

# ***Church History***



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - *Welcome to the Renaissance (i.e.; the “Rebirth”)*



# ***The Renaissance***

- An artistic and intellectual explosion began...





# *The Renaissance*

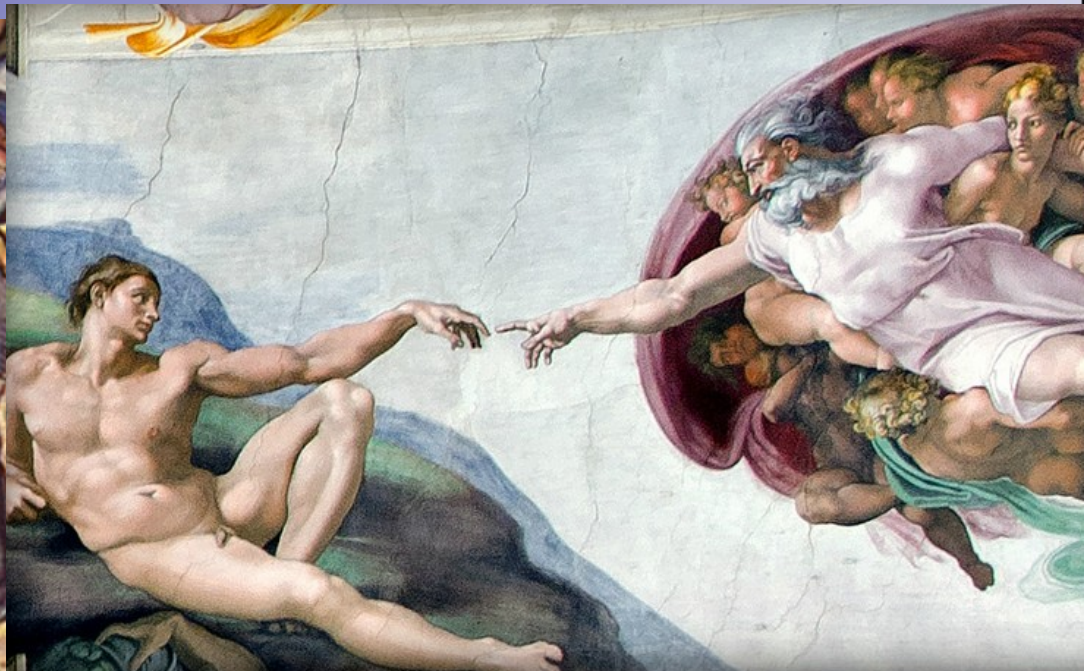
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Okay, there's some debate about this
  - See, an Italian artist named Giorgio Vasari first used the term to talk about how Italian artists were bringing about a new *Rinascimento* by abandoning the medieval and Gothic styles and drawing from the classical Greeks and Romans to develop a new, “reborn” classicism





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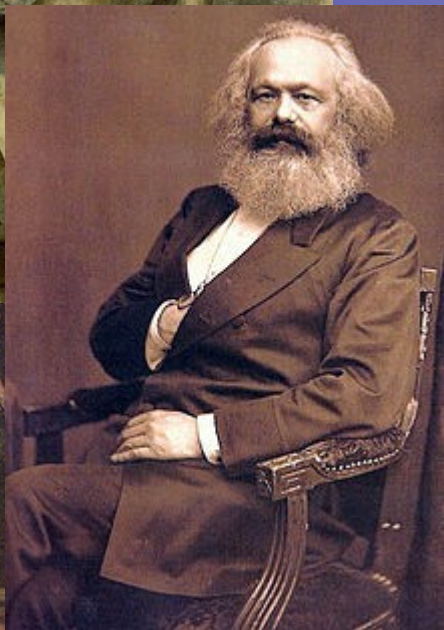
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    - See, an Italian artist named Giorgio Vasari first used the term to talk about how Italian artists were bringing about a new *Rinascimento*
    - So, much like the “Dark Ages” were originally termed “dark” because they weren't focused on the radiance of classical Rome, the “Renaissance” was a “rebirth” because it *returned* to the radiance of classical Rome...  
...which was part of why King Louis XIV liked to be called “The Sun King,” modelling himself after the Roman god, Apollo



