

Northern Renaissance

- Renaissance spreads North from Italy
 - **Hanseatic League** (the Hanse)
 - Group of Germanic trading cities
 - Trading states in the north
 - Ports
 - Passed through nobles
 - Who would buy art
 - Francis I
 - Educated Elite
 - Ideas passed through Universities
 - France, HRE, England, Benelux
 - Because of trade as well
 - Especially low countries
 - Who adopted renaissance ideals
 - Especially cities like Bruges and Antwerp
 - Not nearly as many centers of trade as Italy
 - Burgundy or Flanders only thing comparable to Florence
 - Eastern France
 - 1477 Burgundy taken over by French
 - Flanders absorbed into HRE
 - Emphasis switched to Germany
 - Thanks to artists like Durer
 - **Printing Press**
 - 1440 Johannes Gutenberg
 - Perfect example of man-moment-machine
 - Mass produce books or pamphlets
 - Made bible and other texts widely available
 - Made about 200 beautifully decorated Bibles
 - Started education reformation
 - Made printed word more accessible
- Differences with Italian Renaissance
 - Much later
 - 16th Century
 - Less time spent in Renaissance period
 - Held on to Gothic style
 - Not nearly as many artists as Italian Renaissance
 - Quickly moved to Baroque
 - Wider Spread
 - Italian ideals contained
 - Northern Renaissance Ideals spread to Low Countries, France, Germany, England, Spain, and Poland
 - Emphasis on daily life
 - Painters and writers focused on everyday subjects
 - Patrons
 - More interested in furnishings, tapestries, and illuminated manuscripts for their castles
 - Reformation
 - Northern Renaissance directly leads to Reformation



France in the late 15th Century,
Internet Medieval Sourcebook

- **Christian Humanism**
 - Wanted the church to reform, but did not reject it
 - Saw the catholic church in Rome as corrupt
 - Did not want to break with the church
 - Accidentally brought on break with Church
 - Much more religious than the regular humanists
 - Actually wanted to deepen understanding of Christianity
 - Idea of “Inner Piety”
 - Change society by the change of individuals living in it
- **Erasmus**
 - The greatest Christian Humanist
 - Called for services in *vernacular*
 - Translated Bible
 - Rejected Middle Ages
 - Interested in behavior and morality
 - Used satire in writing
 - expose weaknesses of church
 - Talked about peace, education
 - Critical of hypocrisy
 - NEVER totally rejected the church
 - Accidentally made fun of Pope Alexander VI
 - Works used later in the Reformation
 - ***In Praise of Folly***
 - Most Famous Book
 - Criticized Clergy
 - Satirical, makes fun of church values
- **Sir Thomas More**
 - Englishman
 - Northern Humanist
 - Wrote ***Utopia***
 - “Nowhere”
 - Refused to accept Henry VIII’s supremacy of English Church
- **Political and Social Structure**
 - Germany dominated by independent city states
 - Tied together by Holy Roman Emperor
 - Drive to centralization
 - France and England
 - Linked together with Reformation
 - Drove many states to break away
 - Ex. Netherlands from France
 - North heavily reliant on Guild System
 - Provided paths for apprenticeship
 - Regulated trades
 - Set prices and quality standards
 - Protected crafts
 - Renaissance coincides with reformation
 - Leads to most people forgetting about art



Sir Thomas More, portrait by Hans Holbein, 1527