

The AVIGNON PAPACY (c. 1309 – 1377)

-St. Catherine of Siena (c. 1347 - 1380)

-Pope Gregory XI returns the Papacy to Rome in 1377 ... and promptly dies !

The GREAT SCHISM (1378 — 1417)

-Pope Urban VI (r. 1378-1389)

-Pope Clement VII (r. 1378-1394)

-John Wycliffe (in England) (c. 1320-1384)

-the Bible alone is the standard for Christian beliefs and practices

(not Pope and church) and should be possible for all to read

-salvation for the individual soul comes from God, not church rituals

-all true believers are priests; no separate priesthood

-the Church should be stripped of its property

The CONCILIAR Movement

-the church should be governed by councils [a parliamentary model]

-the Council of Pisa (1409)

-Pope John XXIII (r. 1410-1415)

-the Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund (r. 1411-1437)

-the COUNCIL of CONSTANCE (1414-1418)

-Jan Hus (c. 1374-1415)

-criticizes the church for its worldly wealth and power

-advocates Bohemian independence from the Empire

-is burned at the stake by the Council

-Pope Martin V (r. 1417-1431)

The 100 YEARS' WAR (1337 - 1453)

- 1337 the King of France accuses Edward III, King of England, of owing feudal dues  
for the Aquitaine  
-the Kings of France make war on England  
-further conflict over **FLANDERS**
- 1340 upon the death of the King of France,  
Edward III, King of England, **claims the crown of France**  
(the recently deceased King of France was his uncle)  
  
-thus, two men claim the throne of France > civil war in France  
-the powerful Dukes of **BURGUNDY** (who control Flanders) ally **with England**
- .....
- 1415 Invasion of France by **HENRY V**, King of England  
-Battle of **AGINCOURT** (longbows)  
-the English recapture Normandy (1417), and **take Paris** (1420)
- 1429 **JOAN of ARC** / Jeanne d'Arc (c. 1412 – 1431)  
-the siege of Orléans (May 1429)  
-Charles VII is crowned King of France in Rheims  
-Joan is captured by Burgundian forces and sold to the English (1430)  
-executed (May 30, 1431)  
= “the **MAID of ORLÉANS**”
- 1431 Henry VI is crowned King of England **in Paris**  
-the English court is held in Paris (the height of English control over France)  
-the Duke of Bedford as regent  
-John **DUNSTABLE** (c. 1390 – 1453)
- .....
- 1453 The end of the war  
-the Kings of England have lost **all** lands in France  
-England retains **only** the city of **CALAIS** on the Channel coast  
  
-defeat in war usually brings civil war :
- 1455 Outbreak of civil war in England > **the WAR of the ROSES** (1455 – 1485)

---

Geoffrey **CHAUCER** (c. 1343 – 1400)

- Troilus and Cressida* (based on the story of a Trojan prince)
- House of Fame* (based on the story of Aeneas)
- The Canterbury Tales* (pilgrimage to the shrine of Thomas á Beckett)

## EARLY RENAISSANCE ART in NORTHERN EUROPE

### BURGUNDY and FLANDERS

Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy and Count of Flanders (1342 / r. 1363 - 1404)  
and his brother, John Duke of Berry (1340 - 1416)

“what they lacked in character, they made up for in sponsorship of the arts”

-alternating alliances with the English royal house and the French royal house  
-part of the Hundred Years War (1337 — 1453)

-Burgundy reaches the zenith of its prestige and prosperity

---

The LIMBOURG Brothers (fl. 1380 – 1416)

*-Les Tres Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*  
( “the Very Rich Hours of the Duke of Berry” / a prayer book )

---

## The ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

A revived interest *and identification with* Classical Antiquity.

Civic leaders and wealthy families strive to acquire documents, statues,  
remnants from Classical Antiquity (most especially Roman)  
and to display them as signs of cultivation, status and prestige

By seeking to *revive* Roman traditions and fashions, they change these traditions  
and change their own time =  
“the past as an innovative model”

The “Renaissance” begins as an elite movement of the Italian **wealthy urban classes**.

### FLORENCE / Firenze

Threat from the Duke of Milan (the VISCONTI family): “the new Caesar”

Cosimo de’MEDICI (c.1389 – 1464)  
-neutralizes the threat to Florence by helping the SFORZA family to overthrow  
the VISCONTI family in Milan

-Florence sees itself as “David”

Coluccio SALUTATI (c.1331 – 1406)

Manuel CHRYSOLORAS (c.1350 – 1415)

Leonardo BRUNI (c.1370 – 1444) *Praise of the City of Florence* (1423)

- “Humanism” -derived from Cicero (L: *humanitas*): the literary culture needed by anyone who would be considered educated and civilized ; that is, learning and the arts make us truly human

Lorenzo GHIBERTI (c.1378 – 1455)

- wins the commission for the new doors to the Baptisterium
- Michelangelo’s praise : “worthy of the Gates of Paradise”

Leon Battista ALBERTI (c.1404 – 1472)

- essay on painting (1436)
- essay on architecture
  - (drawing upon **Vitruvius** and inspired by Brunelleschi’s dome / c. 1450)
  - rational architecture reflects rational laws
  - rational architecture helps create rational individuals
    - = **Art is moral education;**
    - it creates values and ways of thinking and sensibilities
  - all architecture should be based on the square and circle
    - (the 2 most perfect geometric shapes)
  - the new façade for Santa Maria Novella
- Alberti’s essay: *On the Family*
  - stresses the importance of a classical education and hard work as prerequisites for worldly success
  - virtu* = excellence
  - the self-confident vitality of the Renaissance self-made man:
    - “Men can do all things if they will.”

---

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at [nhohmann@sfc.edu](mailto:nhohmann@sfc.edu)