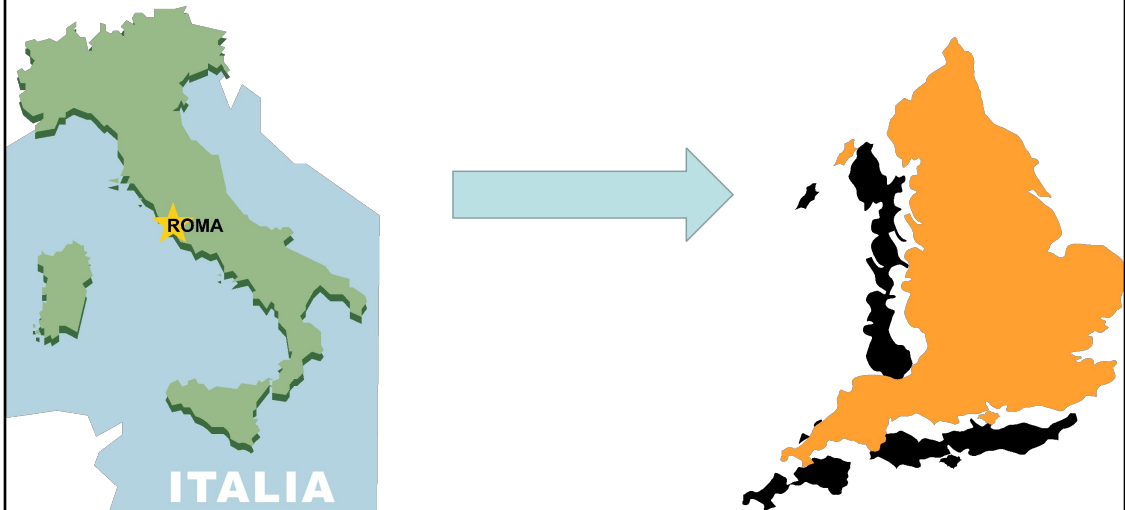


The Renaissance Moves Northward



Northern Renaissance

- Was a separate artistic movement from the Italian Renaissance
- Still strongly influenced by Italian Art and Ideas.
- More princes & kings were patrons of artists.

Northern Renaissance

- Italy's power declined around 1500 CE as French and Spanish monarchs invaded
- Economy declined due to trade routes in the Atlantic (The Columbian Exchange) that took business away from the Italian ports
- **The Northern Renaissance** (after 1450)
 - France, the Low Countries, Germany, and England
 - Knowledge of Greek and Latin literature was important
 - Monarchs start expanding their power

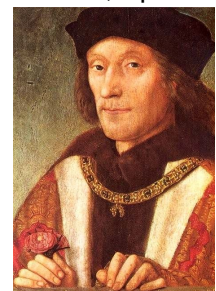


Northern Renaissance

- Northern Europe had **smaller cities** & feudalism and monarchy played a bigger role in politics than in Italy.
 - Feudalism: a way of structuring society around relationships derived from the holding of land in exchange for service or labor.
- Beginning in the 15th c., rulers used Renaissance political ideals along with ruthless drives of power to control large territories. Many monarchs were inspired by **Machiavelli's *The Prince***.
- Resurgence of **strong central monarchies**



Ferdinand and Isabella, Spain



Henry VII, England

Northern Renaissance

- The differences between the two cultures:
 - Italy → change was inspired by humanism with its emphasis on the revival of the values of classical antiquity.
 - Northern Europe → change was driven by religious reform, the return to Christian values, and the revolt against the authority of the Church.

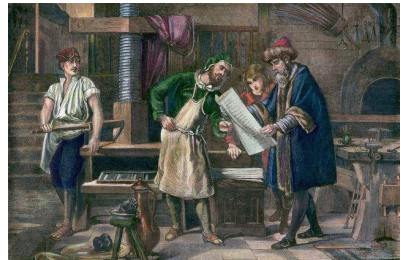
Northern Renaissance

- Growing wealth in Northern Europe supported Renaissance ideas being spread out of Italy.
- Northern Renaissance thinkers merged humanist ideas with Christianity, this was called Christian Humanism.
- The movable type printing press and the production and sale of books (Gutenberg Bible) helped disseminate ideas.

Literature

Literature flourished during the Renaissance
This can be greatly attributed to Johannes Gutenberg
In 1455 Gutenberg printed the first book produced by
using moveable type.

The Bible



Erasmus



- **Desiderius Erasmus** (1466-1536)-
Used classical texts to promote the education of Christians- the best way to improve society was to educate society
- Dutch humanist
- Pushed for a Vernacular form of the Bible
- “I disagree very much with those who are unwilling that Holy Scripture, translated into the vernacular, be read by the uneducated . . . As if the strength of the Christian religion consisted in the ignorance of it”
- *The Praise of Folly*
- Used humor to show the immoral and ignorant behavior of people, including the clergy. He felt people would be open minded and be kind to others.

Sir Thomas More



Sir Thomas More (1478-1535)- *Utopia* was an indirect slam about the state of politics in England. His goal was to combine humanism and Christianity.

English Humanist

Wrote: *Utopia*

A book about a perfect society

Believed men and women live in harmony. No private property, no one is lazy, all people are educated and the justice system is used to end crime instead of executing criminals.

Art Characteristics

- The continuation of late medieval attention to details.
- Tendency toward realism & naturalism [less emphasis on the “classical ideal”].
- Interest in landscapes.
- More emphasis on middle-class and peasant life.
- Details of domestic interiors.
- Great skill in portraiture.



Jan Van Eyck

Portrait of
Giovanni Arnolfini
and his Wife
(1434)

Northern
Renaissance



Van Eyck
Portrait of
Giovanni
Arnolfini and
his Wife (detail)



Quentin Massys

1465-1530

- Belonged to the humanist circle in Antwerp that included Erasmus.
- Influenced by da Vinci.
- Thomas More called him “the renovator of the old art.”

← *The Ugly Dutchess*,
1525-1530

Bruegel's Netherlandish Proverbs

