

# Renaissance

- From Italian word *Rinascimento*
- The “Rebirth”
- The rise of Humanism and secularism
- Rediscovery of the past, and new inventions

# Why Renaissance occurred?

- Black Death: human life becomes seen as important, spurs growth of towns and cities
- Crusades and new ideas and technologies from the Middle East
- Trade and Capitalism: more money and incentives for arts, technologies, voyages, growth of cities and capitalist middle class.
- New inventions and developments
- New fascination with ancient cultures, art, history and philosophy



# Where does it occur?

- Northern Italy
- The birthplace of Renaissance is cited as Florence
- The great mercantile republics: Florence, Genoa, Rome, Naples, Venice, and Milan



# Renaissance Values

## Medieval Values

- Divine Plan
- Importance of hierarchy
- Dualism: Spirit vs. Matter
- Providence/Fate
- God above all

## Renaissance Values

- Humanism
- Secularism
- Importance of restoration of classical texts, arts, literature and drama



# Renaissance Culture

## Renaissance Writers

Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) - major work of written poetry and philosophy. Author of "Divine Comedy".

Pico Della Mirandola (1463-1494) – Father of the Renaissance. Argued that man has free will, and that people ought to live their lives to the fullest

Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch) (1304-1374) - important scholar who recovered works of the Latin scholars, and historian.

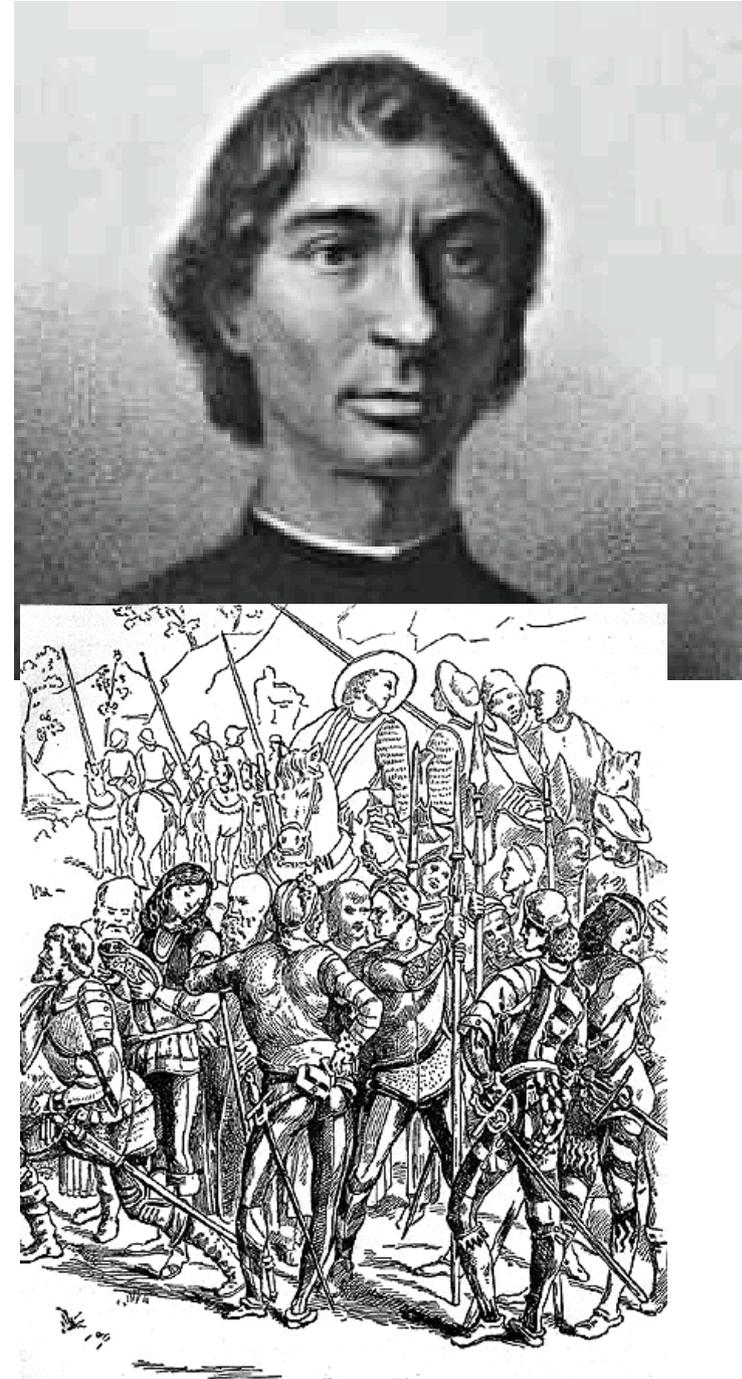
Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) - chancellor of Florence, philosopher and writer. Argued that power comes from merit, intelligence, and strength, not from God.

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375) - wrote the first modern book about people rather than religion

Sir Thomas More (1478-1535) - wrote Utopia, argued against the evils of his age and tried to offer alternatives

# Niccolo Machiavelli

- Chancellor of Florence
- Supporter of Cosimo and Cesare Medici
- One of the most Significant Political Thinkers of Renaissance
- Wrote, “The Prince” (1532)- How a Prince can hold and maintain power
- Defence of Despotism (rule by tyranny)
- Power doesn't come from God, but is instead a result of luck, strength, intelligence, and ability.



