



THE RENAISSANCE
EUROPE'S CULTURAL AWAKENING
(1300-1600)

WHAT WAS THE RENAISSANCE?



- ❖ The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth" in French
- ❖ Period of cultural revival after the Middle Ages
- ❖ Marked by renewed interest in classical Greek and Roman culture
- ❖ Approximately 1300-1600 CE



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- ❖ Europe emerging from feudal system
- ❖ Growth in trade and commerce
- ❖ Rise of wealthy merchant class
- ❖ Development of city-states
- ❖ Universities becoming centers of learning
- ❖ Catholic Church's influence beginning to decrease



WHY ITALY?

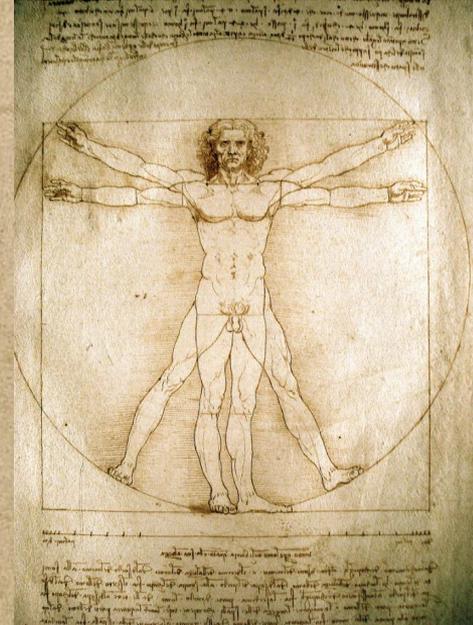


- ❖ **Wealthy city-states (Florence, Venice, Rome, Milan)**
- ❖ **Rich merchants and bankers as art patrons**
- ❖ **Medici family of Florence - major arts supporters**
- ❖ **Geographic location ideal for trade**
- ❖ **Surrounded by ancient Roman ruins**
- ❖ **Byzantine scholars brought classical knowledge**



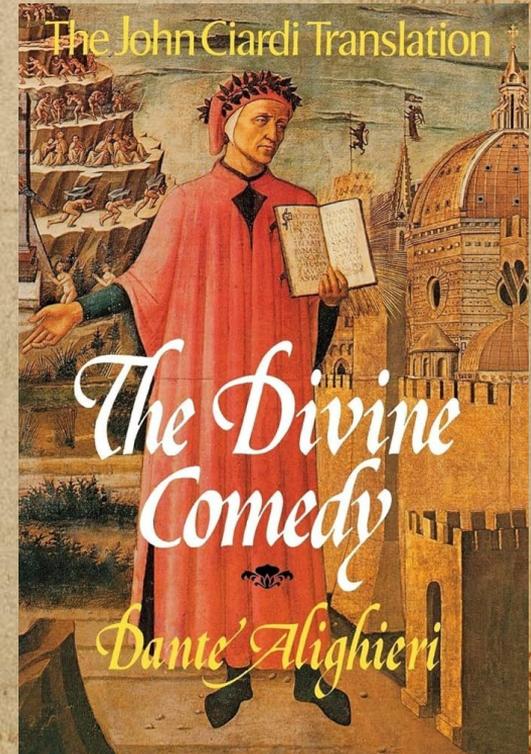
HUMANISM - A NEW PHILOSOPHY

- ❖ Balance between religious faith/secular viewpoints
- ❖ Emphasis on human dignity and individual worth
- ❖ Study of classical texts for insights into human life
- ❖ Focus on both religious and non-religious themes
- ❖ Promotion of education and critical thinking



RENAISSANCE LITERATURE

- ❖ Dante Alighieri - "The Divine Comedy"
- ❖ First major author to write in Italian vernacular
- ❖ Petrarch - father of Renaissance humanism
- ❖ Boccaccio - "The Decameron"
- ❖ Machiavelli - "The Prince"



RENAISSANCE ART - NEW TECHNIQUES



- ❖ Three-dimensional perspective
- ❖ Lifelike figures with expressive faces
- ❖ Both religious and secular subjects
- ❖ Realistic portrayal of human anatomy
- ❖ Use of light and shadow

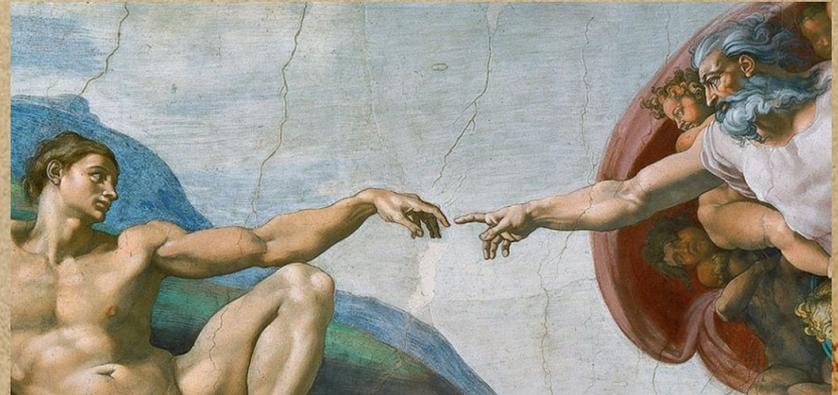
THE GREAT MASTERS

- Leonardo da Vinci - "Mona Lisa", anatomical studies
- Michelangelo - Sistine Chapel ceiling, "David"
- Raphael - "School of Athens"
- Focus on realism and classical ideals



"Mona Lisa"

"David"



"School of Athens"

THE NORTHERN RENAISSANCE

- Spread to Germany, France, Britain, Holland, Flanders
- Influenced by Italian Renaissance
- Printing press helped spread ideas
- Christian humanism emerged
- Oil painting techniques advanced



NORTHERN RENAISSANCE

GIANTS



Erasmus



Albrecht Durer

- **Writers:**

- Erasmus - "The Praise of Folly"
- Thomas More - "Utopia"
- William Shakespeare - numerous plays

- **Artists:**

- Albrecht Dürer
- Jan van Eyck
- Pieter Bruegel

William Shakespeare



RENAISSANCE AND RELIGION

- Tension between Church and humanist values
- Most Renaissance figures remained Christian
- Humanists sought Church reform
- Led to later religious transformations
- Balance between faith and reason



LEGACY OF THE RENAISSANCE

- Revival of classical learning
- Development of humanism
- Advancement in arts and sciences
- Growth of secular thinking
- Foundation for modern Western culture

