

Chapter 13: European Society and the Age of the Renaissance

The Evolution of the Italian Renaissance, pp 413 – 419

Discussion Questions

1. What do scholars mean by renaissance?
2. What I did Genoa and Venice get so rich? Give an example.
3. How did Florence overcome geographic obstacles to become wealthy?
4. What challenges did Florence overcome? How did it overcome them?
5. How did a new social class called the “urban nobility” arise in Italy?
6. What did the new “urban nobility” do to try and maintain power?
7. What did the popolo do once they gained power? What was the result by 1300?
8. What was the “princely court” of the fifteenth century and why were they used?
9. Why was Italy not the one unified state during the Renaissance?
10. What five powers dominated the Italian peninsula in the fifteenth century?
11. What was the façade these governments showed and what was the reality?
12. How was politics in the northern Europe different than Italian politics?
13. How did the Italian city states exemplify the idea of a “balance of power”?

14. Why are the Renaissance Italians synonymous with the founding of modern diplomacy?
15. What long-term trends led to an invasion of Italy by France?
16. Describe Savonarola.

Intellectual Hallmarks of the Renaissance, pp 419-422

Discussion Questions

1. What was Petrarch's argument about living in a new age?
2. Described the Renaissance idea of individualism.
3. What is humanism and how did it originate?
4. Describe Renaissance humanists? Give an example.
5. What is secularism and how did Renaissance life show secularism?
6. How did economics in the thirteenth century create a change in social and intellectual attitudes and values?
7. Described some writings that exemplify the secular spirit of the Renaissance and explain why they do.
8. How did the Roman Catholic Church respond to the secularism of the Renaissance?
9. Describe the response of the general population to this age of secularism.

Art and the Artist, pp 422-428

1. Where was the center of renaissance art and what were the main characteristics of High Renaissance art? Who best exemplifies this art?
2. Who paid for early Renaissance art? What type of art was created in the early renaissance, and what was its purpose?
3. Who paid for art in the later Renaissance, in the fifteenth century? What conclusions can be reached by this change?
4. How did the patterns of consumption change in the Renaissance Italy?
5. How did the subject matter of art change in the fifteenth century?
6. Describe the social status of the artist during the Renaissance and give some examples.

Social Change, pp 428-438

Discussion Questions

1. Describe the model gentleman in the Renaissance time period, and its origins.
2. Describe the role of education in a wealthy, or upper middle class Renaissance woman's life and what were the challenges to a scholarly educated life?

3. What was the political philosophy of Machiavelli in his book, *The Prince* and how did it differ from medieval political theory? What has been the long-term influence of Machiavelli?
4. Describe the technological advances in printing in the 1400s.
5. How did printing transform the private and public lives of Europeans?
6. How did the use of clocks spread in Europe and how were clocks important in urban life? Why do you think the author says that clocks gave Europeans a technological advantage over other people?
7. What was the role of women in general in society and to what extent were they valued?
8. Describe the role of upper class women's work/role in the renaissance time period.
9. What was the male/female double standard as it related to love and sex during the Renaissance?
10. What was the view of rape during the Renaissance?
11. How did the Renaissance Italians view homosexuality? What was the "Office of the Night?" How prevalent was homosexuality and what forms did it usually take and why?

12. Describe the role of slavery in Europe both among the Slavic people and blacks.
13. Describe how blacks in Africa were partners in the slave trade with Europeans.
14. How did Renaissance Europeans view blacks and how did they develop that view?

The Renaissance in the North, pp 438-441

Discussion Questions

1. How did the Renaissance spread to northern Europe?
2. How was the Northern Renaissance different than the Renaissance in Italy?
3. What did the Northern European Christian humanists believe?
4. Who was Thomas More? What famous book did he write? How did he describe utopia in his book?
5. What was so original about Thomas More's thinking?
6. Who was the Erasmus and what did he view as his life's work?
7. What was Erasmus' purpose for creating an edition of the New Testament?

8. Explain the two fundamental themes in all of Erasmus' work.
9. How were More, Erasmus and Rabelais similar and different?
10. Describe northern Renaissance art and architecture.

Politics and the State in the Renaissance (ca 1450-1521), pp 441-447

1. Who were the "new monarchs?" What countries were they from? Why do you think they are called "new monarchs?"
2. What was new about the "new monarchs?"
3. What was "old" about the "new monarchs?"
4. How did Charles VII reestablish the monarchy in France after the Hundred Years' War?
5. What did Louis XI, Louis XII and Francis I do to further strengthen the monarchy in France?
6. How did the English monarchy decrease dependence on the baronial dominated Parliament (thus increasing the power of the monarchy?)

7. How did Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain reduce the power of aristocracy?
8. Why was Spain considered the most diverse country in Europe?
9. What did the “reconquista achieve?”
10. What happened to Jews in Spain in the mid to late 1300s?
11. Describe the anti-Semitism that swept Spain during the late 1400s (Especially aimed at the conversos).
12. What became the foundations of the new national state of Spain?