Chapter 17
European Renaissance and Reformation, 1300–1600

Two movements, the Renaissance and the Reformation, usher in dramatic social and cultural changes in Europe.

Section 1: Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

The Italian Renaissance is a rebirth of learning that produces many great works of art and literature.

Section 1: Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

Italy’s Advantages

The Renaissance
• Renaissance—an explosion of creativity in art, writing, and thought
• Started in northern Italy
• Lasted from 1300-1600

City-States
• Crusades spur trade
• Growth of city-states in northern Italy
• In 1300s bubonic plague killed 60% of population, disrupts economy

Continued Italy’s Advantages

Merchants and the Medici
• A wealthy merchant class develops
• More emphasis on individual achievement
• Banking family, the Medici, controls Florence
Looking to Greece and Rome
• Artists, scholars study ruins of Rome and Latin, Greek manuscripts
• Scholars move to Rome after fall of Constantinople in 1453

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Classical and Worldly Values

Classics Lead to Humanism
• Humanism—intellectual movement focused on human achievements
• Humanists studied classical texts, history, literature, philosophy

Worldly Pleasures
• Renaissance society was secular—worldly
• Wealthy enjoyed fine food, homes, clothes

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Continued Classical and Worldly Values

Patrons of the Arts
• Patron—a financial supporter of artists
• Church leaders spend money on artworks to beautify cities
• Wealthy merchants also patrons of the arts

The Renaissance Man
• Excels in many fields: the classics, art, politics, combat
• Baldassare Castiglione’s The Courtier (1528)
• The book teaches how to become a “universal” person

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Continued Classical and Worldly Values

The Renaissance Woman
• Upper-class, educated in classics, charming
• Expected to inspire art but not create it
• Isabella d’Este, patron of artists, wields power in Mantua

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The Renaissance Revolutionizes Art

Artistic Styles Change
• Artists use realistic style copied from classical art, often to portray religious subjects
• Painters use perspective—a way to show three dimensions on a canvas

Realistic Painting and Sculpture
• Realistic portraits of prominent citizens
• Sculpture shows natural postures and expressions
• The biblical David is a favorite subject among sculptors

Renaissance Writers Change Literature

New Trends in Writing
• Writers use the vernacular—their native language
• Self-expression or to portray individuality of the subject

Anguissola and Gentileschi
• Sofonisba Anguissola: first woman artist to gain world renown
• Artemisia Gentileschi paints strong, heroic women

Machiavelli Advises Rulers
Niccolò Machiavelli, author of political guidebook, *The Prince*
*The Prince* examines how rulers can gain and keep power

Vittoria Colonna
- Woman writer with great influence
- Poems express personal emotions

**Section 2: The Northern Renaissance**

In the 1400s, the ideas of the Italian Renaissance begin to spread to Northern Europe.

**The Northern Renaissance Begins**

**Renaissance Ideas Spread**
- Spirit of Renaissance Italy impresses visitors from northern Europe
- When Hundred Years’ War ends (1453), cities grow rapidly
- Merchants in northern cities grow wealthy and sponsor artists
- England and France unify under strong monarchs who are art patrons
- Northern Renaissance artists interested in realism
- Humanists interested in social reform based on Judeo-Christian values

**Artistic Ideas Spread**

**Renaissance Styles Migrate North**
- Artists, writers move to northern Europe fleeing war in Italy (1494)

**German Painters**
- Albrecht Dürer’s woodcuts and engravings emphasize realism
- Hans Holbein the Younger paints portraits, often of English royalty

**Flemish Painters**
- Flanders is the artistic center of northern Europe
- Jan van Eyck, pioneer in oil-based painting, uses layers of paint
- Van Eyck’s paintings are realistic and reveal subject’s personality
• Pieter Bruegel captures scenes of peasant life with realistic details

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Northern Writers Try to Reform Society

Northern Humanists
• Criticize the Catholic Church, start Christian humanism
• Want to reform society and promote education, particularly for women

Christian Humanists
• Desiderius Erasmus of Holland is best-known Christian humanist
• His book, *The Praise of Folly*, pokes fun at merchants and priests
• Thomas More of England creates a model society in his book *Utopia*

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*Continued* Northern Writers Try to Reform Society

Women’s Reforms
• Christine de Pizan, one of the first women writers
• She promotes education, equal treatment for boys and girls

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The Elizabethan Age

Queen Elizabeth I
• Renaissance spreads to England in mid-1500s
• Period known as the Elizabethan Age, after Queen Elizabeth I
• Elizabeth reigns from 1558 to 1603

William Shakespeare
• Shakespeare is often regarded as the greatest playwright
• Born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564
• Plays performed at London’s Globe Theater

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Printing Spreads Renaissance Ideas

Chinese Invention
• Around 1045 Bi Sheng of China invents movable type
• It uses a separate piece of type for each character

Gutenberg Improves the Printing Process
• Around 1440 **Johann Gutenberg** of Germany develops printing press
• Printing press allows for quick, cheap book production
• First book printed with movable type, Gutenberg Bible (1455)

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**The Legacy of the Renaissance**

**Changes in the Arts**
• Art influenced by classical Greece and Rome
• Realistic portrayals of individuals and nature
• Art is both secular and religious
• Writers use vernacular
• Art praises individual achievement

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*Continued* The Legacy of the Renaissance

**Changes in Society**
• Printing makes information widely available
• Illiterate people benefit by having books read to them
• Published accounts of maps and charts lead to more discoveries
• Published legal proceedings make rights clearer to people
• Political structures and religious practices are questioned

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Section 3: Luther Leads the Reformation

Martin Luther’s protest over abuses in the Catholic Church lead to the founding of Protestant churches.

