

# UNIT 1: The World Re-Invented

# Legacy: West & the World

## Chapter One: Renaissance & Reformation, 1450-1600

### EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN SOCIETY & CULTURE

**1500-1750:** Early Modern Europe: a time of transitions. The Renaissance & Reformation spread through much of Europe during this period. Renaissance: an intellectual and artistic movement. Reformation: intellectual with religion at issue.

#### The Big Picture

- late medieval society was hierarchic, status often inherited, this would gradually change. A period of localism, agrarian, power in parishes, families... all would change as power became more centralized, and economic advancement changed relationships between & among people.

- info was to spread with the printing press...

- Early modern Europe unable to protect itself from famine, disease, accidents and social violence.

#### A Dangerous World

- famine, poor diet, poor hygiene, rats, dirt... epidemics flourished. Bubonic Plague was worst... continued to return to kill in Europe. It is a disease of rats and rodents, transmitted by fleas. Up to a ¼ of children died by the age of one, another ¼ by marriage. Family was destabilized by constant death.

- Others- fire, natural disasters, FAMINE... world was dangerous. On top of this was HUMAN causes, wars and violence were common. On top of all these fears, humans feared God, and quick punishment.

3 Shields against above: religion, community & government

**Religion**  
- was at the forefront of life in 1500s... 3 purposes: providence (God's justice), salvation (grace given by church) & community.

Providence: God was seen as the reason for the bad and the good in everyday life. Salvation: Given by church- made them powerful.

- Religion was a rich web of beliefs & practices draped over much of life. The Reformation would rip out these beliefs. It was sudden, violent & passionate.

#### The Honour Code

- It said: Be proud, not humble. Be rich, not poor. If thine enemy smite thee, smite him back. A social ethic not rooted in God, religion often went against the code.

### INTELLECTUAL LIFE IN THE RENAISSANCE

#### Worldviews

Changing views summed in 2 terms: Renaissance & Scientific Revolution.

What was the Renaissance? French for rebirth- arts, architecture etc recaptured the skills of Ancient Greece and Romans. It was a cultural growth that pushed Europe to modernity.

#### Aspects of the Medieval Worldview

1. divine plan- world was a product of God's power
2. hierarchy- ascending orders of classes
3. Dualism- spirit & matter... adopted by Christianity
4. Allegory- literary examples to find higher moral meaning
5. Providence- no accidents, do something bad= God punishes
6. Teleology- all things have purpose

#### The Renaissance Worldview

- humanists looked to restore lost eloquence in language, culture, art.

### COMMUNITIES

#### Families & Friends

- In communities and honour were glory and harm. Men often fought for community just like gangs. Family was most important. Property was its bedrock- assets held the family together... was male dominated, males getting the inheritances, while women sometimes a dowry for husband.

#### The Renaissance Social Hierarchy

- idea of hierarchy was a given, and pervaded astronomy, physics, biology, politics, etc... and all the Renaissance arts. Renaissance inherited Feudalism: it was economic, social, political and legal. Lords were powerful- powers were hereditary. Feudalism continued to adapt to changes, maintaining social inequity. The poorest were the dispossessed who were reduced to begging, odd jobs, prostitution... The Renaissance was a movement in the high classes, barely touching outside the elite classes. The Reformation on the other hand touched everyone.

#### Demography

- Malthusian equilibrium- Simply put: as pop increases, more demand for resources= more degradation of resources= more deaths = pop equalization. Plagues reduced populations, cycle was up and down in the 15 & 1600s...

#### Political Bodies

- After fall of Roman Empire (ca. 500), there was fragmented power in Europe. Slowly by 1500 European monarchies became powerful, wealthy... but very different in every country. Vague zones were created with local powers claiming ancestral privilege.

### A REVOLUTION IN THE MILITARY

#### Fortresses & Firearms

- Middle Ages- armoured knights & stone castles. In this system defence had the advantage... lords with strong castles had great power advantage.

- Renaissance- This changed with the invention of gunpowder. A castle was now vulnerable... The answer was the star shaped castle (Image on pg.39) Yet changing nature of warfare had consequences.

#### Ambitions of the State

- Raise money, make war, feed the court & do justice.  
- social welfare, health, etc... not yet part of state concerns.  
- justice was haphazard. Honour both caused and glorified violence. Without well established police forces it was often difficult to catch criminals. Horrific torture and punishments were the answer... gallows, heads on pikes, torture wheels, etc.

### RENAISSANCE ART

#### The Invention of Linear Perspective: Seeing Far into Space

- with depth and the 'vanishing point' realism became a dominant art form in the Renaissance. See *The Dead Christ* on p42 for an example of foreshortening. Leonardo da Vinci worked on various techniques, many mastered by painters like Raphael. Remember it was a Christian period and art reflected time... and art served to evoke world around it.

