

# TRIMESTER 1

## HISTORY OVERVIEW

### 2023-2024

#### *Where we are heading in Trimester 1*

We will see a recovery from the devastation wrought by the plague in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the seemingly endless wars that harassed lives in the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and enter into an age of recovery. The recuperation from the Black Death, political disorder, and economic recession gives way to cultural rebirth, a “Renaissance” of ancient Greco-Roman culture.

The Renaissance began in the great city-states of Italy but eventually spread throughout Europe. Florence, the Papal States, Venice, and Milan were the most powerful city-states. Although the Italian elites never used the words “Renaissance” or “Rinascimento,” they knew that a cultural rebirth was occurring. The literary, philosophical, and artistic grandeur of ancient Greece and Rome was in ascendance. The Renaissance saw the rise of strong central governments and an increasingly urban economy based on commerce rather than agriculture. The achievements of the Italian Renaissance were the product of an elite, wealthy upper class rather than a popular mass movement. As the Renaissance spread north, it was influenced by the northern culture, resulting in a distinctive Northern Renaissance.

This period was also the Age of Discovery. The Ottoman conquest of the Byzantine Empire and the breakup of the Mongol Empire had reduced Western trade with the East. With the closing of overland routes, many Europeans sought access to Asia by sea. Marco Polo’s *Travels* inspired Christopher Columbus to venture across the Atlantic in search of more direct access to eastern spices. Portuguese explorers mapped the African coast, finding a sea route east by rounding the African cape. Spanish and Portuguese explorers brought great wealth to the nations of Spain and Portugal, which strengthened and empowered their rise as nations. Not only did the Spanish and Portuguese establish the first European empires in the Americas, but they also initiated the early slave trade. Generally speaking, the slave trade era began in 1501 when ships began crossing the Atlantic laden with captive Africans for sale in the Greater Antilles. From this beginning, the transatlantic slave trade would endure for 366 years. During those years of active trade, 12.5 million Africans were forcibly transported to the New World.

## **General Overview of the Italian Renaissance (1330-1550)**

Cultural rebirths (major and minor) are a common occurrence in history. Most generations have a propensity to look back on golden ages and seek to restore them. For example:

- Ancient Egypt – Middle and New Kingdoms (which followed chaotic collapses called Intermediate periods) were renaissances
- Ancient Greece – Alexander the Great created an empire in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. Hellenistic court artists tried to recapture the splendor of 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Athens.
- Ancient Rome – Imperial Rome looked back to the noble spirit of the Republic.
- Charlemagne – Carolingian Renaissance, looking back on Ancient Rome.
  - Charlemagne lacked the economic resources to expand the ambitious cultural program, *BUT* – it was something to build upon!
- By the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Holy Roman Empire, which saw itself as a successor state to Rome, was a permanent element in medieval society and a reminder that the achievements of Roman antiquity were capable of re-creation.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Century Renaissance – new universities core to this renaissance. The courses provided a foundation for the Italian Renaissance 200 years later.

## **The Italian Renaissance**

The Renaissance was a revival/rebirth of society. Recovering from the crisis-ridden 14<sup>th</sup> century, it began in late 14th-century Italy and then spread throughout Latin Christendom.

### **Factors leading to the birth of the Renaissance**

- Growth of cities
- Growth of trade
- Rise of rich/powerful patrons
- Technical progress
  - Printing press – the MOST important invention
- Spiritual developments
  - Dissatisfaction with the corruption/disrepute of the medieval Church led to new thinking that fueled both the Renaissance and Reformation
  - Humanism was the backbone of the Renaissance

Without economic and technological developments, the Renaissance couldn't have taken the form that it did, but the Renaissance was primarily a **HUMAN** event.

- Renaissance was the work of individuals with outstanding talent, and in a sense was about individualism
- Emphasis on individual ability created the new ideal of the universal man

The new thinking of the Renaissance produced the conviction that humanity was capable of mastering the world in which it lived.

Renaissance figures:

- are filled with self-confidence
- believed God-given ingenuity could unravel the secrets of God's universe
- man's fate could be controlled or improved

*The Renaissance was a break, or the beginning of a break, with the medieval mentality of the Middle Ages:*

- *unity of religion under Western Latin Catholicism*
- *superstitious*
- *life centered around the liturgical year*
- *the 'Great Chain of Being' hierarchy with God at the top of the ladder followed by angels demons, kings/nobles, commoners, and serfs/peasants on the bottom rung*
- *the broad social classifications of kings/nobility, clergy, and peasants.*

Although the Renaissance was the rebirth of society, it was not an abrupt transformation. The Renaissance Age was a time of transition betwixt medieval civilization and 'modern Europe.' It contained a mixture of medievalism with new ideas. The same period that contained humanist thought, reformation theology, scientific thought, and overseas exploration also included divination, folk cures, astrology, ghosts, and fairies. Renaissance cities teemed with new ideas while the countryside remained entangled in medieval traditions. Trials for witches occurred while printing, Humanism, and gunpowder weaponry propelled society toward a modern age. That opinions differed regarding the dawning of the Renaissance is hardly surprising.

Historians disagree on when the Renaissance began. Susan Wise Bauer sees it beginning around 1140 CE when classical Greek and Roman texts transcribed into Arabic were discovered in Muslim Spain and translated into Latin by Italian scholar Gerard of Cremona. However, historian Philip Daleader contends that the Middle Ages lasted until the period between 1750-1850 when he recognizes the world as more *unlike* than like the Middle Ages: the period of the Enlightenment, the French Revolution and the establishment of the First Republic in France, abolition of serfdom, and the emergence of liberalism. He sees the earlier 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries still disengaging from the Middle Ages. Between those early and late dates lies the traditional dating for the Italian Renaissance of c1330 CE -1550 CE.

## Main Cities and Players in Italian Renaissance



<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/f2/e8/4f/f2e84f2d039419910c839f426a5f5aa0.jpg>

### 1. Florence – (Tuscany region)

The Renaissance was born in Florence, ‘the mother of modern Europe.’ The Medici family drove the Renaissance movement.

Florence had a republican government - governing circles felt that Florentines were true heirs to Republican Rome. The ancient Roman virtues of which Cicero spoke and of which Cato was ideal had been reborn in Florence.

### Key Figures

- *Important Rulers*
  - de 'Medici Family

- Cosimo
    - Lorenzo
  - Savonarola
- *Renaissance Artists*
  - Donatello (sculptor)
  - Ghiberti (sculptor)
  - Brunelleschi (architect)
  - Michelangelo (painter, sculptor)
  - Leonardo da Vinci (painter, polymath)
  - Verrochio (painter, sculptor)
  - Botticelli (painter)
- *Diplomat/Philosopher*
  - Machiavelli
- *Popes*
  - Pope Leo X – Giovanni de ‘Medici, Lorenzo’s son
  - Pope Clement VIII – Giulio de ‘Medici, Lorenzo’s nephew; cousin to Pope Leo X

**2.Milan** (Lombardy region -*The Lombards settled this area following the fall of Western Roman Empire*)

Lombard plain was the scene of wars and invasions for more than a thousand years. It was only once united, by Napoleon, between the fall of the Roman Empire and the unification of Italy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Renaissance Milan - ruled by dukes as a dictatorship.

Key Figures

- *Important Rulers*
  - 3 Great Dukes of Milan
    - Gian Galeazzo Visconti
    - Francesco Sforza
    - Lodovico ‘Il Moro’ Sforza
- *Renaissance Artists*
  - Leonardo da Vinci
  - Bramante (architect)

**3.Rome** – (Papal States)

The Papacy increasingly became the seat of an international politician rather than a spiritual leader as the power of northern city-states grew. The behavior of the popes began to parallel the behavior of princes as they attempted to compete with the gilded city-states around them, becoming major patrons of the arts in the process.

### Key Figures

- *Important Rulers*
  - Pope Nicholas V
  - Pope Sixtus IV
  - Pope Alexander VI (Rodrigo Borgia)
  - Cesare Borgia (illegitimate son of Pope Alexander VI)
  - Pope Julius II
  - Leo X (son of Lorenzo de 'Medici)
- *Renaissance Artists*
  - Michelangelo
  - Botticelli
  - Raphael
  - Ghirlandaio
- *Architects*
  - Rossellino
  - Alberti
  - Brunelleschi

### **4.Venice** – (on Adriatic coastline)

Ruled by an oligarchy in the hands of its Great Council of Ten, comprised of noble families

The culture of Venice linked with Byzantium, under whose wing she had grown to greatness. She was a cosmopolitan city and lived by her trading ships. Venice was also the true home of portraiture.

### Key Figures

- *Rulers*
  - Doge Foscari
- *Renaissance Artists*
  - Titian
  - Fabriano
  - Bellini
  - Carpaccio
- *Architect*
  - Palladio

## **Artistic Renaissance**

### **c. 1330-1480 Early Renaissance**

Artists are just beginning to portray human bodies realistically with correct proportions, realistic clothing, and expressions. Imitation of nature was a primary goal. Also, humans became a focus of attention – the “center and measure of all things.” Realistic portrayal of the human nude was a preoccupation in Renaissance art. New painting techniques are developed to give a 3-dimensional, lifelike quality.

*Dominant Artists of the Early Renaissance:*

High Renaissance masters proclaimed that Giotto and Masaccio began the early Renaissance movement. The dominant artists of the period are:

- Botticelli - painter
- Ghiberti - sculptor
- Brunelleschi - architect
- Donatello - sculptor

***Florence*** was the cultural center for the Early Renaissance

### **c. 1480-1520 High Renaissance**

Artists built upon the foundations of Early Renaissance artists. This period represented a *culmination*. Artists had the tools, training, and confidence to create the masterpieces that were within them. Artists moved from realism to idealization of nature; attempted to portray the ideal form.

*Dominant artists of the High Renaissance:*

- Leonardo – painter, sculptor, inventor, polymath
- Michelangelo – sculptor, painter, architect
- Raphael – painter, architect, designer

***Rome*** was the cultural center for the High Renaissance

### **c. 1500-1650 Northern Renaissance**

*Northern Renaissance is a term to describe the Renaissance outside of Italy*

The Italian Renaissance spread north of the Alps into Europe, but it was not replicated exactly as in Italy. Southern innovations influenced northern artists, but northern European culture was different, so the Northern Renaissance looked different:

- Influenced by the Protestant Reformation
- New subject matter: landscape, genre painting (ordinary life)
  - Merchant class wanted art for domestic display; therefore it reflected the mercantile world

- Domestic interiors, portraits, daily life
- Art noted for its precise observation and naturalism in landscape painting
- Focus on oils (northern climate not well suited for frescos)
- Focus on color and expert rendering of detail
- Since churches had limited space, wooden panel altarpieces painted with oil and illuminated manuscripts predominant art forms
- Objects in paintings had symbolic meaning (iconography):
  - Dog = fidelity (Fido)
  - Fruit on windowsill = wealth or temptation

Noted artists of the Northern Renaissance

- Jan van Eyck
- Albrecht Durer
- Hans Holbein
- Pieter Brueghel

### **Differences Between the Italian and Northern Renaissance**

	<b><u>Italian Renaissance</u></b> Italy	<b><u>Northern Renaissance</u></b> Outside of Italy – initially Germany; Burgundy-controlled Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg; Burgundy
<b>Subject Matter</b>	Classical mythology, religious scenes	Domestic interiors, portraits, daily life, landscapes, religious scenes
<b>Style</b>	Symmetrical, balanced, good sense of mass, linear perspective	Attention to detail, naturalism, intense realism
<b>Known for:</b>	Figures with mass and volume, knowledge of underlying anatomy	Minute surface detail – light reflections off jewels/metal, textures appear real
<b>Media</b>	Fresco, tempera, oil	Oil on wood panel
<b>Philosophical Influence</b>	Humanism	Protestant Reformation / religious reform



<b>Artistic Influence</b>	Ready access to antiquities helps inspire emulation of antiquities, especially in architecture and sculpture, and mythologically-themed paintings	Not ready access to antiquities so drew influence from medieval traditions like gothic architecture and illuminated manuscripts
<b>Art Patrons</b>	Church, ruling class elite	Merchant class who wanted art for their homes, monarchs
<b>Example</b>	Michelangelo, <i>Creation of Adam</i> from the Sistine Chapel	Jan van Eyck, <i>Arnolfini Wedding Portrait</i>

**8/30-8/31**

## ***Gutenberg***

**Date** c. 1398-1468

### ***Themes***

Science and Technology

Trade and Commerce

Literary Traditions

### ***Readings***

SOTW(2) Ch 35 Gutenberg Invention (Pri/Int)

Amazing Printing Press (in class - Pri/Int)

Hist US V1 Ch 14 p67-68 end of 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph (LMS/UMS) “The Power of the Press”

### **Printing**

Printing – **THE MOST IMPORTANT** cultural event of the Renaissance period and one of the greatest revolutions in information technology. Historians argue that the printing press was among the most revolutionary inventions in human history, “dwarfing in scale anything which had occurred since the invention of writing.”

“The movable type printing press was the great revolution in Renaissance information technology and arguably provides the closest historical parallel to the emergence of the internet.” –  
*Jeremiah Dittmar, economist*

### **History of Movable Type**

- Chinese invented movable type in the 10<sup>th</sup> century but did not have a machine that could manage thousands of characters. Their complicated writing system was a detriment; printing needed a structured alphabet.
- The Mongolians had paper, movable type, and an alphabet, but they didn't have a system of written literature which could have spurred on the progression of written words.
- Paper came from China via the Muslim world, reaching Spain and Italy. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century, water-powered the paper mills. Efficiently produced, paper was cheaper than any other writing material.
  - *Availability of cheap paper in growing quantities was a key factor in making the invention of printing by movable type the central technological event of the Renaissance.*

### **Johann Gutenberg** – The man who made it happen

Limited biographical knowledge

- Johann Gensfleisch zum Gutenberg, born in Mainz, Germany 1394-1404 (exact birthdate unknown). Believed to have learned the goldsmith trade.
- Moved to Strasbourg before 1434. Involved in a partnership to mass-produce mirrors of polished metal for pilgrims traveling to Aachen.
- 1444-1448 returned to Mainz, entered into a partnership with Johannes Faust (or Fust). Faust furnished money to set up a printing press.
- Gutenberg's great innovation was developing a casting system and metal alloys for the movable type, which made production easier
- famous for the Gutenberg Bible. He also printed indulgences. There is a beautifully preserved indulgence created in 1454 (most likely by Gutenberg) which was issued February 27, 1455. It was to support a campaign against the military successes of the Turks.
- 1455 – document shows his business partner Johann Faust sued him for the return of a loan (probably used to produce the Gutenberg Bible). Gutenberg lost his press to Faust.
- Gutenberg again set up a press with help from a councilor of Mainz. He died in 1468.

- Besides the printing press, Gutenberg invented an ink (a mixture of oil, copper, and lead) which remains bright over 500 years later.

### **Spread of the New Technology**

- The key innovation in printing (the precise combination of metal alloys and the process used to cast the metal type) were TRADE SECRETS. This knowledge remained quasi-proprietary for almost a century!
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> manual on the production of movable type was printed in 1540 – 90 years after the invention of the printing press.
- 1450-1500, the master printers who established presses in cities were mostly German, either apprentices of Gutenberg and partners or those who learned from former apprentices.
- Printing spread to other German cities in 1450's, Italy in 1460's, then to France and the rest of Europe. By 1500, there were 1,000+ printers in Europe.
- Total # of books in Europe-
  - Pre-1450 = less than 100,000
  - By 1500 = estimated between 8 and 10 million

### **Cities with printing presses enjoyed special advantages:**

- Printing presses attracted paper mills, illuminators, translators, students and schools to the cities.
- The printer's workshop brought scholars, merchants, craftsmen, and mechanics together for the first time in a commercial environment. Not only books were produced, but also created were "printer-scholars" who could handle machinery and marketing, founded learned societies and promoted artists and authors.

### ***Impact of Printing***

*The rapid spread of knowledge made possible by the printing press contributed to the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution. For this reason, Time Magazine chose Gutenberg as the "Man of the Millennium."*

**9/6-9/7**

***The Italian Renaissance***

***Date*** c. 1350-1550

***Themes***

Trade and Commerce

Conflict and Conquest

The Arts

Philosophy and Religion

***Readings***

Pri/Int: SOTW(2) Ch 35 New Way of Thinking

Pri: *Leonardo's Horse*

Int/LMS: Ren Artists Intro pp 1-9

UMS: R&R Hx in Docs pp. vii-ix and pp 1-3 end of 3rd paragraph (UMS)

### **The Italian Renaissance**

- The cultural rebirth that occurred in Europe from mid-14<sup>th</sup> century through the 16<sup>th</sup> century, based on the rediscovery/rereading of the literature of ancient Rome and Greece.

The term '*renaissance*' came from the Latin '*renatio.*' *Renatio* (rebirth) was a Latin translation for the Greek theological term *palingenesis*, used in the sense of 'spiritual rebirth' or 'resurrection from the dead.'

### **Origins**

The Renaissance began in Italy. It came out of the calamitous 14<sup>th</sup> century. The crisis of the 14<sup>th</sup> century shook people's confidence in traditional medieval society and provided the impetus to make a new start.

### **Characteristics of the Renaissance Age**

- Return to Greek and Latin classics
- Secularism, fostered by return to pagan classics
- Individualism – personal independence and individual expression
- Man centered – optimism about human potential
- An elite movement – intellectuals and artists created for the upper classes, although renaissance ideas did raise questions about medieval traditions among the lower classes
- Artistic brilliance – great achievements in painting, sculpture, and architecture
- Era of "new monarchies" – central power of monarchical governments are reestablished, as seen in England, France, and Spain
- Age of Discovery and exploration of the world
- The Intellectual Renaissance gave rise to the Reformation

### **Background: Crisis of 14<sup>th</sup> century led to the birth of Renaissance**

The transition to the early modern period started during the 14<sup>th</sup>-century crisis with the reversal of a majority of High Middle Ages trends.

