

The Renaissance

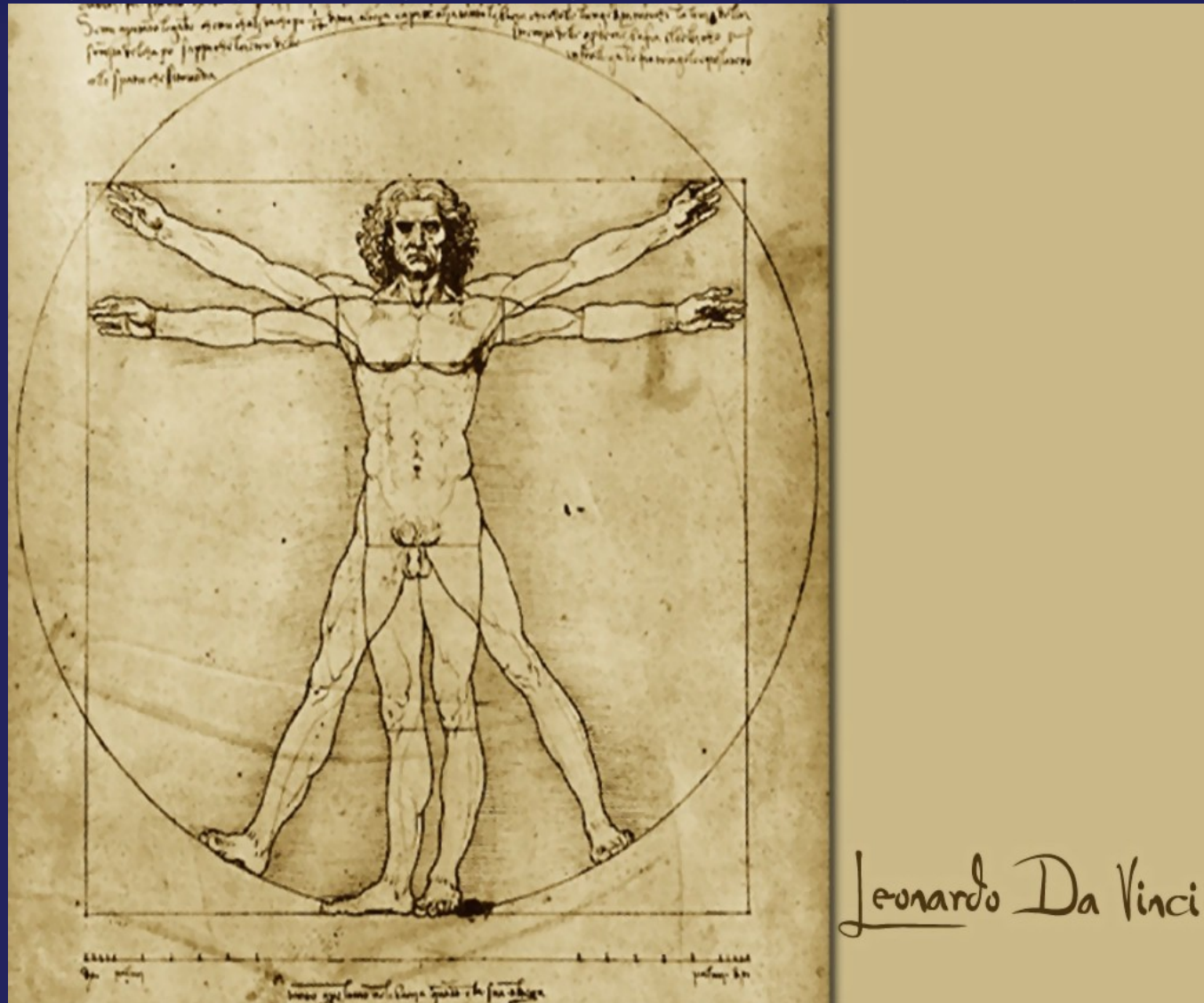
“A demystification of the world”

Max Weber

Renaissance Defined

A Cultural Renewal from the 14th - 17th Century in which values of the Greek and Roman world were rediscovered and harmonized with Christianity.
A focus on the human and their role in society.

