

1300-1500, early renaissance...mostly in Italy (the Italian States). Humanism develops in the works of Petrarch, etc. Classic models develop in architecture, sculpture and painting. A lot of very remarkable work centers around Florence. The early renaissance is fostered by the noble class, some clergy, and some popes. Our 1300 date above is really too late but it is round enough to do for the present course.

1450-1550 finds the renaissance idea moving to other European countries. Printing is very helpful in this promotion and the age is characterized by new expressions in literature: Erasmus: In Praise of Folly; More: Utopia; Machiavelli: The Prince and the essays of Rabelais with the art works of Durer, Brueghel, Holbein, Michaelangelo, DaVinci, Raphael, Cellini, etc. Art, as seen by the artists, became the freest expression of spiritual truth and literature as seen by the writers became the noblest means of liberation.

1530-1600...marked the later renaissance in northern Europe and included the literary productions of the Elizabethan age in England. Forgive us for overlapping the periods slightly...it is not easy to discontinue one age of art and learning on the immediate borders of another.

The upshot of all these things is to show the added dimension that man's world was undertaking. Our great concern in this course is not for the renaissance but for the history of the church in this period. Yet that history is much more comprehensible if we have some idea of how society was heading. Also, as mentioned in another connexion, when we have some understanding of these things we are much better enabled to see why and how the reformation was a success in a world where so many things were against it. Note that these world movements did not "make" the reformation but they did work for it and were used of God in the broadening of the interest factors of man.

The Italian Renaissance

Having sketched the Renaissance movement on a broad sphere, we now take a moment and look at it on a more particular sphere --with special emphasis on the aspects that were most meaningful in the development of the ecclesiastical moves.