# *The Renaissance*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Okay, there's some debate about this
  - But the reason that we tend to use the French term, “Renaissance,” to describe this period today is because the term was coined by a *Frenchman* in 1855—Jules Michelet
  - But Michelet wasn't interested in classical art so much as in a “rebirth” of classical Greek democracy, since he was an advocate of the French democratic movement of his age
  - He saw the Middle Ages as a time of feudalism and warlords, and the 14<sup>th</sup> century onward as a time of capitalism and new rights for the rising middle class of the nations—a “Renaissance”
  - Interestingly, philosophers like Karl Marx argued that the world had gone *downhill* since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, for much the same reasons that Michelet thought things had improved
  - And later artists like Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso felt that the Renaissance's artistic emphasis on realism and fixed viewpoints actually *limited* artistic creativity
  - So there's been a lot of politicization of the label, “Renaissance,” over the years





# *The Renaissance*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Okay, there's some debate about this
  - Still other historians argue that there isn't really a “bright line” of change, such as Vasari and Michelet described
  - There had already been “renaissances” under kings such as Charlemagne  
(who'd instituted economic, political, and educational reforms under his rule...  
...remember the introduction of the combination of “majuscule” and “miniscule” scripts to make things easier to read and increase literacy?)



*Juuenis doctus ad bella  
Maxima populis p̄dicans  
Colligit fugens cū tantum*





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  - There had already been “renaissances” under kings such as Charlemagne and Ælfred (who'd defended England against the Norse invaders, codified laws and educated his judges based on Scripture, and created the modern concept of the public school system...  
...to the point where the literacy rate in medieval England was *better* than it *currently* is in the *United States*...)





# ***The Renaissance***

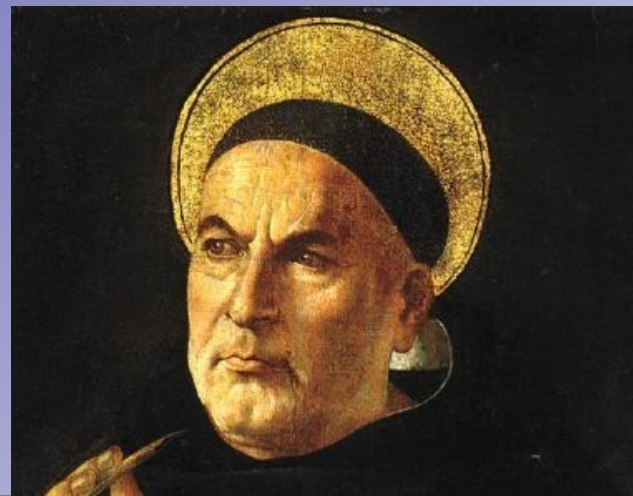
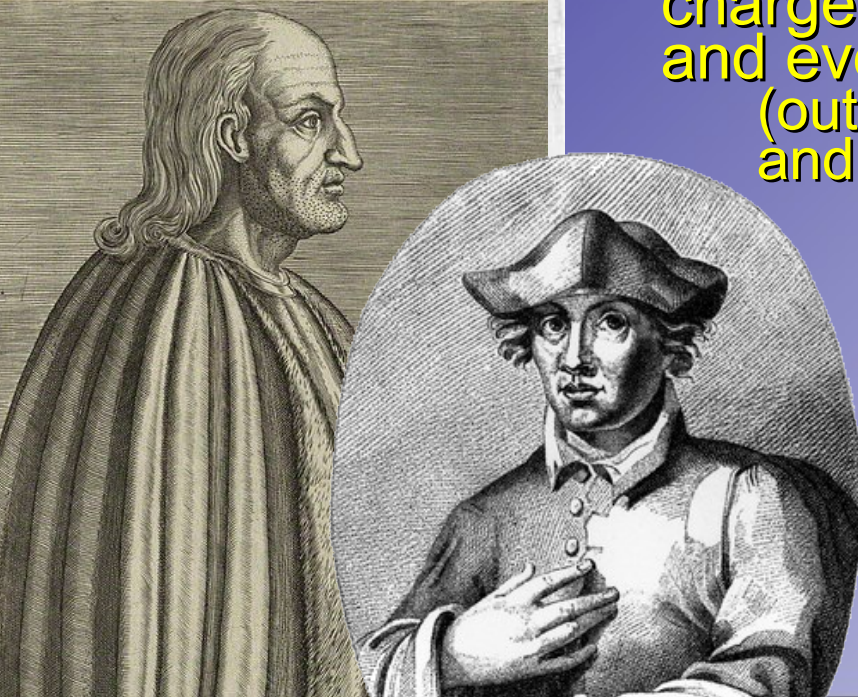
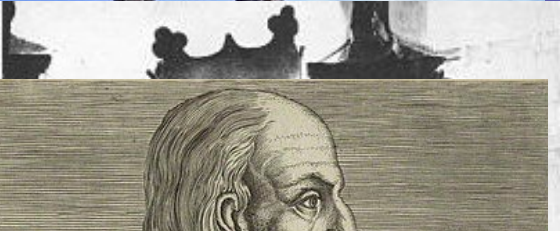
- Funky little teaching moment—
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    - There had already been “renaissances” under kings such as Charlemagne and Ælfred and Otto  
(who'd exemplified the courtly hero when he'd saved Princess Adelaide from King Berengar...  
...but also stood against corrupt Pope John XII and not only reformed the Church, but also became a patron of the arts and a founder of schools across Europe, once he became Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire...)