Tell Me Something About the Vitruvian Man



Summary of Medieval World

- * 10th Century Life got a little better – ie climate change, between 900-1300 Europe enjoyed the warmest summers in 8000 years
- * Iron horseshoe, better plow, combined with new farming methods provided more food – development of farming communities
- * People moving into “cities” and working in trades, set up guilds and standards for their professions
- * Building boom
- * Islamic Empire grew in size and knowledge of the world expanded
- * The world cooled, war was constant, and The Plague hit at the end of the Middle Ages

Italian City States

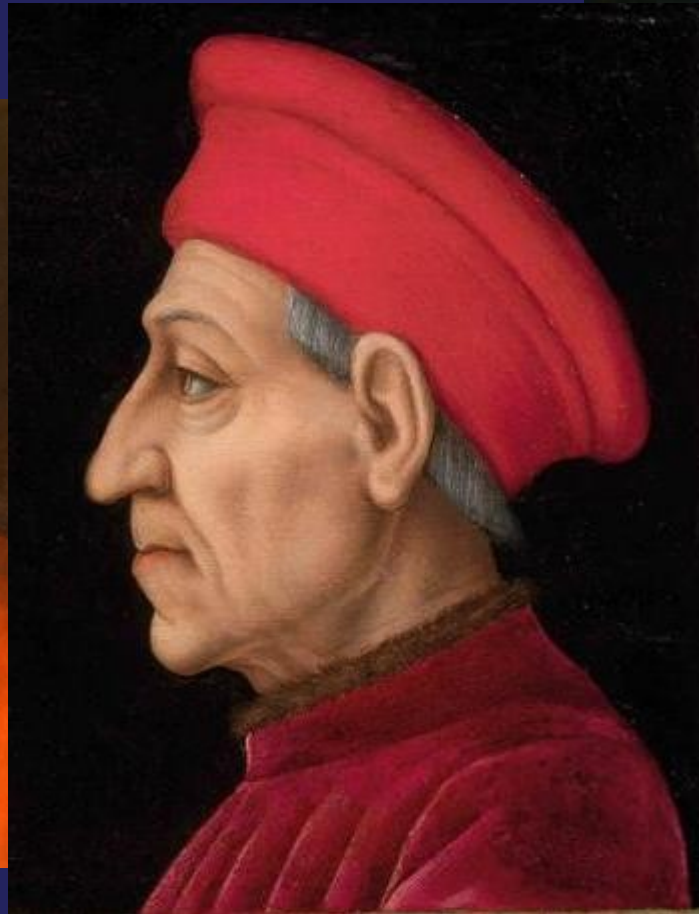
- * Because of the unique culture of Italy and its geography, The Holy Roman Empire could not exert control over the vassal states of Italy.
- * Small city-states began to emerge. No strong monarchies.
- * States became more powerful. Population increased, urbanization
- * Small dynasty's grow within Italy (Venice, Florence, Milan)



Florence and the Medici's

- * The Medici Family
 - * Bankers
 - * Built Power on Wealth not war or birthright
 - * Used Art as Propaganda
 - * Cemented Power through connections
- * Medici Bank
 - * Became the official bank of the Papacy
 - * Set up Bank around Europe – eventually every parish was sending their money to the Medici bank
 - * Patronized the Arts

Alliances, Tax Reform, Art for All Giovanni, Cosimo, Lorenzo



Trade and Rise of Middle Class

- * Wealthy and powerful city-states had emerged in Italy during the High and Late Middle Ages (Naples and Florence)
- * The wealthy middle class began to trade with eastern countries. Commerce revived after the Crusades
- * Best known despot (wealthy middle class) was Cosmo de Medici (1389 – 1464)/competed with Borgia family for power in Italy
- * Medici's controlled all the power/money in Italy at given times throughout the Renaissance.

Role of Crusades in Rediscovery of Ancient Texts

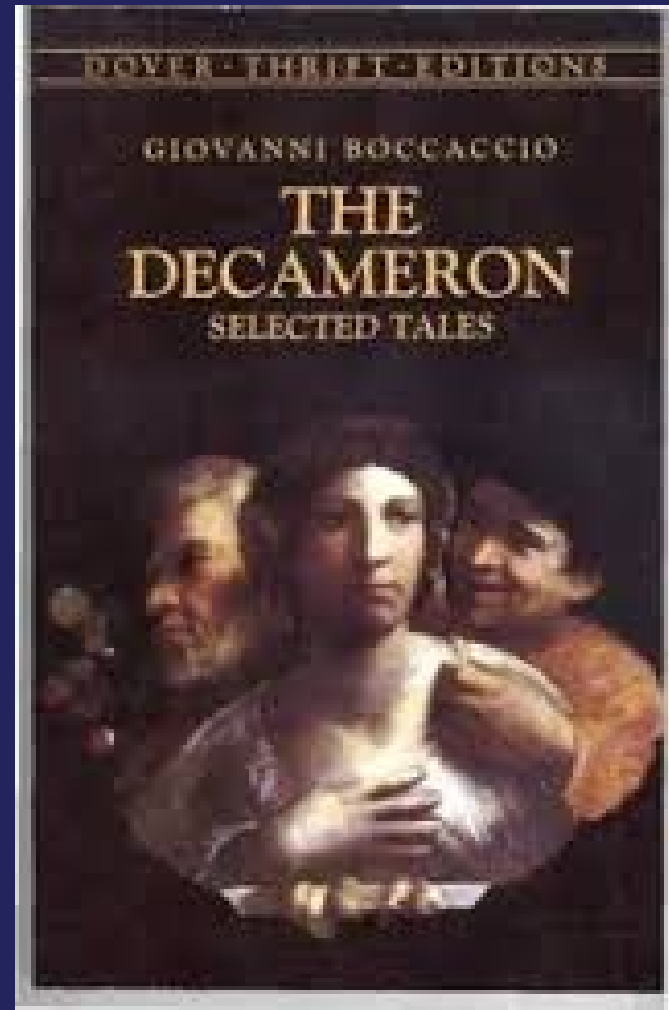
- * The Crusades brought knowledge and literature back to Europe
- * Crusaders were exposed to ancient literature of the Greek and Roman Era
- * Migration of Greek scholars and texts to Italy when Constantinople fell to the Turks (Ottoman Empire) in 1453. Connected eastern and western world.
- * Ottoman Empire was Islamic but tolerant of Christians and Jews.