The 14<sup>th</sup> century saw a cascade of disasters:

- Decreased population (due to famine, plague, war)
  - A reversal of population growth and expansion of the High Middle Ages
- Economic depression (pop caused: prices, ag production, product demand)
  - A reversal of economic expansion of the High Middle Ages

- Political instability (popular revolts, civil wars between nobles, and international wars)
  - A reversal of relative political stability of the High Middle Ages
- Disaster of the Church
  - Power and integrity of the Church lost because of the Babylonian Captivity (Popes resided in Avignon, France instead of Rome), Great Schism and church corruption (getting \$ by new fees and taxes, selling more indulgences and dispensations, and charging common people fees never before required)

### Why did the Renaissance happen in Italy in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century?

*Social and political events of the time led to Italy becoming the cradle of the Renaissance:*

- **Wealthy economy**
  - Northern Italy first place to recover from 14<sup>th</sup>-century depression; strategically located between Europe and Byzantium/the East enabled its participation in international trade and the market economy
    - Trade – at crossroads for trade between the Middle East and Europe (Genoa and Venice great maritime traders)
    - Banking
    - Industry – wool, metallurgy, mining

*Wealth was invested in education, culture, and art*
- **Urban society**
  - Northern Italy dominated by independent city-states, no feudalism
    - Politicized cities – upper class held public offices, lower classes took part in debates
      - This political environment created need to train/educate people in debate and discussion, to hold office, give service to the city, vote responsibly

*How did they create educated and trained people to participate in the political life of the cities?*

- **Creation of new Humanist educational system**
  - Intellectuals viewed the Middle Ages as a time of decay/disaster and saw antiquity as the golden age of civilization
    - With new historical vision, decided to improve society by remaking society in the image of antiquity
    - A rediscovery/rereading of ancient Greek and Roman writings led to a revolutionary new educational system called **HUMANISM**

*Humanism was the intellectual movement that was the catalyst for the Renaissance, based on the study of Greek and Roman classics.*

### Foundation of Humanism

The foundation of Renaissance humanism was the work of medieval scribes and scholars. They preserved Latin literature through meticulous copying of Latin manuscripts that survived the tumultuous years following the fall of the Western Roman Empire. English and Irish monks living in monasteries during the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries collected, read and copied classical Latin texts. They also wrote Latin grammar books. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century Alcuin, an English monk and scholar, was sent to Charlemagne's court to set up monastic schools in the Carolingian empire. Schools were established in the France, Germany and northern Italy of today. Latin spread from the monasteries to the courts and universities, becoming the international language of learning. However, this Latin was heavily influenced by the vernacular and lacked the prose of classical Latin writers such as Cicero.

Beginning in the late 1300s, a group of scholars centered in Florence began to look for the past for inspiration. These scholars were later called humanists because they stressed human innovation instead of spiritualism. By studying the classics, they believed they could better understand people and the world. They recreated classical styles in art, literature, and architecture.

Humanism was the philosophical backbone of the Renaissance, emphasizing the potential for individual achievement. Humanists considered man a creature of destiny – provoked by his self. Humans were reasonable, rational beings capable of truth and goodness. The scholars promoted the investigation of nature, sought to be clear and articulate in their speaking and writing, and promoted the responsibility of every citizen to the community.

Humanists emphasized the importance of human values instead of religious beliefs. Renaissance humanists were often devout Christians, but their promotion of secular values often put them at odds with the church. Today we refer to the study of literature, philosophy, and art as the humanities.

## **2 Branches of Humanism-**

- Humanism – individually oriented
  - concerned with an individual's ethics, morality, and conduct
- Civic Humanism – politically and socially oriented
  - concerned with an ethical citizenry, political participants

The growth of humanism depended upon the patronage of the wealthy and powerful who founded libraries, collected manuscripts, commissioned manuscripts and translations, and hired tutors to educate their children.

Instrumental to the spread of humanism was the printing press. Copies of classical texts and new works of scholarship could be produced and distributed rapidly throughout Europe. Also,

scholars could build working libraries quickly. Gone were the days when it took around two years for 45 scribes to produce 200 books! (This was how long it took for a Florentine bookseller to fulfill Cosimo de' Medici's commission for 200 books in the mid-1400s.)

## **Petrarch "The Father of Humanism"**

### **Francesca Petrarca (1304-1374)**

Considered the 1<sup>st</sup> humanist and the founder of humanism

- Born in the Tuscan city of Arezzo. His father was a lawyer, and Dante was a friend of the family.
- Trained as a lawyer, but saw his education as flawed – it didn't teach how to live a good, moral life
  - Detested the law – saw it as the art of selling justice
  - Wanted to develop an education with a moral and ethical focus. He took minor orders in the church, becoming a cleric.
- Petrarch saw history in 3 periods, based on changes in the Latin language. He was the first to articulate that the centuries between the fall of Rome and (his) present had been an 'age of darkness.'
  - 'antiquity' = golden age of civilization; beautiful Latin language
  - 'middle ages' = dark/corrupt period of decline; corrupt Latin style
  - 'his time' = an attempt to return to the golden age of antiquity with beautiful Latin language
- He scoured monastic libraries for lost classics
  - Found lost works of Cicero, including letters to Atticus, Brutus, and Quintus which brought Cicero to life for the first time
- Petrarch wrote letters to the ancients; addressed Cicero as 'father,' and Virgil as 'brother.'
- Corresponded with many leading leaders and writers of his time, including Boccaccio
- A lyricist and poet, crowned Poet Laureate in Rome. (2<sup>nd</sup> poet to be crowned a Poet Laureate since the fall of Rome.) Known for perfecting the iambic pentameter form.
- 1<sup>st</sup> man since St. Augustine to write an autobiography – wrote the first modern autobiography
- Retained Greek tutors to teach him Greek. His first tutor was an exiled Greek monk named Balaam. Unfortunately, he was never proficient enough to read his Greek *Iliad*.
- Frequently termed the first modern man – he was intensely curious about the ancient world, attempted to relate his knowledge of Latin literature to his own experience, discovered new Latin manuscripts and texts, wrote Latin poems and letters, and was critical of scholastic Latinity



*Petrarch was recognized in his lifetime as an intellectual leader. Famed as a poet and moral philosopher. He served as a diplomat and had a cosmopolitan outlook; was a counselor of princes and the Holy Roman Emperor, and the critic of popes.*

### **Humanist Education**

*Humanist education is the foundation of the modern liberal arts education.*

It is an educational system based on the ideas of classical authors. Humanists called it the 'studia humanitas.' Classical authors were read during the Middle Ages, but differently from how the humanists read them.

### **Medieval Scholasticism**

- **Goal:** produce scholars
  - Students memorized rote passages of the classics, then taught to learn the style of a favorite author and imitate it.
  - Humanists were critical of Scholasticism. Formal logic was an emphasis of a Scholastic education. Humanists believed the focus on logic and terminological arguments were counterproductive to determining truth.
- Read the classics for style – not ideas.

### **Humanist Education**

- **Goal:** produce a complete citizen or individual; instill the value of doing good in this world. "Man was born to be useful to man" was one Humanist maxim.
- Read the classics for ideas, answers, moral improvement. Humanists also believed that humans could achieve happiness in this life, and out to strive toward that goal. A common belief of ancient philosophy, this revival of ancient thought became a revolutionary legacy of Humanism.

### **The 7 Liberal Arts:**

Trivium (humanists saw these as subjects of communication/eloquence)

- Grammar
- Rhetoric
- Logic

Quadrivium (provided content of knowledge)

- Mathematics
- Geometry
- Astronomy
- Music

Humanists adopted the medieval liberal arts education but expanded upon it. They kept the Trivium and added moral philosophy, history, poetry, and other literary forms to the Quadrivium.

They believed this would provide everything a person would need to be the best individual/citizen they could be.

Humanist education had 3 components:

- Study of rhetoric, Classical Latin, and Greek literature
- History
- Ethics
  - provided a guide to action, examples of virtuous and villainous individuals that reinforced ethical precepts
  - Rhetoric provided a means to inspire ethical behavior in others

**9/11-9/12**

**Italian Renaissance**  
**Florence City of Gold (UMS)**  
**Botticelli (Int-LMS) Leonardo da Vinci (Pri)**

**Date** c. 1434 - 1498

**Themes**

Trade and Commerce

Conflict and Conquest

The Arts

Philosophy and Religion

**Readings**

Pri: Leonardo's Horse

Int/LMS: Ren Artists Ch 1 Botticelli

UMS: R&R Ch 2 pp 27-30 Florence City of Gold

**Florence – ‘The Mother of Modern Europe’**

*Florence gave birth to the Renaissance - its internal politics, structure, and dynamics gave rise to what changed the course of Western history.*

*Florence prospered during the Renaissance because of its lines of communication to the world around it. In the Late Middle Ages, the city became important as a crossroads for wool merchants. Giovanni and Cosimo de 'Medici used banking to make Florence a crossroads for finance. With these connections established, Florence became a crossroads for ideas and known as the center of the Renaissance. Thinkers and artists were attracted to the city through the reputation of its rulers and schools sponsored by the Medici and others.*

**Background of Florence**

Tuscany region of Italy

**Economy:**

- Woolen cloth industry provided most of the wealth
- Banking grew out of the woolen cloth industry

**Social Structure:**

- No nobles in Florence – social status not determined by noble lineage

- Nobles were present during the Early Middle Ages, but the nobles and the large commercial middle class did not get along
- Also, nobles had a right to feud (middle-lower classes could not). During the middle ages, the nobles feuded a lot! They hired retainers and fought in town, wreaking havoc. Townspeople, innocent bystanders, were getting hurt.
- It came to a head in the 1280s:
  - Nobles were excluded from guilds, then from government positions. Eventually, they were kicked out of the city. The removal of the nobles brought bloodshed to an end.
  - Now no ruling noble class – instead, wealthy upper guildsmen calling themselves patricians took control of the great guilds and government offices.
  - The Medici family was the greatest of the patrician families. Cosimo de 'Medici had 4 generations of wealth in the bankers' guild when he took power.

### **Political Structure**

Officially, Florence was a **republic** (known as a **commune** in Italy), but as time went by, the rich gradually assumed more power. It became ruled by wealthy patricians who belonged to the 7 Great Guilds.

(The modern view sees Florence as an oligarchy. Taken in the context of Europe during that time, it was a fairly broad representative government and could correctly be called a commune. At any rate, it was a broader government than the monarchies and most other European governments at that time.)

### Guild Structure:

- 7 Great Guilds
  - Commercial merchants, banking, wool merchants
- 14 Lesser Guilds
  - Artisans, craftsmen, industrial guilds

Government office was open only to those belonging to one of the 7 Great Guilds

- Elections held by an indirect electoral system
  - A list was drawn up of all members of the 7 great guilds
  - The list was given to a committee which strikes off names of those absent, sick, exiled, dead, in debt (possibly open to bribes)

- Each of the remaining names was written on a bean. Beans put in a chest. A blindfolded person drew out a bean. The name drawn indicated the person who was elected.
- 1,165 different people served in government offices per year
  - Most offices had short 2-month, 3-month, or 6-month terms. (Florentines feared the chance of one person gaining too much power.)

The high number of citizens involved in government fostered –

- civic pride
- political thinking
- much discussion/debate, putting stress on the study rhetoric
- These government practices created a need for an effective system of political and civic education. The governmental structure gave rise to an education system –
- **Civic Humanist Education**
  - To produce good citizenry, good leaders and officeholders
    - Integral to this was reading Greek and Roman classics, especially Cicero and Livy
  - 2 essential subjects to give wisdom and eloquence:
    - Moral philosophy
      - Similar to ethics, taught answers to problems, how to make good judgments and difficult moral decisions
        - Every decision is a moral decision
    - Rhetoric
      - Need to communicate one's knowledge effectively

### Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510)

### Intermediate/LMS

- Born Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi. Legend has it that one of his brothers gave him the nickname “Botticelli,” meaning “little barrel.” By 1470, he was referenced as “Sandro Mariano Botticelli” in a document.
- A Florentine; had the patronage of the Medici family
- Believed to have worked with Fra Filippo Lippi and in Verrocchio's studio
- Was a passionate humanist
- The figures he painted were fluid, sinuous, dynamic – the sway and dance
- 1<sup>st</sup> great Renaissance artist to make use of mythology not merely for subject matter but to give spiritual content
- Was in constant employment by churches for his religious painting as well as the palaces of the Medici (who preferred pagan work)
  - Botticelli oversaw the decoration of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican at the request of Pope Sixtus IV. He created a series of wall frescoes, but Michelangelo's ceiling compelled visitors' eyes to look up.

- Savonarola may have influenced Botticelli:
  - Thought to have put some of his non-biblical paintings in the “bonfires of the vanities.”
- After the mid-1490s, he concentrated on religious paintings.
- Famous Works
  - *Primavera*
  - *Birth of Venus* – Venus represented *humanitas* (the development of human virtue) for the Neoplatonists and was represented in many paintings by Botticelli
  - *Judith and Holofernes*
- Died a poor man in 1510. Buried in the chapel of the Vespucci family in Florence. (Yes, that Vespucci! – the family of Amerigo Vespucci, the explorer who inspired the naming of the American continents)

“...he was the only painter of Italy who thoroughly felt and understood Dante, and the only one who also understood the thoughts of the Heathens and Christians equally, and could in a measure paint both Aphrodite and the Madonna. So that he is on the whole, the most universal of painters; and take him all in all, the greatest Florentine workman.” *John Ruskin*

**9/13-9/14**

***Italian Renaissance***  
***The Medici of Florence (UMS)***  
***Leonardo da Vinci (Pri-Int)***

**Date** c. 1401-1499

**Themes**

The Arts

Science and Technology

Conflict and Conquest

**Readings**

Pri/Int: Leonardo da Vinci by Diane Stanley (Intro "Incredible Age"- "he wrote in code") 1st 9 pgs of text

Int: Ren Artists Ch 2 Leonardo da Vinci

UMS: Cosimo de' Medici PDF & Lorenzo de' Medici PDF

*Leonardo da Vinci – see page 25 of history overview*

**The Medici of Florence**

**Cosimo de' Medici 'The Father of His Country'**

*"There is in gardens a plant which one ought to leave dry, although most people water it. It is the weed called envy."* ~ Cosimo de Medici

Florence and Milan had a history of warring with one another. Cosimo seized power during Florence's loss to Milan by using political connections to create a mob riot through Florence. He then stepped forward, saying that he had a personal mercenary army led by General Francesco

Sforza which could restore law and order. He restored law and order (by solving a situation he created) and gained control of the government.

### **Cosimo rules Florence 1434-1464**

Ruled from behind the scenes. Never holds government office but has friends on the election commissions.

- Able to retain power and influence because he aligned his interests with those of the state and guided them well
- Art of politics was his forte

Inherited the family's banking business

- Cosimo's father, Giovanni, built the business with bank branches in 16 European countries
  - Cosimo even more financially successful than his father
- Held position of banker to the republic and confidential advisor to the government
  - Made liberal loans to the republic
  - Assumed many public expenses himself to lend Florence luster and prestige. All this served to keep him in power.

### **International Policy**

- Pursued a policy of peace/avoided war – knew that was best for the economy, arts, culture
- 1447 – Milanese ruler dies, leaving a power vacuum. Cosimo supplies Sforza w/ money, supplies, and advice - to help him become duke of Milan. After Sforza becomes ruler of Milan, he signs a peace treaty with Florence.
- 1454 – engineers the Peace of Lodi (a military alliance of northern Italian cities). Alliance is put in place to offset the southern power bloc of the Papacy/Naples alliance.
- Cosimo is trying to maintain a balance of power in Italy to gain peace. The **'balance of power'** is a new type of diplomacy.

### **Patron of the arts**

- Was a humanist
- Supported the arts, commissioning the building of cathedrals and artists to decorate them.
- Established Platonic Academy for the study of ancient works

**Death of Cosimo – 1464:** Son Piero assumes power

### **Lorenzo de' Medici, 'The Magnificent' (1449-1492)**



### *The Renaissance reaches a zenith in Florence under Lorenzo's rule*

- Known as “Lorenzo the Magnificent”
- Son of Piero and grandson to Cosimo de’ Medici, he began his rule at 21 years of age, following the death of his father Piero (who had ruled 5 years)

### **Early Years**

- Entertained Florence with masquerades and pageants for the general populace, and tournaments for the aristocrats
- After 9 years of peace – Pazzi conspiracy
  - Pazzi family attempts to overthrow the Medici by killing Lorenzo and his brother Giuliano while at church
    - Giuliano died, but Lorenzo escaped
  - City in an uproar. The mob hung Francesco de’ Pazzi, and a search ensued for all connected to the conspiracy. Eventually, 270 were killed.
  - The assassination attempt became a turning point for Lorenzo – he now surrounded himself with bodyguards and adopted precautions that his enemies proclaimed as tyrannical
  - Lorenzo now mostly focused on:
    - keeping peace and the balance of power
    - increased his patronage of the arts and letters

### **Patron of the Arts**

- Lorenzo was educated as a boy by humanists. Not only was he a scholar and patron of scholars, but he was also a poet, modeling himself after Petrarch.
- Lorenzo commissioned works from the great painters of the day: Verrochio, Ghirlandaio, Botticelli
- Lorenzo’s family members in positions of influence:
  - Son Giovanni became Pope Leo X
  - Nephew Giulio became Pope Clement VII
  - Great-granddaughter Catherine married a French king and was the mother to 3 French kings
- Under his leadership, Florence became the cultural capital of Italy
- The Platonic Academy became part of his household and boasted the best philosophers

### **Pioneers Modern Diplomatic System**

Lorenzo sends permanent ambassadors from Florence to other cities (before this time, there were no permanent ambassadors. Instead, special envoys were sent to deliver a message and then return).

### Later Years

- Twelve uneventful years followed the Pazzi conspiracy. Then Lorenzo's health began to fail at the same time that his long-neglected financial affairs began to crumble.
- He mismanaged Florence's finances also – the city was on the verge of bankruptcy in 1490.
- New Adversary-
  - During his last year of life, the zealous reformer-priest Savonarola preached against the Medici's politics and lifestyle from the pulpit of San Marco, a Medici foundation. He foretold the death of Lorenzo within a year.

### Death of Lorenzo

- A year later, Lorenzo died at age 53.
- Lorenzo's obituary by Machiavelli:
  - *"Of Fortune and of God he was supremely loved, wherefore all his enterprises ended well and those of his enemies ill...All the citizens mourned his death and all the princes of Italy...and that they had good reason to grieve the result soon showed; for Italy being deprived of his counsels, none of those who remained found any means of curbing or satisfying the ambition of Lodovico Sforza, the governor of the Duke of Milan...as soon as Lorenzo died, all those bad seeds began to sprout which not long after, he who could quell them being no longer alive, ruined and are still ruining Italy."*
- Two years following Lorenzo's death, a revolt broke out, which drove the Medici into exile. Their palace was ransacked. Lorenzo ultimately failed as a financier, but he was remembered as Lorenzo the Magnificent for his patronage of the arts.

### Artists of Renaissance Florence

Artist	Art Form	Famous Works
Brunelleschi	architect	Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore
Donatello	sculptor	<i>David</i>
Fra Angelica	painter	San Marco Altarpiece
Luca della Robbia	sculptor	glazed terra cotta roundels
Filippo Lippi	painter	<i>Madonna and Child, Annunciation</i>
Benozzo Gozzoli	painter	fresco <i>Adoration of the Magi</i> in Medici Chapel
Verrocchio	painter, sculptor	<i>Christ and St. Thomas</i> bronze group
Ghiberti	sculptor	bronze doors of the baptistery, <i>The Gates of Paradise</i>
Ghirlandaio	painter	<i>Madonna Adoring the Child</i>

Michelangelo	painter, sculptor	<i>David</i>
Leonardo da Vinci	painter, sculptor, polymath	<i>Annunciation, Mona Lisa</i>
Botticelli	painter	<i>Primavera, Birth of Venus</i>

### **Medici Legacy**

The Medici was well known for their political achievements and had an impact on the Church with two Medici popes. However, their patronage of the arts left an indelible mark on Western civilization. The brilliantly talented artists working under the Medici may not have achieved the level of excellence and genius that they attained without the Medici patronage. These great artistic masters also had an immeasurable influence on future artists and artistic movements.

