

# 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
    - 16<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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