

Italian Renaissance

1300-1600



The Italian Renaissance

Main Idea

In Italy the growth of wealthy trading cities and new ways of thinking helped lead to a rebirth of the arts and learning. This era became known as the Renaissance.

The Beginning of the Renaissance

Michelangelo's painting was different from the art of the Middle Ages, and only one way in which European society began changing after the 1300s.

Changes in Society

- 1300, Black Death, starvation, warfare had overtaken Europe
- Catastrophic events, enormous loss of life may have led to changes of the 1300s
- Decrease in population led to:
 - Increase in food production
 - Decline in food prices
 - More money to spend
 - Specialization in products

The Rise of City-States

- Urban areas specialized, particularly in Italy
- Italy divided into several large city-states in north, various kingdoms, Papal States south
- Catholic Church, nobles, merchants, artisans dominated society in city-states
- Many sought to display new wealth with knowledge of arts

Renaissance Ideas

As the economy and society changed, new ideas began to appear. This period of interest and developments in art, literature, science and learning is known as the **Renaissance**, French for “rebirth.”

Inspiration from the Ancients

- Venetian ships carried goods for trade and Greek scholars seeking refuge
- Scholars brought ancient works thought to be lost

New World of Ideas

- Italians who could read looked for more information
- Read Arabic translations of original texts
- Searched libraries, found lost texts