**9/18-9/21**

### ***Italian Renaissance***

#### ***Leonardo da Vinci***

***Date*** 1452-1519

#### ***Themes***

Literary Traditions  
Philosophy and Religion  
Trade and Commerce  
The Arts

#### ***Readings***

9/18-19

Pri/Int: Leonardo (Stanley) (“he wrote in code”-”only book worth reading”)(next 7 pgs text)

LMS/UMS: Leonardo (Stanley) p 1-24 (1<sup>st</sup> 13 pgs text: Intro “Incredible Age”-“1<sup>st</sup> man to fly”)

UMS: R&R pp 30-32

Int: Ren Artists Ch 2 Leonardo (finish reading Ch 2 if haven’t yet)

9/20-21

Pri/Int: Leonardo (Stanley) finish book

LMS/UMS: Leonardo (Stanley) finish book

UMS: R&R pp 41-42

### **Renaissance Art**

*The 3 great arts – sculpture, painting, architecture – changed most profoundly 1400-1500. Individual artists often crossed the boundaries of these disciplines and emerged from studios trained in many of the arts.*

*Through perspective, the introduction of oils, the exploitation of landscape, and the human body, Renaissance Italy created the traditions of Western art.*

*Commercially minded towns commissioning artists to do elaborate work insisted on detailed and binding contracts. These contracts identified an artist in a way that had been rare – it plucked him from the mass of anonymous artisans. Painters and sculptors began to sign their work. The emergence of the artist as an individual coincided with the emergence of the individual in his works.*

*From 1400 onwards two artists of outstanding ability – the sculptor Donatello and architect Brunelleschi – helped create a new attitude to art. Both were entranced by perspective, human nature, and reality as they saw it.*

### **Renaissance Architecture**

*To ordinary citizens of an Italian town, architecture was far more important than any other art. They may not have the privilege to see treasures housed in palaces or grand homes, but they could see buildings from the outside and were familiar with churches and cathedrals. Building was a civic pride.*

*Italian citizens were also conscious of the architecture of antiquity, for its ruins lay everywhere, a constant reminder of the glory of Rome. As cities' wealth grew, it was only natural for architects to look to the example of their Roman past for inspiration.*

### **Renaissance Painting**

The history of painting during the Renaissance is complicated, involving hundreds of painters over almost 300 years. To understand why, there are salient points that are critical to appreciating the impact of the Renaissance on Western painting:

### ***Visualization in Perspective***

- A change to painting in PERSPECTIVE
- The replacement of stylized and symbolic art by perspective art was one of the greatest steps forward. From 1430 onwards, the Italian painters familiarized themselves with perspective
- The science of perspective was the basis of the art of composition. It is difficult to exaggerate the significance of this development in Renaissance painting.

### ***Transition to Oil from Tempera & Fresco***

- Just as movable type was the most important event of the Renaissance for printing, so was the adoption of oil for painting.
- Use of oil paints came from the Low Countries, and Venice embraced it first
- With fresco painting, final decisions had to be made early in the work, and any changes were virtually impossible. Oil allowed for changes during the painting. Also, fresco produces light colors and a narrow range of colors, whereas the use of oil widened the palette.

### ***How the Renaissance Got Its Amazing Colors***

A story of dedicated specialists, a trading empire, and wealthy patrons that funded it all!

- Europe recovered from the Bubonic Plague and Venice experienced some good luck - Genoa's trade network fell apart, allowing Venice to pick up the pieces from their rival Genoa.
- Venetians had a lock on much of the spice trade well into the late 15th century.
  - 2500 tons of spices passed through the city every year, including 400 tons of pepper alone. Due to the spice trade, Venetians had access to exotic ports around the world and the money to purchase expensive goods.
  - One of the staples became "pigment from overseas." The colors themselves became a business. Venice became famous for its pigments. Artists called *figurieri* specialized in colors.
  - Dedicated shops appeared which focused just on colors, becoming known as *vendecolori*, or colormen. They offered a vast selection of materials for the color industry, including raw materials for colorant and dye manufacture, glassmaking, and prepared pigments.
- Creating the Pigments of the Renaissance Masters
  - A wide range of colors was available, but quality and brightness depended on the size of their purse or that of their patron. Colors from plants and berries were cheap but better pigments were created from minerals and earth.

- Azurite and malachite, blue and green respectively, came from a type of colored bronze.
- Yellow came from orpiment, a mineral found near volcanoes.
- Red and white were made from lead.
- Ultramarine, the ultimate blue, was made from lapis lazuli brought from Afghanistan. One ounce of ultramarine cost as much as 8 pounds of vermilion, which could be used to make red. Ultramarine was usually dedicated for the clothing of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Azurite was also used to make blue, and malachite for green.
- Red, made from the crushed scales of the kermes beetle, was called Cochineal and considered the king of red pigments. Vermillion was much more affordable. Venetian Red is an “iron oxide earth-red pigment, known for its rich, warm tone and vibrancy over time,” says George O’Hanlon at *Natural Pigments*. Titian was believed to get his red from a local quarry in Venice.
- Pigments were ground on non-porous stone until they were powder, then kept in oyster shells until needed. When needed as paint, the powder was mixed with the right amount of “liquid medium.”

#### ***Introduction of Stretched Canvas***

- Almost as important as the use of oil.
- Gave artists more freedom in determining the size, shape, and texture of their work

#### ***Introduction of Easel Painting***

- A new and revolutionary concept
- Enabled the artist to:
  - Choose whether to travel with his work or work from his studio
  - Escape the tyranny of wall painting
  - Less church work – opened up more opportunities for different types of work, resulting in a commercial impetus to the ending of the religious monopoly on art
  - Allowed a break from aristocratic domination of art patronage and allowed the rising bourgeoisie to participate

#### ***Interest in Painting Real People***

- The individual faces of a collection of people depicted in a painting could be drawn from actual life – coarse, shrewd, cunning, curious, smug, happy – picked from the streets of Florence or the canals of Venice
- A procession of people depicted in a Florentine fresco were portraits of Medici family members and followers

## Renaissance Master of the High Renaissance

### Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

*Theme:*

*The Arts*

*Science and Technology*

“Above all, Leonardo’s relentless curiosity and experimentation should remind us of the importance of instilling, in both ourselves and our children, not just received knowledge but a willingness to question it—to be imaginative and, like talented misfits and rebels in any era, to think different.”

– **Walter Isaacson, *Leonardo da Vinci***

*The elusive Leonardo –*

- Kenneth Clark, who spent much of his life studying da Vinci, says:
  - “Leonardo is the Hamlet of art history, whom each of us must recreate for himself, and although I have tried to interpret his work as impersonally as possible, I recognize that the work is largely subjective.”

*Who was Leonardo?*

- He explored the most diverse of areas and subjects – a polymath
  - Painter, sculptor, architect, scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, botanist, musician, writer
- Reached out to the extreme frontiers of knowledge
- Dreamed extravagant schemes
- Rarely finished works that he began, and there are very few surviving works
- His *Notebooks* give us a view of his interests outside of art and philosophy:
  - Geology, Botany, Anatomy
  - Optics
  - Acoustics
  - Mathematics, Music
  - Hydraulics, Naval armaments, Ballistics
  - Movement, Weight
  - And so much more!
- Estimated that less than 2/3 of his manuscripts survived (perhaps 7,000 of originally 13,000 pages)

*Primarily renowned for painting-*

- *Mona Lisa* and *Last Supper* are his most famous paintings
- Vitruvian Man drawing iconic

*As an engineer-*

- Many of his ideas were ahead of his time:
  - Helicopter, tank, concentrated solar power, calculator

*Some of what we know-*

- Born near Vinci in Tuscany
- The illegitimate son of Piero da Vinci (Florentine notary) and Caterina (a peasant woman), brought up by his grandparents
- **1467** – Piero took Leonardo to the Florentine studio of Andrea del Verrocchio
- **1472** – became a member of Florentine painters’ guild, remained at Verrocchio’s studio another 6 years
- **1481/82 -1499**: Leonardo successfully petitioned Lodovico Sforza, Duke of Milan, for employment at his court. Leonardo spent almost 20 years there.
  - **1495-1498** – fresco painting of *The Last Supper* on the refectory wall in the Santa Maria Della Grazie monastery in Milan. Leonardo experimented, using oil and tempera on the wall rather than fresh plaster (so that he could take his time) but the surface began to deteriorate shortly afterward.
    - By the time Giorgio Vasari saw *The Last Supper* 50 years later, “all that could be seen was a blur of paint-dabs.”
  - Leonardo remained with Sforza until 1499, when French king Louis XII overthrew the Duke of Milan. The years that Leonardo spent in Milan were his happiest and most productive. Lodovico was a good patron for Leonardo – he gave Leonardo a variety of work which allowed him to use his ingenuity and creativeness
- **1502** – worked as a military engineer for Cesare Borgia. Met and became friends with Machiavelli at this time.
- **1503-1506** – Leonardo back in Florence. When he leaves Florence, Leonardo never returns. (*Mona Lisa* believed painted during this time).
- **1512-1517** – Leonardo in Rome under the patronage of Medici pope Leo X but is mostly involved in scientific investigations
- **1517** – French king Francis I brought Leonardo to France, where he stayed until his death in 1519.
- Famous works-
  - *Mona Lisa*
  - *The Last Supper*
  - *Lady with an Ermine*
  - *The Virgin of the Rocks*



Leonardo's gifts were enormous; he was the epitome of the questing spirit of the Renaissance. As he grew older, people held him in awe. However, he was also very difficult to work with or employ. His weaknesses:

1. Interested in every aspect of the visible world, but as phenomena, and viewed them with scientific detachment. There was not much warmth in him.
2. His range of preoccupations – as shown in his *Notebooks* – meant that his time and energy were spread thin. His priorities were unclear. With such a range of interest, he lacked concentration on any particular one. *An extreme case of the distracted and ill-disciplined polymath.*
3. Small # of surviving paintings due in part to experimental techniques (that didn't work) and procrastination. Scribbled in his notebooks are thoughts such as “*tell me if anything at all was done.*”

Despite his low finished output (only 15 surviving paintings are accepted as his), his influence on his immediate successors and near-contemporaries was immense:

- In the organization of large-scale painting
- His painting techniques-
  - “correct” mathematical perspective did not produce what we think we see and required correction
  - Advances in the techniques of sfumato (blurred outlines) and chiaroscuro, which led to a large degree of shadowing in 16<sup>th</sup>-century painting
    - *This was one of the most significant innovations in the history of Western painting*

For these reasons, he is regarded as the founder of the period known as the High Renaissance.

*Like Athens in the Age of Pericles, Renaissance Italy is a summit in human history. Today no name better seems to symbolize that age than Leonardo da Vinci.*

**9/25-9/28**

***Italian Renaissance***  
***Michelangelo***

**Date** 1475-1564

**Themes**

Philosophy and Religion

The Arts

**Readings**

9/25-9/26

Pri/Int: Michelangelo (Stanley) pp 1-15 (1<sup>st</sup> 8 pgs text: Intro – “bonfire of vanities”)

LMS/UMS: Michelangelo (Stanley) pp 1-23 (1<sup>st</sup> 13 pgs text: Author’s note – discovery Laocoon)

UMS: R&R p 59

Int/LMS: Ren Artists Ch 3 Michelangelo

9/27-9/28

Pri/Int: Michelangelo (Stanley) (“bonfire of the vanities”-”genius learning to paint”) (next 10 pgs text)

LMS/UMS: Michelangelo (Stanley) finish book

10/2-3

Pri/Int: Michelangelo (Stanley) finish book

LMS Ren Artists Ch 4 Raphael

UMS Machiavelli PDF; Ren&Ref p59

**Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)**

“I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.” - *Michelangelo*

- Born in Caprese, near Florence. His father was a banker, and his mother died when Michelangelo was six years old.
  - His wet nurse was a stone carver’s wife, and he told the biographer Vasari that “I sucked in with my nurse’s milk the chisels and hammer with which I make my figures.”
- His tastes were simple, and his character was strong, impatient with inadequacies of others, employed as few assistants as possible. A man of dry wit and sharp tongue, but not unkind. With friends, he was generous and loving, but by nature, a solitary man.
- Politically Michelangelo was a Florentine patriot, supported Florentine republicanism

*Il Divino* (The Divine One – a title bestowed upon him during his lifetime)

- Michelangelo worked as a sculptor, painter, and architect but in his own eyes, he was a sculptor above all else.

- At 13 he apprenticed to workshop of Domenico & Davide Ghirlandaio. He was with them 3 years when he drew the attention of Lorenzo de' Medici, who took him to live in his household. Michelangelo furthered his training by obtaining permission from the Catholic Church of Santo Spirito to study cadavers to aid in his understanding of anatomy.
- **1490-92:** lived and worked at the Medici home. After Lorenzo's death, Michelangelo returned home until 1494.
- **1494-1501:** Spent time in Florence, Venice, Bologna & Rome – working and establishing a reputation as a sculptor
- **1501-** returned to Florence and gained a commission from the Guild of Wool to complete an unfinished commission from 40 years prior. From a badly mangled 19-foot tall block of marble emerged a 17-foot tall majestic David, slayer of Goliath.
- **1504** – seriously turned to painting for the first time. Completed Holy Family for Agnolo Doni, known as the Doni Tondo. It is the only surviving, undisputed panel by Michelangelo
- **1505** – Pope Julius II invites Michelangelo to Rome to plan and decorate the papal tomb. A year later the pope changed his mind, asking Michelangelo to paint frescos on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel instead. Michelangelo angrily returned to Florence.
- By **1508**, Michelangelo and the pope reconciled, and Michelangelo began work on the Sistine ceiling, completing it in 4 years.
  - Rumors suggested that the architect Bramante, envious of Michelangelo, convinced the Pope to offer the job of painting the Sistine Chapel's ceiling to Michelangelo. Bramante's alleged motivation was to humiliate Michelangelo. Knowing that sculpture was Michelangelo's artistic strength, he was hoping that Michelangelo would fail at the daunting commission to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Ironically, it became a masterpiece of Renaissance art.
- Michelangelo returned to Rome, worked on tomb of Pope Julius until 1516 when he returned to Florence to work on the new façade for the Medici family church. After contract for the façade was annulled (1520), Michelangelo received another Medici commission for a new sacristy for the church of San Lorenzo.
- **1534** – Moved to Rome where he spent the last 30 years of this life.
  - For 17 of those years, he served as chief architect of the new Saint Peter's.
  - The Moses statue he created for Julius II's tomb was his finest work, according to many, but the entire tomb project took 40 years and never finished as intended. It involved Michelangelo in quarrels, flights from Rome, lawsuits and endless anxiety.

Throughout his life, Michelangelo had been a religious man. In his youth, he was drawn to the fiery sermons of Savonarola, but he remained a traditional practicing Catholic.

He had more than 70 years of active artistic life, without pause or rest, working as a sculptor, painter, and architect. In the last 50 years of his life, Michelangelo completed some of his greatest works: Medici tomb, marble prisoners, *Last Judgement*, *Pietas* of his old age.

#### The Sistine Chapel-

It was a great physical achievement given the intrinsic difficulties with fresco, the area to be worked, and the awkwardness of the height and location. Speedily painted, taking only 4 years, it was relatively simple – but then it was done to be seen from the ground. The painting has power. Artists admired it, then and since, relieved that they were spared such a difficult task.

- Bramante smuggled Raphael into the Sistine Chapel before Michelangelo had finished it – and immediately Raphael added a Michelangelesque figure to his *School of Athens*

*“The great danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short, but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark.” - Michelangelo*

*“Michelangelo lived on into the mid-1560s, and the Renaissance lived on with him. Had it anything more to say after his glory years? The answer must be “A great deal, and in two important respects. Michelangelo was a realist in that he drew the human shape from actual bodies with a high degree of truth to nature. But he also sought to idealize, to present human figures in their superlative ripeness...To him, the assertion that man was made in God’s image was not a symbolic truism but the simple truth.” - Paul Johnson, historian*

**10/2-10/3**

***Italian Renaissance***  
***Machiavelli (UMS)***  
***Michelangelo (Pri/Int) Raphael (LMS)***

**Date** 1452-1520

***Themes***

Trade and Commerce

Conflict and Conquest

Philosophy and Religion

Literary Traditions

***Readings***

Pri/Int: Michelangelo (Stanley) finish book

Int/LMS: Ren Artists Ch4 Raphael

UMS: Machiavelli PDF; R&R pp. 38-39

**Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)**

Paul Strathern writes:

*“In his masterwork The Prince, Machiavelli would describe how human beings actually behaved (rather than how they ought to behave) and how a powerful leader could manipulate this to his own advantage. As a result, Machiavelli’s name would become notorious, condemned by the Church and by all upright citizens. After his death, this notoriety would spread throughout Europe; so that by the end of the century William Shakespeare in far-away England could have a character protest his straightforward honesty – “Am I polite, am I subtle, am I a Machiavel?” – and be confident that his entire audience, from knights and their ladies to the raucous groundlings in the pit, would understand what he meant.”*

Machiavelli - the ultimate civil servant: he negotiated, spied, and wrote reports for his political masters. However, he did more than simply obey orders:

- His exceptional quality lay in his need to try to understand the workings of the political world and his attempt to discern a science in human behavior.

#### His Life –

- Born in Florence. Father was a lawyer, barred from practicing law (for having gone bankrupt). Money was scarce; Machiavelli recalled, “I was born poor and I learned to know want before enjoyment.”
  - Grew up in a rich, intellectual atmosphere – received a humanist education; his reading based heavily on ancient Roman classics
  - Machiavelli was known to Lorenzo de’ Medici and his circle of humanist scholars and poets
- **1498** – 1<sup>st</sup> entrance into public life with the appointment as Second Chancellor of the Republic of Florence, which administered the internal affairs of the Florentine Republic
  - **Diplomat:** appointed secretary to the ‘Ten of War,’ the committee most responsible for foreign relations and military affairs.
  - Machiavelli would go on many diplomatic missions on behalf of Florence over the next 14 years, until the return of the Medici
- **Fall of Republican Florence, 1512** – The Medici defeated the republic’s armed forces and dissolved the government
- **1513** – Machiavelli wrongly suspected of conspiring against the Medici – was imprisoned and tortured.
  - Julius II died in 1513. Cardinal de’ Medici elected pope, naming himself Leo X. Leo X, as part of the celebrations, granted amnesty to prisoners – Machiavelli was released.
  - Machiavelli offered (begged) his services to the Medici and the new administration, but to no avail. So Machiavelli retires to the country.
  - With his free time, Machiavelli decided to write a book – A book that distilled all he learned during his career in the service of Florence. For several years the ideas had been forming in his mind. He saw all the principles that lay behind political life.
  - *The Prince*, written around 1513, would not be published until 1532 posthumously, although manuscript copies had already begun to circulate. He wrote it while seeking a government position within the Florentine government.
- **1525** – Machiavelli reinstated by Medici rulers & given a post as a military advisor.
- **1527** – Rome sacked by Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor. Medici rule in Rome collapsed. A new republican government installed.

