- Published legal proceedings make rights clearer to people
- Political structures and religious practices are questioned

Section 3

Luther Leads the Reformation

Martin Luther's protest over abuses in the Catholic Church lead to the founding of Protestant churches.

SECTION

3 Luther Leads the Reformation

Causes of the Reformation

Church Authority Challenged

- Secularism, individualism of Renaissance challenge Church authority
- Rulers challenge Church's power
- Printing press spreads secular ideas
- Northern merchants resent paying church taxes

Criticisms of the Catholic Church

- Corrupt leaders, extravagant popes
- Poorly educated priests

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continued **Causes of the Reformation**

Early Calls for Reform

- John Wycliffe and Jan Hus stress Bible's authority over clergy's
- Desiderius Erasmus and Thomas More are vocal critics of the Church
- Reading religious works, Europeans form own opinions about Church

Luther Challenges the Church

The 95 Theses

- Martin Luther protests Friar Johann Tetzel's selling of indulgences
- **Indulgence**—a pardon releasing a person from penalty for a sin
- In 1517 Luther posts his 95 Theses attacking “pardon-merchants”
- Luther's theses circulate throughout Germany
- Luther launches the **Reformation**—a movement for religious reform
- Reformation rejects pope's authority

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continued **Luther Challenges the Church**

Luther's Teachings

- People can win salvation by good works and faith
- Christian teachings must be based on the Bible, not the pope
- All people with faith are equal, can interpret Bible without priests



The Response to Luther

The Pope's Threat

- Pope Leo X issues decree threatening to excommunicate Luther (1520)
- Luther's rights of Church membership are taken away
- Luther refuses to take back his statements and is excommunicated

The Emperor's Opposition

- Charles V is Holy Roman Emperor
- He issues Edict of Worms (1521), declaring Luther a heretic
- Luther and followers begin a separate religious group—**Lutherans**

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continued **The Response to Luther****The Peasants' Revolt**

- Inspired by Reformation, German peasants seek end to serfdom (1524)
- Princes crush revolt; about 100,000 people die

Germany at War

- Some princes side with Luther, become known as **Protestants**
- Charles V fails to return rebellious princes to Catholic Church
- **Peace of Augsburg** (1555)—each prince can decide religion of his state



England Becomes Protestant

Henry VIII Wants a Son

- Henry has only daughter, needs male heir to rule England
- Henry wants a divorce; Pope refuses to **annul**—set aside—his first marriage to Catherine of Aragon

The Reformation Parliament

- Parliament passes laws ending pope's power in England
- Henry remarries, becomes official head of England's Church
- Thomas More refuses to go against Catholic Church and is beheaded

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continued **England Becomes Protestant****Consequences of Henry's Changes**

- Henry has six wives and three children
- Religious turmoil follows Henry's death (1547)
- Protestantism under King Edward, then Catholicism under Queen Mary

Elizabeth Restores Protestantism

- Henry's second daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, forms Anglican Church
- **Anglican Church** is acceptable to moderate Catholics and Protestants

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continued **England Becomes Protestant**

Elizabeth Faces Other Challenges

- Some Protestants and Catholics oppose Elizabeth
- Phillip II, Catholic King of Spain, threatens England
- Elizabeth's need for money brings conflict with Parliament



Section 4

The Reformation Continues

As Protestant reformers divide over beliefs,
the Catholic Church makes reforms.



SECTION

4 The Reformation Continues

Calvin Continues the Reformation

Religious Reform in Switzerland

- Swiss priest Huldrych Zwingli calls for Church reforms (1520)
- War breaks out between Catholics, Protestants; Zwingli killed (1531)

Calvin Formalizes Protestant Ideas

- John Calvin writes *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536):
 - we are sinful by nature and cannot earn salvation
 - God chooses who will be saved—
predestination
- **Calvinism**—religion based on Calvin's teachings

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continued **Calvin Continues the Reformation****Calvin Leads the Reformation in Switzerland**

- Calvin says ideal government is **theocracy**—rule by religious leaders
- Geneva becomes a strict Protestant theocracy led by Calvin

Calvinism Spreads

- John Knox brings Calvinism to Scotland, followers are **Presbyterians**
- Church governed by laymen called presbyters, or elders
- Calvin's followers in France called Huguenots
- Catholics massacre Huguenots in Paris (1572)



Other Protestant Reformers

The Anabaptists

- **Anabaptists** believe in separation of church and state, oppose wars
- Forerunners of Mennonites and Amish

Woman's Role in the Reformation

- Marguerite of Navarre protected Calvin in France
- Katrina Zell also protects reformers
- Katherina von Bora, Luther's wife, promotes equality in marriage

The Catholic Reformation

A Counter Reformation

- **Catholic Reformation**—seeks to reform Catholic Church from within

Ignatius of Loyola

- Leading Catholic reformer
- His *Spiritual Exercises* (1522) calls for meditation, prayer, and study
- Pope creates Society of Jesus religious order, the **Jesuits**
- Jesuits follow Ignatius, start schools, convert non-Christians



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4

continued **The Catholic Reformation****Reforming Popes**

- Pope Paul III and Pope Paul IV lead reforms
- Paul III calls **Council of Trent** to lay out reforms:
 - Church's interpretation of Bible is final
 - Christians need faith and good works for salvation
 - Bible and Church traditions equally important
 - Indulgences are valid expressions of faith
- Use Inquisition to seek out heresy
- Paul IV issues Index of Forbidden Books (1559); books burned



The Legacy of the Reformation

Religious and Social Effects of the Reformation

- Catholic Church is unified; Protestant denominations grow
- Catholics and Protestants create schools throughout Europe
- Status of women does not improve

Political Effects of the Reformation

- Catholic Church's power lessens, power of monarchs and states grow
- Reformation's questioning of beliefs brings intellectual ferment
- Late 18th century sees a new intellectual movement—the Enlightenment

