Chapter 15
The Renaissance in Europe
THE ITALIAN STATES
What is a Renaissance?

• It means rebirth
• After feudalism & the Plague
  Europe needed to rebuild
• The renaissance begins in Italy
• Five Italian States are formed
What is a State?

- An area with an independent government
- In this case, it was a city with land around it
- These states came to dominate Italy
Naples

- Located in Southern Italy
- Ruled by a hereditary monarch
- Occupied by French king Charles VIII in 1494
- Battles between Spanish & French control it for many years
Rome

- Central Italy
- Capital of the Papal States, ruled by the Catholic Church
Venice

- Northern Italy
- Link between Europe & Asia (trading)
- International power
- Republic-leader called a doge is elected, but it is actually run by wealthy merchants
Milan

- Northern Italy
- One of the richest states
- Strong central state (in terms of gov’t)
- Ruled by Visconti family until 1447, then conquered & ruled by Francesco Sforza who lead a band of mercenaries
Florence

- Northern Italy
- Ruled by wealthy merchant family (Medici)
- Economy declines, weakened by attacks from Savonarola
- Then taken over by French, Medici’s sent into exile in 1400s
- Medici’s return to power shortly after that
Medici Home/Palace
Brunelleschi’s Dome (Duomo)
Feudalism & the end of the Middle Ages

- Italian states grew stronger & wealthier
- Power of the church begins to decline
Machiavelli

• Writes *The Prince* in 1532
• Basic idea is how to get and keep political power
• Influenced Lorenzo de’ Medici
Renaissance Society

- Nobility-dominated society, but made up small percentage of population, granted by birth
- Patricians - top of urban society
- **Burghers** - shopkeepers, artisans, guild masters & members
- Workers
- Serfs
IDEAS AND ART OF THE RENAISSANCE
Humanism

• An intellectual movement of the Renaissance based on the study of the humanities, including grammar, rhetoric, poetry, moral philosophy, and history
• Used classical values to revitalize their culture
• Francesco Petrarch was the most avid supporter of the movement
• Influenced heavily by Greek, Islamic, Byzantine, and Roman scholars
Vernacular Literature

- Pieces written in the local spoken language
  1. Makes many pieces of writing available to the general public
  2. Was a large shift from the classics that were written in Latin
  3. Used by important authors such as Dante, Christine de Pizan, and many others
Humanist Education Subjects

- Focused on core subjects called liberal studies:
  1. History
  2. Ethics
  3. Public speaking
  4. Grammar
  5. Logic
  6. Poetry
  7. Math
  8. Astronomy
  9. Music
Humanist Education Theory

- Education is a practical preparation for life
- Aimed to create well rounded citizens, not scholars
- Considered important to prepare sons of aristocrats for leadership roles
- Humanist educators emphasized a well rounded education, which often included physical education in their schools
- Humanist education is still practiced today in many countries including the United States
The Gutenberg Press

- Johannes Gutenberg
- Created in the mid 15th century
- Allowed for mass production of printed books, and other materials.
- Made education accessible to the masses.
Italian Renaissance Art

• Sought to imitate nature. (Realistic art was important)
• Emphasized new human-focused world view through producing images of the human body.
• Many used new techniques such as perspective to create new forms of art works.
The Madonna and Child

Byzantine period

Renaissance period
Sculpture and Architecture

• Also set out to create human-centered works of art
• Did not seek to overwhelm the viewer like older architecture did, but rather created comfortable spaces for people to be in
• Much like the Greeks, the architecture of the Renaissance period displays great knowledge of mathematics
Medieval Architecture

- Romanesque Style
  - Rounded arches
  - Barrel Vaults
  - Few windows
  - Smaller in size
Piazza del Duomo
Arches & Vaults

- Vousoirs
- Keystone or crown
- Intrados
- Extrados
- Impost

- Crown
- Haunch

- Arch
- Barrel vault
- Groin vault
- Bay
- Groin
Barrel Vault
Chartes Cathedral
Renaissance Architecture

- Gothic Style
- Pointed Arches
- Buttresses & Flying Buttresses
- Taller/Larger
- More windows = more light
- More inviting for people to visit
Notre Dame-Paris
Notre Dame
Interior
Ceiling
The Masters

• Created art from 1490 to 1520.
• Include
  1. Leonardo da Vinci
  2. Michelangelo Buonarroti
  3. Raphael Sanzio
  4. Donatello di Betto Bardi
• Created many of the classical pieces of art associated with the period.
Mona Lisa-Da Vinci
The Northern Renaissance Art

• Also tried to create realistic art
• Worked a lot with oils
• Often imitated the art techniques of the Italian Renaissance.
Northern Italian