

Introduction to the Italian Renaissance: 1375-1527 AD

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) *Study your assigned section of reading—respond to the questions in your notes. Be sure to title your notes and date them. When you have finished your section, read the other sections as outlined below.*
- 2) *Transfer your information to a large sheet of paper. You will present your information to the class using this visual aide. Please write large enough for all to see clearly.*
- 3) *You will add to your notes the information while others present their assigned sections. You are ultimately responsible for all of the material below.*

The Renaissance in Italy (p. 318-319 Kagan):

1. What is the Renaissance? When and why did it begin? When and why did it end?
2. Why do you think Burckhardt called it the “prototype of the modern world?”

The Italian City-State (p. 318-320 Kagan):

1. What led to the creation of a “Renaissance” society in Italy? What were its characteristics?
2. What led to the establishment and growth of the Italian city-states? What is a city-state?
3. What were the five major city-states?

Social Class and Conflict: (p. 320 Kagan):

1. Identify and describe Florence’s four major social classes.
2. How did these social divisions generate conflict?
3. What was the Ciompi Revolt? How successful was the revolt? Why or why not?

Despotism and Diplomacy: (p. 320-321 Kagan):

1. What is despotism? Give a couple examples from Renaissance Italy.
2. What role did Cosimo de’Medici and Lorenzo the Magnificent each play in Renaissance Italy?
3. How were the *podesta* and *condottieri* used by the despots?
4. How did despotism give way to diplomacy?

SUMMARY QUESTIONS:

1. What was the most significant factor leading to the rise of the Renaissance in Italy?
2. What was life like in the city-states of Italy?
3. Why do you think other areas of Europe will have to wait before they too experience their own “Renaissance.”?