- Machiavelli hoped to be given a post by the new republican government but was (ironically) tainted by the Medici's.
- Severely disappointed, he dies days later, on June 21, 1527.

### **The Prince**

Hastily written at a time when Machiavelli was trying to court favor and gain a position in the Medici government in Florence. Originally written for presentation to Giuliano de 'Medici – but Giuliano died, and Machiavelli dedicated the book to Lorenzo (not to be confused with Lorenzo the Great, Lorenzo's grandfather). It was published as a book posthumously in 1532. It appears, however, that a version of it was circulating earlier, in 1513.

- Originally named *De principatibus (About Principalities)*, the work became known as *The Prince (Il Principe)*.
- Essentially, the advice given to the prince was to “secure yourself against your enemies, conquer by force or by fraud, make yourself loved or feared by the people...destroy those who can or are likely to injure you.” (*Borgia is the inspiration and foundation of his ruthless political philosophy*).
- 2 aspects ruled the political existence of the prince:
  - Virtue – (*virtu*) was not the moral view of this word, but the original ancient meaning: derived from *vir* (man) and *vis* (strength) – it indicated virility, strength, power, manliness.
  - Fortune – (*fortuna*) a feminine principle, capriciousness – Fate
    - (*However, Machiavelli forgot that men are more than political beings. He neglected religion or regarded it as part of state machinery*).
- Machiavelli, in the last chapter, suggests that Italy's liberation from barbarians (foreign powers) was the motive for writing the book.
  - However, such methods would seem not to produce freedom and security for its citizens. *The Prince* appears to be the instruction manual for a dictator rather than a liberator.

### **Discourses**

Years later, c. 1517, Machiavelli wrote *Discourses (Discourses on the First Decade of Titus Livy)*, a political history which highlighted the virtues of the ancient Roman republic. *Discourses* was written over many years, but published posthumously in 1531. It was probably more indicative of his ideas on how a government should be administered, revealing his republican sympathies.

## **Raphael (1483-1520)**

## ***Lower Middle School***

*Renaissance painter, architect, and designer*

### **Youth**

- Born Raffaello Sanzio, deemed “Prince of Painters” by Giorgio Vasari, 16<sup>th</sup>-century artist biographer
- Son of court painter to Duke of Urbino
- Educated in the arts and letters
- Worked at some point in Pietro Perugino’s studio

### **Early Career**

- Worked in Umbria and Tuscany
- A prodigy – Pinturicchio, a leading artist in Italy, requested detailed drawings for frescos in the Piccolomini Library. Two survive, dated 1502-03
- Worked much in Florence between 1504-1508
- During this time he painted many of his most famous Virgin and Child pieces

### **Rome**

- 1508 – summoned to Rome by Pope Julius II. Raphael remained in Rome until his death.
- 1<sup>st</sup> commission – decoration of the Stanza Della Segnatura, a room in the Vatican Palace. In here are his frescos *School of Athens*, the *Parnassus*, and the *Disputation of the Holy Sacrament*
- Designed 10 tapestries for the Sistine Chapel
- Succeeded Bramante as architect overseeing the building of St. Peter’s basilica

### **Death**

- Died on his 37<sup>th</sup> birthday, 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1520; buried in the Pantheon. Vasari wrote that his early death ‘plunged into grief the entire papal court.’



Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Raphael was seen by almost all critics as the greatest painter that ever lived. Many Renaissance artists influenced his work – Michelangelo, Leonardo, and in turn, influenced many artists after him.

His art epitomized the High Renaissance qualities of harmony with ideal beauty. Raphael, Leonardo, and Michelangelo are artists of the High Renaissance who exemplify the term 'Renaissance' man in their mastery of multiple subjects and areas of interest.

### **The Artistic Golden Age of Renaissance Rome**

The already corrupt papacy had sunk to even greater depths under Rodrigo Borgia, Pope Alexander VI. Upon his death, Pope Julius II was elected pope. Under Julius II, the papacy and the city of Rome entered a Golden Age. As pope, he was militarily successful in holding off the encroaching French forces, but he was best known as a patron of the arts.

- Initiated the rebuilding of St. Peter's Basilica – hired Bramante as the architect
- Patron of Michelangelo – Sistine Chapel ceiling
- Patron of Raphael – painted private rooms of Julius II in the Vatican

The Golden Age continued under Pope Leo X, second son of Lorenzo de 'Medici. He was the closest thing to the enlightened princes of the northern Italian states that the Papacy saw during the Renaissance – not surprising, given that he was a Medici. He was a humanist, a gifted administrator, and a generous patron of the arts. Papal morality began to recover.

- Continued overseeing the rebuilding of St. Peter's Basilica
- Patron of Raphael – paintings for the redecoration of the Vatican

*Art historians see the Sack of Rome in 1527 as the end of the Italian Renaissance. After this, Italy is subjugated to Imperial-Spanish control.*

**10/4-10/5**

***Italian Renaissance***  
***Sforza and Savonarola (UMS)***  
***Titian (Int/LMS)***

**Date** 1475-1625

**Themes**

Trade and Commerce  
Conflict and Conquest  
Philosophy and Religion  
Literary Traditions  
The Arts

**Readings**

Int/LMS: Ren Artists Ch 5 Titian; Int: Sofonisba (in class)  
UMS:Sforza PDF, Savonarola PDF

**Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498)**

Early Years

- Born of a noble family at Ferrara
- His father groomed him for the medical profession, but he instead entered the Dominican order. He withdrew into solitude, meditation, and prayer.
- While preaching in Lombardy in 1486, his simple, direct, and impassioned preaching of the wrath of God won him popularity.

### Florence and the de 'Medici

- 1490 sent to Florence, and in 1491 became prior of San Marco. He preached against the vanity of the humanists and the corruption of the clergy.
- Because he spared no one, Lorenzo de' Medici urged Savonarola to bridle his tongue. Savonarola would not yield, and in 1492 when Lorenzo asked for absolution while on his deathbed, Savonarola refused because Lorenzo would not give liberty to the Florentines.
- Fame as a prophet:
  - Savonarola had accurately foretold the death of Lorenzo de' Medici and Pope Innocent VIII in 1492
  - Savonarola accurately foretold the invasion of Italy by the King Charles VIII of France

### Florence and the Republic

- When the French left Florence, a republic was established, with Savonarola becoming a powerful authority.
- Under Savonarola's rule, stringent enactments were made for the repression of vice and frivolity. Gambling was prohibited, vanities of dress restrained by law. Items were collected which were associated with moral laxity (pagan books, mirrors, fine dresses, many Renaissance artworks) and burned in "bonfires of the vanities."
- Savonarola was preaching against the pontificate. Pope Alexander VI (Rodrigo Borgia) excommunicated him in 1497. In 1498 he was brought to trial for heresy, and under torture admitted guilt (of which he afterward withdrew). Savonarola was declared guilty and burned at the stake, in the same place where the "bonfires of the vanities" had flamed high.

### Milan (Lombardy region)

The Lombard plain is very fertile, providing ample food to sustain the thriving cities of Lombardy. Unfortunately, the cities incessantly fought amongst themselves, especially cities aligned with either of the opposing Guelph or Ghibelline factions.

- **Milan** - most northern of the major Italian city-states, and one of the 3 most important in Italy
  - (Florence, Venice, and Milan were the 3 most important)
- A large industrial city – manufactured tools for the wool industry
- Dominated the Po Valley
  - Located at the foot of the Alps, Milan controlled the passes (the trade routes) through the Alps - for which they charged a high toll. This strategic location provided the Milanese with much power and money.

Milan failed to do what Florence and other cities in Tuscany did – they never subjected the nobility to the authority of the merchant class. Florence kicked the nobles out to put an end to the bloodshed that resulted from feuding nobility.

### **Prelude to rule by Sforzas**

*The Visconti family ruled Milan as dictators. They dominated northern Italy in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, before the takeover of the duchy by Sforza dynasty.*

#### **Gian Galeazzo Visconti** (r. 1385-1402)

- 1<sup>st</sup> duke of Milan (prior to Gian Galeazzo, Milan was ruled by lords)
- Responsible for enlarging and creating the Duchy of Milan (which lasted until Napoleon)
  - Centralized the government
  - Reformed the administration
  - Weakened the nobility (but didn't subjugate them)
  - Very concerned with the welfare of his state
- Gian died suddenly of illness while fighting Florence. His death allows Florence to gain victory. (Civic humanism was born in Florence).
- Son Gian Maria Visconti succeeded as ruler – Milanese empire began to break up
  - Feudal families on the Lombard plain once again fought one another

#### **Filippo Maria Visconti** (r. 1412-1447)

Gian Maria is assassinated, so Filippo Maria Visconti becomes duke of Milan.

- Not as competent a ruler as his father. He lost much of Milan's conquests in northern Italy during his reign.
- In Italy, it was common to hire mercenaries. Filippo hired different *condottiere* (mercenaries), one of whom was Francesco Sforza.
  - Sforza would fight for and against Filippo Maria over the next 20 years and also fight for the Papal States, Florence and Venice at different times.
  - Sforza was a good leader-
    - Great captain and excellent general
    - Detail-oriented
    - Disciplined
    - Deep personal loyalty – his men were devoted to him
- Sforza and Cosimo de' Medici were friends – Cosimo had fostered a good relationship with Sforza.
  - In 1434, Cosimo appointed Sforza condottiere of Florence.
    - *Condottiere* = leader (or member) of a band of mercenary soldiers

- Cosimo understood that Florence needed a strong, friendly Milan, so he provided Francesco with loans and good advice.
- Sforza married Filippo's illegitimate daughter Bianca
- Filippo died without an heir in 1447

### **Ambrosian Republic (1447-1450)**

When Filippo died, Milan abolished the dukedom and became a republic. However, the republic was shaky and didn't last.

- Named "Ambrosian Republic" after Milan's patron St. Ambrose
- Time of violence and unrest
  - Fighting in the city between Guelph and Ghibelline factions
  - Mob violence
  - Rampant crime

General Sforza was conquering cities in northern Italy, and coming ever closer to Milan. As Milan's outer cities were lost (through conquest or surrender), food for Milan became scarce (its outer cities grew Milan's food). Finally, Sforza had conquered all the outer cities; he proceeded to lay siege to Milan.

Inside Milan was much suffering and starvation. Citizens decided to surrender to Sforza and acclaim him duke of Milan. (He had made himself popular by not ravaging the countryside.) After the surrender, he distributed food to the hungry people, let many office-holders keep their positions, and was lenient with reprisals – often pardoning people after a short imprisonment.

### **Milan Under the Sforzas**

#### **Francesco Sforza** (r. 1450-1466)

Francesco Sforza was a very effective ruler and a patron of the arts. Under his leadership:

- Consolidated power
- Signed a peace treaty with Florence
- Signed the Peace of Lodi (peace agreement between Milan, Naples, and Florence)
- Improves the Milanese economy
  - Initiates rice cultivation in Po valley
  - Introduces silkworms and begins a silk industry

1466 – Francesco died. His dissolute son Galeazzo becomes a duke.

When Galeazzo was assassinated in 1476, Galeazzo's brother Lodovico became regent to his son Gian Galeazzo (Lodovico's nephew).

## **Lodovico Sforza** (r. 1494-1499) 'Il Moro'

### **Early Life**

- Known as 'Il Moro' because he was dark
- Was given a humanist education, and instruction in government and warfare
- 1476 – becomes regent to his 7-year old nephew, Gian Galeazzo
  - Struggles for the regency with his sister-in-law. Won the struggle for regency in 1481; seized control of the government. Controlled Milan as regent for the next 13 years.

### **Rule as Regent**

- Lodovico was intelligent, cunning – he saw the insecurity of Milan's position and sought prosperity and diplomacy to secure it from dangers posed by:
  - Venice
  - France (Visconti had intermarried with branches of French royal family, and France felt it had some claim on Milan)
  - Holy Roman Empire – Milan had been resisting its domination for years
  - Swiss
- Helped strengthen the economy and build prosperity
  - Invested in agriculture, horse and cattle breeding, and the metal industry
  - 20,000 workers employed in the silk industry
  - Promoted civil and military engineering: canals, fortifications
- Patron of the Arts –
  - Leonardo da Vinci and the architect Bramante were among many artists, poets, and musicians who gathered at Milan's court
  - Continued work on the Cathedral of Milan
- 1491 – married Beatrice d'Este. She was joyous and charming, much-beloved at court. Made the Sforza castle a center of balls and festivals – she loved to entertain the many guests: philosophers, poets, diplomats, and soldiers.

### **Ascension as Duke of Milan and the Italian Wars**

- 1494 – Milan threatened by the alliance of Naples with the Pope, so Lodovico invited Charles VIII of France to pass through Milan to attack Naples. (Basis of a French attack on Naples was an Anjou claim to the throne of Naples). Unfortunately, Charles VIII decided he wanted Milan after he took Naples. To counter this, Lodovico allied himself with the Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1494 – Lodovico's nephew, the duke of Milan, dies suspiciously. Lodovico receives the ducal title and crown.
- 1497 – his wife Beatrice dies in childbirth. Lodovico is inconsolable.
- 1499 – Louis XII, the newly crowned French king, claimed Milan through his Visconti grandmother. Louis conquered Milan, but Lodovico escaped.

- 1500 – Lodovico returns to Milan with Swiss mercenaries. Two months later, Louis laid siege to Novara, where Lodovico was. Both Louis and Lodovico had Swiss mercenaries, and they refused to fight each other! The French imprisoned Lodovico – he died in an underground dungeon in 1508.

### **The Italian Wars**

*When Lodovico invited France to intervene in Italian politics, other Italian states asked for Spanish aid...over the next 15 years Spain and France competed to dominate Italy = The Italian Wars*

*Few Italians could conceive of creating a confederation of states that could repel invaders. They were fiercely loyal to their petty states, and the few alliances that did form were unable to stay together long enough to be effective for a long stretch.*

*Italy would not achieve unification and nationhood until **1870**.*

### **Sofonisba (1532-1625)**

Lower Middle School

*Lomazzo, in his Libro dei Sogni, imagines a conversation between Leonardo da Vinci and Phidias (artist from ancient Greece):*

*“I bring to your attention the miracles of a Cremonese woman called Sofonisba, who has astonished every prince and wise man in all of Europe by means of her paintings, which are all portraits, so like life they seem to conform to nature itself. Many valiant [professionals] have judged her to have a brush taken from the hand of divine Titian himself; and now she is deeply appreciated by Philip King of Spain and his wife who lavish the greatest honors on the artist.”*

*1<sup>st</sup> known woman artist to achieve international fame*

### **Youth**

- Born into a noble Cremona family
- The oldest of 6 daughters, her progressive father gave them all a Humanist education
- She was apprenticed to artists Campi and Gatti. Her father didn't intend for her to be a practicing artist for the trade but rather saw that learning to paint was part of the Humanist education for women of high social standing.
- Forbidden from seeing nude men in anatomy or life drawing classes, she focused on portraiture. By the age of 15, she was renowned for her expressive portraits.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Italian Genre Painter**

- At the age of 20, she painted one of her most famous paintings: *Three Sisters Playing Chess*. It was revolutionary in that she was the first Italian to portray an everyday, domestic scene.

#### **Court of Philip II of Spain**

- 1559 – invited to be a lady-in-waiting to Philip's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, Queen Elizabeth of Valois and art teacher/companion to Infanta Isabella. She painted all members of the royal family.
- Male court painters were paid with money, but female artists generally received luxurious gifts instead. Sofonisba didn't receive any money for her paintings.
- She remained at court until her marriage around 1571.

#### **Post-Spanish Court**

- C. 1571 – with a dowry provided by the king, she married a Sicilian. She was widowed c. 1579
- While aboard a ship back to Cremona, Sofonisba meets captain Orazio Lomellino, a Genoese nobleman. They marry in 1580 and live in Genoa.
- Died well respected in 1625

*Like many early female painters, many of her works were attributed to male painters of the period. In her case, many of her works were initially believed to be the work of Titian, Leonardo da Vinci, Giovanni Battista Moroni, Alonso Coello, and Francisco de Zurbaran.*

**10/9-10/12**

### ***Italian Renaissance Life*** ***Borgia (UMS) Henry the Navigator (Pri-UMS)***

**Date** 1451 - 1506

#### ***Themes***

Trade and Commerce

Conflict and Conquest

Rise and Fall of Empires and Nations

Science and Technology



## **Readings**

### 10/9-10

Pri/Int: SOTW(2) Ch 28 Henry the Navigator

LMS: Explorers Henry the Navigator pp 1-9

UMS: Borgia PDF, R&R pp 33-35

### 10/11-10/12

Pri/Int: SOTW(2) Ch 28 Ferdinand & Isabella & Ch 31 Columbus See page 57 of Overview for Ferdinand/Isabella

LMS: Explorers pp 10-17 Dias and da Gama

UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 14 pp 68 2nd paragraph thru p 69; R&R pp 136-140

## **The Northern Renaissance**

c. 1500-1650 Northern Renaissance

*Northern Renaissance is a term used to describe the Renaissance outside of Italy*

The Italian Renaissance spread north of the Alps into Europe, but it was not replicated exactly as in Italy. Southern innovations influenced northern artists, but northern European culture was different, so the Northern Renaissance looked different:

- Influenced by the Protestant Reformation
- New subject matter: landscape, genre painting (ordinary life)
  - Merchant class wanted art for domestic display; therefore it reflected the mercantile world
    - Domestic interiors, portraits, daily life
- Art noted for its precise observation and naturalism in landscape painting
- Focus on oils (northern climate not well suited for frescos)
- Focus on color and expert rendering of detail
- Since space in the churches was limited, wooden panel altarpieces painted with oil and illuminated manuscripts were predominant art forms
- Objects in paintings had symbolic meaning (iconography):
  - Dog = fidelity (Fido)
  - Fruit on windowsill = wealth or temptation

### **Noted artists of the Northern Renaissance**

- Jan van Eyck
  - Flemish painter
  - The perfection of oil paint use (the oil-glazing technique) – important to the entire Renaissance
  - Master of meticulous detail

- Created the illusion of light reflecting on metal and jewels by painting a glaze over them
    - Painting objects with symbolic meaning
- Albrecht Durer
  - German painter, printer
  - Trained in metalwork
  - One of the 1<sup>st</sup> artists to use watercolor
  - Foremost a printmaker – thousands of his etchings distributed across Europe, making him a well-known artist of his day
  - His many trips to Italy influenced him and other northern artists
  - Influenced by Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation

### **Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1652/53)**

*One of the 1<sup>st</sup> women artists to achieve recognition in post-Renaissance art*

- Born in Rome to a Roman artist
  - Received her early training from her father
- 1<sup>st</sup> woman to paint major historical and religious scenarios
- Influenced by Michelangelo and Caravaggio
- After her death, many of her works were attributed to her father or other artists.