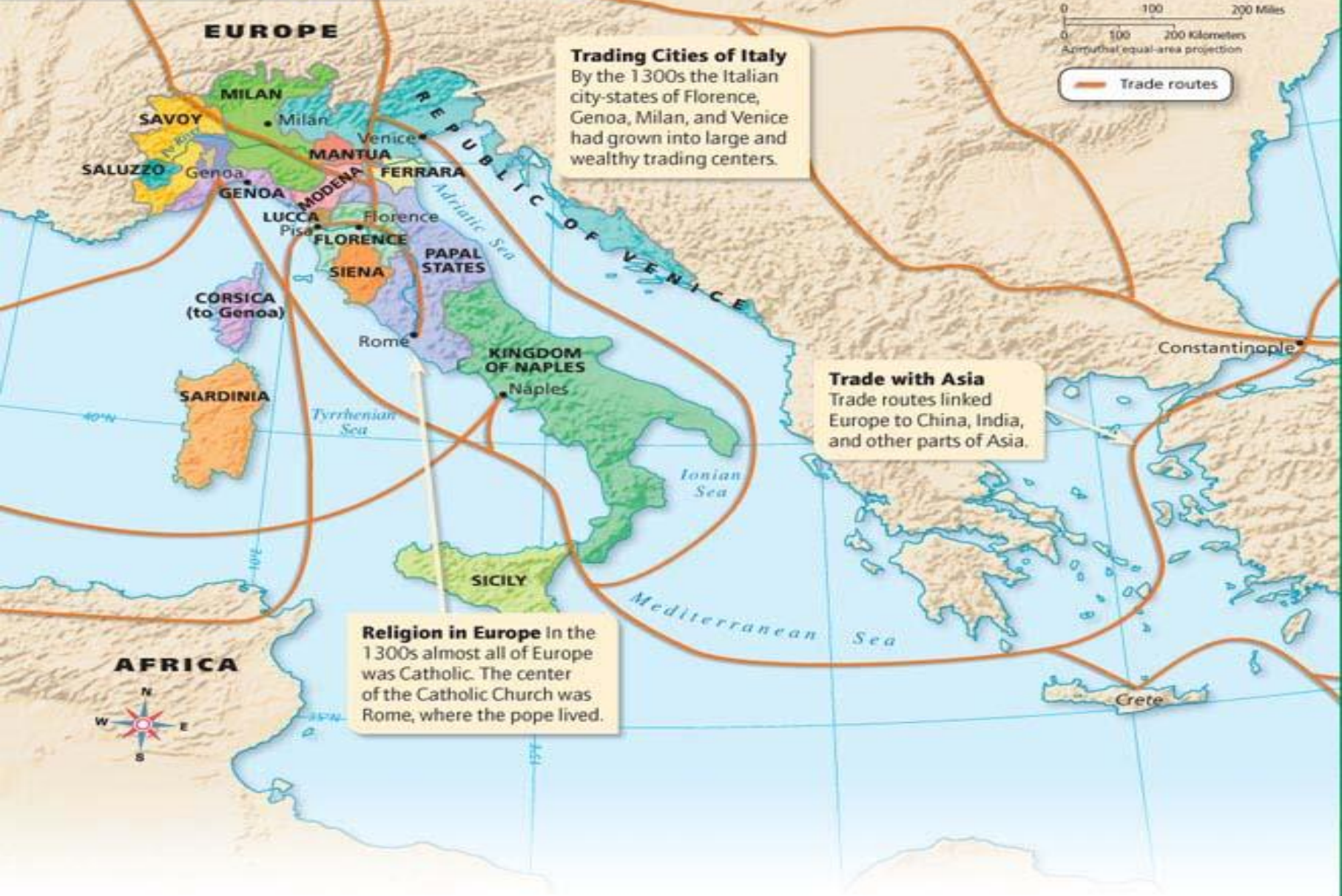
Different Viewpoints

- As they read, began to think about philosophy, art, science in different ways
- Began to believe in human capacity to create, achieve



Interactive

EUROPE, C. 1300



0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers
Acrutathal equal-area projection

Trade routes

Trading Cities of Italy
By the 1300s the Italian city-states of Florence, Genoa, Milan, and Venice had grown into large and wealthy trading centers.

Trade with Asia
Trade routes linked Europe to China, India, and other parts of Asia.

Religion in Europe In the 1300s almost all of Europe was Catholic. The center of the Catholic Church was Rome, where the pope lived.

AFRICA



Italian States

- The civilization of the Italian Renaissance was urban, centered on towns that had become prosperous from manufacturing, trade, and banking.
- Italians had acquired considerable wealth, and some of this wealth was used to support writers, scholars, and artists.

- During the Renaissance, Italy remained divided politically. In northern Italy, the city-states of Florence, Milan, and Venice became major centers of the Renaissance civilization.
- Rome dominated the Papal States of central Italy, while the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies embraced most of southern Italy.

Italian States

- Florence
 - Oligarchy
 - Medici family
 - Savonarola
- Milan
 - Condottiere
 - Spanish empire
- Venice
 - Great Council
 - Doge
 - Monopoly on spice and luxury trade
- Papal States
 - Renaissance Popes
 - Julius II
 - Kingdom of the Two Sicilies
 - Poor land
 - Spanish empire

Venice

- With access to sea, Venice built economy, reputation on trade
- Had long history of trading with other ports on Mediterranean Sea
- Shipbuilding prospered, sailors traveled to Near East
- Wealthy Venetian merchants built unique city, “work of art”

Milan, Florence

- Milan, west of Venice, based economy on agriculture, silk, weapons
- Florence, to south, famous for banking, cloth
- Monarchs appealed to Florentine bankers for money to fund wars
- Merchants refined raw wool into fine cloth
- Bankers, merchants created city to rival any in Europe

Secular Writers

- Early 1500s life in Italy seemed insecure, precarious
- Church no longer served as source of stability, peace
- Form of humanism developed from Petrarch's ideas; focus was **secular**, was worldly rather than spiritual

Service

- Humanists argued that individual achievement, education could be fully expressed only if people used talents, abilities in service of cities.

Renaissance Man

- Ideal Renaissance man came to be “universal man,” accomplished in classics, but also man of action, who could respond to all situations.