# Sir Thomas More

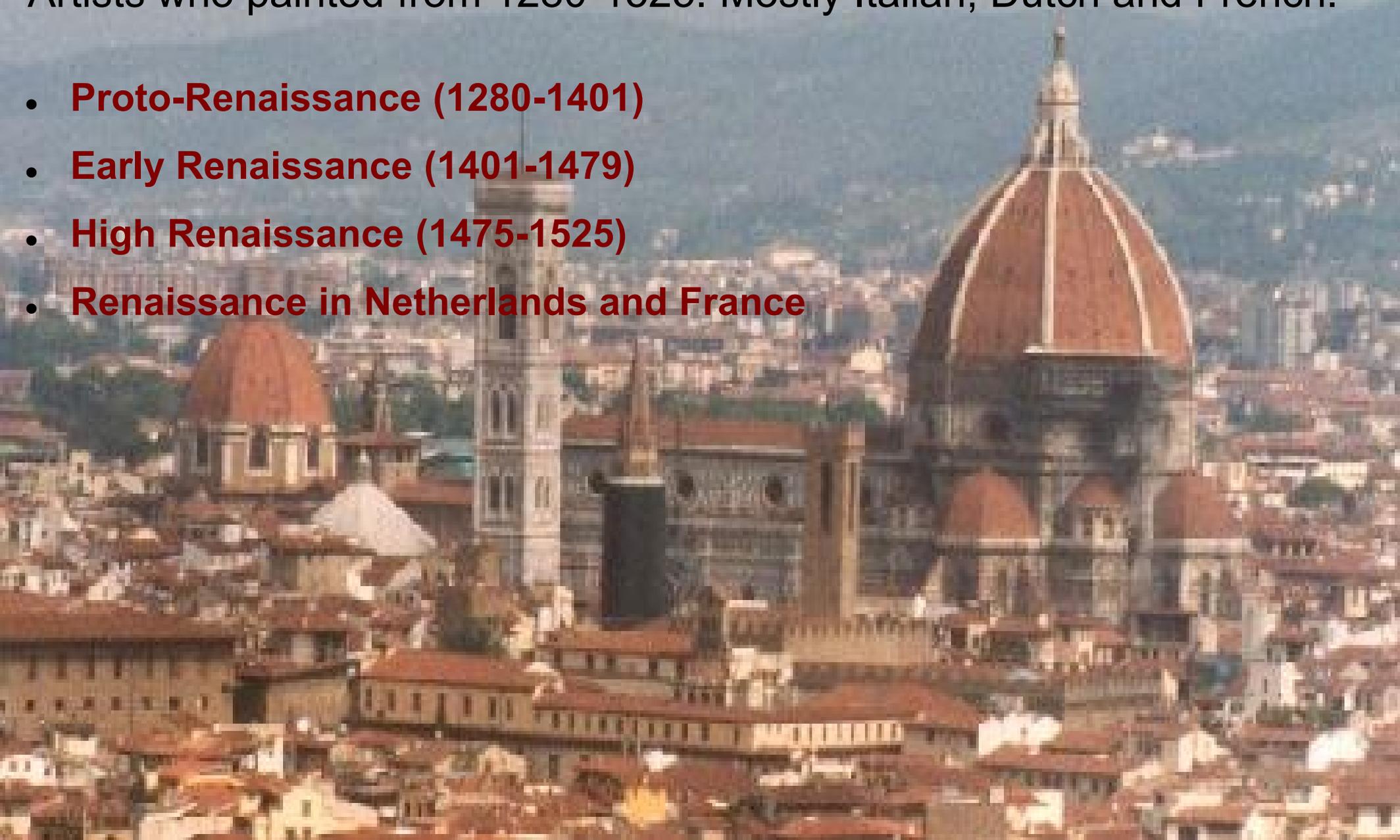
- English lawyer, statesman, advisor to Henry VIII, Lord Chancellor of England, Humanist author
- Author of “Utopia” (1516) in which he argued that humans could build paradise on earth by using reason and good governance
- Was martyred for his Catholic faith by Henry VIII



