

territories claimed by the other. It is a wonder either survived. As noted earlier, this was the time of the activities of Joan of Arc.

With war prevalent in the east and a continuing nuisance in the west, leaders needed to walk discerningly. In the interest of safety and progress, both kings and church officers often had to sacrifice present details in the face of the ultimate ends. The attitudes of greed and suspicion that the world powers would develop towards one another drew to become a powerful force in the next century...one that directly and indirectly aided the reformation greatly. The rivalries of this century would find their way into the struggles of the next.

VIII.1.b
Philosophy

Philosophical setting

Humanism was on the rise. Remember our notes on humanism in the scholastic period. The medieval humanism was built around the premise that man was worth something. This sort of humanism is often called "theistic" or "deistic" humanism in that God is seen as a controlling force in our destinies. It has an aesthetic ring to it and has not become yet the humanism of later years that will be marked by a universally accepted set of purely anthropomorphic values (anthropocentric is better). In this age the humanism that develops is out of an interest in man and it reacts, in many cases, to the ways in which man has been hurt by both the church and the state of that time.

This sort of thought is reflected in the advances of the Renaissance. For centuries people have been the one big expendable commodity in the life of the church and in the political rush for power. The quality of life had become such a minor issue as to have no force and few adherents. But scholars of the Renaissance were suddenly interested in art, literature, medicine, agriculture, technology, etc., in the thrust for the betterment of man in his world. This would lead to the scientific ideas of Galileo and Copernicus and would contribute much to the new world of Columbus, et al. Much of the coming colonization was due to an interest in the societal welfare of a downtrodden people.

From tight circles at the onset of the time humanism grew to envelope most of Europe. In Italy the movement centered around such scholars as Pico.