

# **Changing Cultural Traditions**

**The Making of Modern Europe (1450-1700)**

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# Changing Cultural Traditions (Features of Modern Europe)

- End of Feudalism & Emergence of Nation-states.
- Beginning of Geographical Discovery
- Renaissance
- Reformation movement & Counter reformation movement.
- Humanism- Worldliness, Individualism.
- Development of Science- Printing & Navigation Technology, Copernican Revolution,
- Development of Various arts- Realism etc. & Culture- A distinct Urban Culture.
- Development of Trade & Commerce.

# Renaissance : Meaning

- Historians used 'Renaissance' (literally, rebirth) to describe the cultural changes during 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Swiss scholar – Jacob Burckhardt (1818–97) of the University of Basle in Switzerland emphasised on this in his book 'The Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy (1860).
- thrived in Italian city states, such as Florence, Rome, and Venice. Merchants in these city-states had gained great wealth through trade with Asia and the Mediterranean world. They then used this wealth to support scholars and artists. Poets, sculptors, and painters, such as Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, created stunning masterpieces. People also took an interest in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.



# Renaissance : Why in Italy first.

- Geographical Location.
- Promotion of Trade & Commerce and Rise of Urban Centres.
- Educational development.
- Role of Printing Technology.
- Support to learning by Traders.
- Inspiration by rich cultural heritage in Rome.
- Migration of scholar from Constantinople.

# Universities & Humanism

- **Humanism** is a way of thinking that gave importance to the individual and human society instead of divine issues. Humanism held that reason, as well as faith, was a path to knowledge.
- This idea was popularised in Europe through universities & earliest universities had set up in Italian cities like Padua & Bologna during 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Francesco Petrarch (1304-78) represented this change. To Petrarch, antiquity was a distinctive civilization which could be best understood through the actual words of the ancient Greeks & Romans. Further, there was much to be learnt which religious teaching alone could not give.

# Universities & Humanism.....

- By the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, the term 'humanist' was used for masters who taught grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history and moral philosophy.
- The Latin word *humanitas*, from which 'humanities' was derived, had been used many centuries ago by the Roman lawyer and essayist Cicero (106-43 BCE), a contemporary of Julius Caesar, to mean culture.
- These subjects were not drawn from or connected with religion, and emphasised skills developed by individuals through discussion & debate.



- The term 'Renaissance Man' is often used to describe a person with many interests and skills, because many of the individuals who became well known at this time were people of many parts. They were scholar-diplomat-theologian artist combined in one.
- The term 'Middle Ages'/'medieval period' was used for the millennium (thousand years) after the fall of Rome. In the 'Middle Ages', they argued, the Church had had such complete control over men's minds that all the learning of the Greeks and Romans had been blotted out.

# A New Concept of Human Beings

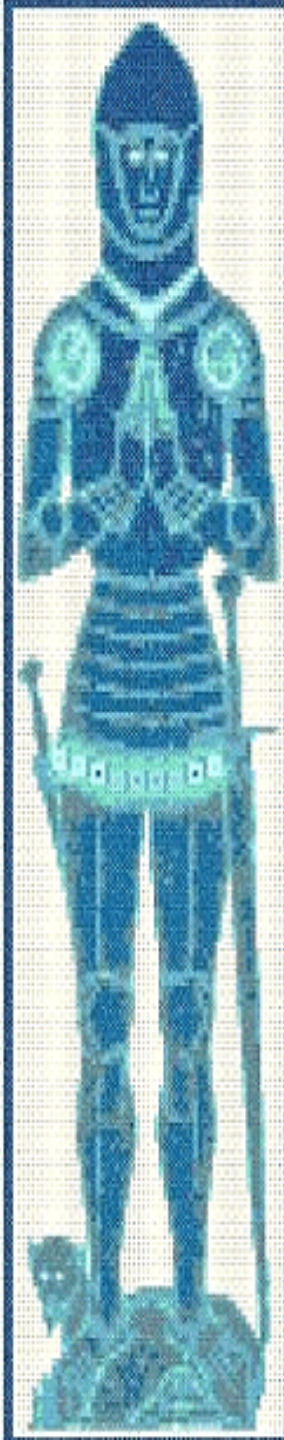
- One of the features of humanist culture was a slackening of the control of religion over human life.
- Italians were strongly attracted to material wealth, power and glory, but they were not necessarily irreligious.
- Humanists believed that the study of history leads man to strive for a life of perfection & criticised the Christian injunction against pleasure.
- There was also a concern at this time with good manners – how one should speak politely and dress correctly, what skills a person of culture should learn.
- Humanism also implied that individuals were capable of shaping their own lives through means other than the mere pursuit of power and money.



