



# The Renaissance

1350-1600

*“It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things”...Leonardo da Vinci*

# A Return to a Time of Cultural Prosperity

**The Renaissance (French for "rebirth") was a cultural movement that spanned roughly from 1350 to 1600, beginning in Florence, Italy during the Late Middle Ages and later spread to the rest of Europe.**

# A Return to a Time of Cultural Prosperity

**As a cultural movement, the Renaissance encompassed a revival of learning based on knowledge from Classical Greece & Rome**

**This intellectual transformation has resulted in the Renaissance being viewed as a bridge between the Middle Ages and the Modern era.**

# A Return to a Time of Cultural Prosperity

**Although the Renaissance saw changes in many intellectual areas, as well as social and political upheaval, it is perhaps best known for its artistic developments and contributions.**

# A New Way of Thinking

**Beginning in Italy and spreading to the rest of Europe by the 16th century, Renaissance influence affected literature, philosophy, art, politics, science, religion, and other aspects of intellectual inquiry.**

# A New Way of Thinking

**In all, the Renaissance could be looked at as an attempt by intellectuals (the educated) to study and improve the secular (non-religious) view of the world**

# A New Way of Thinking

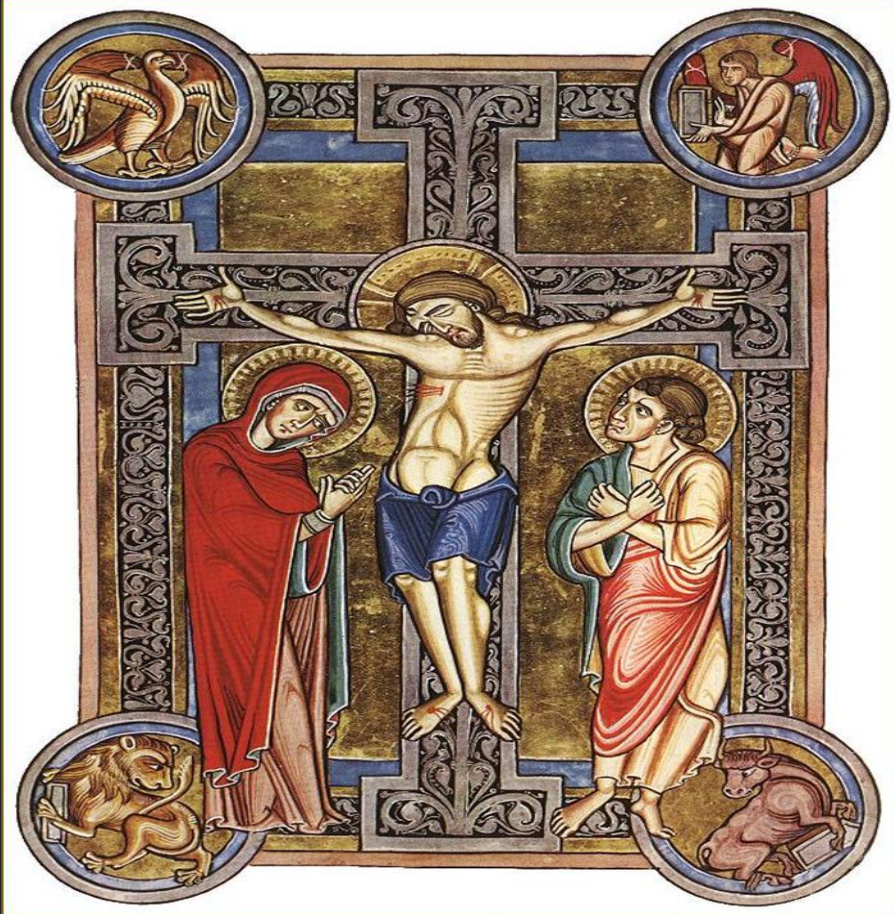
**Renaissance scholars employed a new way of thinking (the humanist method), where they searched for realism and human emotion in art and emphasized individualism & individual talents.**

# A New Way of Thinking

Humanism was a deep interest in the achievement of man — both man's past achievements as well as potential future achievements. For the first time, scholars did not try to connect classical writings to Christian teaching, rather, they tried to understand them on their own terms.