## THE SENSE OF HISTORY

### Seeing Far in Time

- In Medieval times history was a story of providence & salvation.
- For Renaissance, cultural integrity of antiquity mattered. The ancients were to be admired and revered. People often looked back to the past as perfect, but soon gained confidence to look to the future as they realized they could create just as well or better than those of the past.

### Print

- Invention of movable type by Johann Guttenberg (1397-1468) set off a revolution. Books went from rare to common, and expensive to cheap. It promoted languages, fostered news and propaganda, encouraged literacy & scholarship, lowered barriers... yet was still mostly only males that could read & write.

## THE HIGH RENAISSANCE IN ROME

### Patronage

- 14<sup>th</sup> Century- centre of Renaissance was Florence with the Medici, a dynasty of merchant princes. The dynasty fell in 1494, and eventually the best artists & intellectuals moved to Rome. Pope Julius II and Pope Leo X played a major role. Roman Renaissance collapsed under Clement VII and never recovered.

### Castiglione: The Courtier As Idealist

- In 1514 Baldassare Castiglione wrote his *Book of the Courtier*. A book that studied the skills and values of a good courtier.

### Machiavelli: The Courtier As Cynic

- Wrote *The Prince*, dedicated to the Medici Pope Leo X. He stepped away from honour and religion. He asks: Is it better that a prince be loved or feared? (He votes fear). Should a prince keep his word? (Only when it works)... etc

## THE REFORMATION

### A Matter of Perspective

- problems in the Christian church stemmed from the shifting tastes of believers, and the evolving habits of Christian institutions. The Papacy was much like the modern state... taxing, waging wars... and like many leaders broke treaties and tried to gain advantage.

### The Pre-Reformation

- grew in the fertile ground of religious feeling. One ingredient was anti-clericalism. Clergy was often criticized for idleness, wealth, hypocritical self indulgence and sex.
- Another ingredient was the movement toward spiritual experiences that did not require the clergy. For Erasmus, believed in a self informed interpretation of the sacred text.

### Martin Luther & the Start of the Reformation

- Pope Leo launched a sale of indulgences, aimed at funding the new St. Peter's Cathedral. Indulgences were basically buying a pass to salvation. The indulgences set off the Reformation. In 1517 Luther posted his famous 95 theses- debating points. 1520 the pope issued a bull (papal order), excommunicating Luther if he did not submit... he had support, burned bull. Emperor of Germany, Charles V asked Luther to submit... he said: "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise"...
- What Luther started no one could control. Led to Protestantism... Protestantism stripped away medieval heritage: monks, nuns, pilgrimages, indulgences & papal governance. Excerpt of Luther's 95 Theses (Page 52-53).
- Germany took to Lutheran model. Calvinism took hold Scotland, Netherlands... all developed into a hierarchy of churches. Some were not protected such as Mennonites, Baptists, Quakers... laid low or fled (Hutterites in Canada, Mennonites and others to North America).

## INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

### The Renaissance Spreads Through Europe

- Spread to areas that belonged to Church of Rome.... Other areas such as Russia (Orthodox) were not affected. It spread because of travel to Italy, movement of artists out of Italy.

### Desiderius Erasmus and Thomas More

- Erasmus had a huge influence. Because of print, he became Europe's first public intellectual... translated New Testament of Bible from Greek to Latin.... Had vast correspondence bringing together educated people.
- Thomas More, wrote *Utopia*, eutopia (good place) and outopia (no place).

### Writing in the Vernacular, Skepticism, The Growth of Science

## THE COUNTER-REFORMATION

### The Church Responds

- 1540s, under Paul III, the Council of Trent produced a papal victory. Against the Reformation Catholics deployed almost all the arts: architecture, sculpture, painting, music, etc. They developed the Baroque style.

### Social Control

- Both Catholicism and Protestantism did have things in common. Both looked to moral reform.

### Sixteenth-Century Politics

- Map of Religions in Europe (page 59)
- Spain- powerful, yet had internal divisions and economic disadvantage. Columbus was huge for Spain... riches of the New World. Also, King Charles V (Carlos) comes to throne in 1516... became tied to Germany as well expanding fortunes.
- France-
- England-
- Italy-
- Germany-
- The Netherlands- (page 58-63).

## EASTERN EUROPE & OTTOMAN EMPIRE

### The Gradual Rise of Muscovy

- nucleus of future Russian empire was Moscow. Ivan the Terrible pushed out the borders of Russia... but killed his own son, heir to his throne... led to a Time of Troubles (1606-1613)... until stability under Romanov Dynasty.

### The Turkish Empire

- Turkey was feared by Europe... very powerful. Had great strength but did not adapt to speed of Renaissance or scientific revolution in Europe.