# *The Renaissance*

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  - Still other historians argue that there isn't really a “bright line” of change, such as Vasari and Michelet described
  - There had already been “renaissances” under kings such as Charlemagne and Ælfred and Otto, leading to the establishment of the Church-sponsored *university*, where even the commonest of common people could go free of charge to learn theology, languages, history, and everything needed to become clergy (out of which came such luminaries as Abélard and Roger Bacon and Thomas Aquinas)





# ***The Renaissance***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Okay, there's some debate about this
    - Still other historians argue that there isn't really a “bright line” of change, such as Vasari and Michelet described
    - Besides, some of the worst “medieval” horrors (bubonic plague, civil wars, corrupt royal and papal scandals, the Inquisition, etc.) were still around in the Renaissance
      - In fact, all of these things got worse during the Renaissance, not better
        - (in fact, Pope Julius II actually physically led troops into battle against his political enemies)





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    - So instead of seeing a glorious, classical age, followed by a “dark” age, followed by a “Renaissance,” perhaps we should simply view history as a progression of change...  
...which picked up steam around this time  
This “neo-classical period” (which is a term unfortunately copyrighted by another period in history), re-emphasizing classical Roman and Greek art and philosophy was a *crucially important* period of change, forming the foundation of everything that came afterwards  
—especially for the Church...



# The Renaissance

- The Church attempted to grow its power
  - 1302 Boniface VIII issued his *Unam Sanctum* bull
    - Boniface had come to power in 1294 after convincing the weak Pope Celestine V (then reigning in Naples) to resign, through a series of complex political and theological arguments
      - Bear in mind, this wasn't because Boniface was so devout—it was because he wanted political power
        - He's been quoted as saying, "To enjoy oneself and lie carnally with women or with boys is no more a sin than rubbing one's hands together..." since what really matters to God is simply that we enjoy and make the most of the pleasures of this world
        - Do we still run into this "theology" today?





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    - Boniface immediately moved the papal court back to Rome, where he began politicking against the families who exerted power there
      - For instance, he took sides in the civil war within the Colonna family, declaring that the powerful Cardinal Giacomo Colonna had no right to disinherit his brothers
        - In return for the brothers' assurance that they would bribe him heavily, Boniface excommunicated Giacomo and his followers
        - Giacomo responded with accusations that Boniface's papal reign was illegal, since bishops weren't technically allowed to retire (remember?)



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        - In return, Boniface sent papal troops against the Colonna family holdings in 1297
        - By 1298, the Colonnas were open to surrender, if the Pope would promise that their lands would be spared—and he did
        - He then put them all to death, burned their towns to the ground, and sowed salt in the dirt, declaring them *anathema*





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      - In 1301, Boniface also brought in French troops to quell an inter-family feud in Florence
        - He did so at the same time that he was supposedly working to find a peaceful solution with one side's representative in Rome—  
—an intellectual named Dante Alighieri



