



Renaissance Tuscany (1300-1600)

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This essay focuses on the Italian Renaissance in Tuscany between 1300 and 1600. I wrote these lectures for two Stanford Travel/Study's Tuscany Family Adventures Program – June 26-July 8, 2012 and June 26-July 7, 2016.

I begin with a review of the Roman Empire, since the Renaissance was in part an attempt to return to Greek and Roman values and styles. I then look at artistic creativity, political control, and economic change in Renaissance Florence during that fascinating period. In particular, I seek insights into the evolving sources of Tuscan wealth – agriculture, foreign trade, and regional conquest. I try to understand how Florence rose to power, became Europe's richest city, and then declined and was taken over by Austria. I attempt to identify the central legacies – ideas, technologies, art, and architecture – of the Tuscan Renaissance. My ultimate goal is to point out how and why Renaissance Tuscany contributed importantly to the foundation of Western culture. I append a time line, a bibliography, and a description of the sites that I visited in Tuscany.

The Roman Empire (509 BCE-476 CE)

Origins of Rome and the Roman Republic. The legendary founding of Rome occurred in the mid-8th century BCE, when Romulus killed his twin brother, Remus, and established Rome. For several centuries, the Latin-speaking city struggled to survive but gradually expanded by defeating its Etruscan neighbors in central and northern Italy.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Etruscan_funerary_urn_from_Volterra,_2nd_century_BC,_National_Archaeological_Museum_of_Florence,_Italy_\(32361481900\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Etruscan_funerary_urn_from_Volterra,_2nd_century_BC,_National_Archaeological_Museum_of_Florence,_Italy_(32361481900).jpg)>

*Etruscan Funerary Urn from Volterra, 2nd century BCE –
National Archaeological Museum, Florence, Italy*

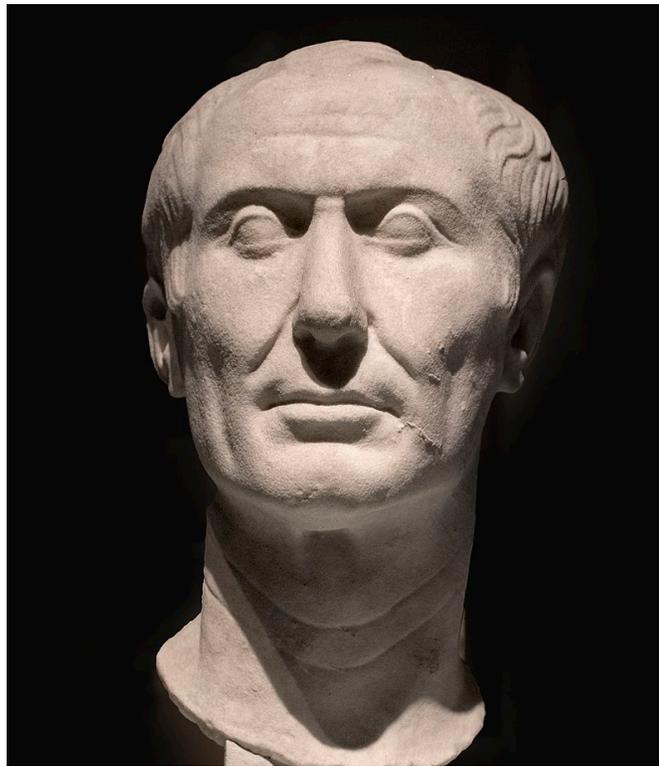
By the mid-3rd century BCE, Rome had gained control of the entire Italian peninsula south of the Po River by forming alliances with small Italian kingdoms and by taking over the Greek city-states in southern Italy.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_conquest_of_Italy.PNG

The Expansion of the Roman Empire In Italy – 500-218 BCE

The Romans defeated Hannibal of Carthage in the late 3rd century BCE and gained Sicily, Sardinia, and Iberia. Rome conquered Gaul (modern France) in two parts – Provence in 121 BCE, and central and northern Gaul in 50 BCE (following Julius Caesar’s eight-year campaign).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Retrato_de_Julio_C%C3%A9sar_\(26724093_101\)_cropped.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Retrato_de_Julio_C%C3%A9sar_(26724093_101)_cropped.jpg)>

*Julius Caesar, Conqueror of Celtic Gaul, 50 BCE –
Tusculum Sculptural Portrait, Archeological Museum, Turin, Italy*

The Roman Empire expanded into Greece in the second century BCE, and Pompey conquered Asia Minor (modern

Turkey), Syria, and Jerusalem by defeating the Seleucid Hellenes (Greeks) in 62 BCE.

Between 62 and 50 BCE, Pompey, Crassus, and Caesar ruled jointly as the First Triumvirate. Caesar marched his conquering army back from Gaul, took Rome, and became dictator (49-44 BCE) until he was murdered. Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, Mark Antony, and Lepidus divided the empire under the Second Triumvirate (44-31 BCE).



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Republica_Romana.svg>

The Roman Empire in 45 BCE

While Octavian took firm control in the west, Antony dallied with Cleopatra (the pharaoh of Egypt) in the east. The formation of the Mediterranean heart of the Roman Empire was completed in 30 BCE, when Octavian defeated Cleopatra and Antony and captured Egypt from the Ptolemaic Hellenes.



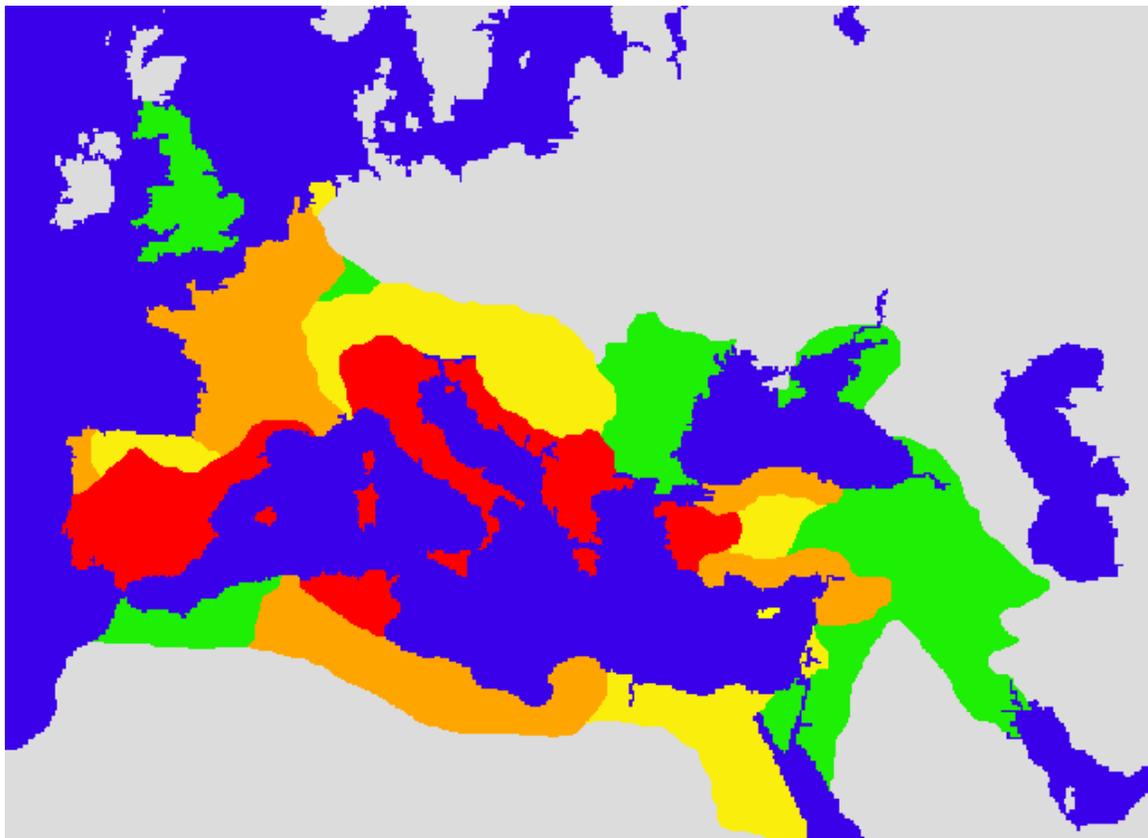
Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cleopatra_Tetradrachm_Antiochia.jpg>

*Cleopatra and Mark Antony, Two Sides of the Same Coin –
Silver Tetradrachm Struck At the Antioch Mint, 36 BCE*

In 27 BCE, Octavian formed the Roman Principate, changed his name to Augustus, and declared himself the first Roman emperor.

Expansion and Consolidation under Imperial Rome. The expansion of the Roman Empire continued apace under Emperor

Augustus (ruled 27 BCE-14 CE). Augustus's strategy was to expand the empire to its natural frontiers – rivers in the north and east, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Sahara Desert in the south.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Empire.png>

The Roman Empire under Augustus, 14 CE (Red, Tan, and Yellow)

To reach the Danube River in the northeast, Augustus ordered his army to conquer the northern Balkan tribes. To fill in a salient running from the Rhine River to the Alps, the Romans

suppressed the Alpine tribes. In the east, the empire already extended to the Euphrates River, and Augustus chose not to fight the Parthian Empire across that boundary. Augustus then advised his successors not to extend the empire further.

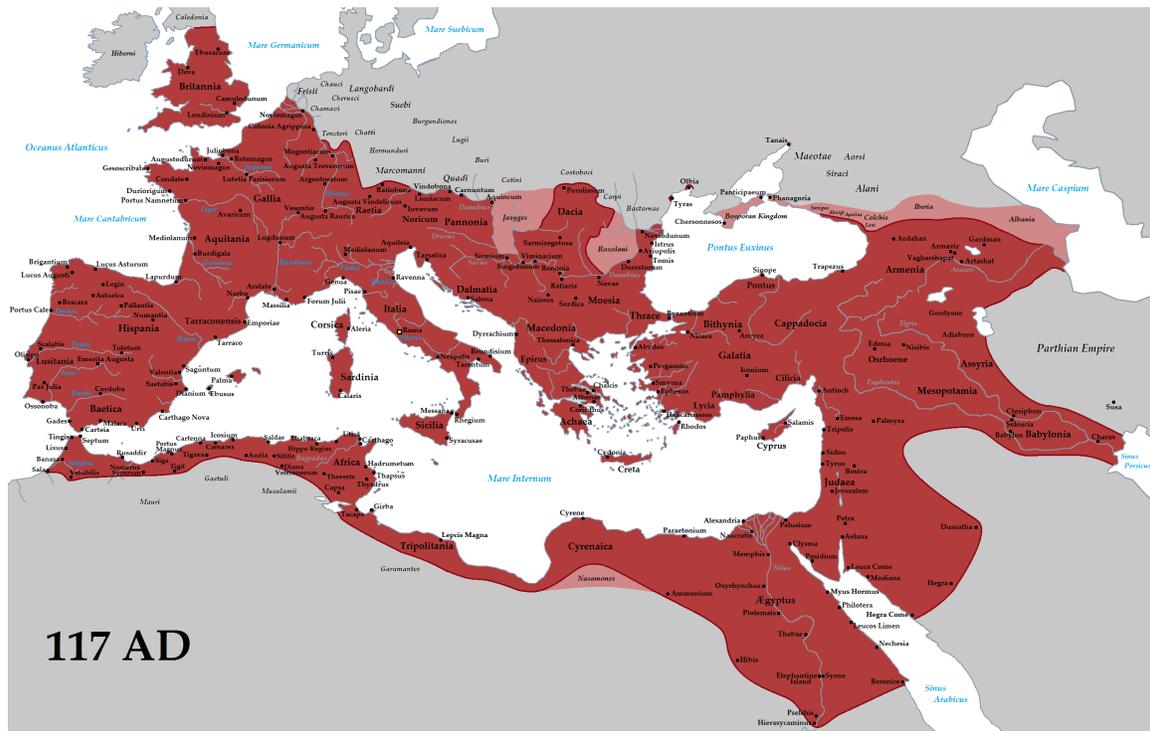


Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Octavian_aureus_circa_30_BCE.jpg>

Octavian (Augustus Caesar), Emperor of Rome and Pharaoh of Egypt, 30 BCE-14 CE – Aureus, c. 30 BCE, British Museum

Claudius (ruled 41-54), seeking prestige, conquered Britain in 43, although Rome reaped no net economic benefit. Trajan

(ruled 98-117) annexed Dacia (modern Romania), across the Danube, in 106 and Armenia and northern Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) in 114, but his war with Parthia was fruitless.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Empire_Trajan_117AD.png

The Roman Empire At Its Peak, 117 CE – Under Emperor Trajan

Hadrian (ruled 117-138) consolidated the Roman Empire with defensive fortifications to fill gaps in the natural frontier. Across northern Britain, he built Hadrian's Wall, a 75-mile-long, stone barrier. To connect the Rhine and Danube Rivers, Hadrian

constructed a 350-mile-long, timber palisade across the German frontier.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hadrian%27s_wall_at_Greenhead_Lough.jpg>

Hadrian's Wall At Greenhead Lough, Northern England

During the *pax Romana* in the 1st-mid-3rd centuries, political stability encouraged the development of agriculture and trade.

Migrations of Italian ex-soldier-settlers to north Africa, Iberia, and Gaul eased population pressures in Italy and spurred agricultural expansion in the western provinces. Agricultural taxation funded

monument building in Rome – fora and palaces to glorify emperors and collossei and baths to mollify plebians. The most significant and long-lasting of those monuments was the Roman Colosseum, opened by Emperor Titus in 80.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roma06\(js\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roma06(js).jpg)>

*Bread and Circuses in the Roman Empire –
The Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheater), 80 CE*

Sources of Wealth – Agriculture. Agriculture, producing cereals, olives, grapes, and animals, was the main source of wealth in the Roman Empire. Most farms were small, and even the larger

farms consisted of many fragmented plots. Much of the agricultural land in the Roman Empire was farmed by private owner-operators – mostly smallholders but including some larger farmers. Tenant farmers provided labor on the aristocratic large estates and on the vast imperial land-holdings, confiscated when Rome annexed new provinces.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_harvester,_Trier.jpg

*Roman Harvester – Agriculture Was the
Primary Source of Wealth during the Roman Era*

Some slave estates existed, but they were largely confined to central and southern Italy and never provided a dominant share of agriculture production. Agricultural profitability arose from intensification (greater labor use and shorter fallow periods) and specialization (the introduction of cash crops and better crop

combinations). The Romans did not expand agriculture much by introducing better agricultural technologies or new crops.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:M%C3%A4hmaschine.jpg>>

*Harvesting in Roman Agriculture –
Bas Relief On Wall in Buzanoy, Belgium*

Most agricultural expansion – of wheat (in Africa, Egypt, northern Gaul, and southern Britain), olives (in Africa and Iberia), and vineyards (in Gaul and Iberia) – occurred in the newly developed west (and in Egypt), not in the previously settled east. The colonization of the western provinces with former Roman soldiers transferred manpower, skills, and capital to newly opened lands.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Western_Roman_Empire_395_Tribes.png

Agricultural Wealth – Concentrated in the Western Roman Empire

Public investments in irrigation and transportation encouraged greater agricultural production. Agricultural taxation consisted of land taxes and head taxes that amounted to one-tenth to one-fifth of the value of farm production. Those taxes transferred most agricultural surpluses from smallholders and tenants and left many of them in dire poverty. Agriculture thus

produced vast wealth for Rome's aristocracy but not for many of the empire's farmers.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_Rome_\(cropped\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_Rome_(cropped).JPG)>

*Upper Class Roman Citizens, The Aristocracy –
Portrayed By Albert Kretschmer, Royal Court Theatre, Berlin*

Sources of Wealth – Foreign Trade. The gains from foreign trade were only a minor source of wealth in the Roman Empire. The high costs of land trade reduced traded volumes, especially in bulk commodities like grain and timber, and led to trade by sea where possible. Rome levied a 25 percent tariff

Rome imported five “essential luxuries,” mostly consumed by the aristocracy. Pepper (along with ginger, cloves, and cinnamon) came to Rome on the Spice Route from India and the East Indies by sea and land.

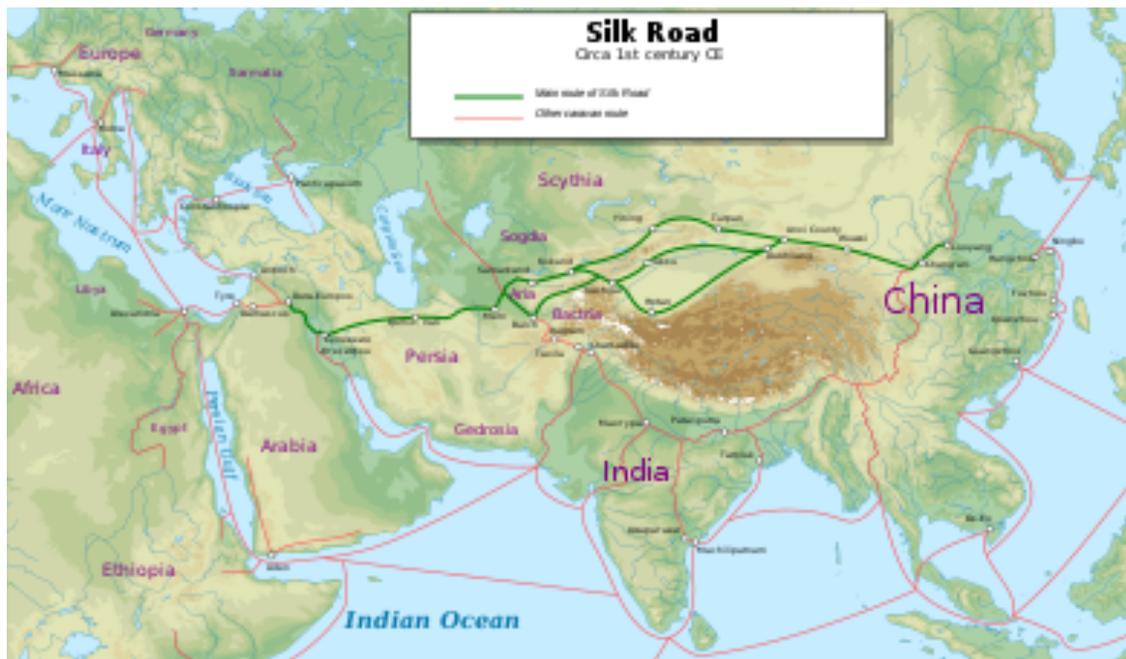


*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black_Peppercorns.jpg>*

*Black Peppercorns –
The Most Valuable Spice Exported from Asia to Europe*

Silk (plus ginger, porcelain, and cinnamon) moved along the Silk Road from China, mostly by land to Antioch. Ivory (plus gold and slaves) was transported on the Trans-Saharan Route on dromedary

camels introduced from Arabia by the Romans. Frankincense and myrrh moved on the Incense Road from South Arabia via Petra (in modern Jordan) and Alexandria to Rome to provide religious and funerary incense and ingredients for perfumes and medicines. Amber (along with timber and fish) went on the Amber Route from the German Baltic across the Alps to Rome. To pay for those luxuries, Rome exported gold, silver, wine, glassware, pottery and textiles. Foreign trade sated the rich but provided limited wealth.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons available at*
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Silk_Road_in_the_I_century_AD_-_en.svg>

*The Silk Road –
Linking the Roman and Han Chinese Empires, 1st c. BCE-3rd c. CE*

Sources of Wealth – Foreign Conquest. The Roman Empire expanded between the 3rd century BCE and the 2nd century CE until the Mediterranean Sea became a Roman lake. Initially, Rome expanded to defeat its foreign enemies and control its natural frontiers. Then, Rome settled former soldiers in provincial colonies to develop an agricultural tax base.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hadrian%27s_villa_near_Tivoli_366.JPG>

*Emperor Hadrian's Villa On 200 Acres Near Tivoli –
The Rich Benefited Most from Roman Conquest*

Imperial Rome followed three different models in governing, developing, and taxing its new territories. In the eastern

Mediterranean, Rome sought to pacify the areas formerly ruled by Hellenes, preserve the advanced Greek culture, rule indirectly through existing local governments, and tax enough to pay provincial expenses (including Roman troops) and to provide modest (if any) transfers to Rome.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Theatre_in_Bosra.jpg>

Rome Pacified the Greek East – Roman Theater In Bosra, Syria

In the western Mediterranean and northern Africa (except Egypt), Rome's strategy was to settle Roman ex-soldiers, introduce Roman culture and direct Roman rule, invest in irrigation to

expand agriculture, and tax agriculture heavily to provide food and revenues for Rome and Italy.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pont_du_Gard_BLS.jpg>

*Rome Developed and Taxed the West –
Pont du Gard, Roman Aqueduct Near Nîmes, Provence, France*

In Egypt, Rome preserved the Egyptian culture, ruled the province as an imperial reserve, introduced improved water wheels and threshers to enhance agricultural productivity, and taxed Nile agriculture highly to transfer wheat and funds to Rome.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Trajan_on_the_Roman_Mammisi_at_Dendera,_Egypt.jpg>

Rome Invested In and Heavily Taxed Egypt – Emperor Trajan Making Offerings To Egyptian Gods, Dendera Temple, Egypt

Throughout the empire, provincial cities collected taxes, maintained law and order, and recruited soldiers for Rome. The city governments also paid, fed, clothed, and housed Roman legionnaires and provided them with transportation and equipment. They further maintained public buildings, baths, and aqueducts and put on religious festivals. Within the Roman Empire, the locus of economic power shifted twice – from the Greek east to Italy (1st

century BCE) and from Italy to the western provinces (2nd century CE).



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Evora_roman-temple_panoramic-view_cropped.jpg>*

Temple of Diana, Roman Goddess of the Hunt, Évora, Alentejo, Portugal – Agriculture Produced Wealth for the Rich Romans

Why the Roman Empire Declined and Fell. The Roman Empire began to decline in the mid-3rd century, divided in half in the late 4th century, and the western part, centered in Rome, splintered and fell in the 5th century (476). The eastern half, centered in Constantinople, became the Byzantine Empire and succumbed to Turkish invaders in the mid-15th century.

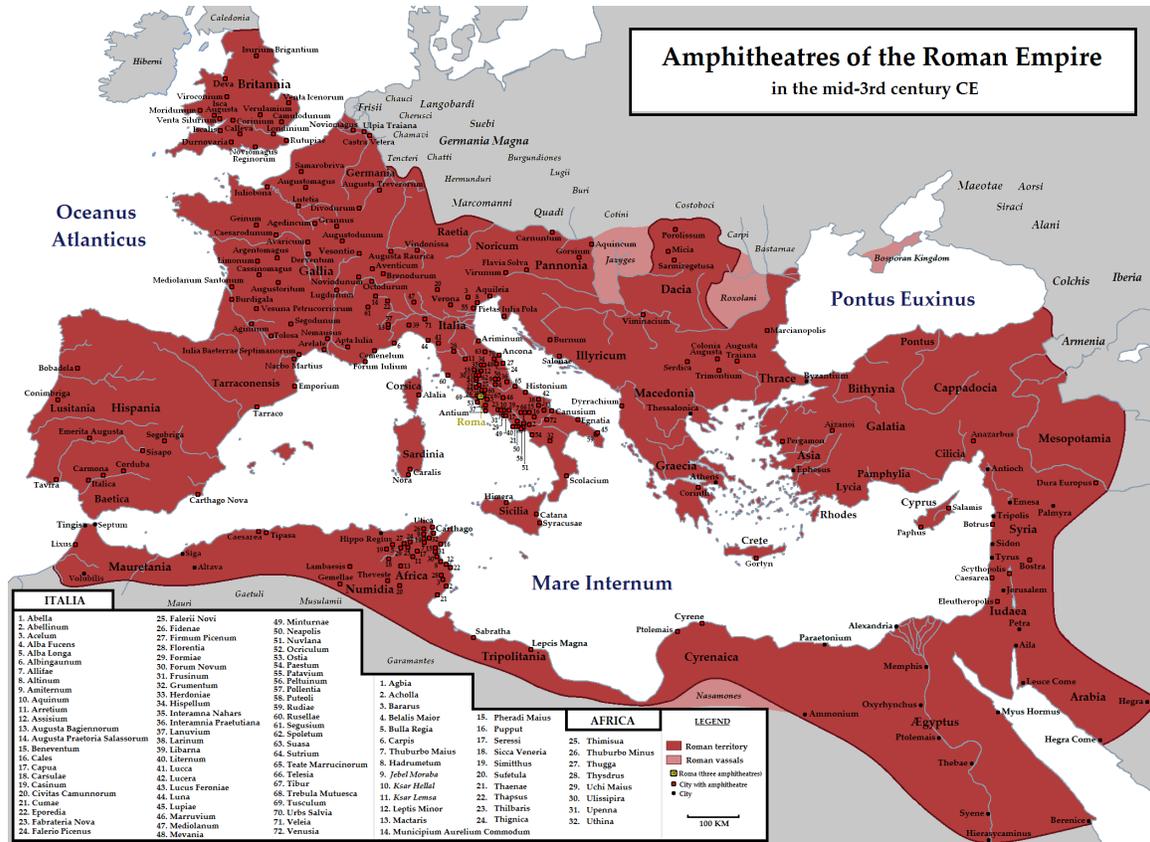


Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:British_Museum_Thetford_Hoard_Rings.jpg>

Gold Jewelry from the Thetford Hoard – The Privilege of Ruling in the Roman Empire

Why did the Roman Empire divide and fall? Edward Gibbon, the 18th century British historian, argued that the loss of individual liberty eroded the Romans' will to resist invasion and that the *pax Romana* led to military indiscipline. Those influences can be reinterpreted as parts of a larger process of internal decay and foreign invasion. Internal decay resulted from extravagant aristocratic spending and the over-taxing of provincial agriculture. Poor farmers increasingly resented the rising income inequality. Together with increased religious dissension, exemplified by

persecution of Christians in the mid-3rd century, economic disparities created social unrest.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amphi-Rome.PNG>

230 Amphitheatres of the Roman Empire, mid-3rd century CE – Constructed Mostly With Agricultural Taxes, Creating Instability

Tight central political control might have staved off those growing pressures. But Rome instead experienced political instability. Provincial military commanders vied for central leadership and caused imperial succession crises. Provincial

residents resented Roman taxation. Political instability was coupled with a loss of military strength, especially in the Roman west. To keep their estates operating, western aristocrats substituted cash for troops, exacerbating military manpower shortages.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pompeii_family_feast_painting_Naples.jpg>

*An Elite Roman Family's Meal, Pompeii, 1st century CE –
Tax Breaks for the Rich Led to Political Instability*

Rome thus became ripe for foreign invasion. Fierce Barbarian invaders from central and northern Europe – Vandals, Anglo-Saxons, Visigoths, Franks, and Ostrogoths – took advantage of Roman military weakness, inflicted large losses on Roman armies, and dismembered the Roman Empire.

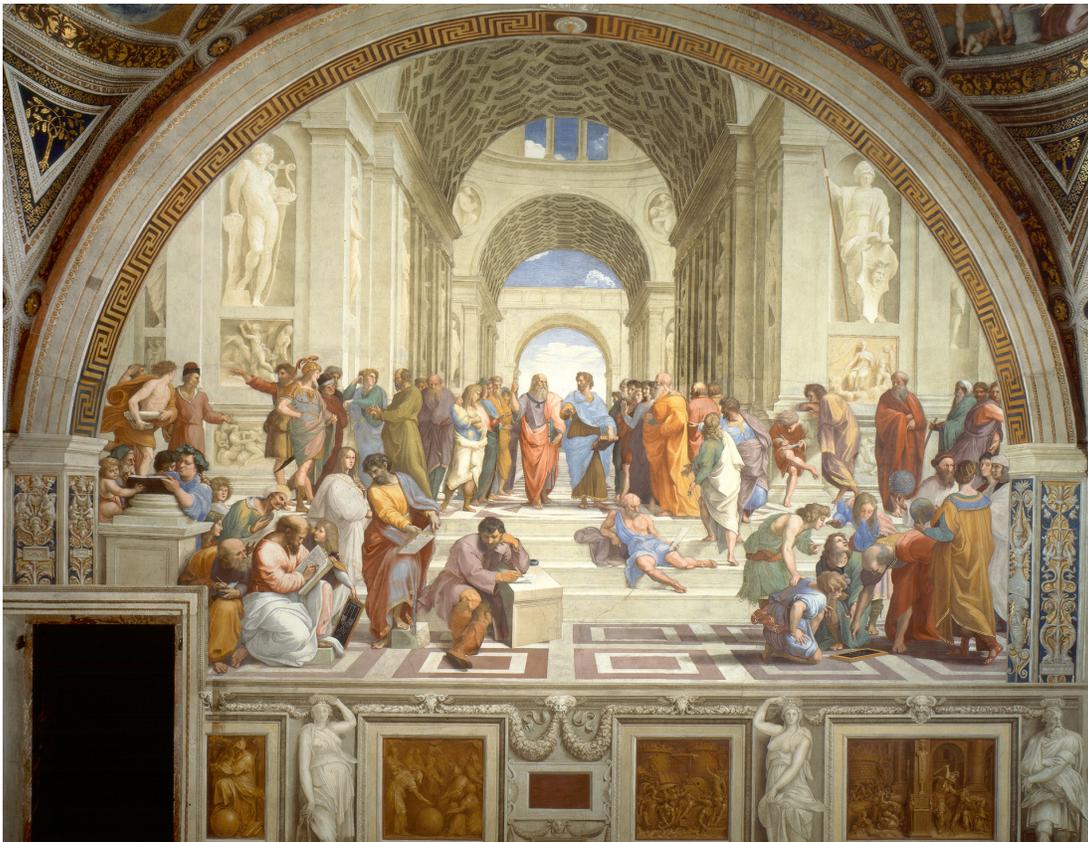


Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Europe_and_the_Near_East_at_476_AD.png>

*Western Europe and the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire –
After the Fall of the Western Roman Empire, 476*

Creative Innovations in Renaissance Tuscany

Literature. The Renaissance – a search for re-birth through cultural grounding in the Roman and Greek past – began in Florence about 1300 and lasted through the 1570s.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%22The_School_of_Athens%22_by_Raffaello_Sanzio_da_Urbino.jpg>

*The School of Athens, Raphael Sanzio, 1511 –
Wisdom of the Past As a Model for the Present*

Scholars, politicians, and merchant-bankers in Renaissance Tuscany sought human excellence with an emphasis on ideas and

creativity. The ideal was to become a universal man (*l'uomo universale*), a creative humanist with knowledge of language, literature, poetry, philosophy, history, art, and architecture.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Petrarch_by_Bargilla.jpg>

*Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374),
Andrea del Castagno, c. 1450 – Poet and Italy’s First Humanist*

The inexpensive printing and distribution of books enabled a widespread dissemination of Renaissance literature. In 1448, Johann Gutenberg, a German, invented the movable-type printing

press and published the world's first printed book, the Gutenberg Bible, in 1455.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gutenberg_Bible_-_detail_from_the_Old_Testament_\(5372524524\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gutenberg_Bible_-_detail_from_the_Old_Testament_(5372524524).jpg)>

The Gutenberg Bible, Page of the Old Testament – Printed in 1455

The technique spread like wildfire. Florence began printing books in 1471. By 1500, printing had become the first European-wide industry and there were 9 million printed books in Europe.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Printing_towns_incunabula.svg>

The Spread of Printing in Europe – 1455-1500

Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) launched the Renaissance and became its leading mentor. A Florentine politician, Dante suffered political exile in 1301. He stressed the importance of engaging antiquity but writing in the Italian vernacular, not in Latin.

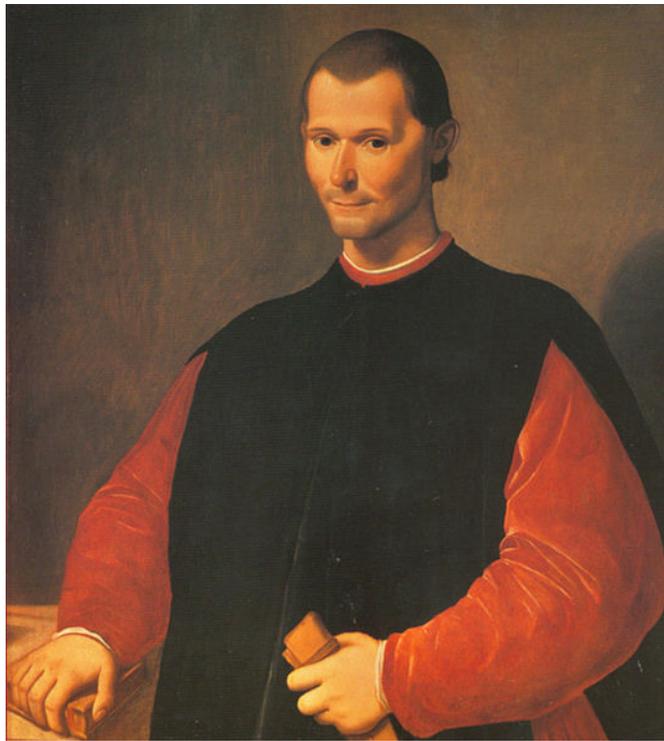
Dante's *Divine Comedy*, a journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven, explores vice and virtue and an exploration of the human journey toward salvation.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dante_Luca.jpg>

*Dante Alighieri (1265-1321), Author of The Divine Comedy –
Fresco by Luca Signorelli, Late 15th century*

A later Florentine writer, Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527), was an historian of politics and war and a civil servant in Florence, who was dismissed after a change of government in 1512. He was keen observer of *realpolitik* – the realities of political struggles. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli contrasted political reality with an elusive republican ideal. But Machiavelli was not diabolical in interpreting political motivations.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Santi_di_Tito_-_Niccolo_Machiavelli%27s_portrait.jpg>

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527), Realist, Republican, and Outcast – Portrait by Santi di Tito, First Half of 16th century

Sculpture. During the 14th century, Renaissance Italian sculptors and painters abandoned the once-dominant influence of Byzantine (Greek) artists who focused on Catholic Church symbols and religious myths. Instead, Italian artists concentrated on depicting the reality of the human form. Mathematics entered art to permit accurate measurement of human body parts and to ensure that sculptures and paintings contained correct human perspective. Although Florence was the home of those innovations, the market for art there was parochial. Florentine artists produced sculptures and paintings on commission for wealthy families or churches in the same manner that artisans worked. In contrast to Bruges and Antwerp, in Florence there was no anonymous art market, no art dealers or specialist artists, and little art produced for export.

The first great Renaissance sculptor was Donatello (Donato di Niccolo di Betto Bardi (1386-1466)), a Florentine who exhibited unusual originality. Donatello educated the elite Florentine buyers of art and insisted on artistic integrity in opposing their requests for

speed or alterations. His finest work, a bronze of *David*, was commissioned for a Medici palace and is now in the Bargello.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Donatello_-_David_-_Floren%C3%A7a.jpg

*David, Donatello, Bargello Museum, Florence, c. 1435-1450 –
First Renaissance Standing Bronze*

The polymath of the Renaissance was Michelangelo (1475-1564) – sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and scientist.

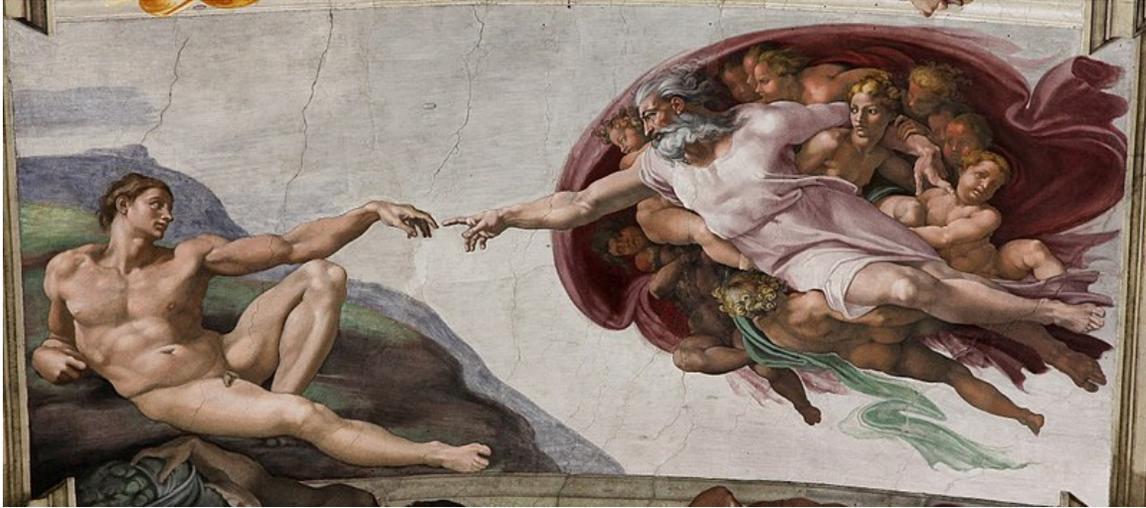
Michelangelo studied and created incredible images of the human form. He sculpted *The Battle of the Centaurs* at age 17 and *The*

Pietà before he was 25, and he painted the remarkable ceiling of the Sistine Chapel when he was in his 30s. Michelangelo suffered from an inability to complete his projects and subsequent contractual conflicts. Still, he accumulated a substantial fortune and sizeable land-holdings and was likely the wealthiest of all Italian Renaissance artists.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%27David%27_by_Michelangelo_Fir_JBU004.jpg>

*David, Michelangelo –
17 feet high, Accademia Gallery, Florence, 1501-1504*



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%27Adam%27s_Creation_Sistine_Chapel_ceiling%27_by_Michelangelo_JBU33cut.jpg>

*Adam's Creation, Sistine Chapel Ceiling –
Michelangelo, 1508-1512*

Painting. The essence of Renaissance art was the re-discovery of perspective. Ancient Egyptian art was aspective, using symbols. Ancient Greek painters introduced perspective art, incorporating two-dimensional illusions of reality. After the fall of Rome, Medieval artists reverted to aspective art. Italian Renaissance painters adapted classical Greek techniques. They focused on the human form, landscapes, portraits, nudes, and use of colors to depict light and depth.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Distribution_of_Alms_and_Death_of_Anaias_00.jpg>

St. Paul Giving Alms and The Death of Anaias, Masaccio (c. 1400-1428) – Perspective, Light, Color, and Human Form

Northern Italian painters adopted two critical technical innovations, both first developed in the Low Countries. The introduction of oil paints permitted artists to give much greater attention to detail and to the portrayal of depth, light, and brilliance of figures. The use of stretched canvasses and easels allowed Italian artists to break away from wall-painting and emphasize

portraits (especially of the rich exhibiting their jewelry). Those innovations permitted artists to cater to bourgeois demand.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Europe_1500.png>

Europe in 1500 – The Renaissance in Italy Was Influenced by the Renaissance in the Low Countries (Belgium and the Netherlands)

The first Italian painter to use ancient mythology for subject matter was Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510). The brilliant, though eccentric, Botticelli is best known for *Primavera* and *The Birth of*

Venus, which feature fluid, dynamic figures in diaphanous robes.

Botticelli's work also adorns Florence's main churches.

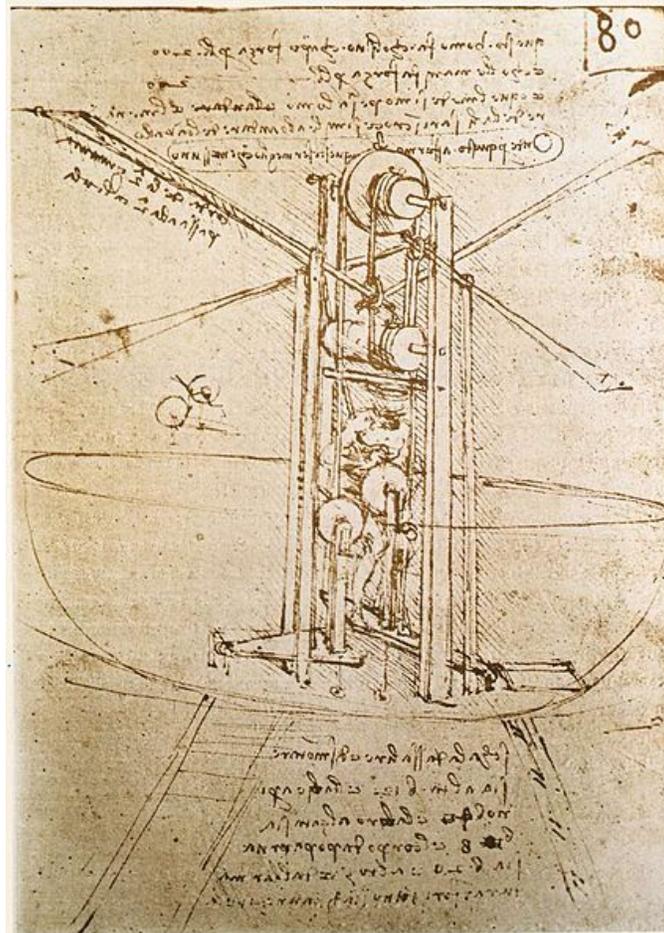


Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Botticelli-primavera.jpg>

Primavera, Sandro Botticelli, 1478 – Use of Oil Paints

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was the quintessential Renaissance universal man. His capabilities ranged from the human body (musculature, facial expressions, psychology, optics) to machinery (war siege engines, flying machines, hydraulics,

weapons), and he kept extensive notebooks detailing his vast array of interests.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Leonardo_da_vinci,_Flying_machine.jpg>

*Leonardo da Vinci's Notebook –
Drawing of a Flying Machine. c. 1487*

Leonardo, the founder of the High Renaissance, painted numerous Renaissance classics, including the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Leonardo_da_Vinci_-_Mona_Lisa_\(Louvre,_Paris\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Leonardo_da_Vinci_-_Mona_Lisa_(Louvre,_Paris).jpg)>

*Mona Lisa, Leonardo da Vinci, 1503-1507, The Louvre, Paris –
Painted to Reveal “the Motions of the Mind”*

Architecture. During the Italian Renaissance, the design of buildings changed significantly. Renaissance architects drew from classic Greek and Roman design. Architectural innovations included attention to climate and setting, creating impressions from a distance, designing for comfort within, and skillful use of facades, angles, and gardens. Patronage from governments and

wealthy families led to a demand for creative architectural design of religious buildings (cathedrals, churches, monasteries, and nunneries) and of family palaces, homes, chapels, and libraries.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Santo_Spirito,_inside_1.JPG>*

Spirito Santo Church, Florence – Filippo Brunelleschi (1377-1446) Used Classical Columns to Draw Attention to the Altar

Filippo Brunelleschi (1377-1446) was the first outstanding architect in Renaissance Tuscany, and he served as Master of the Cathedral Works (head architect) in Florence. Brunelleschi

designed and constructed the dome of Florence's cathedral, based on the dome of the Parthenon in classical Rome. He fulfilled numerous commissions, using Roman models for inspiration.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brunelleschi%27s_Dome_Florence_Cathedral.jpg

*Duomo (Dome) of the Florence Cathedral –
Filippo Brunelleschi's Architectural Harmony*

Michelozzo di Bartolommeo (1396-1472) succeeded Brunelleschi as Master in Florence and designed the first

Renaissance library building in the monastery of San Marco in
Florence.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:San_Marco_\(Florence\)_-_Library.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:San_Marco_(Florence)_-_Library.jpg)>

*Library at the Convent of San Marco, Florence –
First Renaissance Library, Designed by Michelozzo*

Michelozzo designed two buildings in Florence – the Medici
family palace and the Santa Croce chapel – that became widely
emulated models of Renaissance architecture.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Palazzo_Medici_courtyard_Apr_2008_\(10\)-Palazzo_Medici_courtyard_Apr_2008_\(9\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Palazzo_Medici_courtyard_Apr_2008_(10)-Palazzo_Medici_courtyard_Apr_2008_(9).jpg)>

*Courtyard in the Palazzo Medici, Florence –
Designed by Michelozzo (1396-1472)*

Two outside influences in the 16th century – the Protestant Reformation and the transfer to Europe of New World silver and gold – precipitated the decline of the Italian Renaissance. In the Counter-Reformation, the papacy emphasized splendor and introduced Baroque art. Concurrently, the New World riches bypassed Italy and underpinned the rise of Spain, England, the

Netherlands, and France. By the 1570s, the Italian Renaissance was a spent force.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt_nightwatch_large.jpg>

*The Night Watch, Rembrandt van Rijn, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam,
1642 – Baroque Art*

Political Control in Renaissance Tuscany

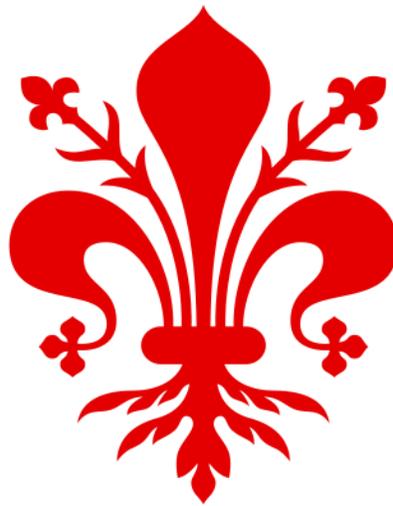
Commune of Florence to Black Death (1175-1348). In the late 12th century, Florence lived in a competitive neighborhood. To the west and south were three strong Tuscan city-states – Lucca (silk), Pisa (trade), and Siena (banking). To the north was Milan, ruling rich Lombardy, to the northeast was Venice, with its maritime empire, and to the east were the Papal States, under the Vatican. Yet Florence was thriving. Its population grew from 2,500 in 800 to 30,000 by 1175 and 100,000 in 1340.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Italy_1494_AD.png

Italy in 1494 – The Renaissance Began in the Republic of Florence

From 800 until 1250, Florence was part of the German Holy Roman Empire (HRE). Following the death of Emperor Frederick II in 1250, the Florentines established an independent commune. Two groups vied for control. The Guelphs, merchants who supported the Pope, won over the Ghibellines, feudal land-holders who favored the HRE. The Ordinances of Justice (1293) set up a republican government for the Commune of Florence.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Florence.svg>

Official Flag of the Republic of Florence, Established in 1293

Each of the town's six districts (*sestieri*) elected representatives (*priori*) who chose a city leader (*Gonfaloniere*).

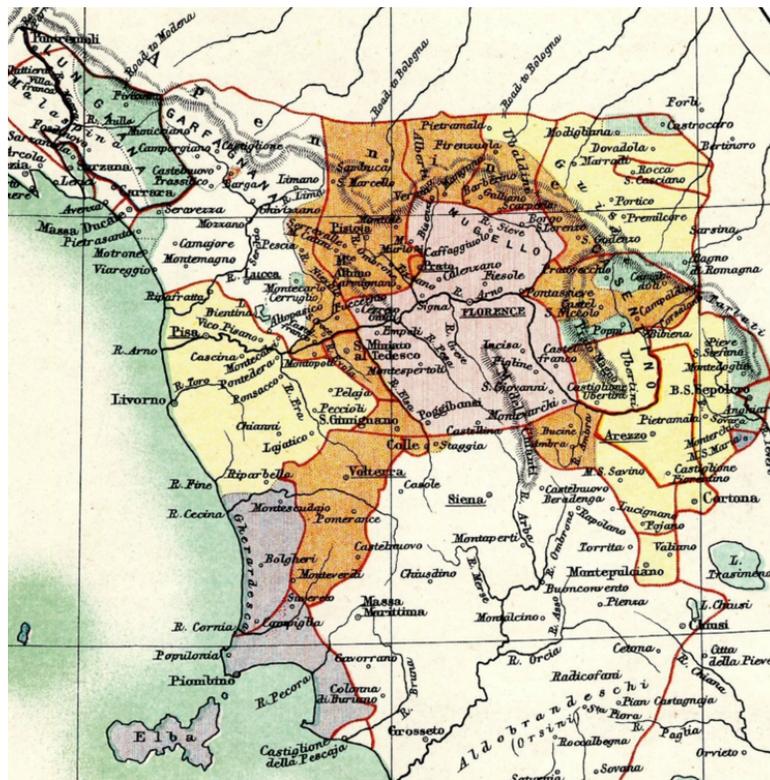
Political power was firmly in the hands of a confederation of guilds, controlled by merchants and artisans. Seven major guilds (*arti maggiori*) – representing international merchants, moneylenders and bankers, wool manufacturers, cloth retailers, furriers, physicians and apothecaries, and judges and notaries – wielded most power. Fourteen minor guilds (*arti minori*) represented artisans. The 21 guilds had a total membership of about 4,000 males.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stemmi_delle_Arti_florentine,_sec._XVIII_-_san_dl_SAN_IMG-00003045.jpg>

Coats of Arms of Sixteen of the Guilds of Florence

During the first half of the 14th century, Florence gained control of good farmland – in Romagna to the northeast and Valdinievole to the northwest.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Growth_of_the_Florentine_State.png

Expansion of the Republic of Florence (1300-1494) – 1300 (Pink), 1377 (Add Brown), 1433 (Add Yellow), 1494 (Add Green)

The devastating Black Death plague in 1348 caused 50,000 deaths, cutting Florence's population in half and wiping out many nearby Tuscan towns. Florence was able to make a steady recovery after that disaster.

(1378), the wool workers demanded guild autonomy that would give them a role in Florentine government. The merchant-led oligarchy suppressed the revolt and maintained political control.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Michele_di_lando.JPG>*

*Michele di Lando, Leader of the Ciompi Revolt, 1378 –
Briefly Gonfaloniere of Florence*

Florence soon faced a severe foreign threat. Gian Galeazzo Visconti created the Duchy of Milan by reforming and centralizing government.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:GiovAmbrogiodePredisattribGianGaleazzoVisconti.jpg>>

*Gian Galeazzo Visconti (1351-1402), Duke of Milan –
Painting by Giovanni Ambrogio de Predis, 15th century*

At the turn of the 15th century, Visconti conquered Pisa, Siena, Perugia, and Bologna and planned to incorporate Florence into his expanding state. Luckily for Florence, he died from plague in 1402 and his weakened state splintered.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Massima_estensione_Viscontea.png>

The Duchy of Milan At Its Peak in 1402 – And the Rival Republics of Florence and Venice

Florence needed funds to expand and create a Republic of Tuscany through conquest. In 1427, the Florentine leaders instituted a new system of taxation based on wealth. They planned to force citizen families to loan the government 0.5 percent of their assets whenever the government required funds. To that end, they carried out an inventory of assets (*catasto*), which has been a goldmine of information for economic historians. Of the 10,000

households in Florence, 1,500 (15 percent) reported no wealth at all, and 100 (1 percent) controlled 27 percent of total wealth. The richest family in Florence in 1427 was that of Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici (1360-1429).



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Giovanni_di_Bicci_de%27_Medici.jpg>

*Giovanni de' Medici (1360-1429), Founder of the Medici Dynasty
– Portrait by Cristofano dell'Altissimo, 1565*

With no inherited wealth, Giovanni built his fortune from wool workshops and banks and served briefly as *Gonfaloniere*. When he died in 1429, the Medici family had bank branches in Florence, Rome, Venice, Naples, Bruges, and London.

Expansion, Conspiracy, and Theocracy (1434-1498).

Cosimo de' Medici (1389-1464) was an astute merchant-banker, served as *Gonfaloniere*, and became a leading patron of the arts, hosting Donatello. Cosimo supported Francesco Sforza's bid to become Duke of Milan, negotiating an alliance in 1450. Florence, Milan, Venice, and the Papal States joined the Most Holy League at Lodi in 1454, bringing 40 years of peace to Italy.

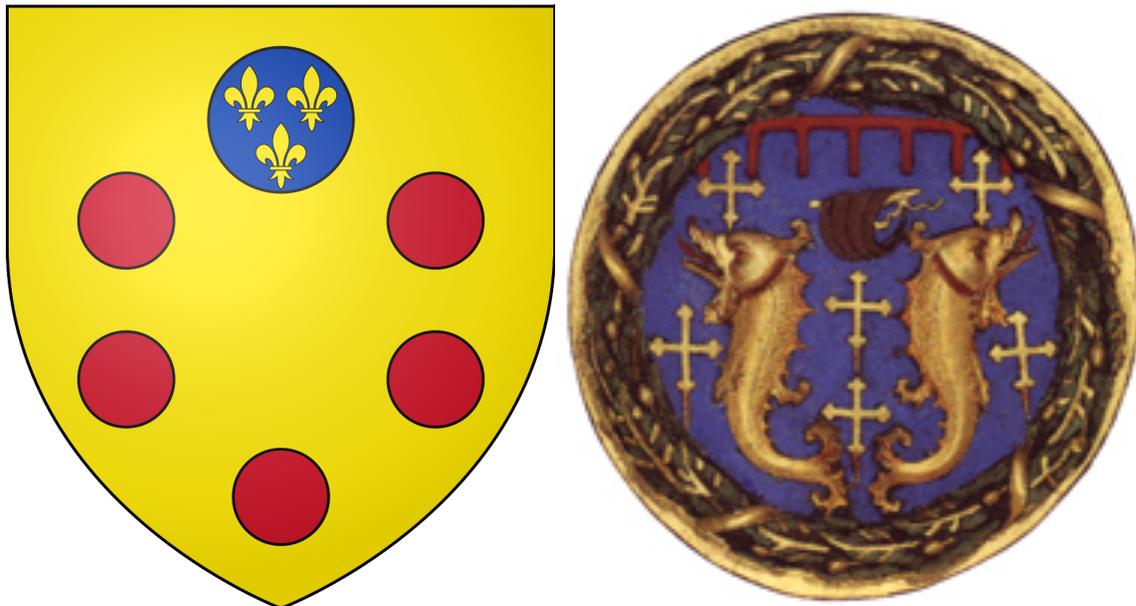


Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Benvenuto_cellini_e_aiuti,_ritratto_di_cosimo_I_de%27_medici_02.JPG>

*Cosimo de' Medici (1389-1464), Skillful Politician –
Portrait Bust by Benvenuto Cellini, c. 1549-1573*

In 1478, the Pazzi family entered into a conspiracy to replace the Medicis as rulers of Florence. The Pazzis were bankers and

Florence's second wealthiest family. The Pazzi bank in Rome extended a loan to the Pope to allow the Papacy to buy Imola in northern Italy and thereby gained papal support for the conspiracy.



Sources: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coat_of_arms_of_Medici.svg and https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pazzi%27s_coat_of_arms.jpg

*Coats of Arms of the Medicis (Left) and the Pazzis –
Florence's Two Richest Families*

During High Mass in the Florence cathedral, four Pazzis attempted to murder two Medicis. Giuliano de' Medici was stabbed to death, but Lorenzo escaped. The Pazzi conspirators were hanged, and all members of the Pazzi family were banned forever from participation in government.



Sources: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bertoldo_di_Giovanni,_The_Murder_of_Giuliano_I_de%27_Medici_\(The_Pazzi_Conspiracy_Medal\)_reverse,_1478,_NGA_44784.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bertoldo_di_Giovanni,_The_Murder_of_Giuliano_I_de%27_Medici_(The_Pazzi_Conspiracy_Medal)_reverse,_1478,_NGA_44784.jpg)>

*Bronze Medallion Commemorating the Defeat of the Pazzi
Conspiracy – Bertoldo de Giovanni, 1478*

The Pope then formed a coalition to invade Tuscany.

Lorenzo (the Magnificent, (1449-1492)) negotiated peace with the Kingdom of Naples, the strongest member of the Pope's coalition.

A serendipitous invasion of southern Italy by the Ottoman Empire

forced the Vatican to make peace with Tuscany. Lorenzo ignored his family's banks, leading to loan defaults and branch closures.



Sources: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lorenzo_de_Medici.jpg

Lorenzo de' Medici (The Magnificent, 1449-1492), Astute Politician, Poor Banker – Portrait by Bronzino, 15th century

When Charles VIII of France invaded Florence in 1494 en route to Naples, the Medicis departed and left a political vacuum. It was filled by a fundamentalist Catholic preacher, Girolamo Savonarola. A new constitution allowed Savonarola to institute

divine rule. After he preached fasting and giving up wealth, Savonarola was tried for heresy and hung in 1498.



Sources: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Girolamo_Savonarola.jpg>

*Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498), Fundamentalist Monk and
Four-year Theocrat – Portrait by Fra Bartolommeo, 1497-1498*



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
 <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Italy_\(1494\)-en.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Italy_(1494)-en.svg)>

*The Republic of Florence (Orange Area) and Its Neighbors –
 Italy in the Late 15th century*

Medici Grand Dukes and Tuscany's Decline (1498-1737).

In 1498, the Florentines installed Piero Soderini as *Gonfaloniere* for life to assure political stability. Under his leadership, Florence fought a long, expensive war before conquering Pisa in 1509.

Dissatisfied with Soderini's leadership, the Papacy invaded and precipitated a revolution in 1512, reinstalling Medici leadership.

Giovanni de' Medici (1475-1521) became Pope Leo X in 1513 and ruled Florence from Rome.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raphael -
_Pope_Leo_X_with_two_cardinals.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raphael_-_Pope_Leo_X_with_two_cardinals.jpg)>

*Medici Pope Leo X (and Two Cardinals) –
Painting by Raphael, c. 1519*

Another Medici, Grand Duke Cosimo I (1519-1574) overthrew the Florentine republic in 1537, created the Duchy of Tuscany, and became absolute ruler for life. Cosimo, a tyrant, expelled or killed his enemies ruthlessly. He conquered Siena in 1557, installed a sound system of finances, reclaimed land, improved irrigation, encouraged commerce, and built a strong naval fleet, which helped defeat the Ottoman navy at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Agnolo_Bronzino_-_Cosimo_I_de%27_Medici_in_armour_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg

*Grand Duke Cosimo I (1519-1574), Tyrant and Conqueror –
Portrait by Bronzino, c. 1545*

The last Medici ruler, Gian Gastone (1671-1737) was an incompetent alcoholic without heirs. Late in his reign, the European powers met to decide the Tuscan Succession. The Empress of Austria, Maria Theresa, insisted that her husband, Francis, the Duke of Lorraine, be given the rule of Tuscany. He arrived to take over with 6,000 troops in 1737, shortly before Gian Gastone's death. Austrian rule was marked by the plunder of Florentine treasures, high taxation, and numerous bankruptcies.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Martin_van_Meytens_006.jpg>

*Francis Stephen, Duke of Lorraine, Husband of Habsburg
Empress Maria Theresa, and Grand Duke of Tuscany (1737-1765)
– Portrait by Martin van Meytens, 1745*



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Europe_1815_map_en.png

Post-Napoleonic Europe in 1815 – Austria Continued to Rule Tuscany, Lost Belgium, and Gained Venice/Dalmatia

Economic Change in Renaissance Tuscany

Textile Industry – Wool and Silk. By 1300, Florence was one of the leading industrial centers in Europe. Its location on the Arno River gave Florence access downstream to the port of Pisa and upstream to central Italy. Florence's lead industry was woolen textiles. The river provided water to wash raw wool and dye woolen cloth and power to drive fulling (cloth-compacting) mills.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Ponte_Vecchio_and_other_bridges_over_the_Arno_River.jpg>

The Arno River – Water, Power, and Transportation for Florence

Between 1300 and 1600, wool workshops employed 40 percent of the Florentine workforce. The firms were small-scale and family-owned. Wool producers regulated the industry through the Lana guild.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arte_Lana_Della_Robbia_OPA_Florence.jpg>

*Coat of Arms of the Arte della Lana (Wool Merchants' Guild),
Florence*

Apart from conquering Pisa in 1409 and buying Livorno from Genoa in 1421, the government took a *laissez faire* stance toward the wool industry. Most raw wool was imported from the

western Mediterranean (14th century) and England (15th century).

In the 16th century, Florence shifted to sourcing raw wool from

Abruzzi. Some dyes were Italian (saffron), while others were

imported (indigo). Florence produced high-quality woolen cloth

for export. The principal markets were the Levant (western Asia)

and Rome and Naples (in the 15th and 16th centuries).



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Colored_woodcut_town_view_of_Florence.jpg>

*Colored Woodcut Town View of Florence –
Anton Koberger, Nuremberg Chronicle, 1493*

In the 15th century, Florence began to produce silk textiles, emulating Lucca. The structure of the silk industry was similar to

that of wool – small, family firms, regulated by a guild (the Seta guild for silk), and unhampered by government policy.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Orsanmichele,_tondo_dell%27Arte_della_set_a.JPG>

*Coat of Arms of the Arte della Seta (Silk Merchants' Guild),
Florence*

Florence's silk cloth industry was small, employing only 5 percent of the workforce. Florence initially imported its raw silk and dyes from the Levant and Spain, but Tuscany increasingly produced raw silk in the 16th century. Florentine firms produced

for the low end of the silk export market, selling to ecclesiastical and private buyers in Rome, Naples, Bruges, London, Antwerp, and Geneva.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Europe_1500.png>

Europe in 1500 – Principal Markets for Florentine Silk Were Rome, Naples, Bruges, Antwerp, and London

Commercial Revolution – International Trade. The economic success of Florence was based on its extensive

international networks and entrepreneurial merchants and artisans. Several commercial innovations underlay the development of northern Italian capitalism.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1515_Massijs_\(I\)_Der_Kaufvertrag_anagori_a.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1515_Massijs_(I)_Der_Kaufvertrag_anagori_a.JPG)>

*The Commercial Revolution in Satire –
The Purchase Agreement, Quentin Matsys, 1515*

Unlike merchant-adventurers, Italian entrepreneurs established sedentary firms that permitted long-term planning. They developed family partnerships to raise investment and

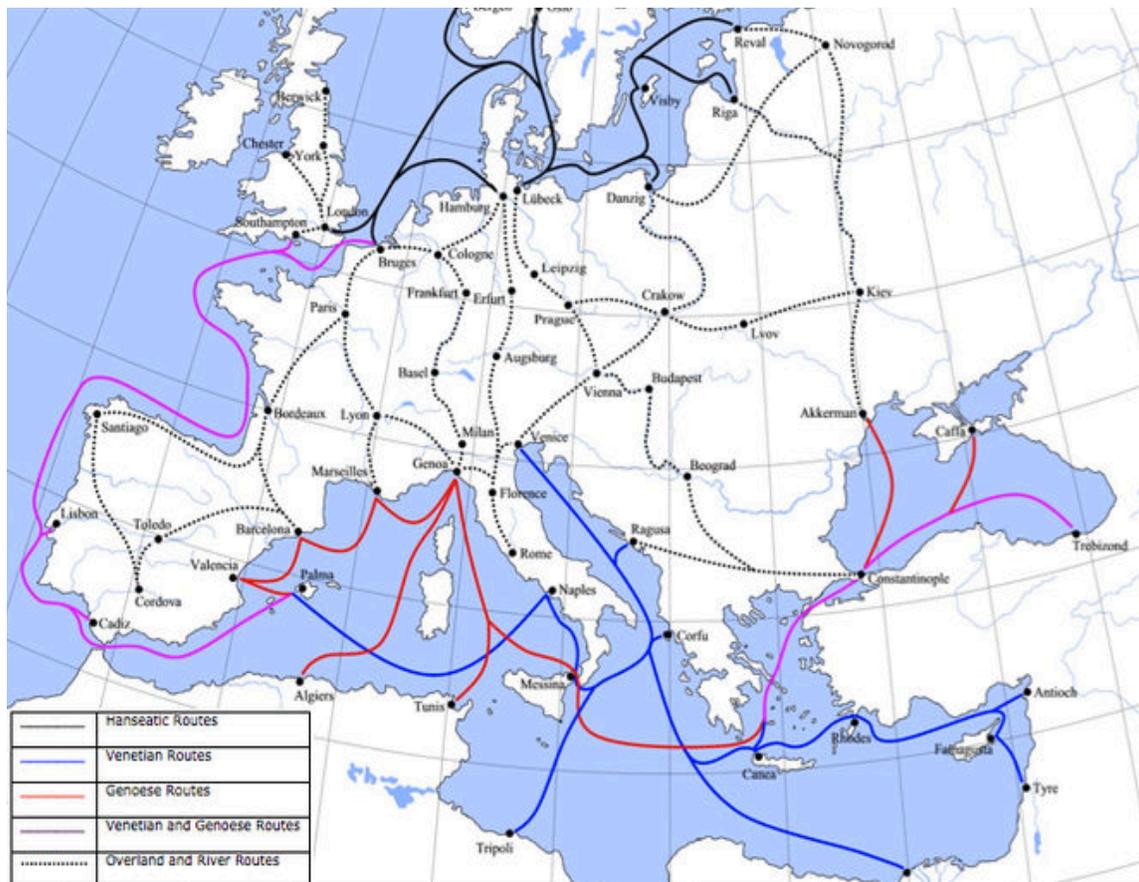
working capital, double-entry accounting (entry of each item as a credit and debit) to allow accurate control and cost analysis, and syndicated maritime insurance to shed trading risk. Because Florence had no port, its merchant-bankers created widespread trading networks to aid business efficiency, reduce risks, and gather information.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Massysm_Quentin_%E2%80%94_The_Moneylender_and_his_Wife_%E2%80%94_1514.jpg>

*The Commercial Revolution in Satire –
The Moneylender and His Wife, Quentin Matsys, 1514*

By the 14th century, 150 Florentine mercantile firms had foreign networks. One family, the Bardi, had 350 employees working abroad in 25 branches spread throughout Italy, the Levant, the western Mediterranean, and northwestern Europe.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Late_Medieval_Trade_Routes.jpg

European Trade Routes in the Renaissance Era – Linking the Mediterranean Region with Northern Europe

The products traded reflected the special nature of the Florentine Renaissance economy – dependence on woolen and silk

cloth manufacturing and local artisanal production of luxury items for wealthy Florentines. Florence imported raw wool and silk, foodstuffs (grain, salt), and raw materials (leather, metals) and exported woolen and silk cloth, artisanal ironwork, and artwork.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Les_Tr%C3%A8s_Riches_Heures_du_duc_d_e_Berry_juillet_sheep_shearing.jpg>

*Shearing Wool in Medieval Chantilly, France –
France Exported Raw Wool to Florence
for Manufacture into Europe’s Finest Woolen Textiles*

A prospective merchant-banker was schooled in literacy from age 7, bookkeeping from age 10, and business (as an apprentice) from age 13. In 1308, Florentine merchants formed the Mercanzia,

a supra-guild that negotiated reciprocal trade arrangements with other states, settled debt disputes among members, and controlled elections to political office.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Piazza_della_Signoria_panoramic_view_small.jpg>

Piazza della Signoria, Florence – Center of the Republic of Florence and Headquarters of the Mercanzia Supra-guild

Commercial Revolution – International Banking.

Northern Italian merchants created international banks within their mercantile networks. The merchants balanced their clients' accounts by offsetting surpluses in one monetary area with debits in another, and they lent their foreign profits at interest. They permitted clients to run overdrafts (to be repaid with interest), and they charged interest when clients delayed payments for goods

delivered. They invented the bill of exchange to permit clients to transfer funds from one monetary area to a borrower in another.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Avarice1.png>>

*Bankers in a Florentine Counting House –
Cocharelli, Treatise on the Seven Vices, c. 1340*

Florentine merchant-bankers had an advantage. In 1252, Florence struck the first gold florin and the city government guaranteed its purity – 3.5 grams of 24-carat gold. By 1300, the florin had become the preferred money of account and most widely used means of payment in much of Europe.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fiorino_1347.jpg>

The Gold Florin, Struck 1347 – Europe’s Money of Account

Florentine firms served as bankers throughout Florence’s foreign commercial network from northwestern Europe to the Levant. They provided credit to royals, nobles, and church institutions whose wealth was tied to land and other illiquid assets. In Avignon (in the 14th century) and Rome (from the 15th century), the Papacy was a key client of Florentine bankers, notably the Medici. Within Florence, banking developed in the 16th century, when the Monte di Pietà (a welfare organization) evolved into a public savings-and-loan bank to take deposits from middle-class

Florentines. International banking thus underpinned Florence's economy. Although the profitability of Florence's many merchant-banking firms declined in the 16th century, their foreign network survived numerous wars, plagues, and despots during the years of the Italian Renaissance, 1300-1570.

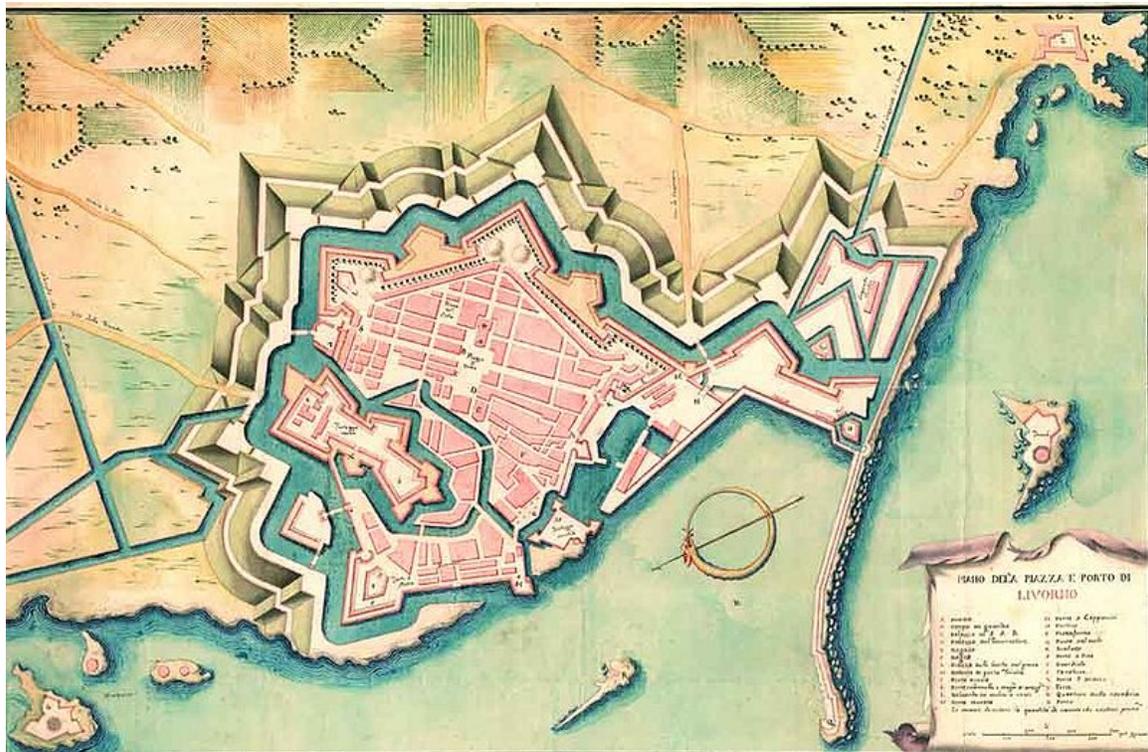


Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Florence_at_1500.jpg>

Florence c. 1500 – International Banking Underpinned the Commercial Success of the Republic of Florence

Decline of the Florentine Economy. The Florentine economy quickly recovered from a major crisis in the mid-14th century, when illiquidity forced bankruptcies of leading merchant-

bankers. The economy went into gradual decline in the 16th century as the foreign commercial network shrunk to include only Italy and south Germany. The Medici Grand Dukes accelerated the decline by making Livorno a free port, attracting foreign merchants into Florence and undercutting Florentine firms.