# Pre versus Post Renaissance Art

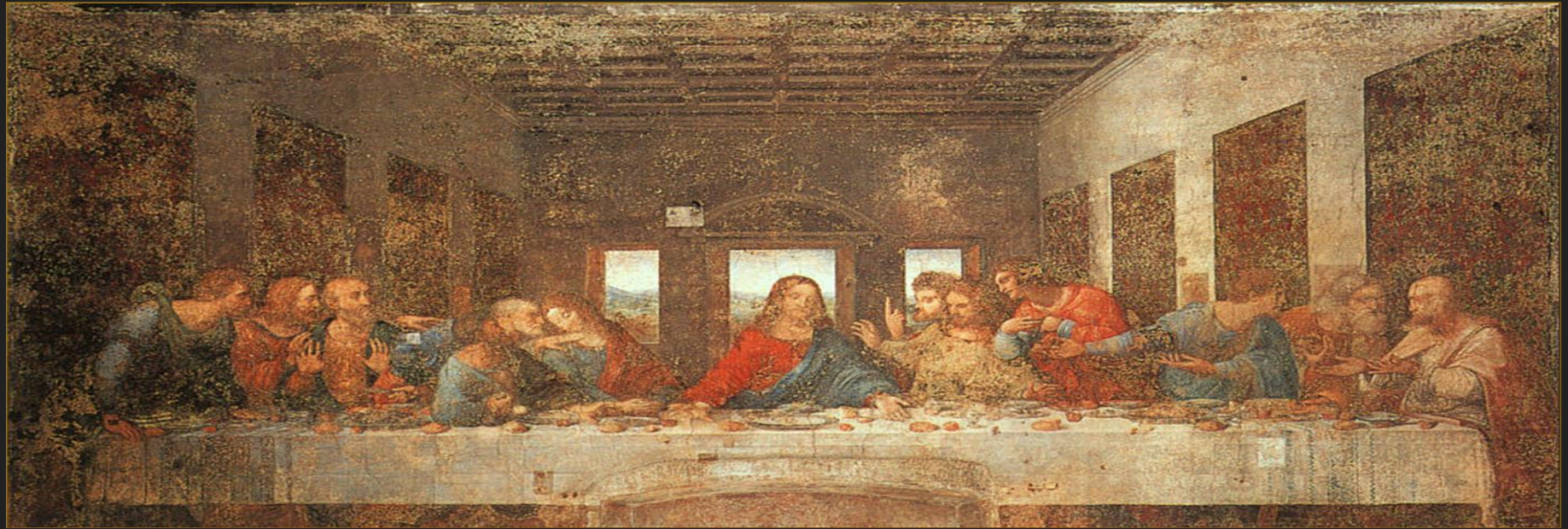




Mona Lisa...or  
Da' Vinci?