# The Rise of Universities

- Medieval Universities got their start as educational guilds
- The first Medieval University was in Bologna, Italy . The students at the school formed their own guild in 1158.
- Later came the University of Paris, and then the University at Oxford England.

# Medieval Universities





# Areas of Study

- Students in medieval universities studied the following subjects
  - Grammar: The proper way to write
  - Rhetoric: Public speaking, learning how to make arguments (debate)
  - Logic: Using reason
  - Arithmetic: Basic Math
  - Geometry
  - Music
  - Astronomy





# Teaching Style

- Books were rare and expensive in the Middle Ages. The main method of teaching was by lecture. Teachers would read from books and students would take notes.
- There were not regular exams given, but when a student applied for a degree, they were given an



# Degrees

- There were various types of degrees awarded by medieval universities
  - Theology: The study of religion and God
  - Law
  - Medicine
- Upon completion of 4-6 years of study they would earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. If they continued in school they could earn a doctor's degree and would be able to teach. A doctor's degree could take ten years of more.



# The Middle Ages

After Rome's fall, Europe entered the Middle Ages, a 1,000-year period between ancient and modern times. Christianity strongly influenced society during this period. In the 1300s, though, interest in education, art, and science exploded. Questions began to arise about earlier beliefs and practices. By the 1500s, Europe was experiencing changes that gave birth to the modern period.

## Castle Conwy, Wales





- Periodisation used by humanists and by later scholars
  - ❖ 5th–14th century The Middle Ages
  - ❖ 5th–9th century The Dark Ages
  - ❖ 9th–11th century The Early Middle Ages
  - ❖ 11th–14th century The Late Middle Ages
  - ❖ 15th century onwards The Modern Age

# Science & Philosophy : The Arabs' Contribution

- Arabs translated many classical Latin & Greek texts.
- Arabs produced great physicians like Ibn-sina & Al-razi and organised hospitals for treatment of infectious diseases.
- Arabs spread the knowledge of Number & Decimal System, Trignametry etc.
- Ommar Khaiyyam produced a new improvised calender.
- Arab Astronomers believed that earth revolves around the sun.
- Arab chemists discovered many chemical compounds like,  $\text{NaCo}_3$ ,  $\text{AgNo}_3$ ,  $\text{HNo}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{So}_4$ , etc.

# Artists & Realism : Meaning

- In the visual art, an aesthetic that promotes accurate, detailed, unembellished depiction of nature / contemporary life.
- Realism rejects imaginative idealization in favour of close observation of outward appearances.
- Artists were inspired by studying works of the past.
- Artists' concern to be accurate was helped by the work of scientists.
- Knowledge of geometry helped them understand perspective, and that by noting the changing quality of light, their pictures acquired a three dimensional quality.
- The use of oil as a medium for painting also gave a greater richness of colour to paintings than before.
- Thus, anatomy, geometry, physics, as well as a strong sense of what was beautiful, gave a new quality to Italian art, which was to be called 'realism' and which continued till the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



# *Realism*

- Netherlands
- Frans Hals, Jan Vermeer, Rembrandt.
- Still life, everyday scenes, spiritual side of life reflected in faces.













# Architecture

- Humanism encouraged the study of Rome's history. The ruins in Rome were carefully excavated by archaeologists (archaeology was a new skill).
- This inspired a 'new' style in architecture, which was actually a revival of the imperial Roman style – now called 'classical'.
- Popes, wealthy merchants and aristocrats employed architects who were familiar with classical architecture.
- Artists and sculptors were also to decorate buildings with paintings, sculptures & reliefs.
- Some individual artists were skilled equally as painters, sculptors and architects. Like- Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), Filippo Brunelleschi (1337-1446), etc.
- Another remarkable change was artists were known individually, by their name, not as members of a group or a guild, as earlier.

