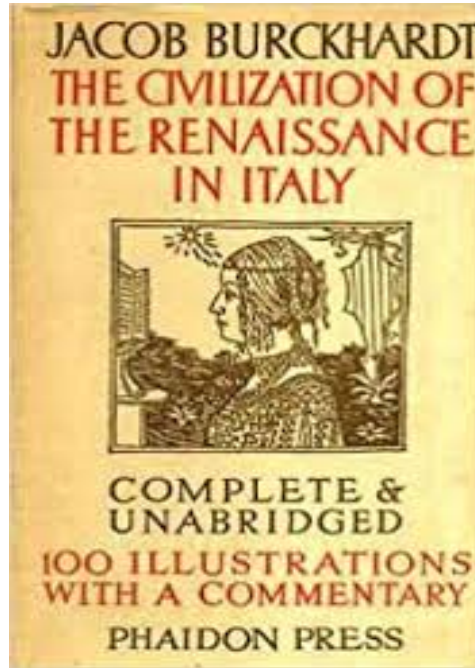


Ch. 12 Recovery & Rebirth: The Age of the Renaissance



FQ: What characteristics distinguish the Renaissance from the Middle Ages?

Historiography of the Renaissance



- 1860 – Jacob Burckhardt (Swiss historian) wrote *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*
 - portrayed Italy as the birthplace of modern Europe
 - exaggerated individuality & secularism while failing to recognize the depths of religious sentiment.

What was the Renaissance?



- Age of Recovery from:
 - Black Death
 - Economic recession
 - Political disorder

Characteristics of the Renaissance



- Rediscovery of classical antiquity led to new attempts to reconcile the pagan philosophy of the Greco-Roman world with Christian thought.
- Emphasis on the individual
- Wealthy-upper class achievements



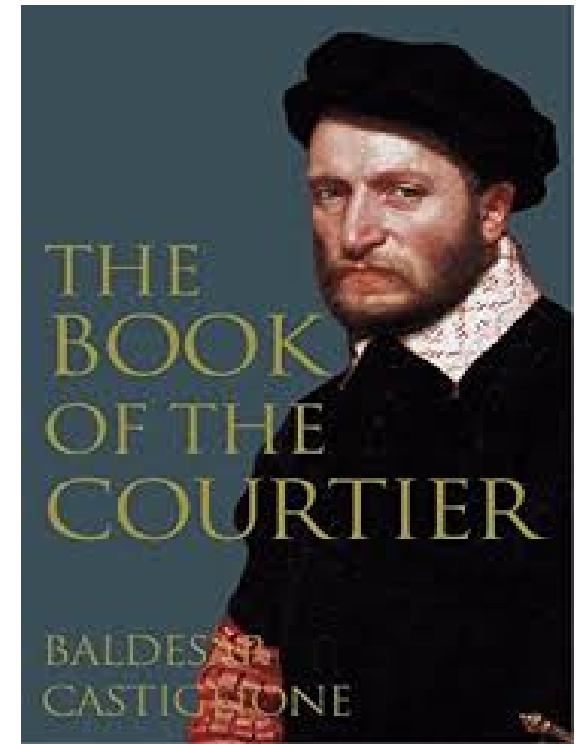
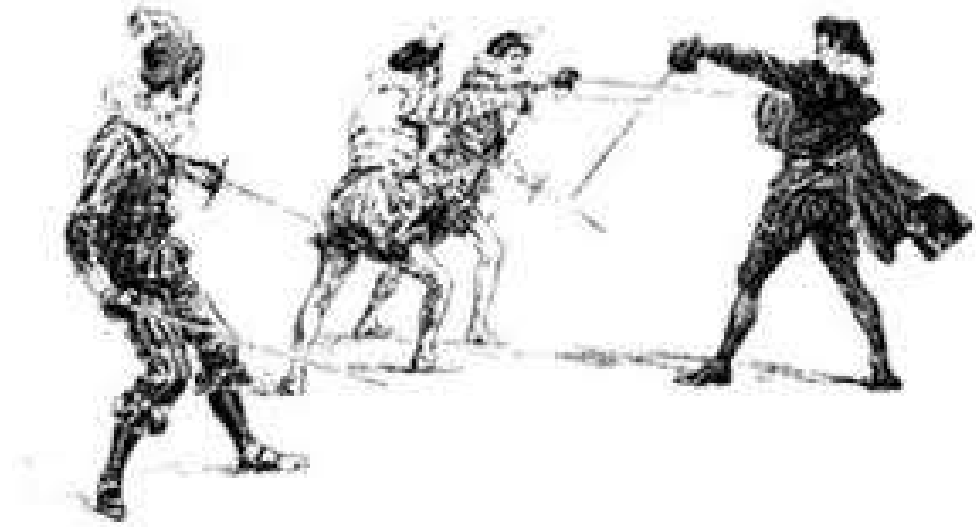
FQ: What major social changes occurred during the Renaissance?

