

# The Renaissance

September-14-11  
1:00 PM

## Readings for Lecture

- Cameron, Euan. "The Power of the World: Renaissance and Reformation." Page 63 - 101.

## Renaissance

- Middle Ages between the end of the Classical Era and the beginning of the Renaissance
- Started in Florence, Italy during the 14th century to 16th century.
- Divided into **Early Renaissance** and **High/Late Renaissance**.
- Rome, Venice, and Milan were all important centres of the Renaissance.
- Florence was an important commercial centre of the Mediterranean... Cross culture exchange due to trading
- **Baroque** (1600s) came after the Renaissance
- "Re-Birth"... The Classical World... Return to the original works of Plato, Socrates, etc. rather than relying on other's commentaries... More of a re-evaluation
- A great Christian civilization matured during the Middle Ages and the classical heritage had never disappeared
- Human beings doing things for themselves (accomplishment, enjoyment, etc. rather than a means of glorification to God and salvation)... **Humanism/Human Perspective**.
- **Printing Press**.. Revolutionized education, science, administration, etc.
- The Fine Arts (Botticelli, Michelangelo, D'Vinci, Raphael, etc.)
- Architecture (St. Peter's in Rome, etc.)
- Women emerging in the centre of the world (Mary Tudor, Elizabeth I, Catherine de'Medici, etc.)
- The Vernacular
- Latin in scholarship

## Classical Scholarship

- Expatriate Greeks (from 1400, 1453!) fleeing from Turkey
- Manuel Chrysoloras (1368-1415), Florence/Milan... Pleaded for help against the Turks but set up in Italy and lectured Greek science, language, philosophy, etc.
- Greek, Classical Poetry, rhetoric (translated to Latin)
- Cosimo de'Medici, the **Platonic Academy** (manned by Greek exiles, who spread the knowledge from the Byzantine), Florence (1462)... *De'Medici are an important banking family in Florence.*
- Giovanni Pico della Mirandola (1463-1494)... Italian Renaissance personality who propagated/supported Greek culture/science/language/art/etc.
- **The Renaissance Style**: the link between the mortal physical world and the immortal spiritual one.

## Humanism

- Humanists (*studias humanitatas*)
- Humane Studies (determined by Cicero; Roman philosopher): rhetoric, grammar, history, poetry, and ethics.
- Transformed Medieval heritage in the more secular spirit of their age in the light of their extensive knowledge of the classics

## Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)

- Translated and edited the Greek New Testament... Believed he had the most accurate translated version. He didn't want to contradict the spirit of the Renaissance/The Medieval Age. He was Christian.
- A love of the Classics with respect for Christian values, combined with fidelity to the Christian tradition and humanist convictions (reason and discussion)
- Was a humanist.

## The Printed Word

- Paper (introduced by Muslims in Spain, originally from China) made out of sheepskin or calfskin
- Engraving (mirror image) (Chinese technique)
- Movable print in the 1440s (generally attribute to Guttenberg, but there were several successful inventors working on it at the same time)
- Replicate a manuscript book
- Identical, corrected text
- Universities, schools, colleges
- Bibles, mass-books, encyclopaedias
- The Italic type (*hi*)... Compress as much text as possible... Leads to smaller, cheaper books.
- The ease of access of printed text
- Not cheap, but feasible (and normal) to buy books.
- **The Printing Press**: defines transition from Medieval to Modern. Most sweeping technological revolution between the wheel and the steam engine. Revolutionary event that made it possible to spread scientific knowledge. Reading the Bible, Aesop's Fables in the **vernacular**.
- In rural areas, farmers would rather to exchange ideas. Those who were literate were able to exchange the ideas orally and/or read to others aloud.

## Science and Religion

- The Middle Ages vs. Individuals... **Galileo**
- Medieval Scholars preserved Aristotle and integrated Arab science, mathematics, numerals, zero, etc.
- The flaws in the classical tradition (Ptolemy, Galen)... Classical maps contradicted discoveries of the new world, etc.
- **Copernicus** (1543)... **Heliocentric universe vs. Geocentric universe**, uniqueness of the earth, regular heavenly body
- **Galen** (theory of invisible pores), **William Harvey** (1616; blood circulation)
- **Andreas Vesalius** (1514-1564) rejected Galen (*Concerning the Structure of the Human Body*) with elaborate woodcuts
- "Science" not a unified field before the Enlightenment
- The human eyes and its power of observation (observation acquired a kind of authority)
- The individual's pursuit of question... Use reason.

## Economy, Banking, Industry

- Emergence of **money economy** (subsistence-orientated, home-grown before), now imports/exports... Merchants, the bourgeois
- Venetian merchants, East-West, state intervention
- Banks, credit... Ex: De'Medicis, Borgias
- The Venetian shipyards
- Flanders, Florence
- "manufacturing" "making by hand"
- The Florins (Florence), the Ducats (Venice)
- Venice, Florence, Paris (100,000 population)
- **Patronage**, portraits, private libraries/collections