# Medieval Architecture

- During the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries there was a boom in architecture and building.
- Originally buildings were built in a Basilica style which consisted of a rectangular building with a flat wooden roof.
- Later, Romanesque architecture replaced this flat roof with a rounded arch.



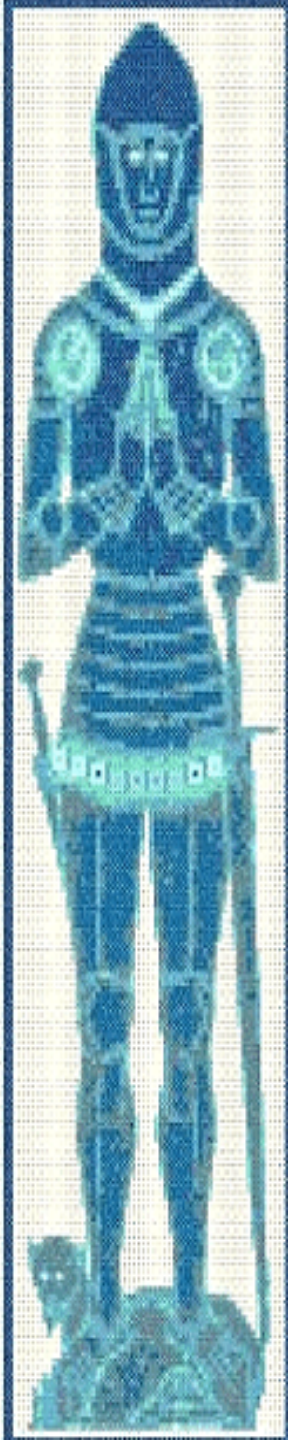


# Romanesque Architecture

- Romanesque architecture developed to have some specific traits.
  - Rounded Arches
  - Thick walls with small windows with stone roofs.
- The dark environment of the church was meant to suggest the power and mystery of God.

# Romanesque Architectural Style

- e Rounded Arches.
- e Barrel vaults.
- e Thick walls.
- e Darker, simplistic interiors.
- e Small windows, usually at the top of the wall.















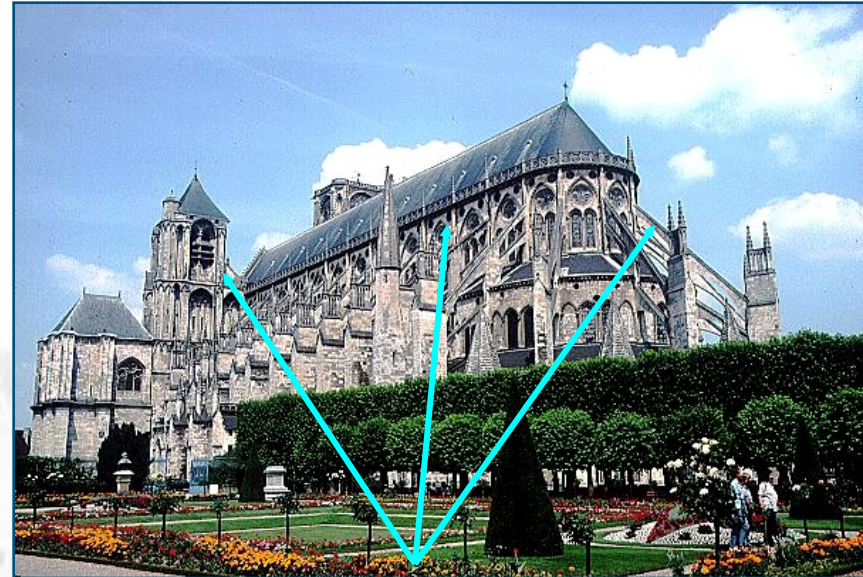
# Gothic Architecture

- Later, changes were made to the Romanesque style which developed a new style known as Gothic Architecture.
- Gothic architecture developed some distinct characteristics of its own.
  - Vaulted Arches (Pointed)
  - Flying Buttresses
  - Thinner walls and stained glass windows
- The advancements allowed thinner walls and larger windows, which allowed for these new churches to have much more natural light.
- The Gothic style was much more serene and self-confident.

