The Fromm Institute

The AGE of the BAROQUE
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I. VENICE and the roots of the Baroque

Venetia — province of northeastern Italy during the Roman Empire

Historical founding of Venice (date and circumstances uncertain)

- villages settled on the island and lagoons of the northwestern Adriatic Sea during the disintegration of the western Roman Empire (c. 500s); possibly by 12 families which become the core of the Venetian nobility
- this region maintains strong ties with the Byzantine Empire
- first election of a Doge, from the Latin Dux — “leader” (c. 700)
- eventual consolidation of villages to create the city of Venezia (possibly 800s)

- theft of the bones of St. Mark from Muslim-controlled Alexandria (actual date uncertain)
  - St. MARK and the WINGED LION become the symbols of Venice

The REPUBLIC of VENICE

- Great Council (the noble families) elect > the Senate (200 - 300 members) which elects
  > the Council of Ten (Signoria) which supervises the daily administration and which elects > the Doge (generally serving for life)

- Venice develops strong trade across the eastern Mediterranean, first with, then in rivalry to the Byzantine Empire (800 - 1200)

- The Fourth Crusade (1202 — 1204)
  - Venice diverts the crusade and conquers Constantinople, then plunders it

- Venice builds a vast empire across the eastern Mediterranean (1200s - 1300s)

- Venice conquers most of northeastern Italy (1300s - 1400s) = the “Veneto”

- Venice becomes known as “La Serenissima”
  — “Come, let us go to the good Venetians”

The rise of the Ottoman Turks, their conquest of Constantinople (1453), and the expansion of the Ottoman Empire dangerously threaten Venice’s wealth-producing trade routes

Andrea PALLADIO (1508 – 1580)

San Giorgio Maggiore (in Venice), La Rotonda, Villa Cornaro, Villa Emo, Teatro Olympico
II. CHARLES V, Archduke of Austria, King of Spain, King of Naples, King of Milan, etc

Emperor Maximilian [House of Habsburg] Ferdinando and Isabella of Spain
(1459 / r. 1493 – 1519) oo Mary of Burgundy and Flanders

Philip, Count of Flanders oo Joanna of Castile

CHARLES V (1500 – 1558 / r. 1519 – 1556)
also Carlos I in Spain

The Lutheran Crisis: the Imperial Parliament [Reichstag] at Worms (Jan 1521)
led by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, outlaws Luther
-the Protestant Reformation forms and spreads across the Empire and northern Europe

Pope LEO X, Giovanni de’Medici (1475 / r. 1513 – 1521)
Pope Adrian VI (r. 1522 – 1523)
Pope CLEMENT VII (Guilio de’Medici / 1478 / r. 1523 – 1534)

FRANCIS I, King of France (1494 / r. 1515 – 1547)
-the LOUVRE (transformed from a castle into a palace)
-CHAMBORD, a hunting palace in the LOIRE VALLEY

Emperor Charles V against the League of Cognac (France, the Papacy, Florence, Venice)
-armies loyal to Charles defeat the League
-the sack of Rome (1527) — “the Protestant Fury”
-Charles elevates the Medici family as the Grand Dukes of Tuscany (1530)

The attack of the Ottoman Turks under
SÜLEYMAN the MAGNIFICENT (1494 / r. 1520 – 1566)
-battle of Mohacs (1526) — defeat and death of Louis II, King of Hungary
-the Habsburgs become the Kings of Hungary by inheritance

-siege of Vienna (1529) — fails due to torrential rains and the Ottomans retreat
-the Ottomans and the Habsburgs continue to fight for control over Hungary

Pope PAUL III (Alessandro Farnese / r. 1534 – 1546) — a reformist pope
-begins organization of a council to address the Protestant Reformation

Death of Isabella of Portugal, Empress and Queen (1503 — 1539), beloved wife of Charles V

The COUNCIL of TRENT (1545 — 1563)
-essentially establishes the “Roman Catholic” faith
-reform of the Church centered in Rome, abolishing many of the worst abuses
Michelangelo (1475 — 1564) called back to Rome
- paints the end wall of the Sistine Chapel = The Last Judgment
- redesign of the dome of the new St. Peter’s cathedral still under construction

Civil war in the Holy Roman Empire
- the Protestant German princes form an alliance — the Schmalkaldic League (1531)

- the Schmalkaldic War (1546 – 1555)
  - Charles V and the Catholic German princes vs. the Schmalkaldic League
    - neither side can defeat the other; therefore:

- the Peace of Augsburg (1555)
  - cuius regio euis religio (“his the region, theirs the religion”)
  = the prince determines the religion of his people

ABDICATION of Emperor Charles V (1556)
  and “the DIVISION of the HOUSE of HABSBURG”

- to his brother Ferdinand
  - the Austrian possessions
  - the position of Holy Roman Emperor

- to his son Philip
  - Spain and its many possessions
    - (Milan, Naples, the Americas, the Philippines, etc)
  - and the Netherlands (“the Spanish Netherlands”)

Death of Charles V (1558)

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If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at nhohmann@sfcm.edu