

- Renaissance
  - Transition from medieval to modern world
    - Medieval = feudal societies
    - End of 14<sup>th</sup> century = change
    - Focal point = Italy
  - Why Italy?
    - 14<sup>th</sup> Cen Europe = economic collapse
    - Italy = gateway between East & West
    - Trade uninterrupted
    - Venetian galleys
    - Expansion of trade stimulates industry
      - Ex. Florence develops “put-out” system
      - Ex. Venetian “arsenal”
  - 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Cen – trade-rich cities dominate
    - NO central authority

- City-states form
  - Ruled by oligarchies
  - Civil strife = common
  - Solution = despots
- 15<sup>th</sup> cen = map changes
- Five states = dominate
    - Kingdom of Naples
      - » Controls Sicily
    - Papal States
      - » Seat of Holy See
    - Duchy of Milan
      - » Alps; Lombard plains; industry
    - Republic of Florence
      - » Florentine banking system
      - » Most powerful = Medici Family
      - » Cosimo de' Medici
      - » Lorenzo de' Medici

— Venice – Republic of St. Mark

» Shipbuilding & diplomacy

— City-states preserve Italy thru cooperation

- Kept outsiders away

- Ends 1494

  - Naples, Florence & Alexander VI vs. Milan

  - Ludovico il Moro allies with Charles VIII

- Venice League drives Charles out

- Alexander VI eyes Romagna for son – Cesare Borgia

  - Allies with Louis XII

  - Betrays League

- Julius II suppresses Borgias

  - Forms Holy League vs. Louis XII

- Francis I seeks revenge
  - Defeats Leo X
  - Concordat of Bologna (1516)
  - Habsburg-Valois Wars erupt
- Period = “School of Europe”
  - Provides lessons for centuries
- Lessons drawn by Machiavelli
  - *The Prince* (1513)
    - Low opinion of humanity
    - Ruler = fox & lion
    - Desperate times = desperate measures
- Politics impact economy
  - Rise of bourgeoisie
  - Challenges church’s monopoly over culture
  - Patronage

— Rise of scholarship

- “Men of Letters”
- Rise of Humanism
- Vernaculars popularized
- Triggers demand for books
- Hans Gutenberg & printing press

— Dante Alighieri

- *Divine Comedy* (1320)
- Most significant = the *Inferno*
- Nine Circles of Hell & Lucifer

— Petrarch

- Professional Man of Letters
- Develops love poems – Sonnets
- One of founders of modern literature

— Desiderius Erasmus

- “Prince of the Humanists”
- Foremost intellectual of his day
- Possessed attributes of Humanism
- *The Praise of Folly* (1511)
- Was – human
- Helps destroy universality of Catholicism
- *Textus Receptus* (1516)

— Renaissance Art

- Values & interests of “laity”
- New perspective of life in painting & sculpture
- New technical skills & materials

— 3 Great Masters

- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Raphael
- Michelangelo Buonarroti