### **Differences Between the Italian and Northern Renaissance**

	<b><u>Italian Renaissance</u></b> Italy	<b><u>Northern Renaissance</u></b> Outside of Italy – initially Germany; Burgundy-controlled Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg; Burgundy
<b>Subject Matter</b>	Classical mythology, religious scenes	Domestic interiors, portraits, daily life, landscapes, religious scenes
<b>Style</b>	Symmetrical, balanced, good sense of mass, linear perspective	Attention to detail, naturalism, intense realism
<b>Known for:</b>	Figures with mass and volume, knowledge of underlying anatomy	Minute surface detail – light reflections off jewels/metal, textures appear real
<b>Media</b>	Fresco, tempera, oil	Oil on wood panel
<b>Philosophical Influence</b>	Humanism	Protestant Reformation / religious reform
<b>Artistic Influence</b>	Ready access to antiquities helps inspire emulation of antiquities, especially in architecture and sculpture, and mythologically-themed paintings	Not ready access to antiquities so drew influence from medieval traditions like gothic architecture and illuminated manuscripts
<b>Art Patrons</b>	Church, ruling class elite	Merchant class who wanted art for their homes, monarchs
<b>Example</b>	Michelangelo, <i>Creation of Adam</i> from the Sistine Chapel	Jan van Eyck, <i>Arnolfini Wedding Portrait</i>

*“In Italy for 30 years under the Borgias, they had warfare, terror, murder, bloodshed. They produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland, they had brotherly love, 500 years of democracy and peace. And what did that produce? The cuckoo clock.”*

Ad-libbed by Orson Welles in *The Third Man*

## **Cesare Borgia (1475-1507)**

### **Borgia Family**

The Borgia family originated with Alfons Borja from Valencia in Spain

- Alfons rose through the church, becoming a priest and bishop. When appointed a cardinal, he moved to Rome and changed his name to the italicized Borgia. He was elected Pope Callixtus III in 1455.
- Callixtus III made his nephew Rodrigo Borgia a cardinal. Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia (later Pope Alexander VI) and his mistress Vanozza dei Cattanei had 2 children: Cesare and Lucrezia. (Rodrigo Borgia openly admitted to his mistresses and acknowledged his illegitimate children, which was highly unusual).
- The Borgias behaved as if they never left Spain. They retained their Spanish culture, speaking Catalan or Valencian among themselves.
- Cesare was educated for entry into the Church. While attending the University of Pisa (established by Lorenzo de' Medici), he was noted for his diligence and brilliance.
- **1492** – Rodrigo Borgia elected Pope Alexander VI
  - Both Lorenzo de' Medici and Pope Innocent VIII died
  - Cardinal Borgia realized this was his last chance to be elected pope, but Cardinal Sforza held the deciding vote. According to reliable reports, during this time there was a significant withdrawal of Borgia's funds from his bank. Coincidentally Cardinal Sforza cast his vote for Cardinal Borgia, who was then elected pope and took the name Alexander VI.
  - Pope Alexander VI moved Cesare and his younger sister Lucrezia to the Vatican. (Was unheard of for a pope to house his illegitimate children with him).

### **Cesare as Young Man**

- **1493** – 18-year-old Cesare received the rank of Cardinal (despite lack of formal ordination into the Church).
- **1497** – Cesare appointed *gonfalonier* of the papal forces, after the murder of Duke of Gandia, Pope Alexander VI's son and Cesare's brother. (Cesare Borgia was under suspicion for the murder). Cesare renounced the cardinalate to assume the leadership of the papal forces.
- **1498** – Cesare traveled to France, to the court of King Louis XII. The king appointed Cesare the Duke of Valentinois. (Machiavelli's prince, in his book *The Prince*, was based on Cesare Borgia and named Duke Valentino).

- **1499** – Louis XII marched into Milan, with Cesare by his side. Milan fell to the French and Ludovico Sforza was eventually carried off to France in chains.

### Cesare's Romagna Campaigns

- 1<sup>st</sup> Campaign: Cesare, commanding the papal forces, was also loaned 6,000 French troops for his 1<sup>st</sup> campaign into Romagna.
  - Cesare's career was founded upon his father's ability to distribute patronage, along with his alliance with France.
  - At this point, Alexander VI decided to profit from the situation and carved out for Cesare a state of his own in northern Italy. To this end, Alexander declared that all his vicars in Romagna and March were deposed. (From the view of the citizens, these vicars were cruel and petty. They viewed Cesare as a great improvement).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Campaign – began in **1500**
  - **1501** – Alexander VI bestowed upon Cesare the title Duke of Romagna – indicating that the lands would be passed on as a Borgia hereditary possession, and not as papal lands to the next pope following Alexander VI's death.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Campaign
  - **1502** – Cesare embarks upon his 3<sup>rd</sup> invasion of Romagna, intending to take Florence. Florence sent Machiavelli and Bishop Soderini as emissaries to Borgia. Machiavelli's first impression of Borgia perturbed him yet also impressed him-
    - *"This lord is truly splendid and magnificent, and in war there is no enterprise so great that it does not seem small to him; in the pursuit of glory and territory he is unceasing and knows neither danger nor fatigue...He is beloved by his soldiers and he has in his service the best men in Italy. All this makes him victorious and formidable, particularly in light of his constant good fortune."*
  - As a result of the meeting between Borgia and Machiavelli, Leonardo was sent to work for Cesare. Borgia wished to strengthen fortifications of many of the castles he had taken and had plans for projects similar to what Leonardo had undertaken in Milan.
    - In Leonardo's notebook, there are sketches of the mountain valleys and the Romanesque 5-arched bridge over the Arno. Years later, this landscape and bridge appear in the background to the Mona Lisa.

### The beginning of the end

- **1503** (*August*)– Pope Alexander VI dies (probably of malaria).
- *October* - Pope Pius III elected new pope but died shortly thereafter.
- *November* - Julius II elected pope – who was an enemy of the Borgia family.
  - Although a capable general and statesman, Cesare would have trouble maintaining his domain without continued Papal patronage. Machiavelli cites Cesare’s dependence on the goodwill of the Papacy to be the principal weakness of his rule.
- **1503**, *November* – Cesare arrested by orders of Julius II for refusing to hand over castles he had taken from the Church in Romagna.
  - Most of the residents in the Romagna region preferred Borgia’s rule. The reinstatement of many of the former tyrants had ushered in a return of the anarchy and vendettas that had beset the region.
- **1504** – Cesare, released from confinement, returned to Naples, only to be sent on to Spain, into Ferdinand and Isabella’s custody. They intended to put Borgia on trial for the murder of his brother, the duke of Gandia and his brother-in-law, the Duke of Bisceglie.
- **1506** – Borgia escapes from Spanish prison to join his brother-in-law King Jean d’Albert in Navarre.
- **1507** – Borgia died while fighting for his brother-in-law during a civil war in Navarre. When news of his death reached Italy, most of its rulers breathed a sigh of relief.

Pope Alexander VI and the Borgias have an infamous legacy for being corrupt, cruel, and murderous. They undoubtedly were all those things. Still, what Alexander did as pope was rarely original – however, he took things to a new extreme. The Borgias were renaissance princes similar to many of their contemporaries. Machiavelli, who knew Cesare, said that Cesare was a grand example of a general who knew how to tackle power.

In *The Prince*, Machiavelli expressed his belief that Cesare Borgia’s behavior in the conquest of provinces, the cementing of a new state out of scattered elements, and the dealing with false friends or doubtful allies, was worthy of all commendation and scrupulous imitation. *“Borgia was dead, but his name would live on as an exemplar – in a manner he could never have foreseen. The man responsible for this would be Machiavelli, who had seen him in action and understood how he nearly succeeded in his huge ambition. For Machiavelli, only such a man could save Italy from its self-destructive wars.”* ~ Paul Strathern

## **Portugal**

### **Henry the Navigator**

**Date** 1394 - 1460

#### **Advent of Age of Exploration**

The age of exploration and expansion was a crucial factor in the European transition from the agrarian economy of the Middle Ages to a commercial and industrial capitalistic system.

The expansion of nations also led Europeans into new and lasting contacts with non-European peoples. Catholic Europe had been confined to one geographic area. The Crusades, its major attempt to expand beyond those frontiers, had failed.

What caused Europeans to undertake the dangerous voyages into the unknown?

- Curiosity
- Economic Motives – the conquest of the Ottoman Empire and breakdown of the Mongol Empire closed overland trade routes east. Europeans became interested in a sea route to access the spices and other luxury items of the region
- Religious Zeal – Spain and Portugal had a crusading mentality where the Muslims had largely been driven out in the Middle Ages

#### **The Iberian Peninsula**

*Shared by both Portugal and Spain*

- A dry, barren, impoverished land
  - 10% of soil is bare rock
  - 35% is poor and unproductive
  - Only about 10% is rich, fertile land
  - A difficult and varied ecology
- *However*, the peninsula occupied a **critical** location between the
  - Atlantic and the Mediterranean
  - Europe and Africa
  - Europe and the Atlantic world
- Which placed it in continual contact with other countries and civilizations-
  - *Iberia had always been multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural*

#### **Ancient Legacies of Iberian Peninsula**

- Roman conquest and occupation from 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC through 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Iberia became one of the most Romanized portions of the empire.

- Fall of the Western Roman Empire brought Visigoth occupation until the Islamic conquest in 711
- From 711-1492 Muslims controlled varying portions of Iberia.
- The initial Muslim invasion failed to conquer the mountainous regions in the north, which were isolated, poor, and sparsely populated. The Muslims paid little attention to the north and made little effort to stamp out the independent Christian groups.
  - *Reconquest* – describes the re-establishment of Christianity in the peninsula, beginning in 718 and ending with the capture of Granada in 1492
- By the mid-9<sup>th</sup> century, the entire northern section of the peninsula was in Christian hands.

### **Naming of Portugal**

- The resettling of what had been a Roman castrum (fortified hilltop settlement) named Cale; it became known as 'Portugalae' and in its non-Latin form, 'Portugal.' The Arabs were evicted permanently in 868, after which it remained Christian. 'Portugalae' described the whole area.

### **Founding of an Independent Portugal**

- In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Alfonso Henriques, count of Portugal, worked to get papal recognition of Portugal's independence and his status as king
- 1383-1385 – Revolution
  - King of Portugal died. Daughter of the king, Beatriz, was proclaimed queen. Her husband was Juan I of Castile, which prompted anxiety over whether Portugal would remain an independent country.
  - Dom Joao was elected king, the first of a new dynasty.
  - Forces Juan I of Castile invaded Portugal; Dom Joao led the small, 'national' Portuguese army to victory. Castilian claims to the throne were dropped.
- Dom Joao I married Philippa of Lancaster. They had 2 sons:
  - Duarte (Edward)
  - Henrique (Henry, later called 'The Navigator')
- Dom Joao I negotiated a treaty of 'perpetual alliance' with Richard II of England. *This (renewed and modified) treaty still remains in force, making it the longest-enduring, virtually continuous alliance between 2 sovereign countries.*
- Portugal's present frontiers are the longest established in Europe.

### **Portuguese voyages of exploration started in 1419**

*Established a permanent European presence in Africa, Asia & the Americas*

1. Was a protracted effort, sustained for over a century
2. Touched all continents except Antarctica (& possibly Australia). Portuguese ships traveled all the oceans and major seas of the world.



3. The Portuguese were exposed to a diversity of political regimes, commercial practices, and religions
4. The Portuguese experienced a series of 'encounters' for over more than a century in Africa, Asia, and America – of a complexity and variety that makes the Spanish experience in the Americas & Philippines pale in comparison.

*Portuguese traveled extensively by land also* – were not solely confined to maritime exploration in:

- Africa
- Persia
- India
- Asia (even entering Tibet & Nepal)

*Many 1<sup>st</sup> contacts with*

- Commercial treaties with Muslim sultans in Moluccas (Spice Islands)
- Missionary activities in India, Bengal, China, and Japan
- Diplomatic overtures to Siam, Borneo and other states

### **What made the Portuguese successful?**

**Portuguese technology** – effectively utilizing prior discoveries & inventions:

- *Ships/sailing*
  - The central rudder on the sternpost of the keel
    - (1<sup>st</sup> appeared in Baltic in the 13<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Shipboard application of magnetic needle & compass
    - (from Arabs, and before them the Chinese, as early as 12<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Triangular lateen sail – added to the traditional square rig
    - (came to the eastern Mediterranean during early Middle Ages from the Arab dhow)
- *Charts with compass or wind roses & rhumb lines*
  - (Italian seamen used by early 1300's)
- *Growing knowledge of wind patterns, especially in the Atlantic*
- *Also used native peoples as guides*

### **Portuguese Vessels**

- Carrack
  - Used in Europe to India routes and further east
  - Innovations to the carrack increased the volume capacity of cargo, thereby increasing the number of goods traded and profitability
- Caravel

- Lateen rigged with a stern rudder, ~60 tons
- Excellent for exploration – suitable for coastal and river navigation as well as blue water sailing
- Used for
  - Africa to Europe routes
  - Africa to Brazil routes
  - Europe to Brazil routes

### Portuguese Routes

- 2 major long-distance routes
  - Portugal to Indian Ocean (including East Africa)
  - Portugal to Brazil
- Routes carrying commodities AND people (slaves)
  - Portugal to Indian Ocean (including East Africa)
  - Portugal to Brazil
  - West Africa to Brazil
- Routes carrying primarily merchandise
  - Intra-Asian/Indian Ocean

### Maritime Expansion

Took the Portuguese to the East/West Africa, India, China, Japan & South America

#### *Original Motives*

- Establish direct economic contact with sub-Saharan Africa and the Far East, to eliminate reliance on Arab middlemen
- To fight Arab corsairs who raided Portuguese ports and harassed their shipping
  - *Therefore*, the Portuguese constructed a royal fleet

### Prince Henry (The Navigator)

- Encouraged by the prospect of plunder, Henry took what was a military activity and converted it to a sustained program of exploration
- 1400's onwards – Prince Henry was the guiding light. His **motives**:
  - Burning curiosity – What lay beyond Cape Bajador? (extremity of the then-known world).
  - Discover riches & opportunities for trading
  - Discover the extent of the region occupied by Moors
  - Investigate whether any Christian prince lived in unknown African lands who could prove an ally
  - Bring Christianity to territories

- The convergence of religious & economic interests with royal sponsorship changed the emphasis of maritime endeavors (from the *defense* of ports and shipping to *exploration* on a grand scale)

### Portuguese Discoveries/Contacts

- **Canary Islands** (c1336)
- **Madeira, Porto Santo and the Azores** (c1425)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> European sugar plantation established-1440's
    - Sugar cultivation began on the Canaries, Cape Verde, and Madeira, then Sao Tome and Principe. African slaves were brought from the kingdom of Kongo to work the plantations. Sugar produced for export (to Europe) began in the 1460s.
    - The early plantations used a combination of Europeans, indigenous peoples, and African slaves. However, Europeans disliked the work, and the indigenous people refused to work. Thus it fell upon the forced labor of Africans to work the plantations.
  - The Azores became important as port of call between the Old and New Worlds
- **African Coast Explored**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> expedition in 1434
  - 1482 – Sao Joao da Mina, the base for trading including the area of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Gold Coast
  - 1487 – Bartolomeu Dias 1<sup>st</sup> to round the tip of Africa
    - Dias called the cape “Stormy Cape,” but Portuguese king called it Cape of Good Hope because it gave promise to the discovery of India.
  - By the end of 15<sup>th</sup> century – traders in gold produced around 700kg annually for Portugal, greater in value than the rest of the royal income
- **Congo**
  - 1490 – a ‘civilizing’ expedition dispatched to the Congo basin
- **‘The Plan for the Indies’**
  - Wanted to establish a direct link between Lisbon and the spice-rich Indies
  - Voyages of discovery of Diego Cao and Dias were part of that plan
  - Columbus and the **Treaty of Tordesillas**
    - Columbus, resident of Lisbon and in service of King Joao II, originally put forward a proposal as part of the ‘Plan for the Indies’: since the earth was spherical, the Indies could be reached by sailing west. The king rejected his proposal.
    - Columbus eventually received funds from Ferdinand & Isabella of Spain. On his return from that voyage, Columbus visited the Portuguese king to inform him of his discovery of this new sea route.

- The king claimed the land for Portugal under terms of Treaty of Alcacovas, since Columbus's landfall lay south of the Canary Islands.
- Spain and Portugal signed a new treaty at Tordesillas to resolve disputed ownership of the lands – division no longer based on a latitudinal line but rather on a *longitudinal line drawn 370 leagues west of Cape Verde Islands*. Any new lands discovered west of that line belonged to Spain, and east of that line to Portugal.
- **Vasco da Gama reaches India**
  - Once agreement reached that discovered lands east of the Tordesillas line belonged to Portugal, King Joao II sent an expedition to India led by da Gama
  - 1497 – da Gama set out, returning successfully in 1499
  - Round trip of 28,000 miles to reach the goal of India
  - **2 innovations aided him:**
    - Wide South Atlantic arc – as da Gama's ships passed the coast of what is now Sierra Leone, they turned right and headed into the Atlantic due west for several hundred miles, then circled south towards the Cape of Good Hope, to take advantage of offshore winds. (He was trying to bypass the Cape but didn't quite make it).
      - Da Gama's skill was such that his measured latitudes were never off by more than 2 degrees. His skill is remembered still today –the British Royal Navy nicknamed navigating officers "Vasco."
    - Reliance on Indian Ocean pilots
      - The Sultan of Malindi offered the services of a local pilot who helped the fleet to cross the 2,300 miles of Indian Ocean between Malindi and Calicut, India in just under a month.
  - *On May 18, 1498, da Gama and his crew became the first Europeans to reach the Indian subcontinent by sea.*
  - Within 10 years Portuguese trading bases were established in India, and rival Muslim merchants were driven off with a combination of firepower and diplomacy. The government's initiative to carve out a trade route had succeeded beyond every expectation.
- **Portuguese reach Newfoundland, Labrador, and Novia Scotia** (1499-1502)
- **Landfall on the coast of Brazil** (1500)
- **Arrive in China** (1513)
- **Arrive in Japan** (1542)

## Significance of Portuguese Exploration

Portuguese initiated regular deep-water traffic between:

- North and South Atlantic
- African Atlantic and South America
- Western Europe and West Africa

***This traffic included the beginning of the African slave trade***

While contacts between Africa, Europe, India, and East Asia were well established, the opening of the sea route east via the Cape of Good Hope by Vasco da Gama contributed to more intensive and regular contacts between the East and West. It also significantly shortened the time frame for communication and exchanges between Western Europe and India, and between Portugal and West Africa.

