

Renaissance (Chapter 12) Notes

I. The Middle Ages

A. Elements of the Middle Ages (note: oversimplified to flat wrong – we'll discuss that later)

- i. Parochial
- ii. Technologically stunted
- iii. Feudalism
- iv. Catholicism dominant
- v. Gothic Art/Architecture

B. To end each of these:

i. Parochial

a) Vikings

- Why do they raid?
- Silver
- Trade silver for food
 - Expansion of trade routes ends parochialism

ii. Technologically stunted

a) Crusades

- Escape from violence of knights
 - Peace/Truce of God
 - Urban II channels violence to the “others”
- Bring back knowledge

iii. Feudalism

a) Definition

- Role of knights

b) plague (this is ANOTHER one, don't confuse it with Justinian's – this is 1300's)

- why is God doing this?
 - Maybe it's because we allow Jews to live here.
 - Maybe it's because we don't punish ourselves enough – flagellants
- End of serfdom – peasants no longer bound to land
 - death of 1/3 to 1/2 of population (25 million of 75) in Plague
 - allows opportunities for those remaining (after economic stagnation ends)

iv. Catholicism dominant

a) Also begins to end with plague – church does not have all answers

v. Gothic Art/Architecture

a) Purpose of Medieval art

b) How Renaissance art differs – elements of Renaissance art

c) Desire to show off for other nobles

- Begins in Italian city-states
 - led by individual families – i.e. Medici's (Florence – wealthy) see map p. 310
 - competition between families – suggested by Castiglione
 - military – Machiavelli – read p. 314
 - cultural – Lorenzo de Medici – patron of artists (define patronage)

II. Renaissance = “rebirth”

A. coined by Jacob Burckhardt in 1860

- i. saw Classical, then crappy, then Classical again (Renaissance)

- ii. Renaissance ideas
 - a) revival of Classical period
 - idea that past has knowledge/secrets (Indiana Jones)
 - b) emphasize individual ability
 - people are beautiful/smart/capable of great things
 - contrast with medieval church
 - c) secularism
 - emphasis on worldly wealth/power over spiritual power
- iii. modern historians accuse Burkhardt of overlooking continuity with Medieval Period
 - there were other times attempting to rebuild Classical Period
 - Christian philosophy remained

B. Trade gets big

- i. expansion of trade
 - a) trade reduced because of fear of spreading Plague – then rebuilt by remaining families.
 - b) Italian city-states become trading centers – wealthy gain power – Medici
 - c) Hanseatic League (standardized weights/measures)
 - d) luxury items (silk, glassware, precious stones & metal work, art [remember?], and of course SPICES)

III. Renaissance social order (The Three Estates)

A. clergy

- i. powerful – held keys to salvation
- ii. learned – only ones with books, reading ability
- iii. political power due to powerful Catholic Church

B. nobility

- i. 2-3% of population
- ii. Behavior patterns defined by Baldassare Castiglione (1478-1529) in *Book of the Courtier* (1528) – source of desire to compete with other nobles
 - a) natural abilities – honor, grace, talent, noble birth
 - cultivate achievements – do well in military, classical education, music, painting
 - Code of conduct – modesty, services to king, gain power by outwitting competition

C. Peasants & townspeople

- i. 85-95% of the population
- ii. Peasants had been tied to land, but recently broke free to work for wages (result of money economy, which was result of Plague)
- iii. Townspeople
 - a) wealthy bankers, lawyers, shopkeepers, artisans
 - b) property-less workers, unemployment, misery

D. Women

- i. Middle Ages - women were heavily involved in production
- ii. Renaissance - production becomes part of business (taken over by men)
 - a) women expected to stay home, obey husbands, bear sons
 - b) only realistic chance of educated life - convents

IV. Humanism

A. try to study like they did in Classical period (“Classical education”)

- i. liberal arts/humanities – poetry, rhetoric, history, philosophy, language

B. Petrarch – father of humanism

- i. first to call it “Dark Ages”
- C. Gutenberg's press – movable type
 - i. changes
 - a) books cheap enough for masses
 - b) reduction in clergy's power (expansion of power also as more people read the Bible)
 - ii. popular books
 - a) ½ of books printed were religious
 - b) then many classics, legal works & philosophy, and finally popular romances
- V. European States
 - A. The Hundred Years' War (1337 – 1453)
 - i. over English land in France – French want English OUT
 - ii. new technology
 - a) English long bow – could kill armored knights
 - b) gunpowder & cannons – could destroy castle walls
 - c) together a & b end the effectiveness of knights
 - iii. Joan of Arc 1412 -1431
 - a) visions
 - b) Orleans
 - c) victory
 - d) capture & execution
 - iv. results:
 - a) widespread bankruptcy of most European countries
 - b) French nobility bankrupt – more powerful monarchy
 - c) new kinds of warfare
 - B. France
 - i. Charles VII (d. 1461)
 - a) est. royal army
 - b) levy “taille” – direct tax (King has tax power instead of Estates General)
 - ii. Louis XI 1461-1483 – called “The Spider”
 - a) repression of nobility's power
 - C. England
 - i. War of the Roses 1455-1485
 - a) House of York (symbol is white rose) were rulers – Richard III
 - remembered as a bad king – Shakespeare wrote a play depicting him as a hunchbacked, homicidal, dictatorial maniac
 - perhaps killed the heir to the throne (a child) and buried him and his brother at the bottom of some stairs in the Tower of London
 - bones found; they look like the kids'
 - killed his wife? to marry his niece, Elizabeth, to secure his claim to throne
 - Elizabeth was already engaged to Henry Tudor
 - b) House of Lancaster (red rose) wanted to rule
 - headed by Henry Tudor
 - both houses were direct descendants of King Edward III – but Richard was the legitimate heir (but he was so unpopular Shakespeare wrote a play making fun of him)
 - c) Tudor won & married (the same Elizabeth from above) to secure his claim to the throne
 - ii. Henry XII (1457 - 1509)

- a) increased control by stopping nobles from having armies
- D. Spain
 - i. Ferdinand of Aragon (1479 – 1516) & Isabella of Castille (1474-1504)
 - a) combination of kingdoms
 - b) power to appoint church officials
 - c) Inquisition
 - expel Jews & Moors
- E. Holy Roman Empire
 - i. think “Germany”
 - ii. Maximilian I – tried to unite but undermined by princes (too many nationalities)
 - iii. Habsburgs – intermarriage
- VI. Eastern Europe
 - A. Muscovy (Russia) formed around kingdom of Moscow by Ivan III
 - i. drove Mongols out
 - B. Ottoman Empire
 - i. took over the Byzantines Empire at Constantinople
- VII. Church
 - A. John Wycliff (1328 – 1384)
 - i. against clerical corrupted and authority of the Pope
 - ii. Bible available in vernacular language so all could read
 - iii. Authority comes from Bible
 - iv. bones dug up, burned and thrown in to a river in 1428
 - B. Jan Hus (1369 – 1415) Prague – followers Husites
 - i. Admirer of Wycliff
 - ii. wanted to stop corrupted of church
 - iii. invited to Council at Constance with guarantee of safety – arrested & burned as a heretic in 1415
 - iv. Caused a bloody revolution between Czechs & Germans
 - C. Renaissance Popes
 - i. reputation for a large amount of power, overindulgence