

## Origins of the Renaissance

### I. Renaissance: What Is It?

#### A. Definition

#### B. Time Span (April 6, 1327 – February 18, 1564)

### II. Preconditions and Impetuses for the Renaissance

#### A. Economic

1. Developing Commerce (Venice and Genoa)
2. Accumulation of Capital in Northern Italy
3. Black Death Results in Lower Demand, Falling Prices

#### B. Social

1. Growth of Cities
2. Rise of Universities
3. Patrons of Learning
  - a. Medici Family (Florence)
  - b. Sforza Family (Milan)
  - c. Este Lords (Ferrara)
  - d. Alfonso the Magnanimous (Naples)
  - e. Popes: Nicholas V, Pius II, Julius II, Leo X

#### C. Political

1. Independent City-States (Milan and Florence)
  - a. Jakob Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (1867)
  - b. Hans Baron, *The Crisis of the Early Italian Renaissance* (1955, 1966)
  - c. Robert Lopez, "Hard Times and Investment in Capital" (1957)
2. Fall of Constantinople (1453)

## D. Cultural

1. Influence of Muslim and Byzantine Civilizations
  - a. Gianfrancesco Pico della Mirandola (1469–1494)
  - b. Manual Chrysoloras (1350–1415)
  - c. Paolo dal Pozzo Toscanelli (1397–1482)
  - d. Filippo Brunelleschi (1377–1446)
2. Revival of Interest in Classical Culture and Themes
  - a. Study of Roman Law
  - b. Sandro Botticelli (1445–1510)
3. Growth of Critical and Skeptical Attitude, “Scientific” Inquiry
  - a. Dante (1265–1321)
  - b. Roger Bacon (1220–1292)
  - c. Lorenzo Valla (1407–1457)
  - d. Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)
4. Perspective in Painting, Architecture, and Town Planning
  - a. Brunelleschi’s paintings of Baptistry and Palazzo Vecchio
    - Church of S. Lorenzo, Florence
    - cloisters of Pazzi Chapel, Florence
  - b. Masaccio (1401–c.1428), *Trinity* (1425)
  - c. Leon Battista Alberti (1404–1472) — *Della pittura*
5. Petrarch (1304–1374)

## III. Renaissance Ideals

### A. Concept of Whole Man

1. Leonardi Bruni (1370–1444)
2. Coluccio Salutati (1331–1406)
3. Federigo da Montefeltro, Duke of Urbino (1422–1482)

### B. Humanism

### C. *virtù*

1. Donatello’s *David* compared with Michelangelo’s *David*
2. Alberti: “a man can do all things if he will”
3. Della Mirandola: “God said to man: ‘We have made you a creature.... you may, as the free and proud shaper of your own being, fashion yourself in the form you may prefer.’”