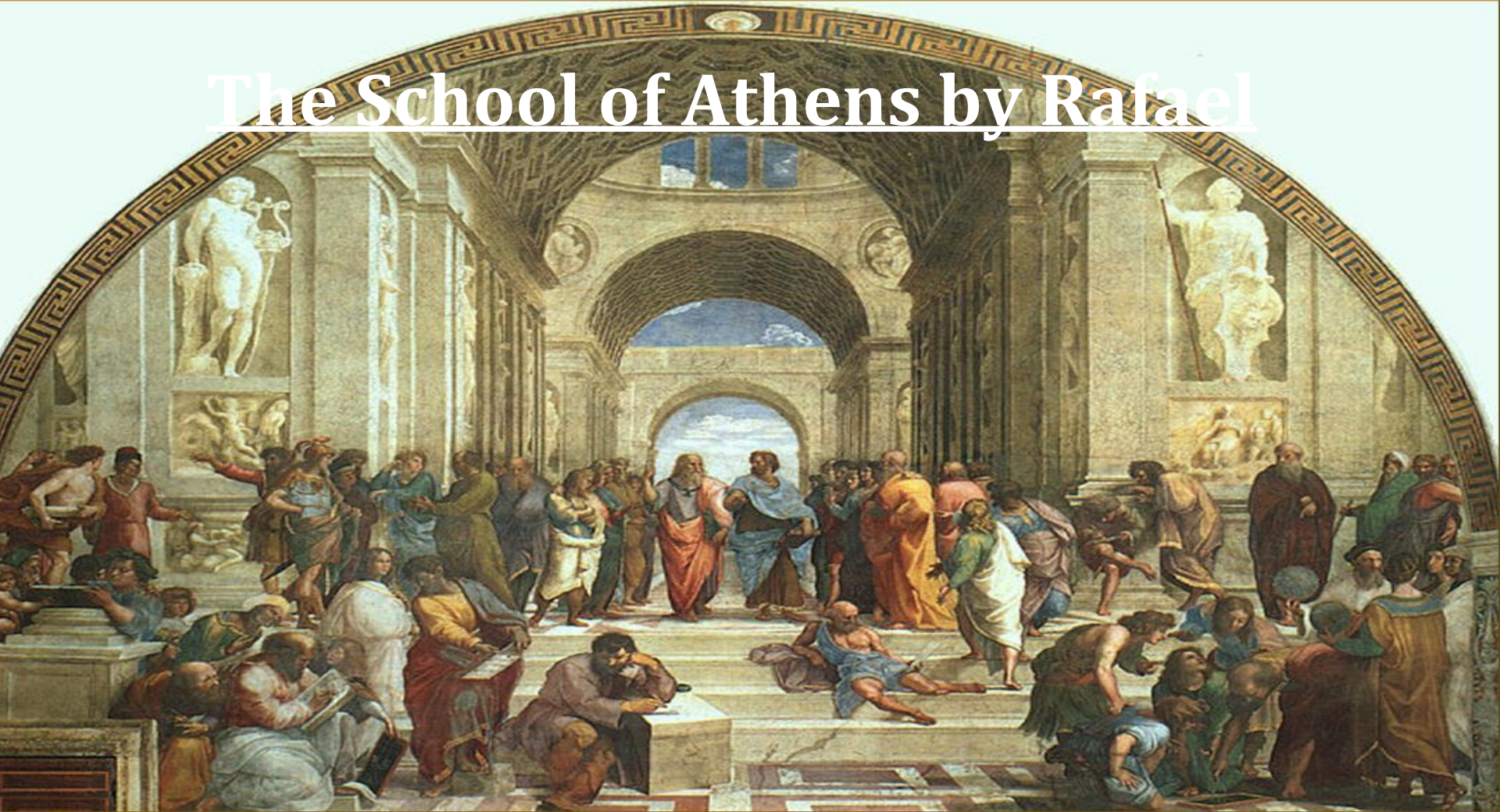


# Da' Vinci Code...the Last Supper





# The School of Athens by Rafael

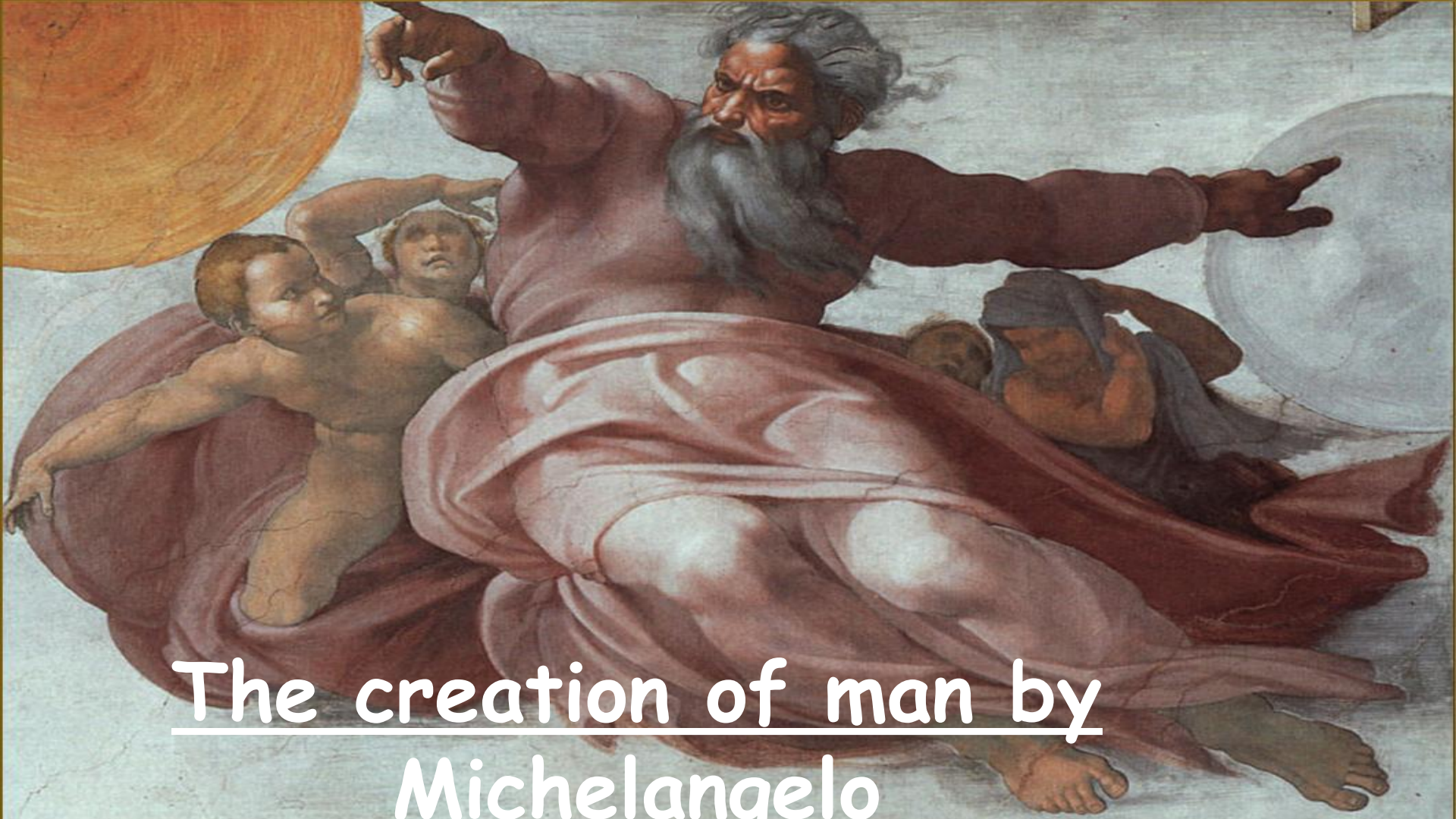






The Sistine Chapel by  
Michelangelo





The creation of man by  
Michelangelo

## Why Italy?

**Fifteenth-century Italy was one of the most urbanized areas in Europe. Many of its cities stood among the ruins of ancient Roman buildings; it seems likely that the classical nature of the Renaissance was linked to its origin in the Roman Empire's heartland. People were inspired by what man was possible of creating.**

## Why Italy?

**The unusual social climate in Italy allowed for the emergence of a rare cultural development. Italy was divided into smaller city states and territories: the Kingdom of Naples controlled the south, the Republic of Florence and the Papal States at the center, the Genoese and the Milanese to the north and west respectively, and the Venetians to the east.**





**During the Renaissance, money & art went hand in hand. Artists depended totally on patrons (those who buy art) while the patrons needed art show off their status.**