**10/16-10/19**

***Spain  
Ferdinand & Isabella  
Columbus***

***Date*** 1469-1516

***Themes***

Conflict and Conquest  
Rise and Fall of Empires and Nations  
Trade and Commerce

***Readings***

**10/16-17**

Pri: Pedro's Journal pp 1-16 Diary entries 8/3-9/17  
Int: Pedro's Journal pp 1-21  
LMS: Explorers Ch 2 pp 22-27 Ferdinand & Isabella  
UMS: Ferdinand & Isabella PDF

**10/18-10/19**

Pri: Pedro's Journal pp 16 thru 36 Diary entries 9/3-9/21  
Int: Encounter, Pedro's Journal pp 21-41  
LMS: Explorers Ch 2 pp 28-33  
UMS: History of US V1 Ch 15-16 (UMS)  
UMS: R&R p 142; Columbus PDF (UMS)

*“We have in our days Ferdinand, King of Aragon, the present King of Spain, who may, not improperly, be called a new prince, since he has been transformed from a small and weak king into the greatest monarch in Christendom.” ~Machiavelli*

### **Islamic Spain**

Medieval Spain had a unique history in the coexistence of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities. However, centuries of conflict between Islamic and Christian political power forged religious militancy on both sides.

- 11<sup>th</sup> Century – Muslim caliphate collapsed, and local rulers pursued independent courses in the *taifa* kingdoms.
- Christian states in the north gradually increased in power
- By the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Christian kingdoms had reconquered Iberia except for Granada. Granada remained in Muslim control until 1492 (however it was a tributary to Castilian kings since 1248).

### **15<sup>th</sup> Century Spain**

Divided among 3 Christian crowns:

- Castile
- Aragon
- Portugal

Aragon was faced with a revolution in Catalonia and France’s expansionist ambitions, but had inadequate resources to meet the threat, therefore-

- Alliance with Castile (through marriage) was desirable

Castilian king Henry IV recognized his half-sister Isabella as heiress. Marriage of Isabella was an international concern. Leading candidates:

- Charles of Valois (for a Franco-Castilian alliance)
- Alfonso IV of Portugal (for a Portuguese-Castilian alliance)
- Ferdinand, heir of Aragon (for an Aragon-Castilian alliance)

Isabella shrewdly made her choice-

Oct 19, 1469 – Ferdinand, King of Sicily and heir to the throne of Aragon marries Isabella, heiress of Castile, at a private residence

Events leading up to the wedding most unusual-

- 18-year-old Isabella was threatened with arrest by her brother Henry IV of Castile. She was rescued by the Archbishop of Toledo and conveyed to a safe place with friends.
- 17-year-old Ferdinand traveled at night through hostile country with attendants disguised as merchants, meeting Isabella for the first time just days before the ceremony.
- The couple was so poor that they had to borrow money for the wedding expenses. There was some reason for both the secrecy and deceit. Many people were against their marriage: Louis XI of France saw a threat to his country by the union of the Castile and Aragon crowns, and Castilian nobles were opposed to an alliance which promised to strengthen the Crown's authority in Castile.

Castile and Aragon now shared the same monarchs, but the governments of each area would remain the same.

*With 2 major Spanish kingdoms ruled by 1 dynasty, modern Spain began to take shape.*

#### Civil War

- 1474 – Henry IV, King of Castile died. Isabella proclaimed herself queen of Castile.
- A civil war of succession ensued between factions for Isabella and those for Juana (daughter of Henry IV whose legitimacy was questioned)
- 1479 – all Castile finally brought under Isabella's control AND
- 1479 – John II of Aragon died. Ferdinand now king of Aragon
- At last, Ferdinand and Isabella are joint sovereigns of Aragon and Castile. They could now begin consolidating their royal authority

#### **The Union of the Crowns**

The union of Ferdinand and Isabella was purely dynastic: a union not of 2 peoples but 2 houses. Other than the fact that the Castile and Aragon would share the same monarchs, there would, in theory, be no change either in their status or in the form of their government.

#### Isabella and Ferdinand had agreed upon how they shared government:

- Ferdinand acknowledged that only Isabella had the right to administer the domains of Castile. She had exclusive rights to grant gifts or favors in Castile.
  - Ferdinand couldn't act on his own in Castile, only in concert with Isabella during her lifetime
- Isabella had no real authority outside of Castile.
  - *The perception was that they ruled Castile jointly.*
- They consolidated their authority but maintained the laws and traditions of the various duchies and kingdoms.

- Known as the ‘Catholic Monarchs’
  - They maintained close relations with the papacy but retained extensive control over the Spanish church in their domains (such as the right to appoint bishops and archbishops).

### **Reconquista**

1482-1492 The Conquest of Granada

- A long and arduous war against the last outpost of Islamic civilization in Spain
- Armies of Ferdinand and Isabella took Granada after more than 7 centuries of Muslim control
- The conquest of Granada marks the beginning of Castilian imperialism

### **Spanish Inquisition & Expulsion of Jews**

- 1478 – established a Spanish inquisition under royal authority but with papal approval
  - The inquisition had no authority over Jews or Muslims, but only over baptized Christians. (*Many of the examinations involved converts from Judaism to Christianity, who were called ‘conversos’*)
  - Before 1478, inquisitions had never been pursued in Castile, and very little elsewhere in Spain. However, in 1478, Ferdinand and Isabella asked & granted papal permission to appoint inquisitors in their lands. They were in control of the inquisition in Spain, not the pope. A very unusual situation – operated independently of the Catholic Church. It was used to unify the recently joined kingdoms of Aragon and Castile through religious orthodoxy. Confiscated property went into the royal treasury, so there was also an economic benefit. The highly visible campaign to cleanse Spain of heresy shaped not only religion but patriotism and political conformity as well.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> General-Inquisitor, Torquemada, shaped the ruthless nature of this Inquisition. It far surpassed the Medieval Inquisition in scope and intensity, enduring for over 350 years: 1478-1834.
    - In Seville – 700 burned, 5000 punished during the first decade
    - In Spain – 13,000 conversos put on trial in the first 12 years
    - Total for Spanish Inquisition – 31,912 burned; 17,659 burned in effigy; 291,450 repented
- 1492 – Jews were given the choice of conversion or expulsion
  - The expulsion order remained on the books until **1968**.
  - ½ converted, ½ left
  - In exile, Jews went to North Africa, Portugal, Italy, Anatolia, and the Netherlands
    - Their descendants are the Sephardic Jews of modern times



- 1499 – Muslims in Aragon & Castile were ordered out of Spain, given choice of conversion or expulsion (except in Valencia; those in Valencia could stay)

### Exploration

#### 1479 – Treaty of Alcacovas

- Treaty signed ending the war with Portugal, giving control of the Canary Islands to Castile
- Portugal possessed the Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde islands
- Castile prohibited from activities along African coast south of Canary Islands
- *Landmark treaty in the history of colonialism-*
  - 1<sup>st</sup> treaty outlining the principle that European powers are empowered to divide the rest of the world into "spheres of influence" and colonize the territories located within such spheres

Because of the treaty prohibiting activities along the African coast, trade was essentially prohibited and therefore represented lost profits. Keen to pursue profitable opportunities without risking another war with Portugal, Isabella was receptive to alternate schemes for reaching Asia.

#### 1492 - Columbus

- Isabella found Christopher Columbus's idea of sailing west to reach Asia an intriguing possibility and eventually helped fund his 1<sup>st</sup> voyage after the termination of the war with Granada. Columbus made 4 voyages between 1492 and 1504
- Regarding Columbus's estimation of the earth's circumference-
  - Eratosthenes estimated the earth's circumference c. 240 BC. It was remarkably accurate! However, Columbus accepted Ptolemy & Marco Polo's overestimation of the size of the westward distance between Japan and the Azores.
    - Columbus calculated 3000 miles, however the distance was really over 10,000 miles.
      - Question: Would Columbus have ventured out across the Atlantic had he known the true distance between Japan and the Azores?
- Found Cuba, Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic), Trinidad, and touched Venezuela, Honduras, and Nicaraguan isthmus

#### 1499-1508

- Expeditions from Spain established the existence of an American landmass

#### By 1519 – 1<sup>st</sup> probing completed

- Balboa sighted Pacific in 1513

- The founding of Panama gave Spain control of the isthmus and 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific base

#### 1519 – 1540: Final phase of *Conquista*

- These are the years in which Spain won its American empire
- 1519 – Conquest of the Aztec empire in Mexico by Cortes
- 1531-33 Conquest of Incan empire by Pizarro

### **Rise of Spain to International Prominence**

In the aftermath of the early voyages of discovery in the Atlantic, ports of western Andalusia were well placed to take advantage of new trading opportunities

Spain began to create a functioning colonial empire-

- Spain extended nominal law and order to protect royal interests by sending royal governors & bureaucrats to the Americas
- In setting up colonial administration, Spain drew on
  - centuries of European experience with lands conquered and settled
  - recent precedents set during the reconquest of Spain from Muslims
  - Castilian experience in the conquest of the Canary Islands
  - Aragonese experience in ruling Southern Italy
  - Portuguese precedents in Africa, Madeira, and the Azores

Isabella and Ferdinand had not planned to found a huge land-based empire; they had planned to establish ties with the empires of Asia. However, what had begun as a search for a new trade route to Asia turned into the Spanish Empire.

To secure recognition of territorial gains, the Catholic Monarchs developed a diplomatic strategy of arranging the marriages of their children to important and potential allies in Europe:

- Married 2 daughters into Portugal's ruling dynasty
  - Married daughter Catherine of Aragon to Arthur, Prince of Wales and then to Arthur's brother Henry who became Henry VIII of England
  - Oldest son Juan & daughter Juana married into the Habsburg dynasty
    - Juana's son Charles of Ghent became Holy Roman Emperor Charles V

### **Upon the death of Isabella in 1504-**

- Juana became Queen of Castile. Ferdinand (who held power in Castile only through his wife) returned to Aragon
- When Juana's husband died in 1506, Juana was too distraught to function as queen. (Juana had shown mental instability since a teenager, and Isabella provided in her will

for Ferdinand to serve as regent for their grandson Charles should Juana be “unwilling or unable to govern”)

- Back in Castile, Ferdinand continued the territorial expansion that he and Isabella had together pursued.

### **By Ferdinand’s death in 1516-**

- Charles of Ghent was heir to Castile and Aragon plus the lands outside of Spain. Charles also inherited the Burgundian and Habsburg lands of his other grandparents in northern and central Europe
- Charles would control one of the largest collections of European territories ever held by one person, plus the expanding Spanish holdings in the Americas

*With Charles of Ghent’s accession as Carlos I of Castile and Aragon, Spain entered a new imperial era.*

Italian Lazzaro Buonamico wrote in 1539:

*“Do not believe that there exists anything more honourable to our or the preceding age than the invention of the printing press and the discovery of the new world. Two things which I always thought could be compared, not only to Antiquity, but to immortality.”*

### **The Worlds of Christopher Columbus**

*When Columbus was born-*

- Europe, Asia, Africa were each part of the Old World of the Eastern Hemisphere, but were also separate worlds culturally, religiously and politically. Sea routes and land routes intermittently connected these worlds, making them aware of each other.

*BUT-*

- The world of the Western Hemisphere stood completely apart and isolated.

Columbus’s voyages shattered that isolation – a fateful encounter. At the same time, Columbus’s voyages were part of a broader pattern. Dozens of voyages before Columbus’s figured in this rush to explore. Thirty years of rapid exploration marked the culmination of centuries of effort by Europeans.

### **Columbus in Context**

15<sup>th</sup> century Europe

- 1<sup>st</sup> European expedition to attempt sailing around Africa to Asia began in 1291 – by the Genoese. Italian & Iberian sailors probed sporadically after that, discovering islands and charting mainland shores.
- Columbus wasn’t the only European to think about reaching Asia by sailing west, or even the first. If he hadn’t found support for his voyage, someone else would’ve attempted a western voyage to Asia.

- Both Columbus and his contemporaries saw his 1<sup>st</sup> voyage as part of a long process of extending European trade. Many Christians, including Columbus, also saw the voyage as an extension of the Christianity that had launched the Crusades.
- Columbus thought the greatest accomplishment of his 1<sup>st</sup> voyage was that he reached Asia. Until his death, he publicly asserted that he had reached Asia. However, historian John Noble Wilford notes, “We cannot be sure of the traditional story, that he died believing he had reached the Indies. He never gave explicit expression to any recognition that he had found something other than Asia. All the evidence, though, suggests that he died unsatisfied.”

### **European Motivation for Exploration-**

- Fell into 2 categories
  - Economic
  - Religious
- Columbus responded to the same motivations that influenced his contemporaries. *What set him apart was the vision and drive with which he pursued his goals.*
- Other mariners approached the Portuguese court with a dream, but *Columbus alone was willing to persevere for nearly a decade in seeking support, despite repeated rejections.*

### **Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)**

*“For the execution of the voyage to the Indies, I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps.” ~ Christopher Columbus*

*Credited with ‘discovering,’ or rather ‘encountering’ the New World, he led the first European expeditions to the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Leif Erikson’s voyage to Newfoundland had been long forgotten.*

The record of Columbus’s life is not as complete as historians would like. His entire early life and much of his young life is virtually undocumented. After 1492 the record of his life becomes much more complete.

### **Early Years in Genoa**

- Born in Genoa in 1451
- Cristoforo Colombo in the Genoese dialect
- Father was a master wool weaver and businessman

- Christopher the oldest, with 3 brothers and 1 sister
- 1472 – Christopher 21 years old – described himself as a wool worker. Before he was 30 years-old, he was also a mariner, merchant, bookseller, and perhaps a mapmaker.
  - It was very common for Genoese of his station to participate in several occupations.
- “From a very early age I went to sea sailing, and I have continued until now,” wrote Columbus in 1501
  - Columbus probably first sailed on short voyages, around Genoa and on to Chios which was under Genoese control
  - By his early 20s had acquired considerable experience sailing the Mediterranean

### Arrival in Portugal

- **1476** – arrived in Portugal; lived there approx. a decade
  - Arguably the most formative period of his life – learned enough to believe in the possibility of sailing westward to Asia
  - When he arrived, he entered into the Iberian trading network
    - A marketplace that included Andalusia (SW part of Castile) and southern Portugal
  - Worked with Genoese merchants
- **1478/79** – marriage to Felipa Perestrello de Moniz. (Her family came from lesser nobility. Social advancement was important to him.)
  - Felipa’s mother gave Columbus the maps and papers accumulated by her late husband, a captain in Prince Henry’s entourage – (if these documents contained information about seas and winds around Portuguese possessions, this was a valuable dowry)
  - Columbus and Felipa had a son Diego; Columbus gained Portuguese citizenship
  - Made good use of his new family connections as he sought support to sail west towards Asia and India

### “The Enterprise in the Indies”

- By **1481** Columbus had started developing ideas about a westward voyage to Asia
- c. **1484** Columbus approached Joao II of Portugal with his plan for sailing west to Asia
  - Columbus thought the circumference of the earth was about 25% smaller than it was. Of the various sources he consulted, he purposefully chose the lowest possible estimates of the earth’s circumference and the highest possible

estimate of the east-west size of Eurasia, thereby shrinking the width of the open ocean between Europe and Asia. (Columbus calculated the distance from the Canary Islands to Japan as 2,400 nautical miles – in reality, it is 10,600)

- He wanted to minimize the width of the open ocean as much as possible, hoping to convince would-be supporters of the feasibility of the voyage.
- The experts in the Portuguese courts (rightly) failed to agree with his premise or conclusions.
- King Joao II rejected Columbus, suggesting that he try again in a few years.

### **Columbus in Spain**

- **1485** – Columbus left for Spain with young son Diego. His wife had died in Portugal.
  - We do not know for certain why he left Lisbon – the record is incomplete – but Columbus did arrive in the county of Niebla in 1485. He contacted his wife's sister and arranged for her and her husband to care for Diego while he traveled to the court of Ferdinand and Isabella.
  - *(A visit to the La Rabida monastery may or may not have happened. If it did, Columbus was likely placing his son there as a boarding student – but Columbus was almost certainly not poverty-stricken as the traditional story posits.)*
- Columbus met Franciscan friar Marchena, who had high friends at court. Marchena was also an astronomer and became Columbus's most faithful supporter. Marchena gave Columbus a letter of introduction to Friar Hernando de Talavera, confessor to Queen Isabella.
- Columbus gained an audience with Ferdinand and Isabella. They referred his proposal to a commission of men at the University of Salamanca for assessment.
  - **1486/87** – commission rejected the proposal
    - However, Ferdinand and Isabella granted him living expenses and travel expenses to the court. Eventually, they gave him slight hope that they may help him later, after the war with Granada had ended.
    - Neither fully rejected nor supported, he was kept in limbo.
- **1488** – Columbus established a relationship with Beatriz Enriques de Arana, who bore him a son named Hernando.
  - They never married, but Columbus supported her financially and treated Hernando as he did his legitimate son Diego.
- **1488** – Columbus's brother Bartolomeo had been to England trying to interest Henry VII in the enterprise, and possibly another brother approached France
- **Columbus persists!**
  - Columbus sought support again in 1491 & 1492. Isabella denied him both times.