Petrarch and the Birth of Humanism

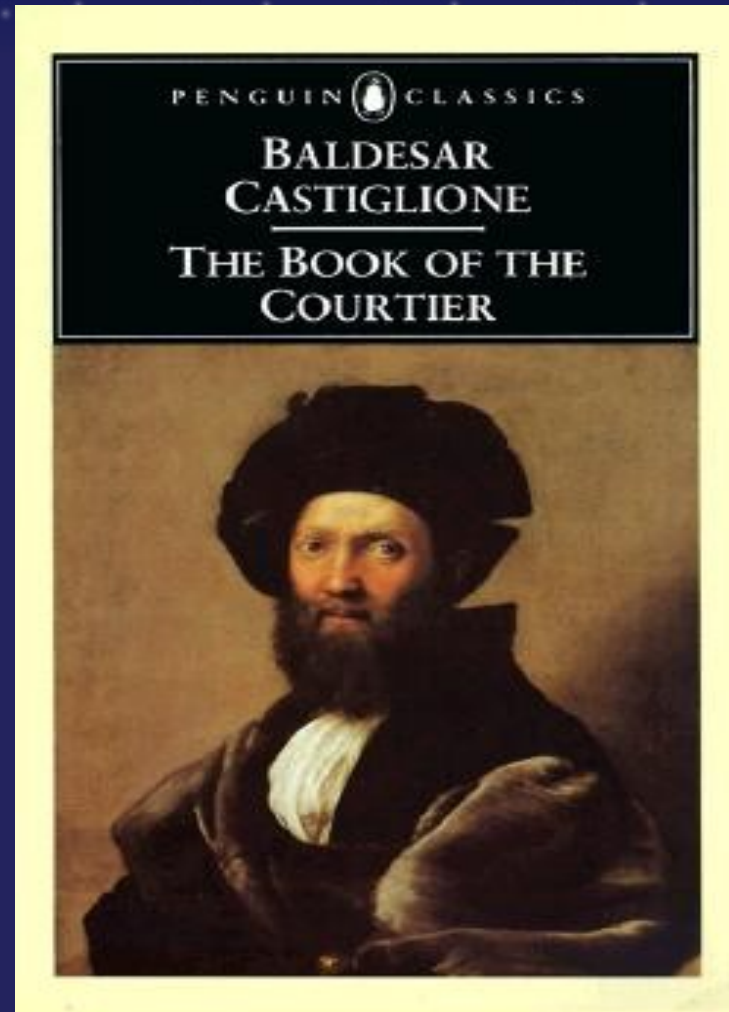
- * Petrarch (1304 - 1374) was a cleric who taught the people of the Middle Ages that
 - * The “ancients” lived in a world much different than our own
 - * Greece/Roman - Middle Ages - Present (1370)
 - * Recovery of old texts was crucial to wisdom
- * This was the Birth of Humanism
 - * Mastery of written and spoken word
 - * Return to classics
 - * Early fathers were examples of moral life
 - * Today = Human values and Concerns
 - * Secular Humanism and Religious Humanism