Economic recovery



- Flanders, Bruges (port city) became the economic crossroads of Europe in the 14th century.
- Woolen industries and trade recover.
- New mining industries for copper, silver and iron which led to improved weaponry.

Social changes

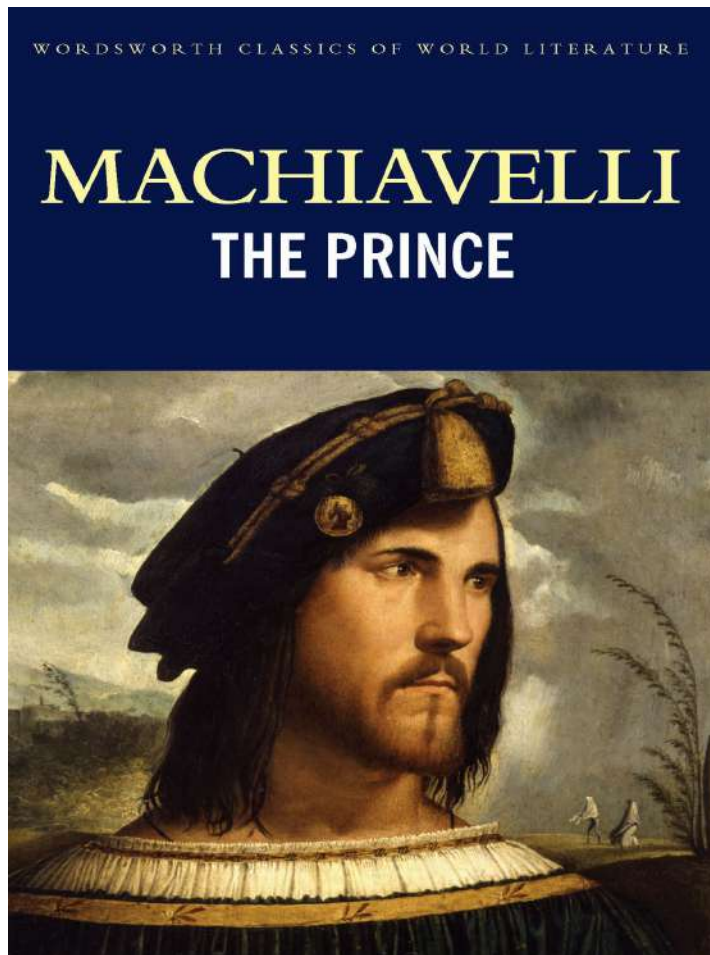


- Nobility became more concerned with:
 - military/bodily exercises
 - Education & art
 - Code of conduct (modesty)
- *The Book of the Courtier* by Baldassare Castiglione

Urban societal hierarchy



1. Patricians = trade, industry, banking
2. Petty burghers = shopkeepers, artisans, guild masters
3. Propertyless workers (30-40% of population)
4. Slaves



FQ: How did Machiavelli's works reflect the political realities of Renaissance Italy?

Five Major Italian States



- Milan
- Venice
- Florence
- Papal States
- Naples

Northern Italy



- Milan and Venice = Visconti & Sforza rulers
 - highly centralized territorial states
 - sophisticated taxation led to increased revenues
 - governed by oligarchy of merchant- aristocrats

Florence



- Dominated Tuscany. Controlled by small merchant oligarchy under the disguise of a republic.
- Ugly side of Renaissance Florence included:
 - gross inequality between rich and poor
 - poverty, crime and disease were rampant

Papal States and Naples



- Renaissance popes had to reestablish control over the Papal States.
- Kingdom of Naples (southern Italy) was poverty stricken and shared little in the cultural glories of the Renaissance.