# *The Renaissance*

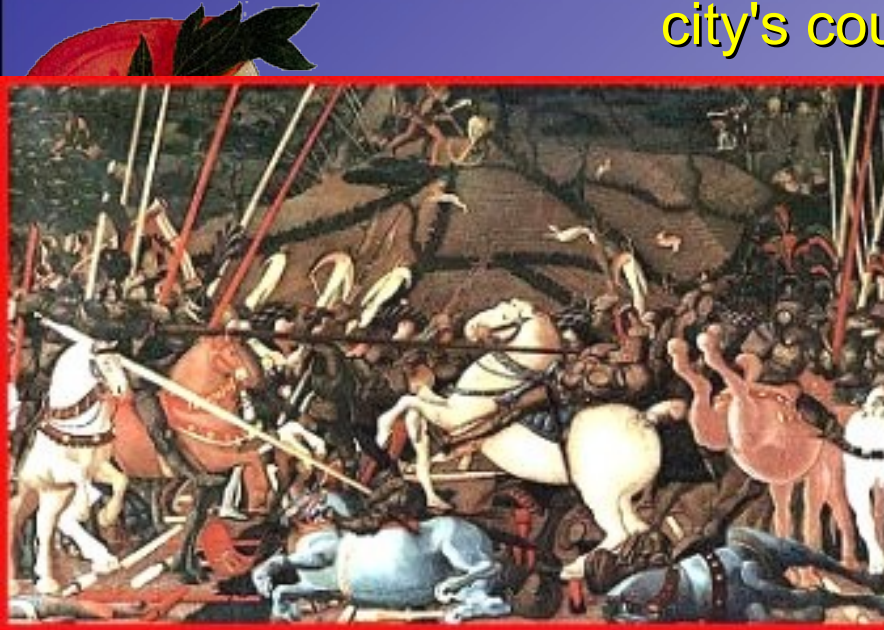
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Dante was one of the first of what has become known as a “Renaissance” man—a widely-accomplished polymath who has interests and training in several different fields
  - He was born into the powerful Guelph family (originally the “Welf” family from Bavaria, who supported the Pope), engaged in a long-standing Italian civil war with the Ghibelline family (originally the “Waiblingen” family from southern Germany, who supported the Holy Roman Emperor)
  - NOTE: Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, is based around the feud in Verona between the Montagues (who supported the Ghibellines) and the Capulets (who supported the Guelphs)—so this was kind of a famous feud





# ***The Renaissance***

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  - Dante was one of the first of what has become known as a “Renaissance” man—a widely-accomplished polymath who has interests and training in several different fields
    - He was born into the powerful Guelph family
    - Thus, Dante was afforded the opportunity of a top-notch education
      - He fought as a soldier against the Ghibellines, trained as a pharmacist in the politically powerful Physicians' and Apothecaries' Guild in Florence, and thus also became a strong political voice in the city's council





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  - But where his passions really lay was in writing
    - In 1274, at the age of nine, he fell in love with the eight-year-old Beatrice Portinari—whom he physically met only twice
    - But he spent years writing poetry to her, creating his own “new style” in the process
    - When Beatrice died in 1290, a heartbroken Dante turned to a study of the classics at a local Dominican school, and his writing turned from love poems to more complex, theological subjects





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    - In short, this powerful, rich, well-educated war-hero-turned-politician-turned-popular-writer was totally the wrong sort of guy for Pope Boniface to torque off (and who, in 1308, began his magnum opus, the *Divine Comedy*...)
      - But Dante wasn't the only person that Boniface annoyed



# *The Renaissance*

- The Church attempted to grow its power
  - 1302 Boniface VIII issued his *Unam Sanctum* bull
    - Boniface attempted to cement his power by issuing the *Unam Sanctum* in 1302
      - Among other things, the bull declared,
        - “Outside of [the Church] there is neither salvation nor the remission of sins.”
        - And so, since the Pope is the unquestioned head of the whole Church, “We declare, we proclaim, we define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.”
        - Thus, the Pope holds ultimate power, both politically and spiritually, over the entire world—and anyone who believes differently is automatically forfeiting their salvation





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    - Philip IV of France immediately stopped all French funds from flowing toward Rome—all tithes and offerings ceased
  - Boniface then excommunicated Philip
  - Philip then called a council and denounced Boniface as a fraud, a sinner, and a heretic
    - Five archbishops and twenty-one bishops agreed with him



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    - Boniface denied the charges
      - So Philip sent his troops—backed by the remaining Colonna family—to arrest Pope Boniface
      - Supposedly, one of the Colonnas even slapped the Pope in the face





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    - Pope Boniface was tormented for three days, then finally sent back to Rome in shackles...  
...where he died after gnawing through his own wrists to release himself so that he could bash his skull against a stone wall until he died...



# *The Renaissance*

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  - 1308 Dante began work on the *Divine Comedy*
    - The epic poem—divided into three books (*Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*), portrayed a fantastical trip through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven
      - Pope Boniface was depicted as being tormented in the Eighth Circle of Hell (the second-lowest level, just above Cain and Judas Iscariot), alongside Popes Nicholas III and Clement V, and Simon Magus...
      - The epic was the most popular book in Europe for centuries—so popular in Italy, in fact, that it's actually credited with making the Tuscan dialect used in the poem the standard for the Italian language as a whole
        - For the first time, it was actually *popular* to be denouncing the power of the Pope...