# Renaissance Artists

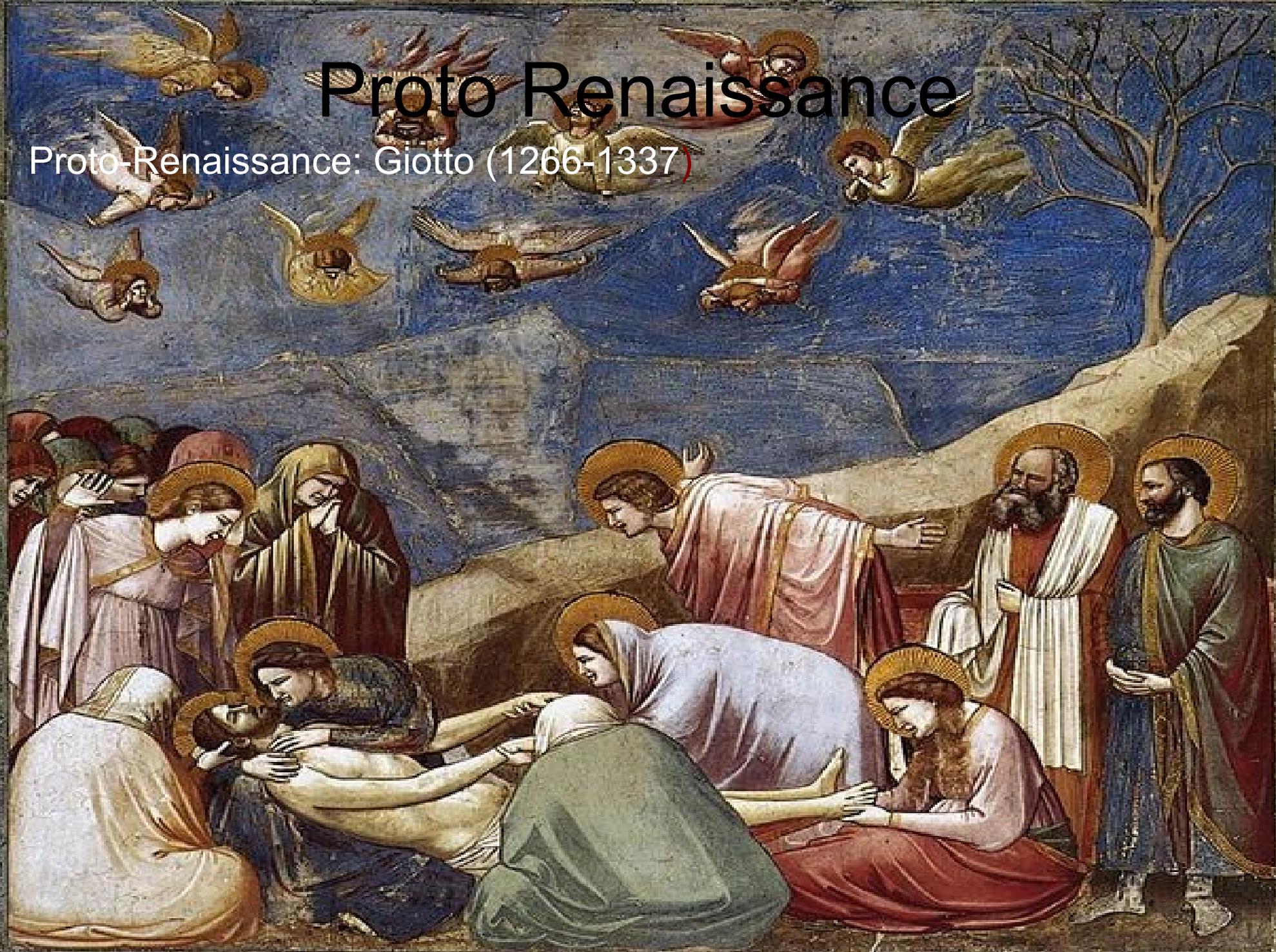
Artists who painted from 1280-1525. Mostly Italian, Dutch and French.

- **Proto-Renaissance (1280-1401)**
- **Early Renaissance (1401-1479)**
- **High Renaissance (1475-1525)**
- **Renaissance in Netherlands and France**



# Proto Renaissance

Proto-Renaissance: Giotto (1266-1337)



# Early Renaissance

Famous Artists

New Techniques and styles

Brancacci Chapel as a training ground for Italian artists

Linear Perspective



Alessandro Botticelli (1445-1510)