- However, chief financial adviser, Luis de Santangel, assured Isabella that financing would not be a problem. It is not known if this influenced the monarchs' thinking or if they changed their mind due to some other reasoning. However, shortly after this, Ferdinand & Isabella gave Columbus the go-ahead.
  - Perhaps they came to believe that backing Columbus would be a cheap gamble, with relatively little risk but potentially a great reward?
- 'Capitulations of Santa Fe' – contract between the monarchs & Columbus:
  - Granted Columbus noble status
  - Gave him offices of admiral, viceroy & governor-general in all islands and mainlands claimed for Castile in the Atlantic
  - Noble status was hereditary
  - Gave Columbus 1/10 of the profits
  - (Interesting note – the agreement never made mention of Asia, probably to avoid the appearance of encroaching on the Portuguese)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Voyage 1492-1493

- 3 vessels (2 caravels and a larger nao) – **Pinta** (probably had a more formal saint's name), **Santa Clara** (nicknamed **Nina**) and the **Santa Maria** (flagship, nicknamed *La Gallega*)
- 2 misconceptions:
  - 1) *Because all sailors believed the earth was flat, they feared falling off the edge of the world by going too far west.* **NO**, educated people knew the earth was spherical. However, voyages far beyond the familiar part of the East Atlantic did cause uncertainty. Many sailors disliked the uncertainty of a new route without the guarantee of a safe return.
  - 2) *Because sailors feared falling off the edge of the earth, the crew had to be signed on from condemned criminals.* **NO**, although 3 crew members were recruited from jail, 3 out of 90 crewmen hardly constitutes a crew of convicts.
- Aug 2, 1492 – left Spain to go to the Canary Islands for refitting and provisioning (still the preferred starting point for transatlantic sailing from Europe)
- Sept 9, 1492 – began crossing the Atlantic
- Oct 12, 1492 – reached an island in the Bahamas – Columbus was certain they were in Japan.
  - While in the Bahamas, Columbus first met the Taino, Indians indigenous to the area. The Taino impressed Columbus with their generosity:
    - *"They will give all that they do possess for anything that is given to them, exchanging things even for bits of broken crockery. They were very well built, with very handsome bodies and very good faces...They do not carry arms or know them...They should be good servants."*

- Pinzon took the Pinta & explored on his own for months. Columbus took the remaining 2 vessels and explored the eastern end of Cuba. He then sailed on to an island he named Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic)
- Failed to find the rich ports of China but was still convinced he was in Asia
- The Santa Maria went aground on Christmas day. An improvised settlement was built for part of his crew – Columbus made plans to return to Spain in the Nina.
- March 15, 1493 – returned to Spain. Columbus was at the high point of his career. Ferdinand and Isabella confirmed his contract, ratified his titles and gave permission for a 2<sup>nd</sup> voyage.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Voyage 1493-1496**

- 17 vessels sailed, with some 1,200 settlers, animals, tools and seeds to found a colony. The main purpose of the voyage was to find gold, extract it, and send it back to Spain. The other objective was to convert the indigenous peoples to Latin Catholic Christianity.
- Nov 22, 1493 – reached Hispaniola. He established a permanent settlement near present-day Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, building a fort, church, and houses. It proved a disastrous choice: no good harbor, little rainfall, little vegetation. The community fell prey to sickness; quarreling caused a cessation of work. Sickness and quarreling brought the colony to the brink of starvation.
  - Columbus's career headed downhill – his skills as an entrepreneur and mariner failed to prepare him founding and governing a colony.
  - Because there was little gold to take back to Spain, Columbus sent a shipment of Taino Indians to Spain to sell in the slave markets.
  - Desperate from failing to find mainland China, Columbus forced his crew to sign a declaration that they **had** reached the mainland of Cathay.
- The difference in expectations between Columbus and the settlers:
  - Columbus wanted to follow Portuguese precedent of settlers being paid employees of the crown to gather gold
  - Settlers wanted to follow the pattern familiar from Spain's conquest of Muslim territory and the Canaries – the establishment of self-governing municipalities
- Disillusioned colonists spread stories of Columbus's incompetence and high-handed style. Columbus sailed back to Spain in 1496.

By 1497, transatlantic shipping was getting underway between the Old World of Spain and New World. Ships which brought supplies to the Spanish in newly discovered lands returned with Taino or Carib slaves, and trade goods.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Voyage 1498-1500**

- Despite reports of failure as an administrator, Ferdinand and Isabella granted permission for a 3<sup>rd</sup> voyage. During the years in Spain between his 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>



voyages, he became convinced that he was *Christophoros*, 'bearer of Christ,' God's messenger. He believed that he had a special relationship with God and acting as God's agent.

- 1 ship & 2 caravels for exploration; 3 other caravels for provisions. Transported 300 men and 30 women colonists.
- 1498 - left Spain. Fleet divided in the Canaries – 3 went to Hispaniola directly, and Columbus took other 3, ending up at a new island he named 'the island of Trinity' for its three mountains. It remains so named today, Trinidad. He then sailed north and west to the mainland of South America (Venezuela), which the men believed to be the coast of more islands, before going back to Hispaniola.
- Found Hispaniola in crisis upon arrival. Some colonists had mutinied, Indians were increasingly hostile. Columbus's brothers, Bartholomew and Diego, couldn't maintain order, and Columbus had no better luck.
- 1500 - Isabella and Ferdinand sent out Francisco de Bobadilla to restore authority. Upon seeing the situation, Bobadilla arrested Columbus and his brother Diego. They were both sent home in chains.
- Never again would Columbus be allowed to serve as viceroy or governor-general.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Voyage 1502-1504**

- Columbus convinced Ferdinand and Isabella the prospect of a route to the Indies. Vasco da Gama had arrived in the real Indies in 1499. Columbus believed he would also make it and greet the Portuguese there! He was also becoming more convinced he had a divine mission, collaborating with others to create a Book of Prophecies, which ended with biblical references attesting to the conversion of the indigenous islanders. Ferdinand and Isabella wanted to convert the indigenous people as well as compete with Portugal in the Indies, so they agreed to finance a 4<sup>th</sup> mission with some caveats: Columbus could not go to Hispaniola nor bring back slaves.
- Columbus proposed an exploration of the NE mainland of South America. Ferdinand and Isabella gave him command over 4 ships (compared to 30 ships given to Ovando, who was also appointed the governor of Hispaniola).
- Columbus 1<sup>st</sup> reached a group of islands off the coast of Honduras, then spent much time exploring the coast of Honduras, Costa Rica and into Panama. He saw the prospect of much gold based on the gold jewelry worn by the native people.
- Shipworms ate so many holes as to make them unseaworthy. They managed to find shelter in a harbor of Jamaica – spent a year on ships which filled with water almost to the decks during high tide. Columbus had a difficult time keeping his men from initiating a conflict with natives or each other.
  - Columbus needed food from the Indians, but the number of trinkets needed to buy food was increasing. Columbus's supplies were running low. But he came up with an inventive solution: his astronomical tables indicated an eclipse of the moon was to occur. He used that to induce the Indians to give them

supplies, warning them that if they refused, God would punish them. A sign in the sky would prove God's displeasure. The Indians were filled with fear when they saw the eclipsed moon and beseeched Columbus to ask God to relent. When the eclipse ended, Columbus said God relented, evidenced by the return of the moon. The Indians brought food and supplies to the Europeans.

- 1504 – finally arrived back in Spain. Thus ended his career at sea. Columbus's incompetence as an administrator led to the loss of his grants and titles.

### **Last Years**

- Spent the rest of his life lobbying to have all his grants and titles restored. (Even without them he was wealthy, but he felt betrayed and slighted.)
- 1506 – Columbus died, surrounded by loving family, rich but unhappy.

Within 50 years of Columbus's death, Bartolome de las Casas wrote of the atrocities committed against the Indians in his *History of the Indies*. To counter the oppression of the Indians in places such as Hispaniola, Peru, and Brazil, he called for the importation of more black slaves from Africa.

### **Beyond Columbus**

Most of the consequences for his voyages were unseen by Columbus when he died in 1506. It wasn't yet known how far Asia lay from the lands he explored. It would not be until 1522, when the remnant of Magellan's fleet returned from the 1<sup>st</sup> circumnavigation of the world, that Europeans understood the size of their world.

By the time of Columbus's 2<sup>nd</sup> voyage, caravels had begun a regular trade between Spain and Hispaniola. By the latter 16<sup>th</sup> century, a global system of commerce had developed.

The initial step in this process – Columbus's belief in a westward voyage – seems insignificant. Someone else would've soon taken that step, even if Columbus never lived. By 1500, Cabot and Cabral had pioneered 2 other routes to the Western Hemisphere.

Though Columbus was not the first man to think one could reach Asia by sailing west, he was the first to turn it into a reality. **Sailing into the unknown required great courage** - and once he had shown the way, others were eager to try.

John Noble Wilford, the author of *Mysterious History of Columbus*, notes that Columbus virtually sunk into oblivion after his death, eclipsed by Magellan, then Cortes and Pizarro. However, Columbus's reputation was rescued in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. In Italy and Spain, he was celebrated in poetry and plays. His metamorphosis into an icon would occur in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century when

British colonists were turning into Americans. - “By the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, people in the British colonies of North America were beginning to think of themselves as Americans and sought to define themselves in their own terms and symbols. Samuel Sewell, a Boston judge, suggested that the new lands should rightfully be named for Columbus, ‘the magnanimous hero...who was manifestly appointed by God to be the Finder out of these lands.’”

**10/23-10/26**

***Explorers  
Cabot and Balboa***

**Date** 1451-1506

***Themes***

Conflict and Conquest  
Rise and Fall of Empires and Nations  
Trade and Commerce

***Readings***

**10/23-24**

Pri: Pedro's Journal pp 36-50  
Int: Pedro's Journal pp 42-62  
LMS: Explorers Ch 2 pp 34-39 Columbus & Balboa  
UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 17 Columbus

**10/25-26**

UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 18 Cabot & Balboa  
LMS: Explorers Ch 3 pp 45-49 Cabot  
Pri: Pedro's Journal pp 50-60  
Int: Pedro's Journal pp 63-80

**John Cabot (Zuan/Giovanni Caboto)**

c 1450-1499

*Led 1<sup>st</sup> expedition to set foot in North America (since the Vikings)*

*England claims North America as a result of Cabot's voyages*

- Italian, born c1450, most likely in Genoa
- Son of spice merchant Giulio Caboto
- Grew up to be a merchant and expert mariner. Moving to Venice as a young boy, he gained knowledge about ships and sailing from Italian seamen who had sailed East
- Venice was an excellent place to learn about cartography, navigation, astronomy, mathematics, and seamanship
- Married a girl named Mattea, had 3 sons (son Sebastian Cabot was also an explorer)
- 1490s – moved his family to Bristol, England
  - Bristol was an important European port and city

- Perfect position to launch an expedition to the northwest and find a sea route to Indies and China via the Northwest Passage
- *Cabot held the belief that the further north one traveled, the shorter the length of a voyage between Europe and Asia due to the curvature of the earth. (He was unaware that transatlantic voyages in the North Atlantic would take the same time as more southerly routes due to the contrary flow of the Gulf stream).*
- 1496 – King Henry VII granted Cabot the right to ‘seek islands and countries of heathen towards the west, east and north’ sailing under the English flag
  - By excluding southern seas, Henry VII avoided trouble with trespassing on Spanish and Portuguese waters
  - King Henry VII gave no financial support but gave an exemption from paying customs at Bristol
  - King claimed usual fifth of the proceedings

### **1<sup>st</sup> Voyage 1496**

- Took 1 ship and a small crew
- Had to abort the voyage & return to England due to storms

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Voyage 1497**

- May 1497 – took 1 ship (the *Matthew*) and crew of about 20 sailors, including son Sebastian
- June 1497 – made landfall in New World
  - Exact landing spot disputed – somewhere b/w Sandwich Bay in Labrador and White Bay on Newfoundland
- Cruised coastline for about a month but didn’t go ashore again
- August 1497 – returned to Bristol to great acclaim
- Henry VII granted Cabot a gift of 10 pounds for having “found the new isle” and a pension of 20 pounds per year.
- Significance of voyage-
  - Cabot thought he had led England to the threshold of the wealth of Asia
  - Voyage revealed rich fishing grounds – would free England from dependence on Icelandic sites

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Voyage 1498**

“*The Mystery Voyage*”

- May 1498 – 4 or 5 small vessels and 1 royal vessel to return to the ‘Newe Founde Land.’
- Only 1 storm-battered ship returned to either Ireland or Bristol (there are conflicting reports)
- No record of the return of the other ships or John Cabot

- Was assumed that Cabot died at sea, so Bristol stopped paying his pension
- Cabot was regarded as one of the most skilled navigators of his day. It is highly unlikely that he would've lost his 4 ships unless he met with an unforeseen natural disaster or enemies.
  - However, there is speculation that Cabot traveled the coast of North America as far south as the Carolinas, drawn from a map made in 1500 that depicts English flags marking that part of the coastline. He never reached England to tell of it personally, though.

The massive landmass that Cabot and Columbus had found, it was becoming clear, was a new continent between Europe & Asia.

### **Cabot's Legacies**

1. Rediscovery of Newfoundland and its fishing grounds. (No one since Leif Ericson in 1001 CE had traveled there from Europe).
2. The belief that a route existed around North America to the Orient. (His son Sebastian would be the 1<sup>st</sup> of many to search for this elusive Northwest Passage).

### **Vasco Nunez Balboa (1475-1519)**

*First European to see the Pacific Ocean from the American continent*

*Established the 1<sup>st</sup> permanent European settlement in the New World*

*Opened up Spanish conquest along the western coast of South America*

### **Youth**

- C. 1475 – born in the Extremadura region of Spain, into a poor noble family. (Also born in this region were the explorers Cortes, Pizarro, de Soto, and Orellana)
- Served as a page and squire during his adolescence

### **Explorer/Governor/Conquistador**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Voyage
  - 1501 – Balboa's 1<sup>st</sup> voyage of discovery: followed Rodrigo de Bastidas to the Americas, exploring the northern coast of present-day Columbia
  - 1505 - Used his earnings to settle on Hispaniola as a farmer. However, he was not successful and ended up in debt.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Voyage
  - 1510 – to escape creditors, stowed away on a supply ship headed for the new colony San Sebastian by hiding himself in a cask of “victuals for the voyage,” which was transported from his farm to the ship. Encisco, leader of the expedition, discovered the stowaway. Initially, he wanted to leave Balboa on

- the first uninhabited island they came across, but then thought Balboa would be beneficial to have onboard since he had explored the area years earlier.
- Upon arrival, he found San Sebastian in ruins. The Spanish had abandoned it due to belligerent Indians and lack of food. Most of the colonists had died. Balboa suggested moving the remaining colonists to the region of Darien, on the western side of the Gulf of Uraba where Indians friendlier and soil more fertile.
  - Colony of Santa Maria la Antiqua del Darien
    - Established the colony of Darien. Balboa became the interim governor. He had gained popularity among the men due to his charisma and knowledge of the area.
    - Began to conquer the surrounding area by defeating various tribes and befriending others. Balboa committed his share of atrocities, but he dealt well with native allies, treating them respectfully.
    - In the land of one of his Indian allies, Comagre (or Comaco), Balboa first heard of “the other sea” and of a kingdom in the south with much gold and wealth.
  - European Discovery of the Pacific Ocean
    - Balboa learned that the king was summoning him back to Spain to answer to charges brought against him by the former governor. To accomplish something spectacular to please/conciliate the king, Balboa planned an expedition to find the gold in the south.
    - 1513 September – set out with 190 Spaniards, reinforced with ~1,000 Indian allies to reach “the other sea.” Balboa reached the summit of the range on Sept 25/26<sup>th</sup>, seeing the Pacific Ocean for the 1<sup>st</sup> time (by a European)
    - When Balboa reached the shore, he took possession of the “Great South Sea” in the name of the Spanish king. (Magellan later called it the Pacific Ocean).
    - He explored the coast, the Pearl Islands, and heard once again about the gold in the south (Incas in Peru). Balboa returned to Darien with booty, sending the king his fifth of the treasure.
  - Death of Balboa
    - Balboa planned another expedition in hopes of finding the great treasure (in Peru). He built, armed, and manned 2 ships then started on his expedition. However, out of jealousy, his father-in-law and governor of Darien brought false charges of treason against Balboa. Balboa was recalled to Darien, convicted and sentenced to death by decapitation.
    - Executed on January 12, 1519.

**10/30-11/2**

***Explorers  
Vespucci & Magellan***

**Date** 1450-1519

***Themes***

Conflict and Conquest  
Rise and Fall of Empires and Nations  
Trade and Commerce

***Readings***

**10/30-31**

Pri: Pedro's Journal pp 60-80  
Int: SOTW(2) Ch 31 Vespucci  
LMS: Explorers Ch 4 Magellan  
UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 19 Magellan

**11/1-2**

Pri: SOTW(2) Ch 31 Vespucci & Magellan  
Int: SOTW(2) Ch 31 Magellan  
LMS/UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 20 Vespucci

**Amerigo Vespucci**

1451-1512

*Vespucci's navigational discovery caused the new continent to be named America, after the Latinized version of his name.*

- Was born into a mercantile Florentine family at the height of the Renaissance
- In his 20s, was an ambassador for Lorenzo de Medici in France
- 1492 – moved to Spain – opened a ship brokerage business in Seville
- Supplied ships, loans, supplies to transatlantic explorers



- Participated in 2 voyages, possibly 3 (most historians reject what he wrote in a letter, which stated that he made 4)

### **1499 Voyage**

- 1499 – on an expedition with Alonso de Ojeda as a commercial advisor but allowed to explore on his own
- 1<sup>st</sup> person to explore south of the equator
- Predicted the earth’s circumference to within 50 miles
- He noticed that his landfall in Brazil lay well to the east of the line between Portugal and Spain (defined by the Treaty of Tordesillas).
- So, he approached King Manuel of Portugal, who wanted to know more about this territory. The king permitted Vespucci to investigate further.

### **1501 voyage**

Lorenzo di Pierfrancesco de’ Medici financed the voyage. Lorenzo was a cousin to Lorenzo the Magnificent.

- Left Lisbon – sailed to Cape Verde Islands. Serendipitously encountered Cabral returning to Portugal and exchanged information.
- Sailed across Atlantic, landing at Cape Sao Roque (easternmost point of Brazil). Then sailed southwest along the coast, probably as far south as the mouth of Rio de la Plata.
- 1502 – returned with evidence that Portugal had extensive South American land on its side of the Tordesillas Line.

Vespucci had learned astronomy from the great mapmaker Toscanelli, which helped him become an expert navigator. When making observations of the stars on the South American coast, he realized that the world was much larger than previously thought and that the land Columbus had come upon was **not** Asia. On his return, Vespucci wrote to Lorenzo di Pierfrancesco de’ Medici:

- *“We arrived at a new land which, for many reasons that are enumerated in what follows, we observed to be a **continent**...I noted there the wonders of God and of nature.”*

When news of this momentous discovery reached Florence, the authorities ordered a public celebration. A bonfire burned for 3 days.

**1508** – Popularity of his published “New World” accounts (which included bloodthirsty cannibals and wanton exotic females) prompted the German cartographer Martin Waldseemuller to name South America “the land of Amerigo.”

By 1538 both landmasses had become “America” (today North America and South America).

Interesting note: in some low-lying areas along what is now the Venezuelan coast, houses were built on piles over a lake or lagoon. This style prompted Vespucci to call the region “Little Venice” (eventually becoming Venezuela).

### **Ferdinand Magellan (Fernaõ de Magalhaes)**

1480-1521

*1<sup>st</sup> to lead voyage of circumnavigation of the globe*

Where 30 years earlier Columbus had failed, Magellan succeeded in finding a route to the Orient & the Indies by sailing west.

