

Another early form of business organization was the **domestic system**. Businessmen acted as agents, coordinating people doing piecework in their homes. The businessmen organized the labor and provided the materials. They then collected and marketed the goods. Centuries later, the factory system would put all workers and managers under one roof.

Levant to the Italian ports. It then moved northward along the Rhone, Rhine, and Seine Rivers into the interior of Europe and outward to the Atlantic Coast. The broad corridor that connected these two zones became the avenue of revitalized trade. As the key cities grew, other trade structures and alliances formed to accelerate the interaction of commerce.

## WESTERN EUROPE'S TRADE CORRIDOR

The revival of Western Europe's economy arose out of the merging of two areas – the Italian ports and the northern “cloth towns.” The woolens and linens of Ypres, Lille, and Ghent moved southward to Milan, Venice, and Genoa. Cotton, spices, luxury fabrics, and gold of Africa and Asia found its way from the eastern Mediterranean's

## RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM

Economic and political shifts can lead to cultural change. In the late Medieval Era, production of surpluses spurred trade and the rise of town life. This triggered new cultural interactions. Struggles for power between the Church and temporal rulers led to re-examination of views on power. From the early 14th to the late 16th century, a revival of interest in the values

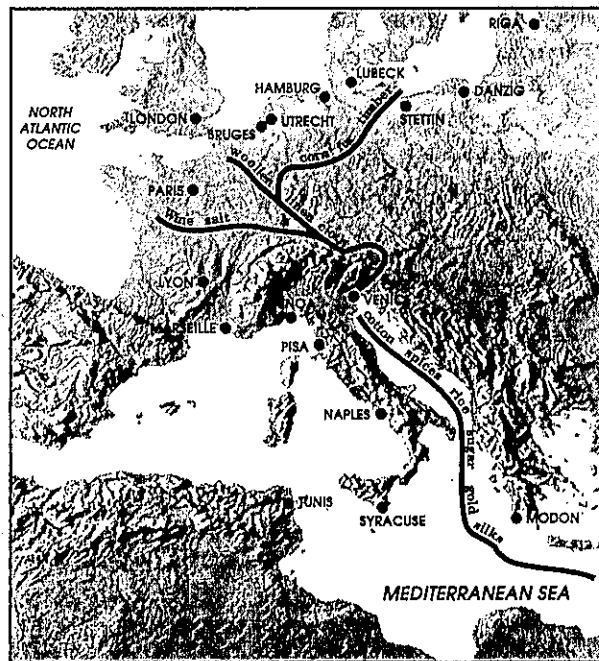


### Mini Assessment

- 1 Which combination led to Portugal's leadership in exploration of sea routes to Asia?
  - 1 technological change and navigational studies
  - 2 Medieval trade fairs and the bubonic plague
  - 3 Baltic trade alliances and guilds
  - 4 the Hundred Years War and the domestic system
  
- 2 Under the early Ming rulers, Admiral Zeng He's expeditions spread awareness of
  - 1 capitalism into Mongolia
  - 2 manorialism into Western Europe
  - 3 China's culture in the Eastern Hemisphere
  - 4 Buddhism throughout Africa
  
- 3 Which accelerated the growth of towns and trade in Europe in the late Middle Ages?
  - 1 agricultural technology yielded marketable surpluses
  - 2 Ming Confucian officials' low esteem for merchants
  - 3 lack of construction codes in early towns
  - 4 guild regulation of apprentices for 2-15 years

### Constructed Response:

- 1 What did Northern and Western Europe supply to Venice for global trade?
  
- 2 Why did Venice become a world trading capital in the 11th century?



## RENAISSANCE ACHIEVEMENTS

### LITERATURE

Person	Work	Key Ideas
Petrarch (Francesco Petrarca Milan, Padua, Venice, 1304-1374)	<i>Africanus</i> ; sonnets	sonnets and love songs in Italian and classical Latin
Giovanni Boccaccio (Florence, 1313-1375)	<i>Decameron</i>	100 traditional tales of Medieval life in vernacular Italian
Dante Alighieri (Florence, 1265-1321)	<i>The Divine Comedy</i>	epic allegory in Italian vernacular describes a journey through hell, purgatory and paradise
Geoffery Chaucer (England, 1340-1400)	<i>Canterbury Tales</i>	pilgrims tell tales of Medieval life in vernacular English
Desiderius Erasmus (Netherlands, 1466-1536)	<i>Praise of Folly</i>	used teachings of the Bible, early Christianity, and ancient pagan thinkers to ridicule the corruption of officials and the clergy
Thomas More (England, c. 1478-1535)	<i>Utopia</i>	lashed into the unjust social and economic corruption in England; describes an ideal state based on humanist reason
Francis Rabelais (France, 1483-1553)	<i>Gargantua and Pantagruel</i>	humanist attack on older Medieval values; call for Church reform
Miguel de Cervantes (Spain, 1547-1616)	<i>Don Quixote</i>	intended to poke fun at the Spanish romances of chivalry and to analyze the value of idealism

### ITALIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Person	Work	Key Ideas
Leonardo DaVinci (1452-1519)	<i>Mona Lisa, Last Supper</i>	model "Renaissance Man" – experimented in the arts, mechanics, science; constructed fountains, fortifications, churches; experimented in manned flight, war machines
Michelangelo Buonarrotti (1475-1564)	<i>Moses, David, Sistine Chapel ceiling, dome of St. Peter's</i>	Biblical and classical figures of athletic prowess and dynamic action; painting, sculpture, and architecture
Raphael (Rafaello Sanzio – 1483-1520)	<i>Disputa, Sistine Madonna</i>	classical forms, allegories, madonnas, and subjects from antiquity

### POLITICAL SCIENCE

Person	Work	Key Ideas
Niccolo Machiavelli (Florence, 1469-1527)	<i>The Prince, Discourses</i>	advice on increasing and holding power; recommended that absolute monarchs preserve power pragmatically (use violence carefully, respecting subjects and their property and preserve prosperity); claimed political actions have consequences that cannot be fully controlled, and the ruler must sometimes accept that "the end justifies the means;" called for Italian unity and an end to foreign intervention

### TECHNICAL INNOVATION

Person	Work	Key Ideas
Johann Gutenberg (Germany, 1398-1468)	movable type; printing ink, letter press process	invented printing from movable type in Europe (already being done in China from the 8th century); supplied the needs for more and cheaper reading matter and expanded learning and communication

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Florence, Italy  
Center of  
Renaissance Art



## RELIGIOUS REFORMATION

For nearly 200 years problems divided the Roman Catholic Church. From 1309 to 1377, French popes ruled from Avignon under the influence of the French monarchs. After the papal court returned to Rome, mobs forced the College of Cardinals to elect an Italian pope. Simultaneously, another French cardinal claimed the papacy and set up court again in Avignon. During this **Great Schism** (1377-1414), two popes (and at one point, three) tried to rule

and arts of Greece and Rome led to a golden age of cultural blending and innovation. Later scholars called the era a period of “rebirth.” This **Renaissance**<sup>1</sup> transformed Western European life.

During the Renaissance, the Western Europeans’ world image shifted from a strictly religious view to a more secular (worldly) outlook. Unlike the religious scholastics of the late Medieval Period (Aquinas, Abelard), Renaissance intellectuals had a growing confidence in individual human spirit and abilities (e.g., “...humans as masters of their own fate”). This new outlook came to be called **Humanism**<sup>2</sup>. It focused on the personal worth of the individual and human values, as opposed to religious belief. Renaissance humanists were influenced by the study of ancient Greek and Latin literature and philosophy. They tried to show that ancient values were consistent with Christian teachings and could help people toward better lives. Humanists were present-centered. They focused on life now, rather than the spiritual hereafter.

It was natural that Northern Italy became a cradle of humanism in the 14th century. The independence and wealth of the Northern Italian city-states allowed artists and scholars to explore ideas and learning of the ancient world and civilizations of the Eastern Mediterranean. They had little interference or official censorship.

Christendom. The Church Council of Constance (1414-1418) finally resolved the issue. The papal schism seriously undermined Church authority. During this same period, the Black Death decimated Church leadership. Scattered reformers protested the clergy’s corruption. They began questioning its authority. Another result of the chaos was that political influence shifted toward monarchs.

In addition to these forces, the economic and social changes of the Renaissance altered the Medieval **status quo**<sup>3</sup> in Western Europe. These sweeping changes of the 14th and 15th centuries made life closer to what we know today. In the spirit of Renaissance humanism, people questioned tradition. Economic individualism and early capitalism made people more self-reliant and innovative. The printing press enabled writers to circulate new ideas and pose new questions. In the mid-1400s, there were 100,000 manuscripts circulating in Europe, although only about ten percent of the population could read. By 1500, there were an estimated 9 million books in print. (Most of them were religious in nature.)

Eventually, this new, questioning attitude changed social behavior and institutions. It affected the most powerful institution – the Roman Catholic Church. The result was a turbulent religious reform movement – the **Protestant Reformation**.

1 Renaissance (humanistic classical art, architecture, literature, and learning that originated in Italy in the 14th through the 16th century spreading throughout Europe, marking the transition from medieval to modern times)

2 Humanism (cultural and intellectual movement of the Renaissance that emphasized secular concerns as a result of the rediscovery and study of the literature, art, and civilization of ancient Greece and Rome)

3 status quo (existing condition or state of affairs)