The use of light and shadow

Portraits



Alessandro Botticelli

# High Renaissance

## Famous Artists

**Domenico Ghirlandaio  
(1449-1494)**

New techniques and styles

Oil paints

**Pietro Perugino (1446-1523)**

Accurate proportions

**Leonardo da Vinci (1452?-  
1519)**

Cloth folds

Shadows

**Michelangelo (1475-1564)**

Perspective

**Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino  
(1483-1520) – Raphael**

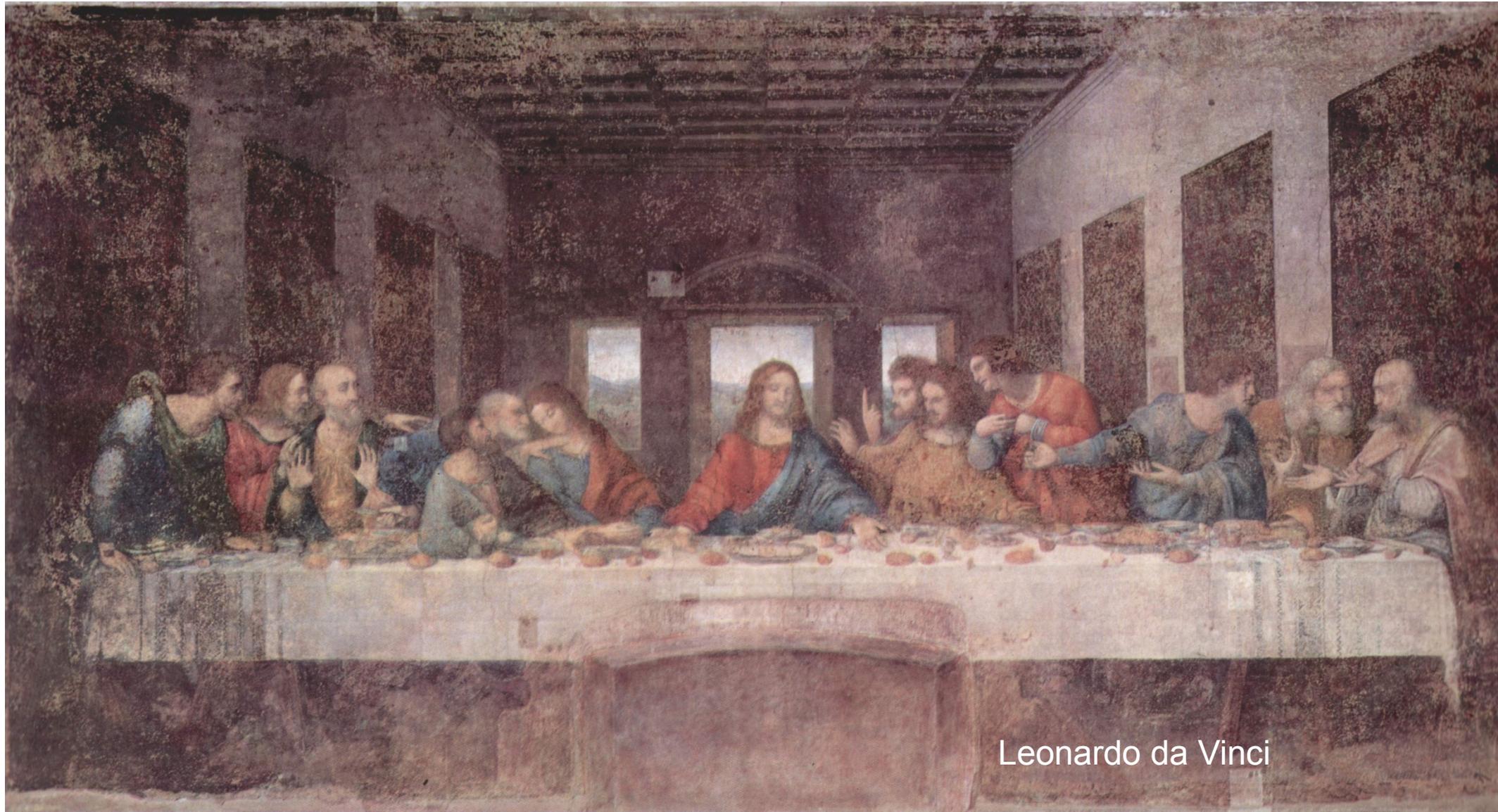
**Giovanni Bellini**

**Tiziano Vecelli (1488?-1576)  
- Titian**

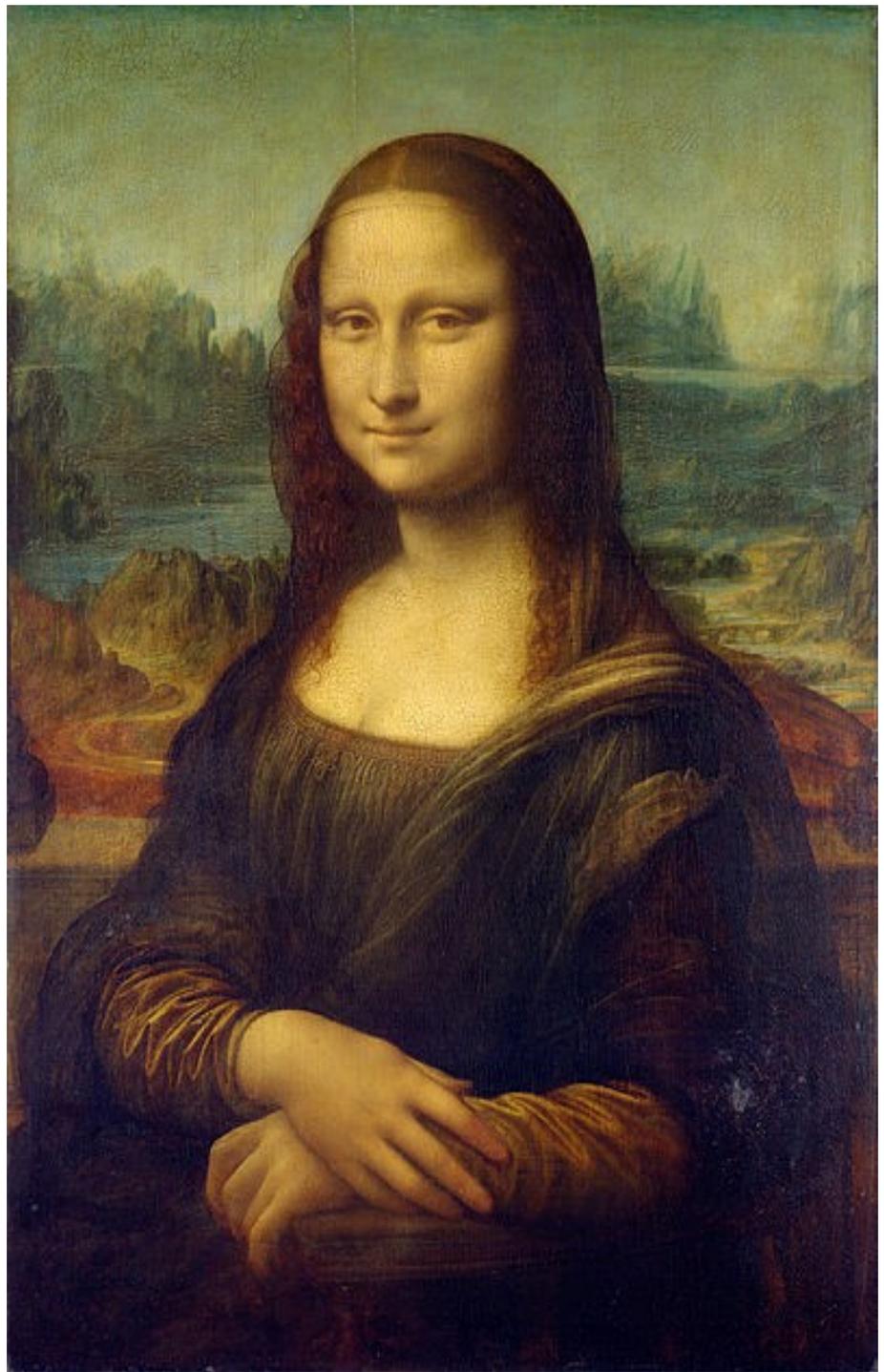
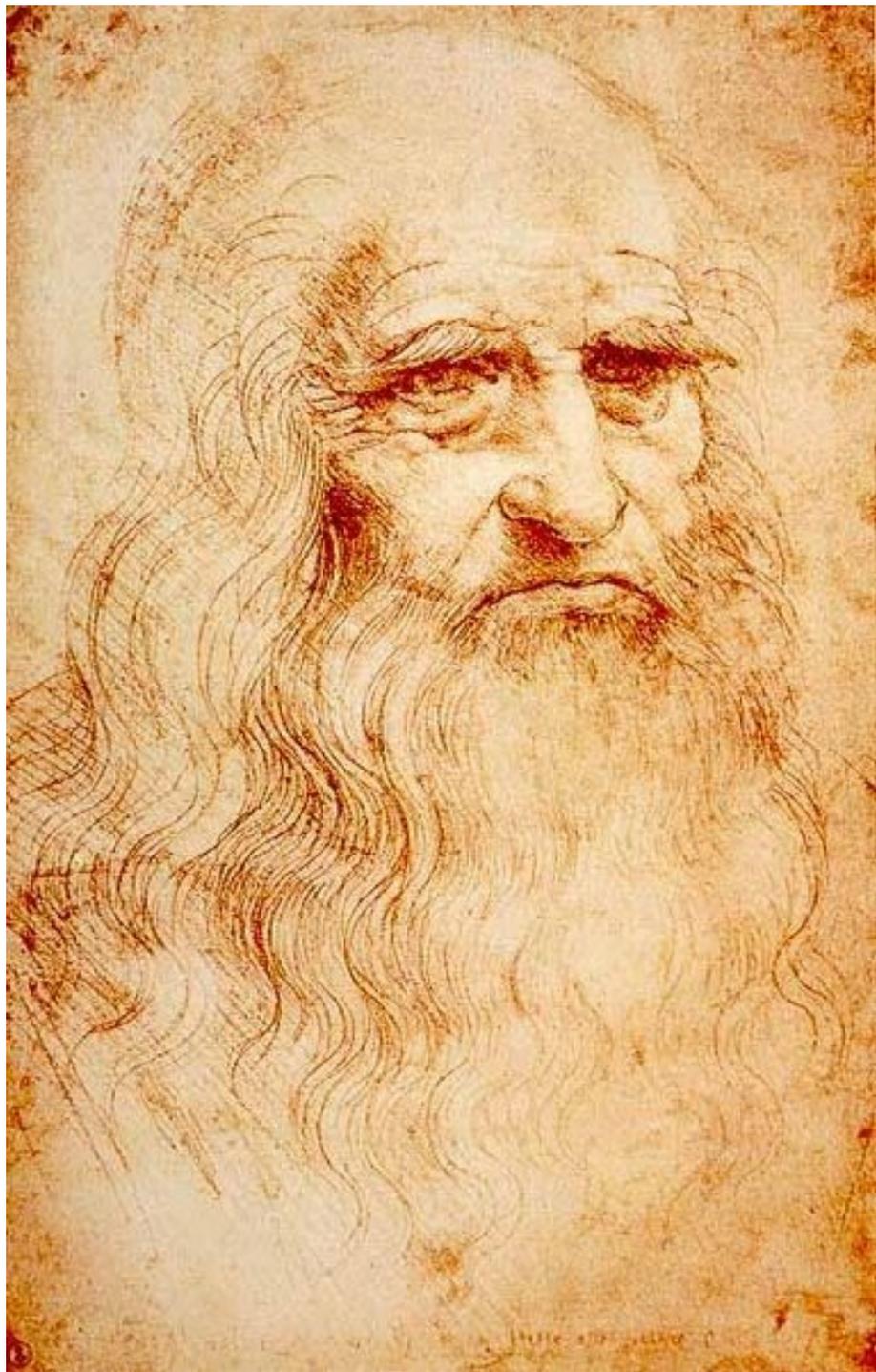