Examples of Renaissance Men

How to Act

- Italian diplomat **Baldassare Castiglione** wrote book, *The Courtier*
- Described how perfect Renaissance gentleman, gentlewoman should act
- Book includes fictional conversation between duke, guests

Castiglione's Advice

- Castiglione gave nobles new rules for refined behavior in humanist society
- Speak of serious, as well of amusing subjects; know Latin, Greek
- Be well-acquainted with poetry, history; be able to write prose, poetry

How to Rule

- Philosopher, statesman **Niccolò Machiavelli** also wrote influential book
- Experiences with violent politics influenced opinions on how governments should rule in *The Prince*

Machiavelli

Machiavellian advice seemed to encourage harsh treatment of citizens, rival states

- Describes men as “ungrateful, fickle, liars, and deceivers”
- Advises rulers to separate morals from politics
 - Power, ruthlessness more useful than idealism
 - Ruler must do whatever necessary to maintain political power, even if cruel
- Machiavelli’s theory that “the end justifies the means” deviated from accepted views of correct behavior
- Idea that state an entity in itself, separate from its ruler, became foundation for later political philosophy

Italian Renaissance Art

- Religious scenes focused on expressions
- Holy as human
- God's beauty in world
- Neo-Platonism
- Nude body
- Uniqueness - self-portraits
- Pagan myths as Christian icons
- Individual-secular-profane

Renaissance Art

The arts a reflection of the new humanist spirit

Medieval artists—idealized and symbolic representations

Renaissance artists depicted what they observed in nature

Patrons of the Arts

- Medieval times, anonymous artists who worked for church created art
- Renaissance artists worked for whoever offered them highest price
- Buyers of art, patrons, might be wealthy individuals, city governments, or church

Competition Among Patrons

- Wealthy individuals competed, displaying wealth, modernity through purchase of artworks
- Florence, **Lorenzo de Medici** supported most talented artists
- Milan, ruling Sforza family benefactors of artists, others

Renaissance artists wanted to paint the natural world as realistically as possible.

Leonardo da Vinci

- Highly talented in all fields
- His paintings are still studied and admired
- Wrote out ideas, filling 20,000 pages of notes
- His interests, enthusiasm boundless

Michelangelo

- Studied anatomy
- Age 24, won fame with *Pietà*, sculpture of Jesus' mother Mary holding son's dead body
- Sculpture communicates grief, love, acceptance, immortality

