



Renaissance

MEETA JOSHI

The Renaissance was a fervent period of European cultural, artistic political and Economic “rebirth” following the Middle Ages. Generally, it is described as taking place from the 14th century to the 17th century, the Renaissance Promoted the rediscovery of classical philosophy, literature and art. Some of the greatest thinkers, authors, statesmen, scientists and artists in human history thrived during the era, while global explorations opened up new lands and cullers to European commerce. The Renaissance as credited with bridging the gap between the Middle Ages and modern-day civilization.

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: THE RENAISSANCE BEGINS.

During the Middle Ages, a period that took place between the fall of ancient Rome in 476 AD and the beginning of the 14th century, Europeans made few advances in science and art.

Also known as the ‘Dark Ages’ the era is often branded as a time of war, ignorant, famine and Pandemics such as the Black death.

Some historians, however, believe mat even grim depictions of the Middle Ages were greatly exaggerated, though many agree that there was relatively little regard for ancient Greek and learning at that time.

HUMANISM

During the 14th century, a cultural movement called Humanism began to gain momentum in Italy. Among its many principles protected / promoted the idea that man was the center of his own universe, & people should embrace human achievements in education, classical arts, literature and science.

1450. the invention of the Gutenberg printing allowed for improved communication throughout Europe and for ideas to spread more quickly.

As a result of this advance in communication. little known text from early humanist authors such as those by Francesco Petrarch and Giovanni Boccaccio which promoted the renewal of traditional Greek and Roman Culture and values were printed and distributed to the masses.

MEDICI FAMILY

The Renaissance started in Florence, Italy a place with a such. Cultural history where wealthy citizens could afford to support budding artists. Member of the powerful Medici family which ruled Florence for more than 60 years, were famous.

Great Italian writers, artists, politicians and others declared that they were participating in an intellectual and artistic revolution that would be much different. From what they experienced during the Dark Ages.

The movement first expanded to other Italian city states, such as Venice, Milan, Bologna, Ferrara and Rome. Then during the 15th century, Renaissance ideas spread from Italy to France and northern Europe. Then throughout western and

Although other Europeans countries experienced their Renaissance later than Italy, the impacts were still revolutionary.

RENAISSANCE GENIUSES

Some of the most famous and ground breaking Renaissance Intellectuals, artists, scientists and writers include the likes of:

- Leonardo da Vinci [1452-15197 – Italian painter, architect, inventor and for painting “Renaissance man” responsible The Mona Lisa” and “The Last Supper”.
- Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536] scholar from Holland who defined the humanist movement in Northern Europe. Translator of the New Testament into Greek.
- Revie Descartes (1596-1650) - French philosopher and mathematician regarded as the father of modern philosophy. Famous for starting. "I think therefore I am!
- Galileo (1564-1642) Italian astronomer, physicist and engineer whose pioneering work with telescopes enared to discribe the moons of Jupiter and rings of Saturn. Placed under house arrest for his views of a heliocentric universe.
- Thomas Hobbes, Dante, Titian, Machiavelli etc.

RENAISSANCE ART, ARCHITECTURE AND SCIENCE

Art, Architecture and Science were closely linked during the Renaissance. In Pact, it was a unique time when these fields of study fused together seamlessly. For instance, artists like da Vinci incorporated scientific Principles such as anatomy into their work, so they could recreate the human body with extraordinary precision.

Architects such as Filippo Brunelleschi studied mathematics to accurately engineer and design immense buildings with expansive domes.

Renaissance art was characterized by realism and naturalism. Artists strived to depict people and objects in a true to life way. Some of the most famous artistic works that were produced during the renaissance include –

- The Mona Lisa
- The Last Supper
- Statue of David
- The Birth of venus
- The creation of Adam.

RENAISSANCE EXPLORATION

While many artists and thinkers used their talents to express new ideas, some Europeans took to the seas to learn more about the world around them. In a period known as the Age of Discovery, several important explorations were made.

Famous Journeys were taken by Ferdinand Magellan, Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Verpucci (after whom America is named), Marco Polo, Ponce de Leon, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Hernando De Soto and other explorers.

RENAISSANCE RELIGION

Humanism encouraged Europeans to question the role of the Roman Catholic Church during the Renaissance. In the 16th century, Martin Luther, a German monk, led the Protestant Reformation, a revolutionary movement that caused a split in the Catholic Church. Luther questioned many of the practices of the church and whether they aligned with the teachings of the Bible.

As a result, a new form of Christianity known as Protestantism was created.

END OF THE RENAISSANCE

Scholars believe the demise of the Renaissance was the result of several compounding factors.

By the end of the 15th century, numerous wars had plagued the Italian peninsula. Spanish, French, German invaders battling for Italian territories caused disruption and instability in the region.

Also, changing trade routes led to a period of economic decline and limited the amount of money that wealthy contributors could spend on the arts.

Later in a movement known as the Counter Reformation, the Catholic Church censored artists and writers in response to the Protestant Reformation. Many Renaissance thinkers feared being too bold, which stifled creativity.

Furthermore, in 1545, the Council of Trent established the Roman Inquisition, which made humanism and any news of views that challenged the Catholic Church an act of heresy punishable by death.

By the early 17th century, the Renaissance movement had died out, giving way to the Age of Enlightenment.

While the exact timing and overall impact of the Renaissance is sometimes debated, there is little dispute that events of the period ultimately led to the advances that changed the way people understood and interpreted the world around them.

"Every Renaissance comes to the world with a cry, the cry of the Human spirit to be free"

- Anne Sullivan Macy