**Wealth was brought to Italy in 14th, 15th and 16th century by expanding trade into Asia and Europe & the increased flow of luxuries from the Eastern world brought during Crusades.**

ENGLAND

HOLY ROMAN  
EMPIRE

FRANCE

HUNGARY

Marseilles

Rome

Constantinople

Mediterranean Sea

MIDDLE  
EAST

Jerusalem



## Why Florence Italy?

**In Florence, most historians recognize the role played by the de' Medici (a banking and patronizing family) in stimulating the arts. Lorenzo de' Medici (1449-1492) was the man behind an enormous amount of arts patronage and encouraged his countryman to buy works from Florence's leading artists.**



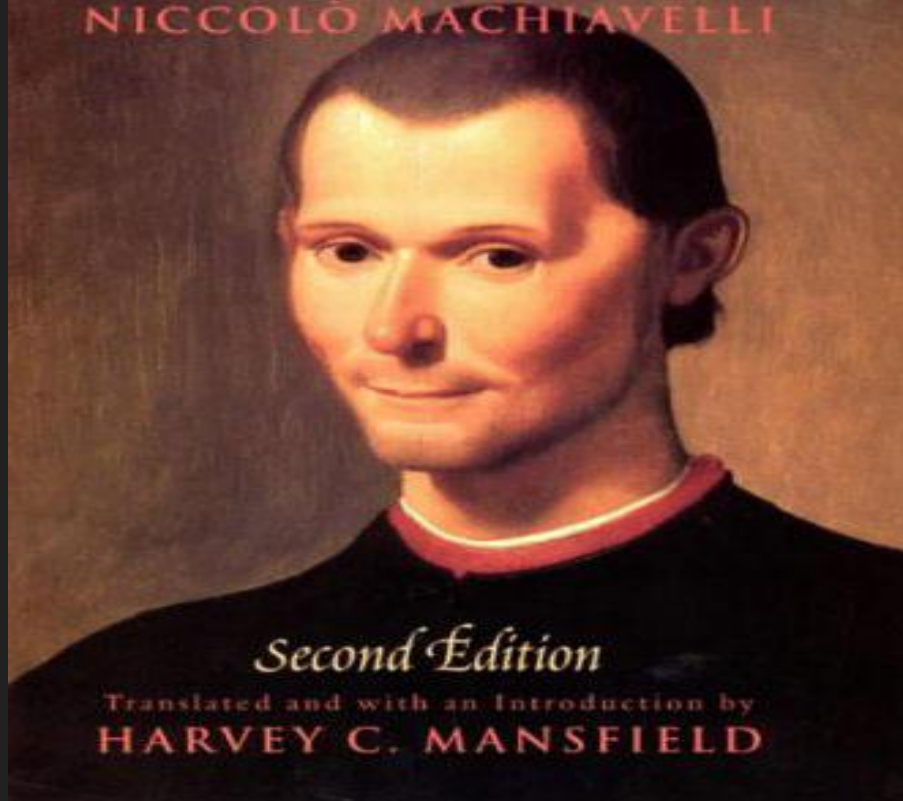


# Niccolo Machiavelli

Like artists, writers also changed their subject matter. They began to express their own thoughts and feelings. Niccolo Machiavelli took a new approach to understanding government. He wrote a book called The Prince. He focused on telling rulers how to expand their power.

