

Renaissance Humanism: Men for All Seasons

I. The Renaissance Aesthetic

A. Influences

1. Byzantine art
 - represent things as they are (God’s view)
 - the eternal, transcendent
2. Islamic optics
 - Al Hazen (Abū ‘Alī al-ʿāsan ibn al-ʿāsan ibn al-Haytham) (965–ca. 1039)

B. Perspective in Painting, Architecture, and Town Planning

- represent things as they appear at the moment to the viewer
1. Brunelleschi’s paintings of Baptistry and Palazzo Vecchio
 - Church of S. Lorenzo, Florence
 - cloisters of Pazzi Chapel, Florence
 2. Masaccio (1401–ca..1428), *Trinity* (1425)
 3. Leon Battista Alberti (1404–1472) — *Della pittura*
 4. School of *Perspectivi*

II. Humanist Culture

A. The Study of History

1. Desiderius Erasmus (1469–1536)—textual criticism and the Bible
2. Niccolò Machiavelli (1469–1527), *The Prince* (1513); *The Discourses*
3. Francesco Guicciardini (1483–1540), *History of Italy* (1535)

B. The Rediscovery of the Classics

1. Thomas More (1478–1535), *Utopia* (1516)
2. Baldassare Castiglione (1478–1529), *The Courtier*

C. Humanism and Art

1. Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564)
2. Raphael (1483–1520)
3. Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)
4. Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)

III. Competition: The Economic and Technological Expansion of Europe

- A. A Century of Prosperity (1460–1560)
 - 1. Woolen Manufacture and Trade
 - 2. Antwerp—The Bourse
 - 3. Banking
 - a. The Medici Bank (Florence)
 - b. The Fugger Company of Augsburg

- B. The Merchant
 - 1. Development of Commercial Capitalism
 - 2. Usury, Morality, and Social Climbing

- C. The New Warfare: Gunpowder Revolution
 - 1. Gunpowder—Combination of saltpeter, charcoal, and sulfur
 - 2. Firearms—muskets and cannon
 - a. Siege of Constantinople (1453)
 - c. Battle of Marignano (1515)
 - 3. Phalanx and Pike and Arquebus
 - a. Battle of Morat (1476)
 - b. Battle of Pavia (1525)
 - 4. Metal Production