The Early Renaissance
SPAIN

• Emerged as a leading European power in 1400s
• Christian rulers fought Muslims (Moors) before the Crusades
• 1469—Ferdinand of Aragon married Isabella of Castile, essentially uniting Spain
• 1492—Reconquisita completed w/ taking of the Kingdom of Granada; Moors & Jews ordered to convert to Christianity or leave
• The Inquisition est. to enforce Catholic teachings – accused heretics were tortured, tried & punished
• Explorers discovered gold in Peru & Mexico
• Wool was main export
Tombs of Ferdinand & Isabella
Granada, Spain
The Holy Roman Empire (HRE)

- Included Germanic, Italian & Slavic states
- Europe’s largest political unit after fall of Rome
- Emperor elected by a Diet – assembly of German princes & archbishops who governed independent territories
- 1438 – Diet began electing from the Habsburgs, a noble Austrian family
- Habsburgs couldn’t control the princes but could secure other parts of Europe; they became Europe’s most powerful royal dynasty through military victories & marriages
- Over time, power of princes & electors ↑
Emperor Charles V

- King of Spain & elected HRE in 1519
- Controlled a vast empire
- Arranged marriage of his son Philip II to Mary Tudor
- Imposed lots of taxes in Spain to pay for wars
- Reformation spread during his reign
- 1556—abdicated, giving son Philip II Spain & The Netherlands & brother Ferdinand got Central Europe (divided Habsburgs into Spanish & Austrian branches)
Ghent, Belgium
Birthplace of Charles V
Emergence of Early Modern Europe

• Late Middle Ages brought economic, social & political changes
• Pop. ↑ after the Black Death
• Trade & manufacturing ↑
• Italy was center of commerce
• Kingdoms emerge in France, Spain, England & Scandinavia
• Life expectancy: 20 years
Largest Cities in Western Europe, ca. 1500. There were as many large cities in the Italian peninsula as in all of the rest of western Europe.
The Renaissance (1350-1600)

- Rebirth of classical civ.
- Starts in Italy & spreads throughout W. Europe
- Revival of Ancient Greek & Roman ideas & values
- Transition from medieval to modern
- New secular & scientific values replaced trad. religious beliefs
- Celebrated the human body
- Cultural awakening
- Humanists re-discover classical knowledge & lang. that spread throughout Europe
Italy, 1494, showing the largest of the city-states. The city-states were among the most wealthy urban areas in the world.
Italian Renaissance

- Began in city-states because they’d avoided economic crises that happened elsewhere during the High Middle Ages & due to its location between East & West (good for trade)
- Rulers & Merchants were wealthy & used their $ to patronize gov’t, building projects, education & arts
- Town life was strong
Italian City-States

• Most communities resist efforts by kings & nobles to control them
• Became wealthy & independent
• Wealth & ability considered more important than titles & land ownership
• By 15th cent., many city-states were centers of banking for most of Europe
• Upper class: Merchants & Bankers (not landowners)
• Middle class: Shopkeepers & Artisans
• Major city-states: Florence, Milan, Venice, Naples
• New social classes & divisions led to rapid urban growth & conflict
Government in Renaissance Italy

• City-states were ruled by wealthy families who made money from commerce or banking
• Republics were oligarchies dominated by powerful families
• Pope was elected for life by cardinals
• City-states often fought over land disputes
• Practice of appointing ambassadors rep. a city-state to serve at foreign courts began in 1500s
Florence

- Birthplace of Italian Renaissance “the new Rome”
- Maritime power & textile industry
- **Signoria** – council of 8 men who governed; chosen from guilds & were loyal to Cosimo de Medici
- Medici family supported artists & scholars
- Cosimo controlled the city from behind the scenes; intro. an income tax to end uprisings & forced wealthy to pay more
- Lorenzo the Magnificent, Cosimo’s grandson (r. 1469-92) was a dictator until surviving an assassination attempt
- Began declining in 1490s due to competition from English & Flemish cloth makers
Petrarch, Rules for the Ruler excerpts

• “The first quality is that a lord should be friendly, never terrifying, to the good citizens, even though it is inevitable that he be terrifying to evil citizens if he is to be a friend to justice.”

• “Many princes, both in antiquity and in modern times, have wanted nothing more than to be feared and have believed that nothing is more useful than fear & cruelty in maintaining their power.”

• “Rulers in general want to reign for a long time & to lead their lives in security, but to be feared is opposed to both of these desires, and to be loved is consistent with both.”
“Now I shall speak of justice, the very important and noble function that is to give to each person his due so that no one is punished without good reason.”

“Among those honored for their abilities in governing, the first place ought to go to learned men. And among these learned men, a major place should go to those whose knowledge in law is always very useful to the state.”

“That very wise emperor Augustus use to bestow patronage on learned men to encourage them to remain in Rome, and hope of such a reward stimulated others to study, for at that time Roman citizenship was a highly valued honor.”
Rome

• Papacy returned in 1420 after the Great Schism
• Pope & cardinals were wealthiest class
• Lots of the city re-built, including St. Peter’s Basilica, the world’s largest Christian church
• Wasn’t a center of banking & trade but became 3rd largest European city & Renaissance shifted there in mid 1500s
Venice

• Major port city on the Adriatic Sea
• Link between Asia & W. Europe
• Workshops prod. high quality glass
• Republican gov’t controlled by council of merchants
Procession or Adoration of the Magi
Medici Chapel, Florence
View of Florence looking toward the Santa Maria del Fiore, known for Brunelleschi’s dome (the 1st dome successfully completed since ancient Rome)
The Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge) – oldest of Florence’s bridges (1345) on the Arno River. It was the only bridge not destroyed on Hitler’s orders during World War II.
The Annunciation by Fra Angelico
La Primavera by Botticelli
The Gonzaga Family of Mantua
Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci