

READING GUIDE: The Rise of the Medici, 1378-1464

DIRECTIONS:

- As you read this excerpt from Will Durant's "The Renaissance," annotate the responses to these questions in your reading AND then detail them in your notes.
- Circle and define the terms. You may need to use a dictionary.

The Setting, p. 67 – 69

Key Terms: La Rinascita, Curia

1. Why was northern Italy the first to experience this spring awakening? Of the various reasons, which seems most important? Why?
2. On page 69, Durant states "The Renaissance was not a period in time but a mode of life and thought moving from Italy through Europe with the course of commerce, war, and ideas." What is the basis for this statement? To what extent is today a continuation of the Renaissance?
3. What caused the Renaissance to take form in Florence and make it the Athens of Italy?

The Material Basis, p. 70-73

Key Terms: Federigo Oricellarii, Proletariat, Bourgeoisie, popolo grasso, popolo minuto, Cinto Brandini, tumulto dei Ciompi, Palazzo Vecchio, Michele di Lando, Signoria

4. How did Florence acquire its wealth?
5. How was Florentine society organized...economically and politically? Describe the struggle of the working class to gain political power. How did they lose power as quickly as it was acquired?
6. What were the limitations of Florentine democracy? How were such limitations justified at the time?

Cosimo "Pater Patriae", p. 73-77

Key Terms: Pater Patriae, Francesco Sforza, Niccolo de' Niccoli

7. How did Cosimo de' Medici acquire his wealth and influence? How did he wield his power? Why is "Pater Patriae" an appropriate title for Cosimo?
8. How did Cosimo's decisions and actions shape not only his life, but also that of Florence and Italy? What are lessons that could be applied to today's society?

NOTES: The Golden Age, 1464-1492, p 110 – 119

1469. Death of Piero “Il Gottoso (Gout)” rule of Lorenzo, 20 and Guiliano, 16

1st Prize at tournament...on his armor was inscribed “Le temps revient”

- Greek, philosophy, art of war, writing sonnets, public affairs, finance, patron of the arts

- Businessmen overlooked his youth in favor of continuance of the Medici family (finances of state so intertwined with the Medici firm)

- 1471 – Florentine delegation congratulates Pope Sixtus IV on becoming Pope...Medici family continues management of papal finances.

-1471 – Volterra alum mine dispute. Lorenzo responds with a heavy hand.

- 1472 – Secures grains to avert famine in Florence and allies with Milan and Venice to secure peace in northern Italy

- 1472 – Pope Sixtus buys Imola using the banking services of the Pazzi family..transfers management of the papal finances to the Pazzi family (Rivals to Medici) and appoints Salviati (another rival) to archbishop of Pisa (controlled by Florence); Lorenzo blocks Salviati

- 1478 – Pazzi scandal. Easter Mass. Giuliano assassinated. The people rallied behind the Medici family and seized the conspirators violently. Pope shocked by the violence excommunicates Lorenzo and indicts Florence. He encourages Ferrante, King Ferdinand I of Naples to war against Florence to bring Lorenzo to justice in Rome. Lorenzo sailed to Naples and surrendered himself to King Ferdinand...three months gained the friendship of the king and minister of state. Won his freedom and an end to war and the beginning of an alliance.