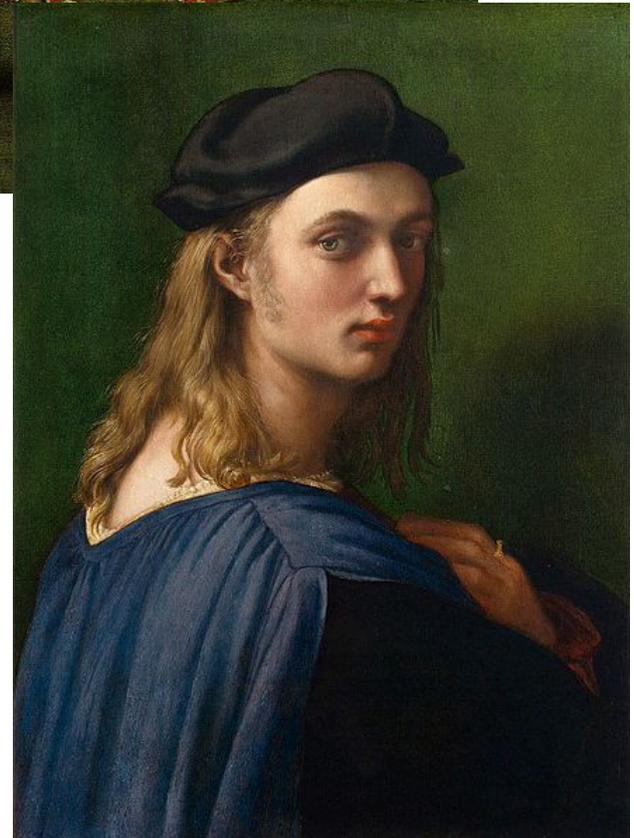


Michaelangelo



Leonardo da Vinci





# Renaissance Sculptures and Architects

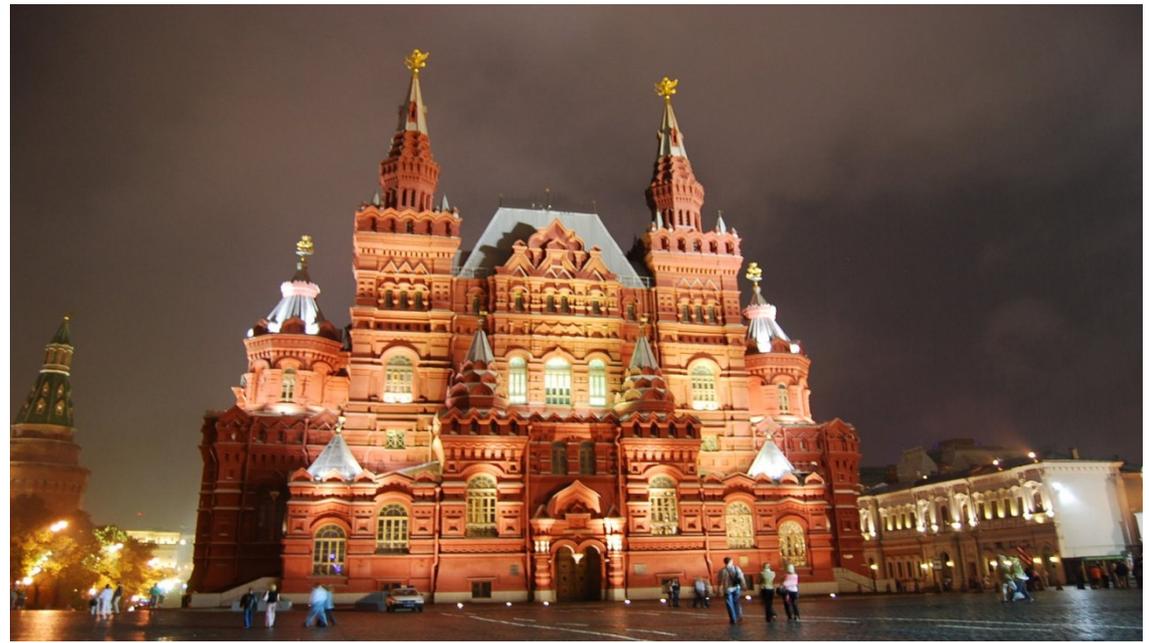
Giovanni Pisano (1250-1315) revived Roman sculpture

Renaissance sculpture emphasized straight lines, flourishes, symmetry, classical elements

Floor plans tended to square or rectangular structures, symmetrical facades, columns, domes

New popular materials: sandstone, limestone, brick, gypsum, plaster





# Northern Humanists

- Sir Thomas More
- Desiderius Erasmus – Dutch philosopher and theologian. Argued that through education people can become virtuous. Argued that true Christianity is found in the soul, not in the church

# Sir Thomas More

- English lawyer, statesman, advisor to Henry VIII, Lord Chancellor of England, Humanist author
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# The New Monarchies

Consolidation of power, slow erosion of feudal power.

