Italian Renaissance 1348-1492

Man is the Measure of all Things
The Rise of City-States

• Of the European cities with population over 25,000, which are not in Italy?
  – Constantinople
  – Florence
  – Milan
  – Naples
  – Paris
  – Venice
Renaissance Italy

• 5 Major States Competing for Power
  • Largest: Naples
  • Ruled by the Catholic Church: Papal States
  • Wealthiest: Venice
  • Center of art, culture & banking: Florence
  • Allied with Florence: Milan
Power within the City-States

• Within individual city-states various groups competed, sometimes violently, for power & influence:
  – **Roman Catholic Church** (bishops, priests & sometimes the leaders of monasteries)
  – **Nobles** (wealthy land-holding families who made money through farming)
  – **Merchants & Bankers** (usually organized into various professional guilds)
  – **Artisans** (skilled craftsmen also organized into guilds)
Kingdom of Naples

• Naples was a hereditary monarchy ruled by a family related to the kingdom of Aragon in Spain.

• The country was very rural with an economy based on agriculture.
Papal States

- The Papal States were territories in central Italy controlled directly by the Catholic Church.
- The Catholic Church claimed that the Roman Emperor Constantine had granted the Bishop of Rome (the pope) temporal rule over this territory in the 4th century.
Florence

- The merchant guilds had driven out the nobility in Florence during the late Middle Ages, establishing a republic.
- Although not all males (and no women) had suffrage, Florence was the most democratic of all Italian city-states.
Venice

- Venetian politics were dominated by a few wealthy merchant families (involved in maritime trade) who elected a ruler (the Doge) for life. This form of government is called an oligarchy (rule by a few).
Milan

• Milan was ruled by the Sforza family, the first of whom had been a mercenary captain whose success in warfare gained him the city and surrounding territories.
• The silk trade passed through Milan
Who’s the Boss?

- What group dominated each of the Italian city-states?
- Florence
  - Merchants & Artisans
- Milan
  - Nobles
- Naples
  - Nobles
- Papal States
  - Catholic Church
- Venice
  - Merchants
Where’s the Beef?

• What dominated the economy of each state?
• Naples
  – Agriculture
• Papal States
  – Agriculture and tithes to the Catholic Church
• Florence
  – Banking and wool trade
• Venice
  – Shipbuilding and maritime trade
• Milan
  – Silk trade and weapons manufacturing & trading
Renaissance Ideas

• Classicism
  – Renewed interest in texts of ancient Greece & Rome (brought to Italy from Constantinople)

• Humanism
  – Interest in the individual’s achievements and feelings and a belief in human potential, with an educational stress on grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history & language (esp. Latin & Greek)

• Secularism
  – Service to city, family & ruler rather than to the church and to God

• Science
  – Study of anatomy (Leonardo da Vinci)
  – Study of astronomy: Heliocentric theory (Copernicus & Galileo)
Key Terms to know

- Artisans
- Guilds
- Maritime Trade
- Doge
- Oligarchy
- Suffrage
- Papal States
- Heliocentric Theory
Ideas to Understand

• Classicism
• Humanism
• Secularism
• Civic Duty
Some Key People

- Petrarch
- Castiglione
- Machiavelli
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Copernicus & Gallileo
- Sforza Family
- Medici Family