Evidence of Humanism and Renaissance

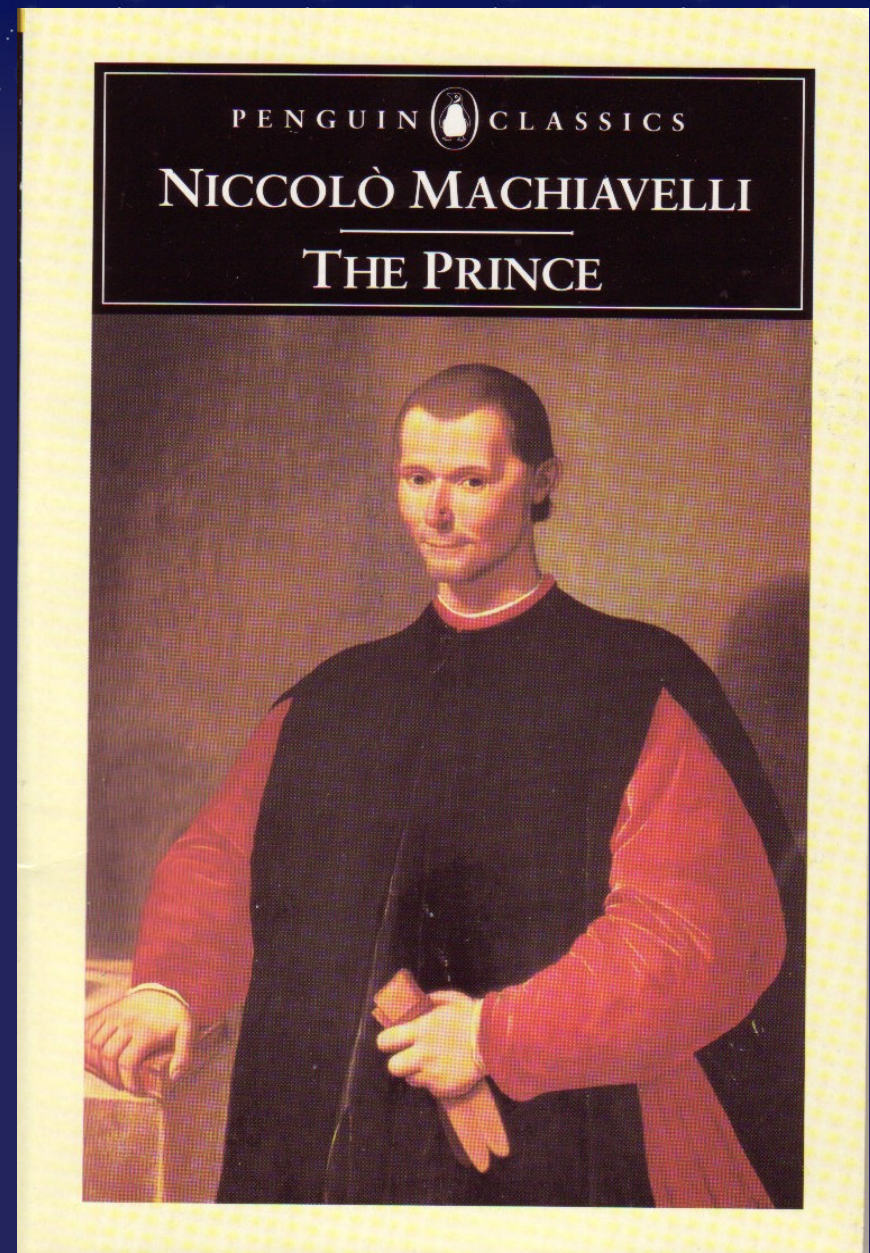
- * Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375) wrote *The Decameron*. These hundred short stories were related by a group of young men and women who fled to a villa outside Florence to escape the Black Death. Boccaccio's work is considered to be the best prose of the Renaissance.



- * Baldassare Castiglione (1478-1529) wrote one of the most widely read books, *The Courtier*, which set forth the criteria on how to be the ideal Renaissance man. Castiglione's ideal courtier was a well-educated, mannered aristocrat who was a master in many fields from poetry to music to sports.



- * Nicolo Machiavelli - *The Prince* is sometimes claimed to be one of the first works of modern philosophy, especially modern political philosophy, in which the effective truth is taken to be more important than any abstract ideal. It was also in direct conflict with the dominant Catholic and scholastic doctrines of the time concerning how to consider politics and ethics.



Civic Pride and Civic Humanism

- * Man actively engaged in the world
- * Popes brought best artists and poets back to court (Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci)

Renaissance – Rebirth or Progression

- * Worldview – 41-42
- * Art – 42-45
- * Print – 43 -
- * New Intellectual Thought – 48
- * Science

All this = Renaissance

- * Ancient Texts
- * Money from Medici family to fund Renaissance
- * Wealthy, powerful city states rising and supporting arts
- * Crusades
- * Blend of old and new knowledge
- * Movement of high culture that had very little impact on the poor
- * Black Death – People began to question
- * Moveable Type – 1448 – Johann Gutenberg