Creation of professional standing armies

Beginnings of modern institutions

Rise of the middle class

Valois dynasty in France

Tudor dynasty in England

Hapsburg dynasty in Austria



# Monarchs:

- Promoted trade
- Promoted middle class (guilds and merchants)
- Attempted to take away power from nobility
- Created a strong centralized state
- Began to create bureaucracies
- Created professional standing armies
- Encouraged artists, musicians, and writers – court life as a paragon of beauty
- Face increasing challenges to their authority



# European Armies

Professional standing armies: Spain, Ottoman Empire, France. Britain does not establish an army until 1685

Large mercenary forces, also called *landsknechts*, *condottieri*, soldiers of fortune, etc., become popular.

Europeans develop and perfect mixed arms during Renaissance: infantry (armed with swords, pikes, and primitive guns), cavalry, and early artillery.

A combination of European-style tactics, weapons, and experience, ensures the Europeans triumph when they expand overseas.



Download and read excerpt from John Keegan's "History of Warfare" and answer the following question:

How did gunpowder transform the medieval battlefield and the balance of power between the kings and nobles?



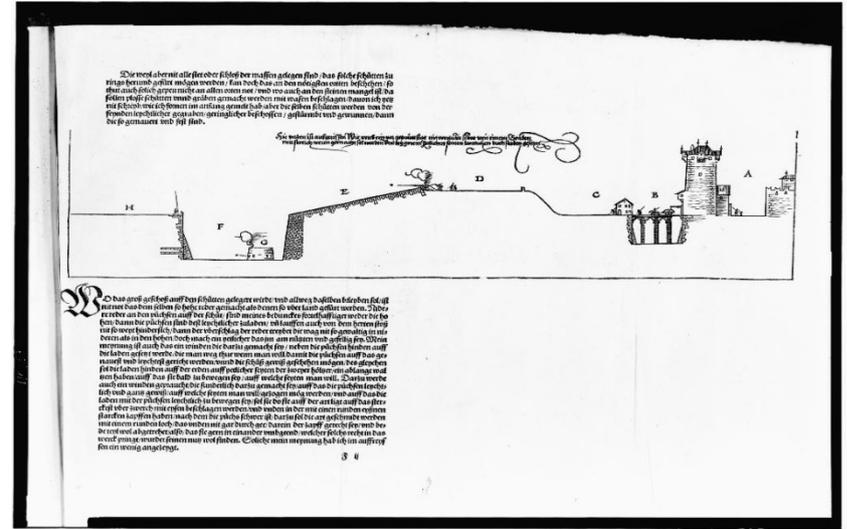
# Wars of the Renaissance

Wars of this time period (15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) were a period of transition from medieval to an early modern style of fighting.

Generals and soldiers were figuring out how to use new weapons: cannons and guns.

By monopolizing production of cannons and gunpowder, the kings, emperors and princes of this period broke the military power of the landed aristocracy (no more castles!)

During this time, the feudal levies became gradually replaced by professional standing armies.