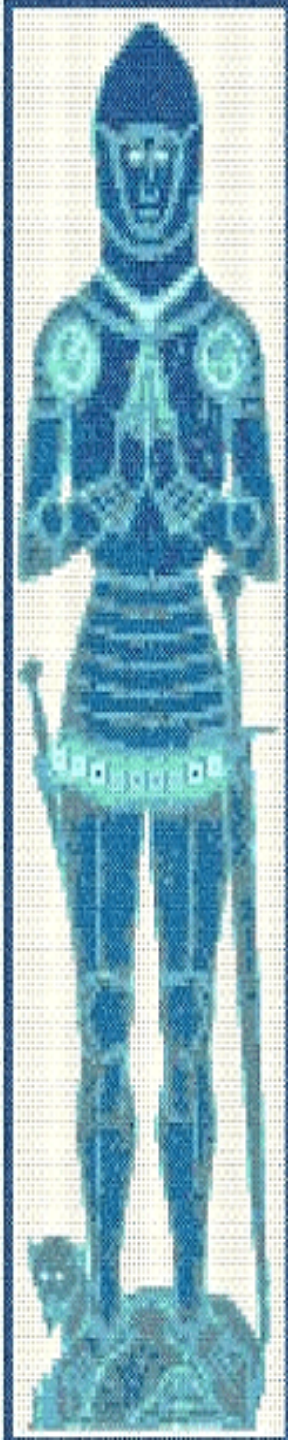


# Gothic Architectural Style

- e Pointed arches.
- e High, narrow vaults.
- e Thinner walls.
- e Flying buttresses.
- e Elaborate, ornate, airier interiors.
- e Stained-glass windows.