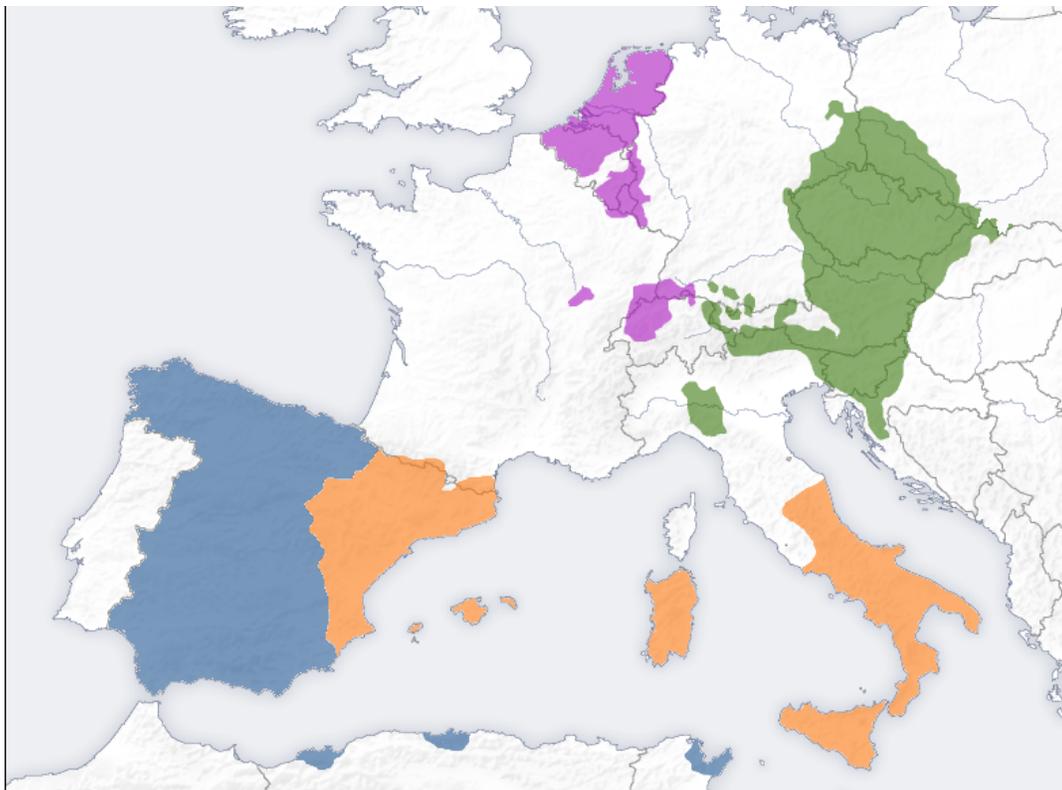


Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Livorno_map_17th_Century.jpg>

Livorno in the 17th century – Livorno Was a Free Port (1588-1868)

Florence's bankers also faced strong competition from banking firms in south Germany and Genoa. Bankers from

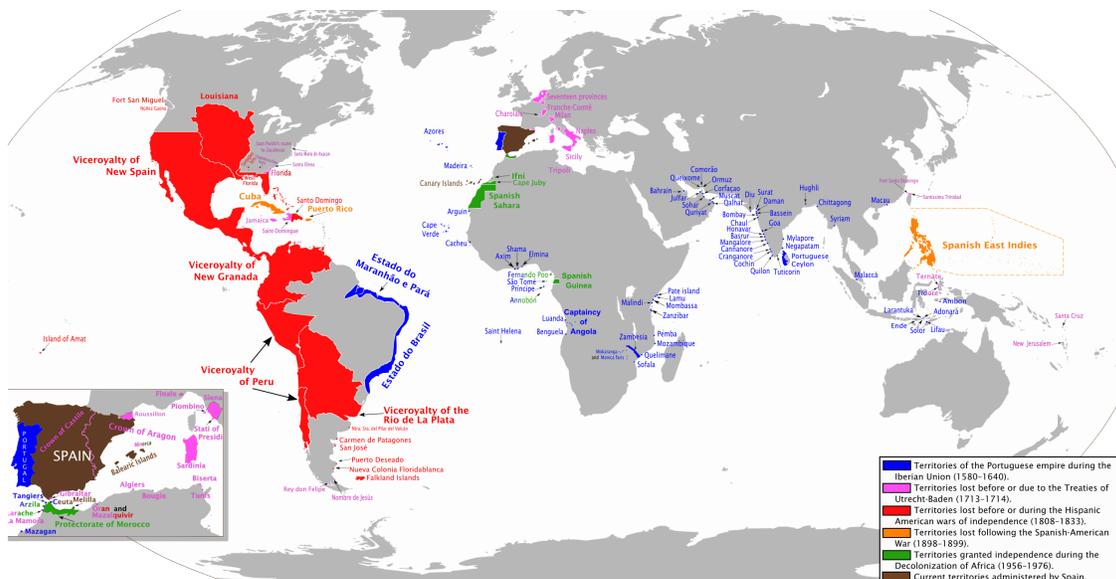
Augsburg and Nuremburg benefited from their access to the Habsburg emperors' bullion to undercut Italian banking firms on the land-based trade networks across central and western Europe. Genoese bankers used their maritime merchant-banking network in Europe to service the Spanish Habsburgs and gain access to Spanish silver and gold. Habsburg rule in Austria-Germany and in Spain thus benefited Florence's competitors.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Charles_I_and_V_empire.png>

Habsburg Empire of Charles V and Phillip II, 1516-1598 – Castile (Blue), Aragon (Orange), Burgundy (Purple), and Austria (Green)

Two other major political transitions led to the decline of the Italian city-states. Geo-political power shifted from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic after the discovery of the New World and the end of Ottoman expansion. The 16th century was marked by massive flows of specie (silver and gold) into Spain from Peru and Mexico, whereas the 17th century saw the beginnings of European imperialism.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Spanish_Empire_Anachronous_0.PNG

Imperial Spain's Overseas Empire – North and South America (Red) and the Spanish East Indies (the Philippines, Orange)

England, France, and the Netherlands colonized parts of the New World and Asia. Moreover, starting in the mid-16th century,

the English and Dutch, rather than the Italians, made the key commercial innovations – chartered trading companies, joint stock companies, stock exchanges, and central banks. Innovation and commercial power had shifted to northern Europe.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_dock_of_the_Dutch_East_India_Company_at_Amsterdam.jpg>

The Dock of the Dutch East India Company in Amsterdam, Painting by Ludolf Bakhuizen, 1696, Amsterdam Museum – Chartered Companies Dominated Trade in the 17th century



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Italy_1796_AD.png

*Italy in 1796 –
The Renaissance Was Over and the Napoleonic Era Dawned*

Time Line for Tuscany

8 th -4 th millennia BCE	earliest inhabitants of Tuscany – nomadic hunter-gatherers
3500-500 BCE	Neolithic peoples migrated to Tuscany from Asia – brought agriculture
9 th century BCE	Phoenicians from Tyre, Semitic-speaking entrepreneurs and traders, settled Carthage
509-27 BCE	Roman Republic – Roman Senate elected rulers
262-241 BCE	1 st Punic War – Rome defeated Carthage, claimed Sicily and Sardinia
218-201 BCE	2 nd Punic War – Rome again defeated Carthage, claimed all of Sicily and Iberia
64 BCE-395 CE	Roman Empire – ruled Ancient Levant – built Palmyra, Hama, Bosra, Jerash, Amman
63 BCE	Roman Empire conquered Israel – ruled it as Roman Palestine
62-50 BCE	First Triumvirate, Roman Empire – Gnaeus Pompey, Julius Caesar, Marcus Crassus
50 BCE	Julius Caesar of Rome conquered Gaul – 8-year campaign
49-44 BCE	Julius Caesar – Dictator of Rome – founded 30 settler colonies in new Roman provinces

44-31 BCE	Second Triumvirate, Roman Empire – Octavian, Mark Antony, Aemilius Lepidus
31 BCE	naval Battle of Actium – Octavian of Rome defeated Antony (Rome), Cleopatra (Egypt)
30 BCE	Octavian invaded Egypt – Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide
27 BCE-476 CE	Roman Principate – military prowess decided succession of emperors
27 BCE-14 CE	Emperor Augustus ruled Roman Empire – expanded empire to natural frontiers (Rhine, Danube, Euphrates, Sahara, Atlantic)
43	Emperor Claudius conquered Britain
80	Emperor Titus opened Roman Colosseum
98-117	Emperor Trajan ruled – annexed Dacia, Petra in 106, Armenia, Mesopotamia in 114
117-138	Emperor Hadrian ruled – wall across Britain – palisade between Rhine, Danube Rivers
135	Roman rulers exiled nearly all Israelites – after series of rebellions against Roman rule
307-337	Emperor Constantine ruled – new capital in Constantinople – converted to Christianity
330-1453	Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire ruled in eastern Mediterranean

395	Emperor Theodoseus I divided Roman Empire – capitals in Rome, Constantinople
395-1453	Byzantine Empire – eastern Roman Empire
418-439	Germanic Vandals conquered Gaul, Spain, and Roman Africa
451-453	Huns invaded Gaul and northern Italy – threat subsided after death of Attila (in 453)
476	Western Roman Empire fell – Germanic Ostrogoths took over Italy and Rome
800-1250	Florence was part of the German Holy Roman Empire (HRE)
12 th -17 th centuries	era of the German Hansa – trade monopoly – 200 cities and towns in the Baltic region
1250-1293	Commune of Florence – republican government – run by Guelphs (merchants)
1293-1569	Republic of Florence – 6 districts elected leader (Gonfaloniere) – power wielded by confederation of 21 guilds, controlled by merchants and artisans
c. 1300-1570s	Italian Renaissance – Florence, Genoa, and Venice – innovative Italian city-states
1204	Venice formed Stato da Mar – trading empire in the eastern Mediterranean

- 1252 Florence struck the first gold florin – 3.5 grams of 24-carat gold – became preferred money of account in much of Europe
- 1265-1321 lifetime of Dante Alighieri – author of *The Divine Comedy*
- 1300-1923 Ottoman Empire ruled Anatolia, Balkans, Middle East, and North Africa
- 1304-1374 lifetime of Francesco Petrarch – poet and Italy’s first humanist
- 1308 Florentine merchants formed the Mercanzia, a supra-guild – negotiated trade agreements, settled debt disputes, controlled elections
- 1348-1351 Black Death epidemic – Florence lost 50,000 people (half of its population)
- 1351-1402 lifetime of Gian Galeazzo Visconti, Duke of Milan – conquered Pisa, Siena, Perugia, and Bologna – died before attacking Florence
- 1360-1429 lifetime of Giovanni de’ Medici – founder of the Medici Dynasty – built fortune from wool workshops and banks
- 1377-1446 lifetime of Filippo Brunelleschi – first leading architect in Renaissance Tuscany – Duomo (Dome) of the Florence Cathedral
- 1378 Ciompi Revolt – led by Michele di Lando – suppressed by merchant-led oligarchy