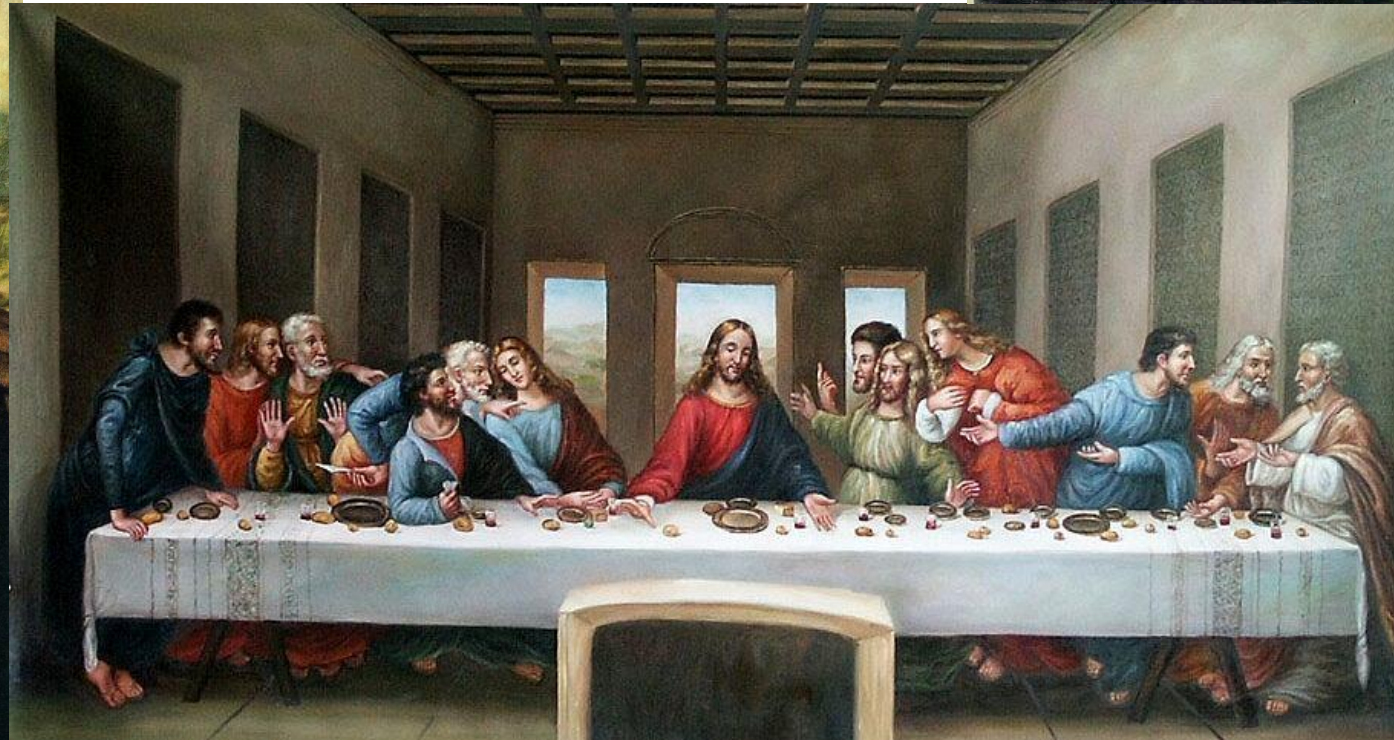
Sculpture, Painting

- Marble statue of *David*
- Most famous painting, artwork on ceiling of Sistine Chapel
- Scenes from Old Testament considered one of greatest achievements in art history



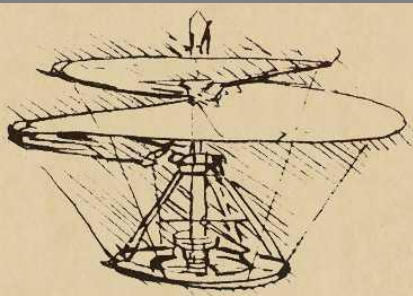
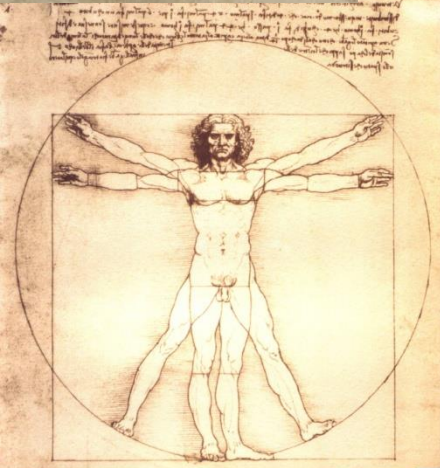
Leonardo da Vinci

- First Italian artist to use oil paints
- *Mona Lisa*
- *The Last Supper*
- *The Virgin of the Rocks*
- Religious matter in secular and humanized fashion



