

The image features two large, thick, black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. They are oriented towards each other, framing the central text.

THE RENAISSANCE

Rise of Cities in North Italy



- Several factors combined to spur the growth of towns in Northern Italy
 - *1st - the Crusades & later growth of the Mongol Empire fostered long-distance trade*
 - *2nd - outbreak of Bubonic Plague*
 - drove up wages
 - created a demand for labor
- Florence benefitted from these developments
 - *grew into an important manufacturing center for wool cloth in 1300s*

Rise of Cities in North Italy

- During this period, Florence was an independent city-state
 - *Operated as a republic form of government*
 - *The republic was controlled by wealthy merchants & artisans*
 - *Became an ideal place to do business*
 - *Guilds regulated trade and manufacturing to ensure economic benefit and limited risk for members.*



Rise of Cities in North Italy

- Political independence & guild regulation fostered continued growth & led to Florence becoming a major financial center in the 1400s
- The development of the financial institutions of Florence was orchestrated by the Medici family
 - *established a bank in Florence with branches in Flanders, London, & other cities of Italy*
 - *The Medici bank made major advances in financial services*
 - checking accounts
 - lending
- Florence also saw the development of share holding companies



Rise of Cities in North Italy

- Many citizens of Florence were able to accumulate vast wealth
- The wealthiest of all was Cosimo de Medici
 - *Used his wealth & control of the banking industry to take control of the government*
 - *While Cosimo de Medici maintained the appearance of a republic he ruled Florence as a dictator*
 - *This continued under his son Lorenzo de Medici*
 - *Under Medici leadership, Florence continued to thrive as a center of commerce*
- The vast wealth held by the residents of Florence funded major cultural developments in art and architecture

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The Medici Family

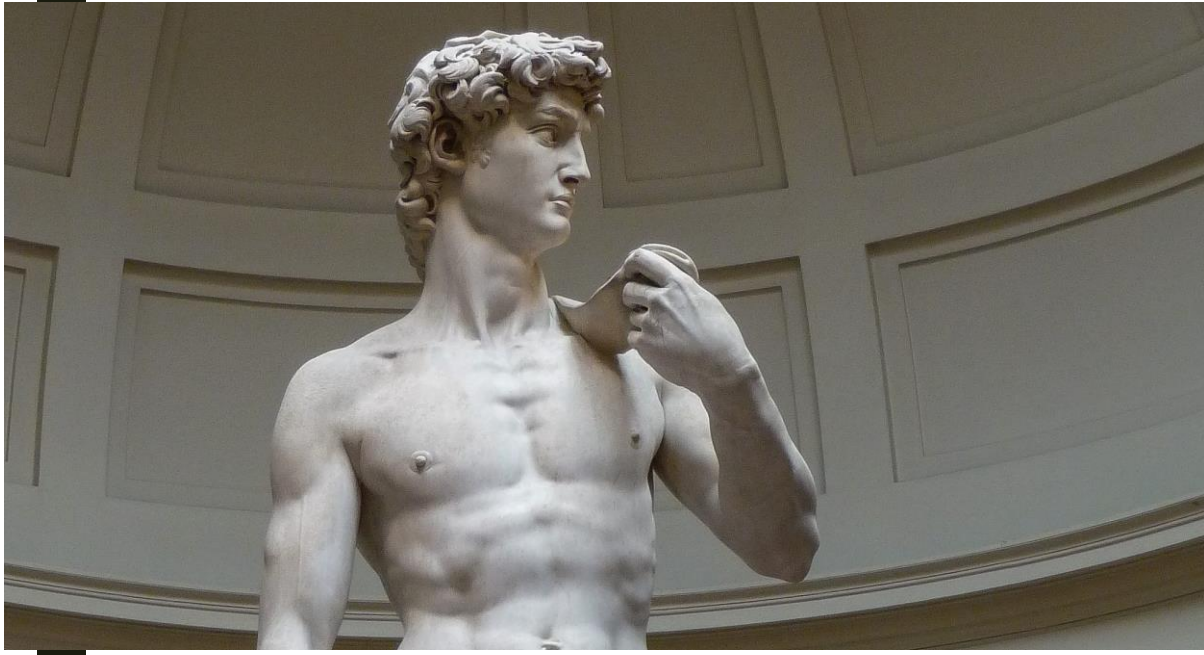


Achievements of the Renaissance: The Arts

- During the Medieval period sculpture and painting were considered the work of tradesman
 - *Most of the work was commissioned by the church*
 - *limited to the depiction of scenes from the bible*
 - *Paintings & sculptures were fairly simple & relied heavily on symbolism*
- This changed during the Renaissance
 - *which started in Italy & later spread to Northern Europe*
- Wealth patrons in Italy willing to pay for high quality works
 - *inspired a new approach to the arts*

Achievements of the Renaissance: The Arts

- Artist like Botticelli, Michelangelo, & Leonardo da Vinci found inspiration in Greek & Roman use of realism
 - approached the visual arts as an intellectual pursuit
- This new approach led to major advances in techniques like the use of perspective and shading.
- Highly realistic paintings like da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* & Raphael's *School of Athens* conveyed human emotion, movement, & space in a way never seen done before
- In sculpture, Michelangelo's *David* depicted muscle tone, bone structure, & emotion in marble.



Achievements of the Renaissance: The Arts

- Literature also took a turn to the realistic
- Authors like Boccaccio, Petrarch, & Shakespeare wrote stories steeped in human emotion
- Authors began to move away from the tradition of writing in Latin & instead chose the language of their homes



Achievements of the Renaissance: Learning

- This period also saw advances in other intellectual pursuits
- In the 11th century, Greek manuscripts were reintroduced to Europe
- Much of this work had been lost in Europe after the fall of Rome but it was preserved & built upon in the Arab Muslim world
- When this work was reintroduced to Europe & translated into Latin, it inspired European intellectuals to pursue studies in mathematics, medicine, geography, & science
- A renewed interest in scientific inquiry led to growth of colleges in the 1200s & development of modern universities in 1300s

Achievements of the Renaissance: Humanism

- Medieval European intellectual life was dominated by the study of the bible & the pursuit of salvation
- While intellectuals of the Renaissance remained devotedly Catholic, a new intellectual movement encouraged individuals to also pursue secular concerns
- The Humanist argued that the faithful could live an enjoyable life full of worldly pleasures without offending God
- **Humanism**, outlook focused on human pursuits rather than spiritual,
 - inspired by the Greek classics & focused on study of history, literature, & philosophy (called the Humanities)
- The movement idealized intellectual curiosity & versatility
- Also celebrated human potential & achievement

Achievements of the Renaissance: Inventions

- Block printing & moveable type was developed in China & Korea between the 9th & 12th century
- This technology, along with papermaking, diffused to Europe in 1300 & 1400s
- Around 1450, 3 key innovations in the process were combined by **Johann Gutenberg** of Mainz
 - *moveable type, the printing press, and ink suitable for printing on paper.*
 - *This breakthrough allowed Gutenberg to efficiently print books*
- In 1454, he completed the first printed book in Europe, the Gutenberg Bible.
- The technology took hold rapidly in Europe with 10 million printed books produced by presses in 238 towns by 1500.
- This printing boom contributed to the growth of Humanism, the development of universities, the Protestant Reformation, & increased literacy across the continent.