1386-1466	lifetime of Donatello (Donato di Niccolo di Betto Bardi) – sculptor of bronze <i>David</i>
1389-1464	lifetime of Cosimo de' Medici – astute merchant-banker, <i>Gonfaloniere</i> , leading patron of the arts (hosted Donatello)
1396-1472	lifetime of Michelozzo di Bartolommeo – Master in Florence – designed the library in the monastery of San Marco in Florence
1409	Republic of Florence conquered Pisa
1421	Republic of Florence purchased Livorno
1427	inventory of assets (<i>catasto</i>) in Florence
1445-1510	lifetime of Sandro Botticelli – best known for <i>Primavera</i> and <i>The Birth of Venus</i> – fluid, dynamic figures in diaphanous robes
1449-1492	lifetime of Lorenzo de' Medici (The Magnificent), astute politician, incompetent banker
1452-1519	lifetime of Leonardo da Vinci – Renaissance universal man – human body (musculature), machinery (siege engines, flying machines)
1469-1527	lifetime of Niccolo Machiavelli – realist, Republican, and outcast
1475-1564	lifetime of Michelangelo (1475-1564) – sculptor, painter, architect, poet, scientist

1471	Florence began printing books
1475-1521	lifetime of Giovanni de' Medici – became Pope Leo X in 1513 – ruled Florence from Rome
1478	Pazzi family conspiracy to replace the Medicis as rulers of Florence – murdered Giuliano de' Medici – all four Pazzi conspirators were hanged
1494-1498	Girolamo Savonarola, fundamentalist Catholic monk, ruled Florence – tried for heresy and hung in 1498
1498-1512	Florentines installed Piero Soderini as <i>Gonfaloniere</i> for life to assure political stability – Papacy re-installed Medicis
1503-1660	16,000 tons of silver and 185 tons of gold shipped from Spanish America to Seville
1516-1556	Habsburg King Charles V ruled Spain (including Sicily), Spanish America, Austria, and Habsburg territories in Europe
1519-1574	lifetime of Grand Duke Cosimo I de' Medici – tyrant and conqueror – built strong naval fleet
1569-1737	Grand Duchy of Tuscany – Grand Duke Cosimo I ruler for life
1556-1598	Philip II ruled Spain (including Sicily), Spanish America, and the Netherlands

1588	England defeated Great Spanish Armada – Spain lost half of its ships, three-fourths of its sailors
1671-1737	lifetime of Grand Duke Gian Gastone de' Medici – incompetent alcoholic without heirs – last de' Medici ruler of Tuscany
1737-1765	Francis Stephen (Francis I), Grand Duke of Tuscany – husband of Austrian Empress Maria Theresa – ruled for Austria
1737-1801	Austrian rule of Grand Duchy of Tuscany
1789-1799	French Revolution – evolved from upper-class demand for reforms into full rebellion
1793-1815	Napoleonic Wars – Britain and allies defeated France
1801-1814	French rule of Tuscany
1815	Congress of Vienna – monarchist balance-of-power in Europe – lasted for a century
1815-1860	Austrian rule of Grand Duchy of Tuscany
1860-present	Tuscany ruled as a part of Italy

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Sites Visited in Tuscany

Tuscany Family Adventures Program

Stanford Travel/Study Program

June 26-July 7, 2016

Land-based

Gargonza

Gargonza was once a medieval village in southern Tuscany, located 50 miles south of Florence and 30 miles east of Siena. In the late 18th century, a noble marriage brought the village of 650 hectares (1250 acres) and its 100 residents into the family of Count Guicciardini. The Guicciardini family continued the medieval tradition of raising olive and pine trees, pressing the olives for oil, and harvesting the pines for lumber and firewood. In the 20th century, they introduced tobacco as a cash crop. After World War II, agriculture in Gargonza was no longer profitable and the farm families emigrated away from the village, some going to the United States. In the early 1970s, the late Count Roberto Guicciardini began carefully restoring the deserted village and converting its buildings into an historic hotel. The restoration project is gradually nearing completion.

Stanford Travel/Study began basing its Tuscany family program in Gargonza in 2001. Our group spent a thoroughly delightful week in this beautifully-restored location. Neri Guicciardini, the Count's son, and Elisa, his wife, who now skillfully manage the property, offered a diverse set of activities to our nine Stanford families. Gargonza was a perfect site for learning Tuscan history and venturing into nearby cities, towns, and villages. The restaurant served elegant and ample Tuscan meals, the swimming pool was a welcome respite during hot afternoons, and the surrounding countryside offered pleasant venues for walkers and joggers. Our

two YELs organized a Stanford family palio at the pool, divided our group into four competing contradas, and officiated half a dozen diverse events. The kids learned how to draw frescoes, play Bocce, and make pizza.

Siena

Eight centuries ago, Siena was the wealthiest city-state in Tuscany because its entrepreneurial bankers serviced the Vatican. In the late 14th century, proud Siena was conquered by the expanding Duchy of Milan. But it soon regained its independence when Milan splintered. However, Grand Duke Cosimo de Medici of Florence besieged Siena for three years and incorporated the former republic into the Duchy of Tuscany in 1557. Thereafter, Siena's fate followed that of Florence. It was taken over by Austria-Hungary in 1737 and became part of united Italy in 1861. Today, Siena is a prosperous Tuscan city of 57,000 residents, thriving on tourism, wine, and small-scale industry. The Bank of Siena, founded in 1472, is the oldest bank in the world. St. Catherine of Siena, a 14th-century religious reformer, was recently named the Patron Saint of Europe.

In 1260, Siennese leaders introduced the Palio – a horse race held twice a year in which each rider represents one of Siena's residential districts (contrada). For four centuries, the race was run through the city streets. Since the mid-17th century, the Palio has been held in Il Campo, the main square of Siena. Every year on July 2 and August 16, ten of Siena's 17 contrada have horses in the race. Each race is preceded by expensive intrigue. Before the race starts, colorful representatives of each contrada march around the Campo, stopping often so that a pair of flag-bearers can demonstrate their abilities to throw their contrada's flags in unison. The bareback riders then race three times around the square. Our group was among the 50,000 avid viewers of the Palio, won this

time by the Lupa (she-wolf) contrada whose jockey passed the leader on the inside rail on the last lap and earned \$500,000.

Arezzo

In many respects, Arezzo historically has been a typical Tuscan hill city. Located about 50 miles southeast of Florence, Arezzo began as an Etruscan settlement about 2,600 years ago. The small Etruscan city affiliated with the Roman Republic in the 4th century BCE. Following the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 CE, Arezzo was ruled by Germans – the Ostrogoths and the Holy Roman Empire – for nearly eight centuries. After enjoying a century of independence, Arezzo was taken over by Florence in 1384 and ruled as a part of Florentine Tuscany until Italy gained its independence in 1861. Two of the leading literary figures of the Italian Renaissance, Petrarch and Boccaccio, were natives of Arezzo. Medieval Arezzo had a population of about 16,000. Today, Arezzo is a bustling, small hill city with 100,000 residents.

Our family visit in Arezzo began with a walking tour of the medieval city center and main square. We then had a marvelous guided tour of the Bacci Chapel in the Basilica of San Francesco. Between 1452 and 1466, a then little-known artist, Piero della Francesca, painted a Renaissance masterpiece in the Bacci Chapel – an incredible fresco cycle of the Legend of the True Cross. The frescoes are in excellent condition because the chapel was closed until recently. After a refreshing visit to a local gelateria, our nine Stanford families drove to a nearby town, Levane, to play soccer/football and enjoy an outdoor picnic with a like number of Italian families. The American kids held their own in the well-contested soccer game, and our Italian hosts laid on an amazing spread of food and a boisterous series of after-dinner, social events. A good time was had by all.

Pienza and Montepulciano

Two unusual Tuscan hill towns, Pienza and Montepulciano, are located southeast of Siena – about an hour’s drive south of Gargonza. Both are sited atop small Tuscan foothills and have unparalleled views of the spectacular Tuscan countryside and wooded hills. Pienza, a UNESCO World Heritage site, today is a well-visited little town of 2,300 permanent residents. In the early 1460s, Pope Pius II, a native son of Pienza, invested personal and Vatican resources to redesign the hill town as a model Renaissance village, with a classic piazza and church facing his family’s palace, the Palazzo Piccolomini. To complement its classic architectural design and splendid views, Pienza attracts tourists with diverse shopping and dining opportunities. Our Stanford families endured high temperatures to spend a very enjoyable couple of hours, with lunch, in classic Pienza.

Montepulciano is the highest of the Tuscan hill towns and is much larger than Pienza. In the 14th century, expanding Florence conquered Montepulciano and constructed a fortress-like façade on the main square to demonstrate its power and control. Today, the town has about 13,000 full-time residents. The vistas from Montepulciano are arguably the best in all of Tuscany. Moreover, that region is reputed to have some of the best red wines in all of Italy. While the kids enjoyed a scavenger hunt in and around the main square (Piazza Grande), the adults sampled wine in the 15th - century cellar of the Talosa Winery. Montepulciano’s vino nobile (made mostly from San Giovese grapes) in 1980 was the first wine in Italy to be awarded the country’s highest appellation, DOCG. Only 50 other of the 13,000 Italian wines have since received that distinction of very high quality.

Lucca

Lucca is a beautiful small city located in the Appenine Mountains about 80 miles west of Florence. Lucca was first constructed by

the Republican Romans in 180 BCE to serve as a strategic outpost guarding mountain trails in the far north of the expanding Roman Empire. Rome needed to protect itself from the Celtic tribes in the Alpine region. After the western Roman Empire fell to the Germanic Ostrogoths in the 5th century, Lucca continued to benefit from its strategic location on trade routes connecting Rome with the north and Pisa with Florence. Lucca prospered in the late Medieval and early Renaissance periods when it was a center of embroidering textiles with imported raw silk. It was the only city-state in Tuscany to maintain its independence when the Medicis in Florence conquered the rest of the region, including Pisa, Livorno, and Siena.

Lucca's current, very impressive wall was built in the late Renaissance period (the early 16th century). At the end of our guided tour, we rented bikes to ride around the three-mile-long wall. We earlier visited the 13th-century cathedral, dedicated to St. Martin (the saint of compassion to the poor), and the 12th-century St. Michael's church, both featuring Romanesque architecture. We also saw the 19th-century home where Giacomo Puccini, the romantic opera composer, was born, and we walked in the old town, where the Romans had originally located their outpost, and through the site of the former Roman amphitheater. Today, Lucca has about 100,000 inhabitants who prosper by serving tourists and a rich agricultural hinterland. Modern Lucca is renowned for its high-quality extra virgin olive oil and its manufacture of toilet-paper-making machinery.

Florence

The Italian Renaissance was centered in Florence. By the early 1300s, Florence had a population of 100,000 and was Europe's richest city. Florentine artisans produced the world's finest woolen cloth, and its merchant-banking families set up lucrative trading networks throughout Europe and the Mediterranean region. The

richest Florentine family, the Medicis, ruled Florence for three centuries, starting in the 1430s. Wealthy Florentines provided patronage for the creative arts – literature, sculpture, painting, and architecture. Although the Renaissance ended in the 1570s, Medici control of Tuscany continued until 1737 when Austria-Hungary took over. Today, Florence is a wealthy Italian city with 500,000 permanent residents, which is visited annually by millions of eager tourists seeking a taste of Italian culture, cuisine, music, and gelati.

We began our investigation of Florence with a guided walking tour of the heart of the city – Piazza della Signoria, Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza del Duomo, and Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise. Everyone in our group marveled at Brunelleschi's engineering genius in constructing the dome of the Duomo. We later visited the Accademia, where we observed Florence's most outstanding sculpture – Michelangelo's *David*. On our last day in Florence, we enjoyed a tour of the incredible paintings in the Uffizi Gallery. Our skilled guides illustrated Renaissance artistic innovations with explanations at Botticelli's *Primavera*, Leonardo da Vinci's *Annunciation*, and Michelangelo's *Holy Family*. The kids then were delighted to have a demonstration of gelati-making at the renowned Grom. We capped off our tour of Florence with a memorable family meal at the renowned ZaZa Restaurant.