Italian Renaissance

Location
- Italian City States
  o Birthplace for the Renaissance
    - 1401 Official Beginning
      - Bidding on doors of Baptistry in Florence
  o Rich and wealthy
    - Each one jealous of the other
  o Trade
    - Connection with Mediterranean
  o Crossroads of ideas
  o Golden Age of arts
    - Only when there is extra wealth to invest in the arts
  o Each had different governments
    - But mostly ruled by Merchant Oligarchies
    - Merchants = most powerful / ruling class

- Peace of Lodi
  o 1454
  o Peace between Venice and Milan
    - Venice’s allies were Florence, Naples, and Rome
    - Milan’s ally was France
  o Allowed for 40 years of peace
    - Allowed Renaissance to flourish

Power
- Popes
  o Power severely limited
  o Strengthened Again until Rodrigo Borgia
    - Pope Alexander VI
      - 1492-1503
      - Gained power through Simony
        o Later outlawed it
        o Pope known for fighting corruption
      - Used children Juan, Lucrezia, Jofre, and Cesare as pawns
        o Cesare successful and brutal military general
          - Conquered Romagna, Umbria, and Emilia
      - Made alliances with other influential Italian families
        o Sforza (Milan)
        o Medici (Florence)
        o Farnese (Parma)
        o Ornisi (Naples)
        o Portugal
        o Spain
      - Also made many enemies
        o Della Rovere (Savona/Rome)
        o Orsini
        o France
• Julius II
  • 1503-1513
  • Giuliano della Rovere
  • “Warrior Pope”
    o Fought to keep French out of Northern Italy
  • Patron of the Arts
    o Rebuilt St. Peter’s Basilica
    o Hired Raphael and Michelangelo

- Families
  o The Medici’s
    • Wealthy merchant family in Florence
    • Bankers
    • Bought influence
    • Patrons of the arts
      • Hired Botticelli, Michelangelo and Da Vinci
      • “Civic glory”
    • Lorenzo “the Magnificent”
      • Presided over Florence’s glory years
        o 1478-1492
      • Political tyrant
        o Afterwards city and area declined into stability

- Military
  o Cities’ armies were small
  o Needed to protect city states from neighbors
  o Relied mostly on Condottieri
    • VERY Unreliable

**Philosophy of the Renaissance**

- Secularism
  o Ideas outside the church
  o “Here and now”
  o Paintings still carried certain religious themes

- Individualism
  o Applauded differences
  o Personal credit for achievement
  o Portraits, autobiography
  o "Renaissance Man"
  o Spend money to enjoy life

- Classicism
  o Interest in the culture of the ancient Greeks and the Romans
  o Renewal of arts and sculpture
  o Rejection of the Middle Ages
    • Scholasticism = philosophy of the Middle Ages, reason to prove religious ideas

- Humanism
  o Interested in the 7 liberal arts (rhetoric, etc....)
  o Outlook of philosophical schools of the Renaissance
  o Away from scholasticism
  o *Man is the measure of all things*
    • Man as opposed to God
- Worldliness
  - Interest in material rewards
- Education
  - Grades in school, age groups
  - Rejected universities due to scholasticism
  - Book of etiquette
    - Castiglione and The Book of the Courtier
- Niccolo Machiavelli
  - 1st political scientist
  - Reacting to chaos in Italy
    - City-states were losing power
  - Admired and studied successful rulers
    - Ideal = Cesare Borgia
  - Separated politics and religion
    - What strong rulers do, not what they should do
  - The Prince, 1513
    - Most lasting book of the Renaissance
  - Strong rulers
    - Act in their own self-interest
      - Both ruthless and merciful
      - Both forthright and sly
      - Both feared and loved
      - Break promises and treaties
  - Significance of Machiavelli
    - 1st political scientist
    - Pawed way for absolute monarchs
    - Similar to realpolitik of 19th century
    - Interested in the ends and not the means
- Castiglione
  - The Book of the Courtier
    - How men should behave
    - Book of etiquette