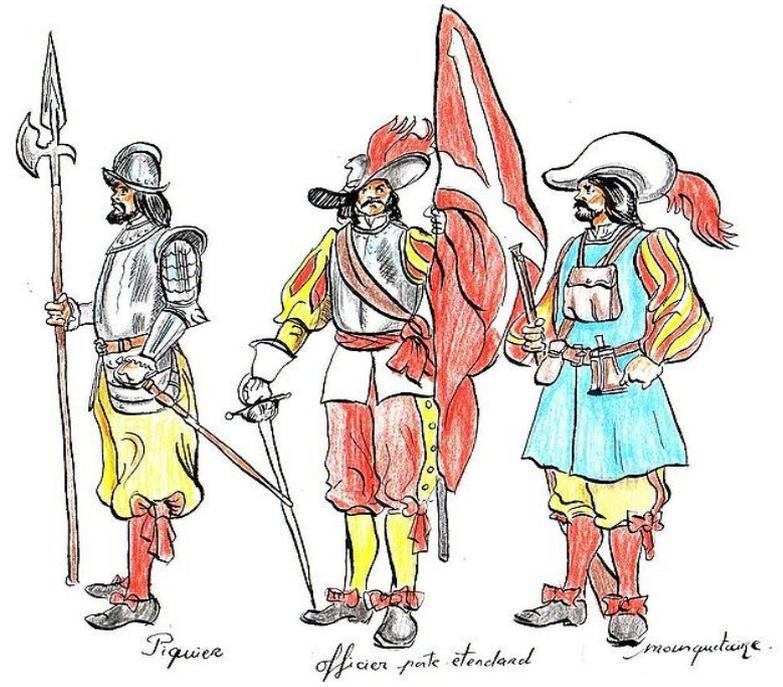
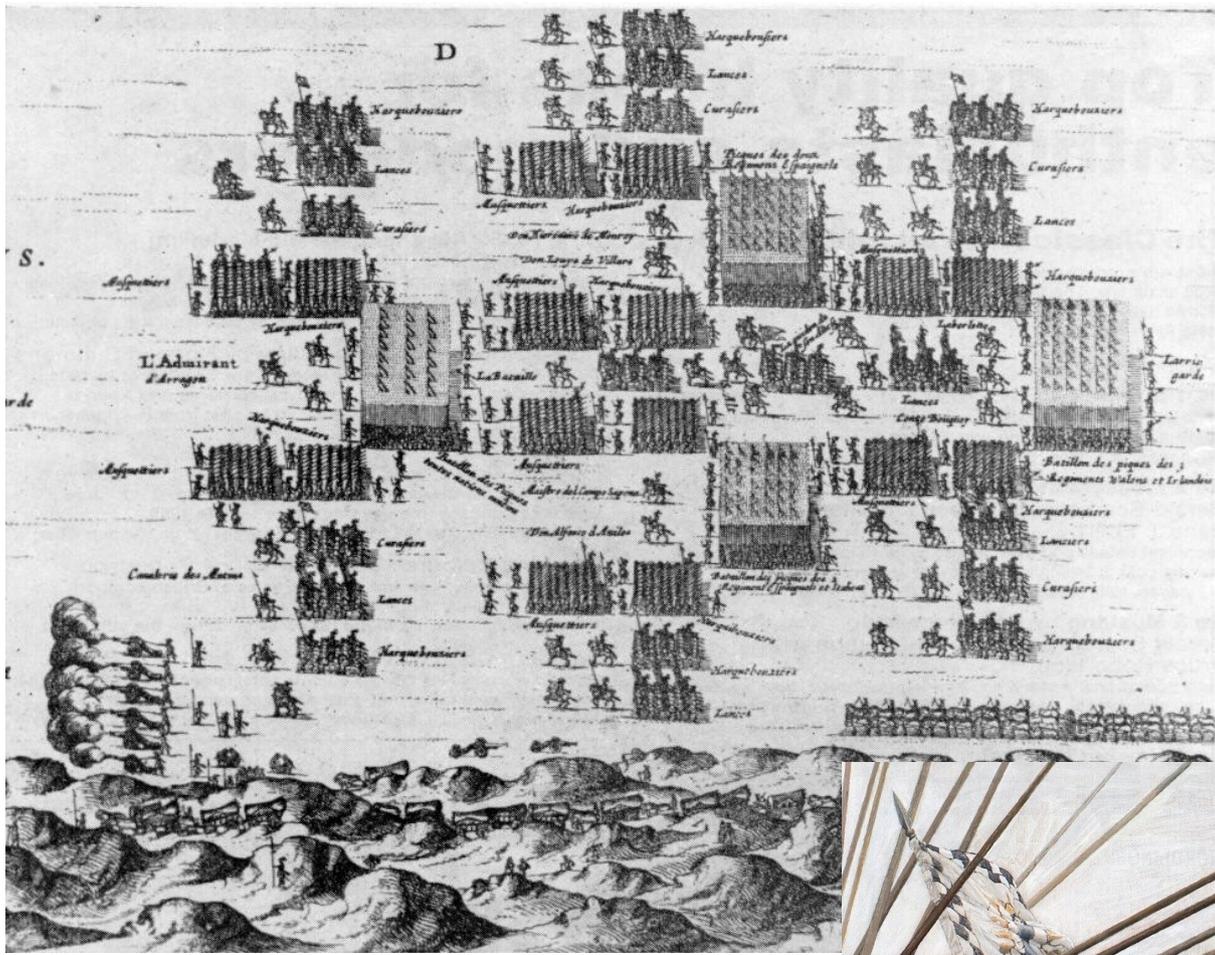
# Wars of the Renaissance cont'd

Soldiers continued to use armour and melee weapons, but as gunpowder weapons became increasingly powerful and widespread armour gradually disappeared from battlefields.

Generals were experimenting with a mix of pikemen, musketeers, cannons and cavalry; the best mix was perfected by the Spanish – the tercio.

Mercenaries and feudal lords were untrustworthy; the French kings were the first ones to hire mercenaries full-time and force the young male aristocrats to serve as officers – first standing armies!





# Wars of the Renaissance cont'd

Hundred Years War (1337-1453):  
established France as a great power,  
broke English power on the continent,  
established the Valois dynasty in  
France.

Wars of the Roses in England (1455-  
1485): establishes the Tudor dynasty  
in England.

The Great Italian wars (1494-1553): a  
five way struggle for control of Italy  
between Spain, France, Holy Roman  
Empire, Venice, and the Papal States.  
Italy will be dominated for next two  
centuries by Spain and the Holy  
Roman Empire – both of which are  
ruled by the Hapsburg dynasty.



# Wars of the Renaissance cont'd

Rise of the Ottoman Empire (1453-1566): Ottoman Turks use modern weaponry and professional armies to finally crush the Byzantine Empire, dominate the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Poland-Lithuania: gradual unification (become one country in 1569), series of wars against Mongols, Russians, Swedes, H.R.E., and Ottomans.

Rise of Muscovy (eventually Tsardom of Russia in 1547): began uniting Russian lands, gained territory through wars with Poland-Lithuania and Mongol *khanates*.