# *The Prince*

NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI



*Second Edition*

Translated and with an Introduction by  
**HARVEY C. MANSFIELD**

## Niccolo Machiavelli?

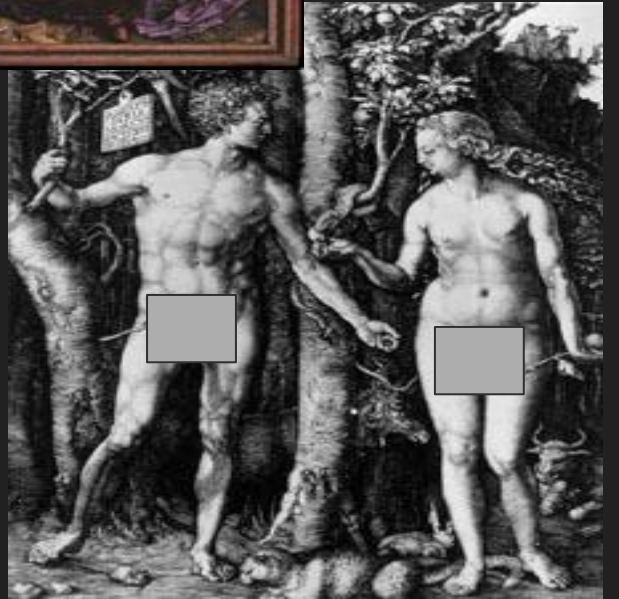
**He believed that it was better for a ruler to be feared than to be loved.**

**He also believed that the “ends justified the means” or that a ruler should do what was politically effective, even if it was illegal or not morally right to maintain power.**



# The Renaissance of Northern Europe

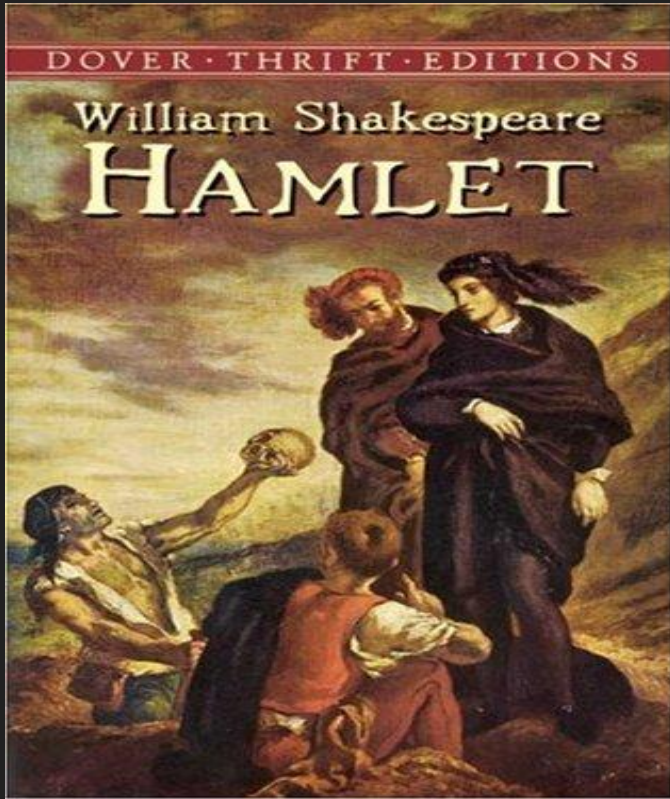
By 1450, the *bubonic plague* was over in northern Europe and the Hundred Years' War between France and England was ending. This allowed new ideas from Italy to spread to northern Europe where they were quickly adopted. Here, too, rulers and merchants used their money to sponsor artists. But the Northern Renaissance had a difference, educated people combined classical learning with an interest in religious ideas too.



# The Renaissance of Northern Europe

**Writers of the Northern Renaissance combined humanism with a deep Christian faith. They urged reforms in the Church, they tried to make people more devoted to God and they also wanted society to be more fair.**