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Section 3: Luther Leads the Reformation

**Causes of the Reformation**

**Church Authority Challenged**
• Secularism, individualism of Renaissance challenge Church authority
• Rulers challenge Church’s power
• Printing press spreads secular ideas
• Northern merchants resent paying church taxes

**Criticisms of the Catholic Church**
• Corrupt leaders, extravagant popes
• Poorly educated priests

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*Continued Causes of the Reformation*

**Early Calls for Reform**
• John Wycliffe and Jan Hus stress Bible’s authority over clergy’s
• Desiderius Erasmus and Thomas More are vocal critics of the Church
• Reading religious works, Europeans form own opinions about Church

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**Luther Challenges the Church**

**The 95 Theses**
• Martin Luther protests Friar Johann Tetzel’s selling of indulgences
• *Indulgence*—a pardon releasing a person from penalty for a sin
• In 1517 Luther posts his 95 Theses attacking “pardon-merchants”
• Luther’s theses circulate throughout Germany
• Luther launches the *Reformation*—a movement for religious reform
• Reformation rejects pope’s authority

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*Continued Luther Challenges the Church*

**Luther’s Teachings**
• People can win salvation by good works and faith
• Christian teachings must be based on the Bible, not the pope
• All people with faith are equal, can interpret Bible without priests

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**The Response to Luther**

**The Pope’s Threat**
• Pope Leo X issues decree threatening to excommunicate Luther (1520)
• Luther’s rights of Church membership are taken away
• Luther refuses to take back his statements and is excommunicated

**The Emperor’s Opposition**
• Charles V is Holy Roman Emperor
• He issues Edict of Worms (1521), declaring Luther a heretic
• Luther and followers begin a separate religious group—*Lutherans*
The Response to Luther

The Peasants’ Revolt
Inspired by Reformation, German peasants seek end to serfdom (1524)
Princes crush revolt; about 100,000 people die

Germany at War
• Some princes side with Luther, become known as Protestants
• Charles V fails to return rebellious princes to Catholic Church
• Peace of Augsburg (1555)—each prince can decide religion of his state

England Becomes Protestant

Henry VIII Wants a Son
• Henry has only daughter, needs male heir to rule England
• Henry wants a divorce; Pope refuses to annul—set aside—his first marriage to Catherine of Aragon

The Reformation Parliament
• Parliament passes laws ending pope’s power in England
• Henry remarries, becomes official head of England’s Church
• Thomas More refuses to go against Catholic Church and is beheaded

Consequences of Henry’s Changes
• Henry has six wives and three children
• Religious turmoil follows Henry’s death (1547)
• Protestantism under King Edward, then Catholicism under Queen Mary

Elizabeth Restores Protestantism
• Henry’s second daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, forms Anglican Church
• Anglican Church is acceptable to moderate Catholics and Protestants

Continued England Becomes Protestant
Elizabeth Faces Other Challenges

- Some Protestants and Catholics oppose Elizabeth
- Phillip II, Catholic King of Spain, threatens England
- Elizabeth’s need for money brings conflict with Parliament

Section 4: The Reformation Continues

As Protestant reformers divide over beliefs, the Catholic Church makes reforms.

Calvin Continues the Reformation

Religious Reform in Switzerland

- Swiss priest Huldrych Zwingli calls for Church reforms (1520)
- War breaks out between Catholics, Protestants; Zwingli killed (1531)

Calvin Formalizes Protestant Ideas

- John Calvin writes *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536):
  - we are sinful by nature and cannot earn salvation
  - God chooses who will be saved—**predestination**
- Calvinism—religion based on Calvin’s teachings

Calvin Leads the Reformation in Switzerland

- Calvin says ideal government is **theocracy**—rule by religious leaders
- Geneva becomes a strict Protestant theocracy led by Calvin

Calvinism Spreads

- John Knox brings Calvinism to Scotland, followers are **Presbyterians**
- Church governed by laymen called presbyters, or elders
- Calvin’s followers in France called Huguenots
- Catholics massacre Huguenots in Paris (1572)

Other Protestant Reformers

The Anabaptists
• **Anabaptists** believe in separation of church and state, oppose wars
  • Forerunners of Mennonites and Amish

**Woman’s Role in the Reformation**
• Marguerite of Navarre protected Calvin in France
• Katrina Zell also protects reformers
• Katherina von Bora, Luther’s wife, promotes equality in marriage

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**The Catholic Reformation**

**A Counter Reformation**
• **Catholic Reformation**—seeks to reform Catholic Church from within

**Ignatius of Loyola**
• Leading Catholic reformer
• His *Spiritual Exercises* (1522) calls for meditation, prayer, and study
• Pope creates Society of Jesus religious order, the **Jesuits**
• Jesuits follow Ignatius, start schools, convert non-Christians

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*Continued The Catholic Reformation*

**Reforming Popes**
• Pope Paul III and Pope Paul IV lead reforms
• Paul III calls **Council of Trent** to lay out reforms:
  - Church’s interpretation of Bible is final
  - Christians need faith and good works for salvation
  - Bible and Church traditions equally important
  - Indulgences are valid expressions of faith
• Use Inquisition to seek out heresy
• Paul IV issues Index of Forbidden Books (1559); books burned

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**The Legacy of the Reformation**

**Religious and Social Effects of the Reformation**
• Catholic Church is unified; Protestant denominations grow
• Catholics and Protestants create schools throughout Europe
• Status of women does not improve

**Political Effects of the Reformation**
• Catholic Church’s power lessens, power of monarchs and states grow
• Reformation’s questioning of beliefs brings intellectual ferment
• Late 18th century sees a new intellectual movement—the Enlightenment