- Born into a family of minor Portuguese nobility
- Studied at a monastic school when 7. After 5 years became a page at the Royal Court.
- Education expanded to navigation, cartography & mathematics

#### **1505-1512 –**

- Joined Francisco de Almeida (who going to India to take up his new office as Viceroy to India). Magellan participated in Almeida’s campaigns against the Muslims.
- When Magellan returned to Portugal, he partnered with geographer/astronomer Ruy Falerio, coming up with a plan for a western voyage to the Spice Islands through a strait in the South American landmass.
- Magellan presented his plan to the king of Portugal – who rejected it
- *Like Columbus –*
  - Magellan underestimated the earth’s circumference, making the placement of the strait overly optimistic
  - This inaccuracy gave Magellan the courage to make the attempt
  - Magellan found support for the plan in the court of Spain

#### **1517 –**

- King Charles I of Spain was interested in westerly route because the Treaty of Tordesillas denied Spain access to the region by an easterly route
- King Charles I gave Magellan 5 ships and a crew of 250-265 men for the expedition

**1519-** Sailed west to find a sea-route to India and Asia; only 18 returned alive to Spain in 1522

- Mutiny in the Atlantic
  - Of the 5 ships, 3 were captained by inexperienced minor Spanish nobles who felt they owed little or no obedience to Magellan, who in their eyes was a despised Portuguese foreigner.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> mutiny was dispersed, but a 2<sup>nd</sup> led to physical confrontation. Magellan crushed the revolt and ordered the leader executed.
- Strait of Magellan

- Oct 1520 – down to 4 ships (1 had run aground). The coastline was curving east – but Magellan found the mouth of a channel heading west. Sent the *San Antonio* to investigate.
- Instead of checking the channel, its crew deserted and sailed back to Spain. (This ship also happened to be carrying the bulk of the expedition's provisions).
- Magellan and the 3 remaining ships (The *Trinidad*, *Victoria* & *Concepcion*) continued through the strait that would later bear his name.
- Not an easy channel: whirlpools, contrary tides, and currents, inhospitable cliffs on either side for most of the 350-mile passage
- Nov 1520 – reached the end of the straight, entered the South Sea. Magellan renamed it Mar Pacifico (Pacific Ocean) for its calmness.
  - (The treacherous waters around Tierra del Fuego would deter many from regularly attempting the journey).
- Across the Pacific Ocean
  - Exact route by Magellan unknown
  - Scurvy and malnutrition took hold – crew ate rats and boiled ox hides. (Magellan was cheated of a year's worth of provisions when outfitting for the journey back in Spain as well as losing even more when the *San Antonio* left the expedition).
  - No land seen for a long time. The Pacific Ocean proved far more expansive than anticipated.
  - March 1521 – found islands of Guam and the archipelago San Lazaro (the Philippines).
  - April 26, 1521 – Magellan was killed during a battle with natives. He unwisely and unnecessarily involved himself in a local power struggle between 2 native tribes.
  - Juan Sebastian de la El Cano elected expedition leader.
  - The rotten *Concepcion* was burned; the two ships *Trinidad* and *Victoria* remained to continue the voyage.
  - El Cano made harbor in the Spice Islands. He left the *Trinidad* & her crew to repair the ship, sailing after completion of repairs. Cloves filled the holds of both ships.
  - Sept 1522 – El Cano and the *Victoria* made it back to Spain, 3 years after setting out. El Cano and 18 crewmen remained alive.
  - *Trinidad* and her crew were captured by the Portuguese and imprisoned. Very few of the crew members made it back to Spain.
  - Incredibly, *Victoria's* cargo of cloves sold for enough money that the whole venture made a profit after all expenses deducted, including the loss of the ships! (However, the loss of human life was horrific, even by the standards of the age of exploration).

*Magellan's voyage marked the culmination of the various efforts to find a westward sea-route through the coastlines of Central and South America. The harsh rigors and difficult sailing conditions of that journey revealed Magellan to be one of the greatest sea-captains of the early modern age of European exploration. Magellan never reached the Indies proper nor ever returned home, but he was credited with leading the 1<sup>st</sup> voyage of circumnavigation in history.*

*England gets a slice of North America, and Balboa claims the 'South Sea' (Pacific Ocean) and the western coast of South America for Spain.*

**11/6-11/14**

***First Americans***  
***Indigenous American Continent***

***Date*** c. 10,000 BC – 1500 AD

***Themes***

Conflict and Conquest

Rise and Fall of Empires and Nations

***Readings***

11/6-11/7

Pri: *Very First Americans*

Int: Discovery of the Americas p3-14

LMS: Hist US V1 Ch 3, 4, 8

UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 4, 8

11/8-11/9

Pri: *Very First Americans*

Int: Discovery of the Americas p15-29

LMS/UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 9, 10

11/13-11/14

Pri: Very First Americans

Int: Discovery of the Americas (finish book)

LMS/UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 11, 12

*Let's turn to the people who inhabited the lands that Europeans were 'discovering' – we will look first at those in North America, then in trimester 2 we will look to the Aztecs in Mexico and Incas in Peru.*

Reconstruction of the historical record is difficult – no written languages existed...so we must piece together the advent of Indians in the Americas from stories, legends as well as scientific and archaeological discoveries.

### **Where did the first Americans come from?**

Initially, there were no humans on the American continents. From fossil records, it appears that humans migrated into the Americas in multiple waves, using boats or by foot. The oldest human fossils found in the Americas are in Chile (18,500 years old) and the state of Maryland (21,000 years old). These dates are MUCH older than the time frame scientists first believed. It predates the opening of the Ice-Free Corridor between Siberia and Alaska, lending support to the idea that humans could have used boats to travel to the Americas while ice blocked the land bridge connecting Siberia and Alaska.

Archaeologist Michael Collins believes that “waves of people have been coming into the Americas for a long time. Some came on foot, some came by boat across the Pacific, and some came across the Atlantic. It was a long-term process, not a single event.” DNA evidence also points to multiple waves of people from multiple gene pools, and possibly from many directions.

Hypothesized routes:

- **The Pacific Rim Hypothesis**
  - People from Asia traveled in boats along the Pacific coast, following the Kelp Highway. Coastal routes provided more subsistence, faster movement in boats, and less frigid conditions.
    - Human bones found in southern Chile are dated between 14,700-18,500 years old.
    - In the Channel Islands off of Santa Barbara, California, 80 sites range in age from 8,000-12,200 years old.
    - The tool technology most closely resembles tools found in Japan 16,000 years ago.

- **Solutrean Hypothesis** (oldest fossil/tool evidence)
  - Colonizers came from Europe by boat along the North Atlantic pack-ice margin. The tools found on the Atlantic seaboard in Maryland and Virginia resemble tools found in the Solutrean area of France.
    - In Maryland, Solutrean-type tools were found. Fossils found in Virginia date 21,000 years old and support the Solutrean Hypothesis.
- **Ice-Free Corridor**
  - People migrated from Asia on foot across a corridor of tundra between Siberia and Alaska, into modern-day Alaska & Canada, when that area was clear of ice.
    - Clovis-era tools and human remains were found in this corridor. The oldest remains date between 12,707-12,556 years old. DNA indicates Siberian ancestry.
- **Gulf Coast Savanna Corridor**
  - Migration possibly came from the Southwest. Fossils found in Florida come from exotic species such as sloths and jaguars, known from Mexico, Central, and South America. They date between 14,000-14,500 years old.

Over time, descendants of those initial hunters followed migratory herds and fanned out over the continent.

- Eventually, alterations in the environment would compel bands to confine themselves to a specific area and adopt lifestyles fitting that habitat
  - Seacoast
  - Plains
  - Desert
  - Forest

**Ice Age** that revealed the land bridge enabling migration of humans into the Americas via a land route-

- Began ~80,000 yrs ago, ending ~10,000 years ago.
- Humans reached Siberia ~35,000 years ago
  - Their survival depended upon herds of meaty mammals adapted to the cold
  - Nomad hunters in Siberia wandered further north and east while following the herds; happened upon a land bridge that connected Siberia to the North American continent.
    - Evidence points to this likely occurring ~15,000 yrs ago (when glaciers covered almost 1/3 of the earth, and sea levels were 300' lower)
- ~10,000 years ago
  - Improvements made in stone weaponry aided hunting
  - Improved spearheads made of flint

- Atlatl made – helped deliver the spear with greater speed, range, and impact
- New inventions: hammock, canoe, snowshoes, lacrosse, rubber balls made from rubber gathered from rubber plants
- c9,000 BC, extinction of the mammoth
  - Bison became chief prey for Plains hunters
- c7,500 BC - Grinding stones (for seeds & meat) first used
- By 6,000 BC – estimated that 2/3 of New World species that weighed more than 100 pounds at maturity became extinct (due to changes in climate after ice age)
  - Sabertooth Tiger, giant beaver, giant sloth, mastodons, horse, camels (horses would not return to New World until the Spanish brought them)

### **Why are the First Americans named ‘Indians’?**

- Columbus used that term because he thought he was in the Indies
  - Although diverse, the First Americans inherited certain characteristics from Old World ancestors, such as short/medium stature, straight black hair, light brown skin, prominent cheekbones – these features encouraged Columbus’s mistaken impression that he reached the East Indies
- Some use term ‘Native American’ – can be confusing, since it implies origination, yet Asians had migrated to North America a LONG time ago, so it is ok to use that term
- *Native Americans, First Americans, are acceptable names - Pekka Hamalainen, historian, wrote Indigenous Continent - perhaps Indigenous American may also be acceptable?*

When Columbus ‘discovered’ America (or rediscovered, if one considers the Vikings the first European discoverers of the Americas), the different Native cultures were many and diverse. Between 250 and 300 different languages were spoken. Native cultures were influenced by the geography and climate of their locale.

## Tour of Native Americans of North America

### **Northwest Coast Indians**

- Bountiful area: oceans/rivers provide fish, seals whales; forests provide game, nuts, berries
- Not farmers – are hunter/gathers
- Much time for leisure
- People care about wealth and prestige – divided into classes

### **Southern Coastal Indians (California)**

- Indians carefree
- Most live peaceably with one another
- Mild climate

*Travel east, inland to find:*

### **Southwest Cliff Dwellers**

- People of the desert – hot, dry climate with little vegetation
- Changed from a nomadic to a settled existence
- Auster life
- Farmed and foraged
- Lived in cliff dwellings carved from the mountainside
- Eventually moved into pueblos – multi-chambered structures for living, storing and chore areas

*Continue east to encounter the Mound Builders and Plains Indians...*



11/8-11/9

**Native Americans**  
***Tribes of the Plains and the Mound Builders***

**Date** 1405 - 1524

**Themes**

Conflict and Conquest  
Rise and Fall of Empires and Nations  
Trade and Commerce

**Readings**

11/8-9

LMS/UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 9-10

Pri: *Very First Americans*

Int: Discovery Americas p15-29

**Plains Indians**

**Geography and Environment of the Great Plains**

- Covers the area from Canada south to Texas, from the Rockies east to Mississippi
- Windy, dry, extreme temperatures
  - In a single day, the temperature can fluctuate 50 degrees
  - Hot winds can blow like a furnace, withering vegetation
- Extreme and potentially dangerous weather
  - violent thunderstorms, tornadoes, blizzards, immense snowfall
- Few trees, farming is difficult

**Lifestyle**

- Nomadic hunters
- Some tribes settled along rivers and became farmers
- Live mostly on bison – follow the herds
  - Before horses and guns, used stone-tipped spears. Stalked and ambushed at watering holes, or stampeded them into box canyons or dry ravines then kill en masse (a communal effort)
  - Life of Indians very intertwined with the bison – rarely has a dependence on a single animal so dominated and shaped human lives)
    - Bison provided meat, fuel for fire, shelter, and clothes, hide tanning substance (brain paste), tallow, utensils, tools

- Domestication of dogs provided new mobility – pulled a travois, loaded with up to 75# of dried meat and possessions
- Poorest and hungriest of the Native Americans
- Lived in conic tents = tipis made from animal skins
- Life changed dramatically with the Spanish introduction of horses – hunting made much easier, as well as the ability to wage war

### **Tribes**

- Sioux (Dakota, Lakota), Blackfeet, Apache, Shoshone, Comanche, Cree, Kiowa, Crow

### **Mound Builders**

*Lived about 2000 years ago, reaching its height around 1100 AD*

### **Geography and Environment**

- Lived in the Mississippi River area, at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers
- Benign climate, bountiful in plant and animal resources
  - Planted fields of corn, squash, beans, gourds, sunflowers

### **Lifestyle**

- Mixed forage and farming economy
- Various villages communicated through trade along the rivers
- Used dugout canoes to travel the Mississippi

### **Known as Mound Builders for the variously shaped mounds they built**

- Some were conical with temples built on top, others flat-topped
- The greatest pyramid was at Cahokia's central plaza (near Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers)
  - Rose in steps to 4 broad terraces
    - Atop the terraces were shrines
    - The highest terrace overlooked most of the trees
  - Hunters, farmers, artisan, traders met at a plaza at the foot of the pyramid
  - Supported a population of 10,000 people at its height

*Travel further east to encounter the Indians of the Eastern Forests...*

**11/13-11/14**

***North American Indians  
Tribes of the Eastern Forests***

**Date** 1451 - 1506

**Themes**

Trade and Commerce

Conflict and Conquest

Rise and Fall of Empires and Nations

**Readings**

11/13-11/14

LMS/UMS: Hist US V1 Ch 11-12

Pri: Very First Americans

Int: Discovery Americas: finish book

**Indians of the Eastern Forests**

**Geography and Environment**

- Lived between the Mississippi River and the Atlantic Ocean
- Area rich in resources:
  - Forests and woods filled with deer, moose, bear, and other animals to hunt
  - Streams filled with fish
  - Wild berries, seeds, nuts
  - Planted beans, squash, corn before 1000 AD

**Lifestyle**

- Small tribes
- Women farmed, men hunted and fished
- Built lightweight bark canoes (need for portages made heavy dugout canoes difficult to carry)
- Seasonal cycle of:
  - Winter hunting camps
  - Spring maple sugaring grounds (men fished/women collected sap/boiled to sugar)
  - Summer villages (gardening, hunting, food preservation)
- Algonquian-speaking Indians

**Tribes**

- Abenaki, Ojibwa, Mohican, Massachuset, Narraganset, Powhatan, Blackfoot, Delaware, Cree

## **People of the Long House – the Iroquois**

### Geography and Environment

- Northeastern tribes living from banks of Hudson River to shores of Lake Erie
- Some of the richest planting and hunting grounds in the Northeast - forests filled with game, rivers, and lakes filled with fish
- Access by trail or waterway from Atlantic to the heart of the continent

### Lifestyle

- Lived in communal longhouses which housed many families under one roof
- Iroquois means “people of the longhouse”
- Were primarily farmers, who also hunted and fished
- Depended on fish more than hunting for sustenance; could fish year-round (in winter would fish through holes cut in the ice)
- Harvests of crops most important for survival – farming provided a stable food supply stored through the winter. The stockpiled food supported large populations in their villages.
- Villages were built a mile or two from a waterway, on high ground, surrounded by wooden palisades with a rear and front entrance
- Village encompassed several acres with up to 60 structures (mostly longhouses)
- Longhouse dimensions usually 18’ wide x 18’ tall x 40-200’ long
- Windowless, smoke holes in the ceiling
- Families in a longhouse usually belonged to the same clan
- Each clan claimed a bird or animal as its name and symbol – the carved image of it was above the entrance to the longhouse.

## **Five Nations of the Iroquois confederacy**

Originally 5 feuding tribes – they formed a confederacy by 1600 CE with their *Great League of Peace*

- Mohawk
- Seneca
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Cayuga

A 240-mile central trail linked the nations of the confederacy.

- From approximately present-day Albany to Buffalo
  - Conformed to the topography – so efficient that the current New York State Thruway traces much of its route
- A network of smaller trails off the central trail connected all of Iroquoia
- Relay runners could carry messages the entire length of the trail in 70 hours

Legend of the beginning of the Great League of Peace

- Time of great strife and feuds between families, clans, sister towns
- Hiawatha, Onondaga chief, lost his wife and 3 daughters. Tribe blamed shaman Atotarho
- Hiawatha, grieving, wanders into the forest. Comes across a lake. Ducks on lake flap their wings to lift the water. Hiawatha crosses a dry lake bed
- He picked up beautiful shells; threaded them on rushes. (first wampum)
- Each night, he held the wampum strings and pleaded for relief of his sorrow, to no avail
- Hiawatha was visited one night by a healing spirit – Deganawida, a prophet in human form. He soothed and consoled Hiawatha.
- Hiawatha, his grief assuaged, was able to reason once more. They make laws for great peace. They carried the wampum to villages, teaching the laws of peace to the Iroquois. Persuaded chiefs of 4 nations (Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca) but Atotarho held out.
- Hiawatha promised him a position of guardian of the council of fire of all 5 nations in return for joining the League. After combing the snakes from Atotarho's hair, Atotarho and the Oneida commit to the League.
- Deganawida proclaimed the league to take the form of a longhouse – as many families live in a single household, so the Five Nations associate as one family. Deganawida then withdraws from the sight of men.

Versions of this tale not written down until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the core of the tale goes back to a time just before the arrival of Europeans when the Great League of Peace was founded.

- Impact – feuding cycles ended. Hostilities now transferred to outside groups. The Iroquois presented a challenge to outside groups and the arriving Europeans.

## Resource Books

SOTW(2)	<i>Story of the World, Vol 2: The Middle Ages</i> Susan Wise Bauer
Hist US V1	<i>History of US Vol 1 The First Americans</i> Joy Hakim
Exp	<i>Explorers of the New World</i> Carla Mooney
Michelangelo	<i>Michelangelo</i> Diane Stanley
Leonardo	<i>Leonardo da Vinci</i> Diane Stanley
Ren Artists	<i>Renaissance Artists</i>
	<i>Discovery of the Americas</i> Betsy Maestro
	<i>The Very First Americans</i> Cara Ashrose
Ren & Ref	<i>The Renaissance and Reformation A History in Documents</i> Merry Wiesner-Hanks

## Bibliography of Books

- Abullafia, David      *The Discovery of Mankind*
- Bramley, Serge      *Leonardo The Artist and the Man*
- Campbell, Gordon      *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Renaissance*
- Davies, Norman      *Europe A History*
- Elliott, J. H.      *Imperial Spain 1469-1716*
- Eltis, D. & Richardson, D.      *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*
- Fritze, Ronald H.      *New Worlds The Great Voyages of Discovery 1400-1600*
- Johnson, Paul      *The Renaissance A Short History*
- Konstam, Angus      *Historical Atlas of Exploration*
- Liss, Peggy      *Isabel the Queen: Life and Times*
- MacCulloch, Diarmaid      *Christianity The First Three Thousand Years*
- Phillips, William & Carla      *A Concise History of Spain*
- Phillips, William & Carla      *The Worlds of Christopher Columbus*
- Plumb, J. H.      *The Italian Renaissance*
- Saraiva, Jose Hermano      *Portugal A Companion History*
- Spielvogel, Jackson      *Western Civilization*
- Strathern, Paul      *The Artist, the Philosopher, and the Warrior*
- Russell-Wood, A. J. R.      *The Portuguese Empire, 1415-1808 A World on the Move*