# The Renaissance of Northern Europe



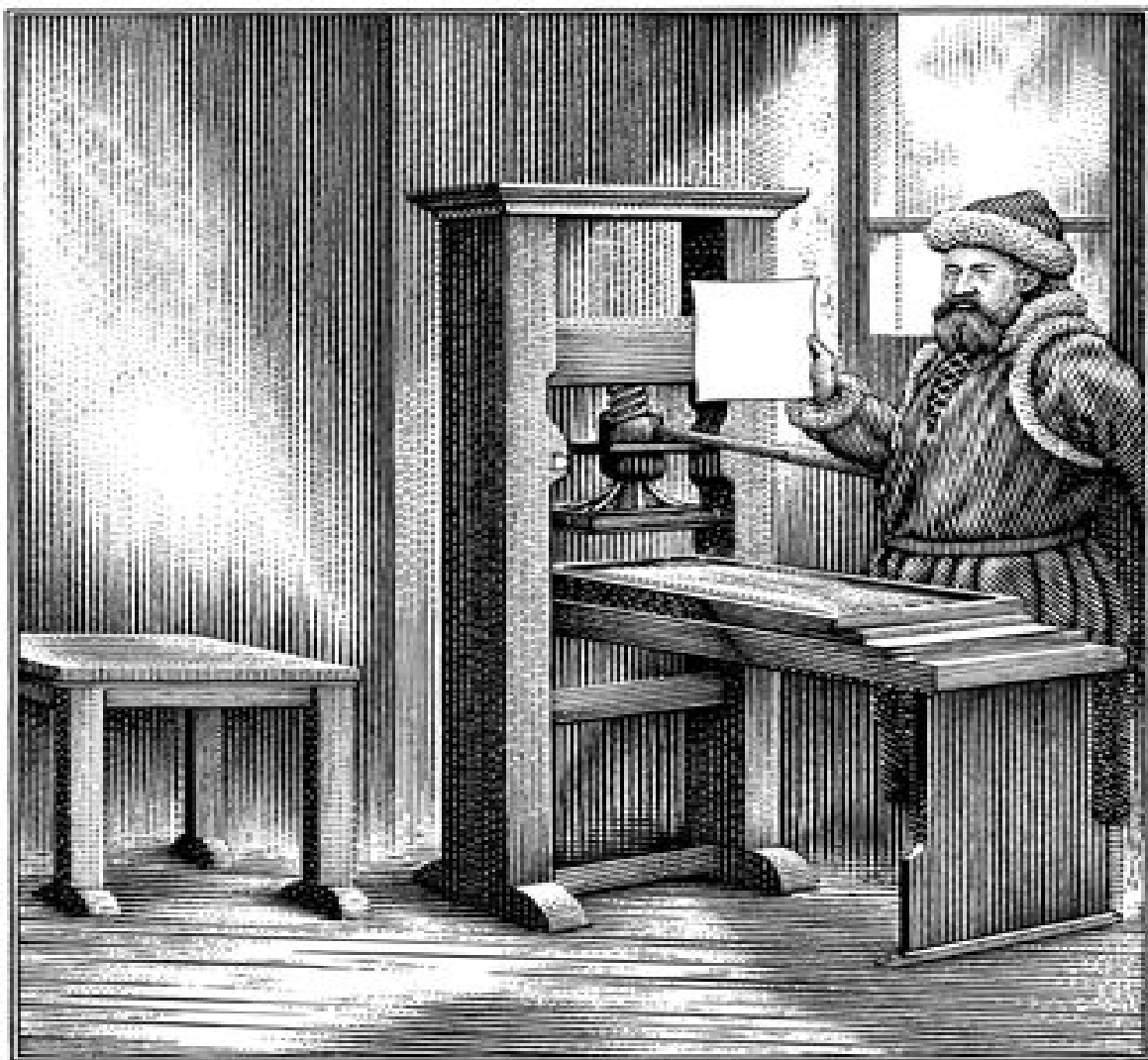
# Legacy of the Renaissance

**One reason that learning spread so rapidly during the Renaissance was the improved version of the invention of *movable type*, Chinese printing.**

# Legacy of the Renaissance

**In 1440, a German, Johann Gutenberg, used this same practice to invent his printing press. He produced his first book — the Gutenberg Bible — in 1455**

**By 1500, presses in Europe had printed nearly 10 million books**



# Legacy of the Renaissance

**Printing made it easier to make many copies of a book**

**Written works became available in English, French, Spanish, Italian, or German (vernacular-the spoken language)**

**More people began to read (The Bible was a popular book)**

**After reading the Bible, people formed new ideas about Christianity (these ideas were different from official Church teachings)**