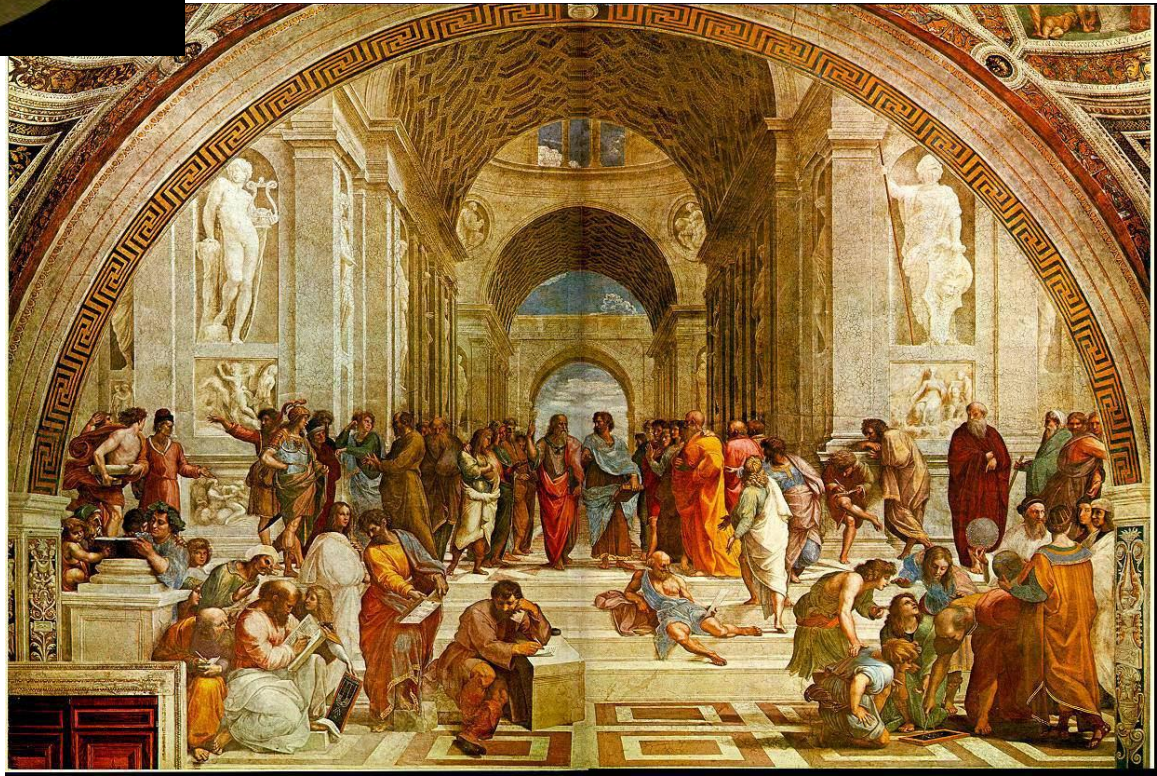
Leonardo da Vinci

- Studying fossils
- Anatomy from dissections
- First accurate description of human skeleton
- Remained on paper



Raphael Santi

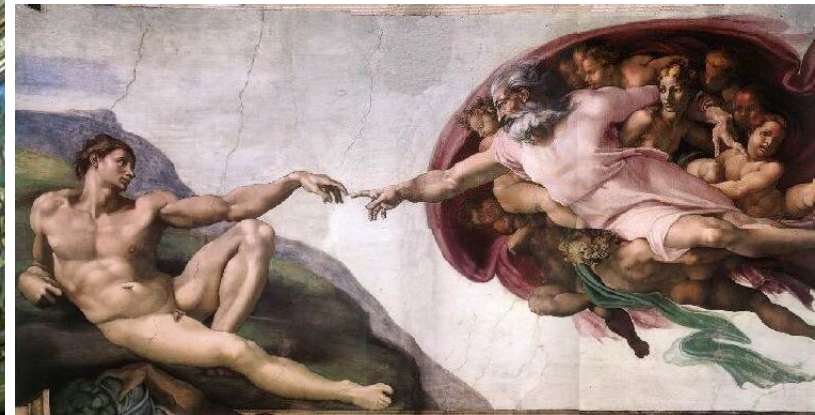
- Humanized Madonna paintings
- *Sistine Madonna*
- *School of Athens*



Michelangelo Buonarroti



- Sistine Chapel
 - Nine scenes of OT from Creation to Flood
- *The Last Judgment*
- *David*
- *Moses*
- *Pieta*
- *Dying Slave*
- *Night*



Michelangelo Buonarroti

