



# HISTORY OF EARLY MODERN EUROPE

Renaissance and Reformation, Science and Exploration,  
Political change, and Industrial Revolution

# RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

- A period of creativity, of new ideas and inspirations is called the **Renaissance**. 1350 to 1500
- The renaissance was the rebirth of Europe's history and culture.
- Started in Italy.
- Cities such as Florence and Venice became rich through trade.
- People started to become more curious about the larger world, and scholars started traveling to Italy and started learning about ancient Greeks and Romans.
- People started studying subjects that had been taught in Greek and Roman schools, such as Humanities, which led to a new way of thinking and learning known as **humanism**.

# RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

- **Humanism** emphasized the abilities and accomplishments of human beings.
- People started to focus on making this life better, rather than hoping for a better life after death.
- Humanist believed that people were capable of great things and admired artists, architects, writers, and scientists.
- Two famous Renaissance artists were Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.
- The most famous renaissance writer is William Shakespeare.
- One of the most important inventions of the renaissance was the Printing press.
- This allowed books to be printed quickly, cheaply, and share ideas which helped the ideas of the Renaissance to spread beyond Italy.

# REFORMATION

- By the early 1500 Europeans started to have problems with the Roman Catholic Church.
- A religious reform movement is called the **Reformation**.
- People thought church officials were too focused on their own power and had lost sight of their religious duties.
- In 1517 a man named Martin Luther lead a protest against the church. This angered the church and they would expel him.
- Luther's followers then formed a separate church, which was called the **Protestant church**.
- After Martin Luther broke away others would follow.

# REFORMATION

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# SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

- 1540to 1700European views about how to study the world changed.
- Scientific Revolution – the series of events that led to the birth of modern science.
- People began placing more importance on what they observed and less on what they were told.
- People feared that the increasing influence of science would lead to the breakdown of European society.
- People started to base things on facts instead of what they were told by the church.

# SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

- Many great discoveries:
  - How the stars and planets move in the sky.
  - How blood circulates throughout the human body.
  - The greatest advances were made by Sir Isaac Newton.
    - Newton created calculus and other contributions to math and physics.
- New inventions helped ships to sail farther and longer.
  - Compasses, and astrolabes
- With the help of these new inventions sailors wanted to explore for two reasons to spread the Christian faith and to get rich.
- In the Mid 1400 explorers wanted to find an all water route to Asia, for the land route was expensive.
- Most explorers were inspired by Marco Polo.

# SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

- In 1492 Christopher Columbus found the Americas which searching for a sea route to India. Spain financed his voyage.
- With the discovery of new lands the European kingdoms were in a race to claim the best land for themselves.
- Spain was able to gain massive wealth from the Americas and became Europe's mightiest country and the center of a huge empire.