"Flying" Buttresses







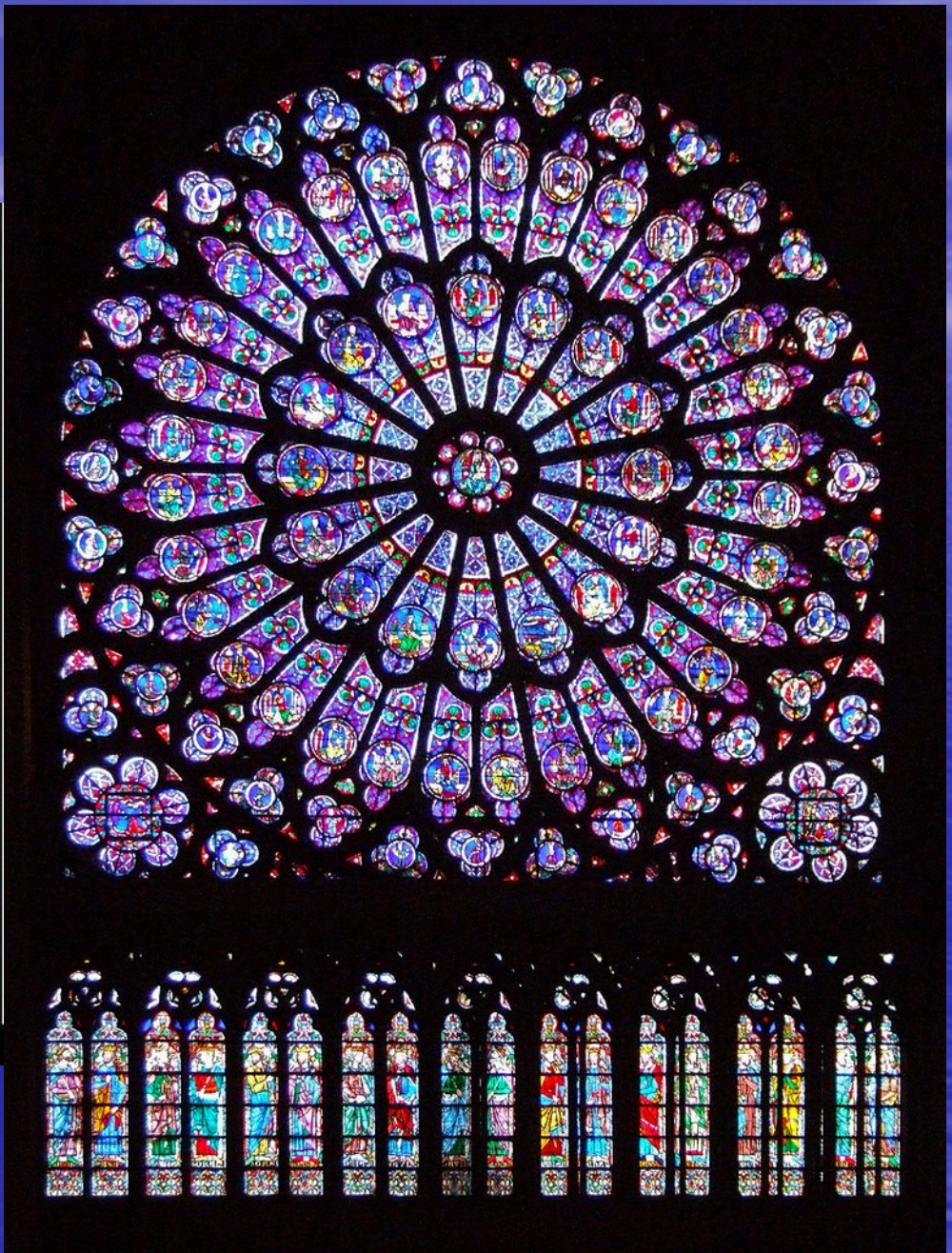








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# Flying Buttresses







# Stained Glass

The stained glass windows of churches were also used to teach stories from the Bible to a mostly illiterate population.

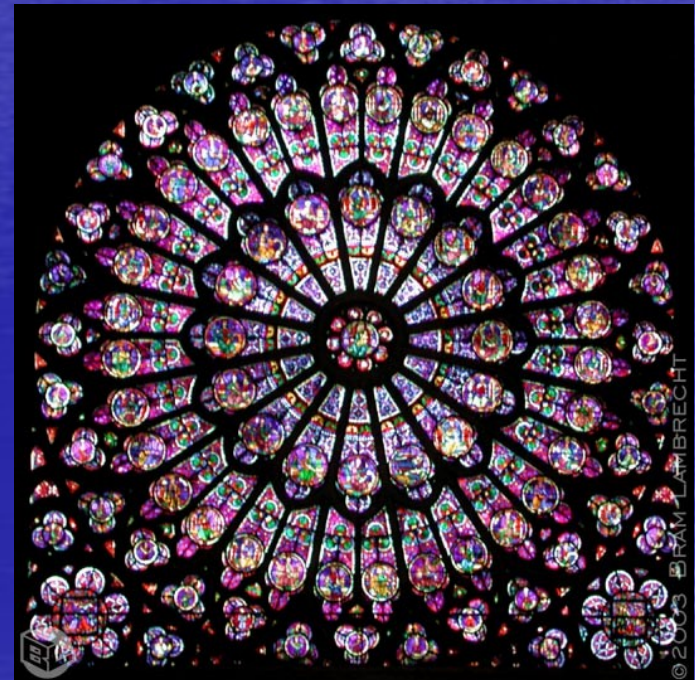




# Section 3: The Culture of the High Middle Ages

Dates:

Architects begin to build in the Gothic Style:  
1150





# Gargoyles

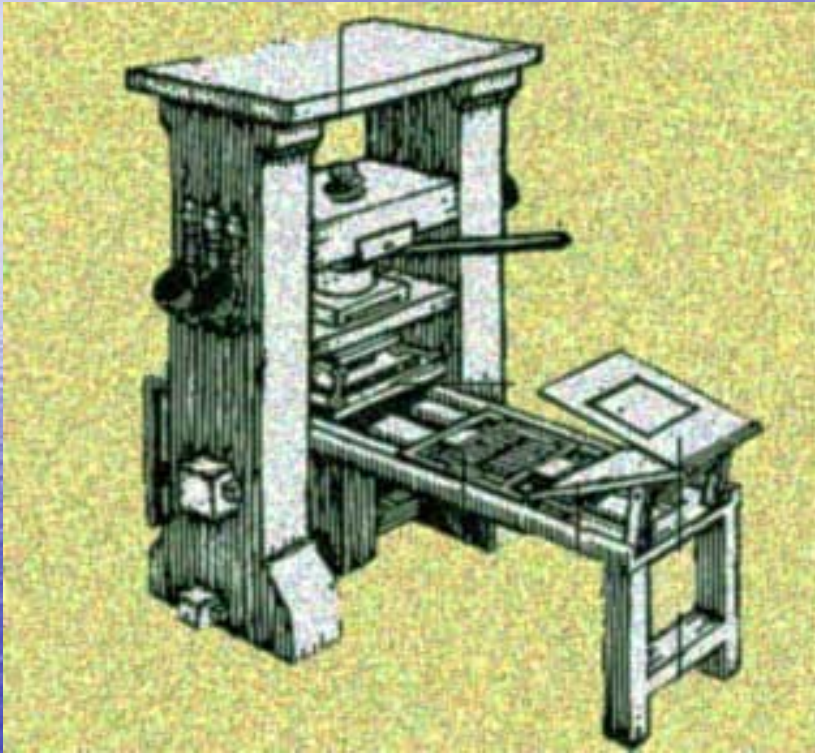
- A Gargoyle functioned as a grotesque. They were meant to scare away evil spirits, but often also acted as water spouts for the church







# The Printing Press



- Intellectual Revolution through the spread of books and tracts
- Literacy grows
- Communication between scholars grows
- Standardization of texts

# Printing Technology : The First Printed Books

- Earlier, texts existed in a few hand-written copies.
- In 1455, 150 copies of the Bible were printed in the workshop of Johannes Gutenberg (1400-1458), the German who made the first printing press.
- Earlier, a monk would have taken the same amount of time to write out *one* copy of the Bible!
- As printed books became available, it was possible to buy them, and students did not have to depend solely on lecture-notes. Ideas, opinions and information moved more widely and more rapidly than ever before.
- A printed book promoting new ideas could quickly reach hundreds of readers. This also made it possible for individuals to read books, since it was possible to buy copies for oneself. This developed the reading habit among people.
- The chief reason that the humanist culture of Italy spread more rapidly is that printed books were circulating.



# The Aspiration of Women

- The new ideal of individuality and citizenship excluded women.
- Men from aristocratic families dominated public life and were the decision-makers in their families.
- Although their dowries were invested in the family businesses, women generally had no say in how their husbands should run their business.
- Often, marriages were intended to strengthen business alliances. If an adequate dowry could not be arranged, daughters were sent to convents to live the life of a nun.
- Obviously, the public role of women was limited and they were looked upon as keepers of the households.

# The Aspiration of Women

- The position of women in the families of merchants, however, was somewhat different. Shopkeepers were very often assisted by their wives in running the shop. In families of merchants and bankers, wives looked after the businesses when the male members were away on work.
- The early death of a merchant compelled his widow to perform a larger public role than was the case in aristocratic families.



# The Aspiration of Women

- A few women were intellectually very creative and sensitive about the importance of a humanist education.
- 'Even though the study of letters promises and offers no reward for women and no dignity every woman ought to seek and embrace these studies', wrote the Venetian Cassandra Fedele (1465-1558).
- She was one of a handful of women who questioned the idea that women were incapable of achieving the qualities of a humanist scholar. Fedele was known for her proficiency in Greek and Latin, and was invited to give orations at the University of Padua.
- Another remarkable woman was the Marchesa of Mantua, Isabella d'Este (1474-1539). She ruled the state while her husband was absent, and the court of Mantua, a small state, was famed for its intellectual brilliance.
- Women's writings revealed their conviction that they should have economic power, property and education to achieve an identity in a world dominated by men.

# Debate Within Christianity : Causes (Protestant Reformation)

- Inherited evils of Roman Catholic Church.
  - ❖ Exploitation of peasants.
  - ❖ Interference in Political Affairs of Kings.
  - ❖ Stress over Unnecessary Religious Rituals.
  - ❖ Selling of Indulgences.
- Rise of Nation States in Europe.
- Discontent among Formers.
- Scientific development.
- Development of Education & Press.
- Promotion of Trade & Commerce.
- Role of humanists like Thomas More, Erasmus etc.



# Reformation Movement :

## Martin Luther (1483-1546 AD)

- In 1517, a young German monk called Martin Luther(1483-1546) launched a campaign against the Catholic Church and argued that a person did not need priests to establish contact with God.
- He asked his followers to have complete faith in God, for faith alone could guide them to the right life and entry into heaven.
- This movement – called the Protestant Reformation – led to the churches in Germany and Switzerland breaking their connection with the Pope and the Catholic Church.

# Reformation Movement : Continued.....

- In Switzerland, Luther's ideas were popularised by Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) and later by Jean Calvin (1509-64).
- Backed by merchants, the reformers had greater popular appeal in towns, while in rural areas the Catholic Church managed to retain its influence.
- Other German reformers, like the Anabaptists, were even more radical: they blended the idea of salvation with the end of all forms of social oppression. They said that since God had created all people as equal, they were not expected to pay taxes and had the right to choose their priests.



# Reformation Movement : Continued.....

- Eventually, in France, as in many other parts of Europe, the Catholic Church allowed Protestants to worship as they chose.
- In England, the rulers ended the connection with the Pope. The king/queen was from then onwards the head of the Church.
- The Catholic Church itself did not escape the impact of these ideas, and began to reform itself from within. In Spain and in Italy, churchmen emphasised the need for a simple life and service to the poor.
- In Spain, Ignatius Loyola, in an attempt to combat Protestantism, set up the 'Society of Jesus' in 1540. His followers were called Jesuits, whose mission was to serve the poor and to widen their knowledge of other cultures.

# The Copernican Revolution

- The Christian notion of man as a sinner was questioned from an entirely different angle – by scientists.
- The turning point in European science came with the work of Copernicus (1473-1543), a contemporary of Martin Luther.
- Christians had believed that the earth was a sinful place and the heavy burden of sin made it immobile. The earth stood at the centre of the universe around which moved the celestial planets.
- Copernicus asserted that the planets, including the earth, rotate around the sun.
- A devout Christian, Copernicus was afraid of the possible reaction to his theory by traditionalist clergymen.
- For this reason, he did not want his manuscript, *De revolutionibus* (The Rotation) to be printed. On his deathbed, he gave it to his follower, Joachim Rheticus. It took time for people to accept this idea.



# The Copernican Revolution.....

- It was much later – more than half a century later, in fact – that the difference between ‘heaven’ and earth was bridged through the writings of astronomers like Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) and Galileo Galilei (1564-1642).
- The theory of the earth as part of a sun-centred system was made popular by Kepler’s *Cosmographical Mystery*, which demonstrated that the planets move around the sun not in circles but in ellipses.
- Galileo confirmed the notion of the dynamic world in his work *The Motion*.
- This revolution in science reached its climax with Isaac Newton’s theory of gravitation.

# Was there a European 'Renaissance' in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century?

- Yes, All Supportive points.
- No, Following reasons-
  - ❖ Many elements associated with the Renaissance in Italy can be traced back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Ninth century in France, there had been similar literary and artistic blossoming as in Italy.
  - ❖ The cultural changes in Europe at this time were not shaped only by the 'classical' civilisation of Rome and Greece. The archaeological and literary recovery of Roman culture did create a great admiration of that civilisation. But technologies and skills in Asia had moved far ahead of what the Greeks & Romans had known.



# Was there a European 'Renaissance' in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century?

- ❖ The expansion of Islam and the Mongol conquests had linked Asia and North Africa with Europe, not politically but in terms of trade and of learning skills.
- ❖ The Europeans learned not just from the Greeks and Romans, but from India, from Arabia, from Iran, from Central Asia and China.
- ❖ These debts were not acknowledged for a long time because when the history of this period started to be written, historians saw it from a Europe-centred viewpoint.

# Was there a European 'Renaissance' in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century?

- ❖ An important change that did happen in this period was that gradually the 'private' and the 'public' spheres of life began to become separate.
- ❖ Another development was that the different regions of Europe started to have their separate sense of identity, based on language.
- ❖ Europe, earlier united partly by the Roman Empire and later by Latin and Christianity, was now dissolving into states, each united by a common language.



# Thank You

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