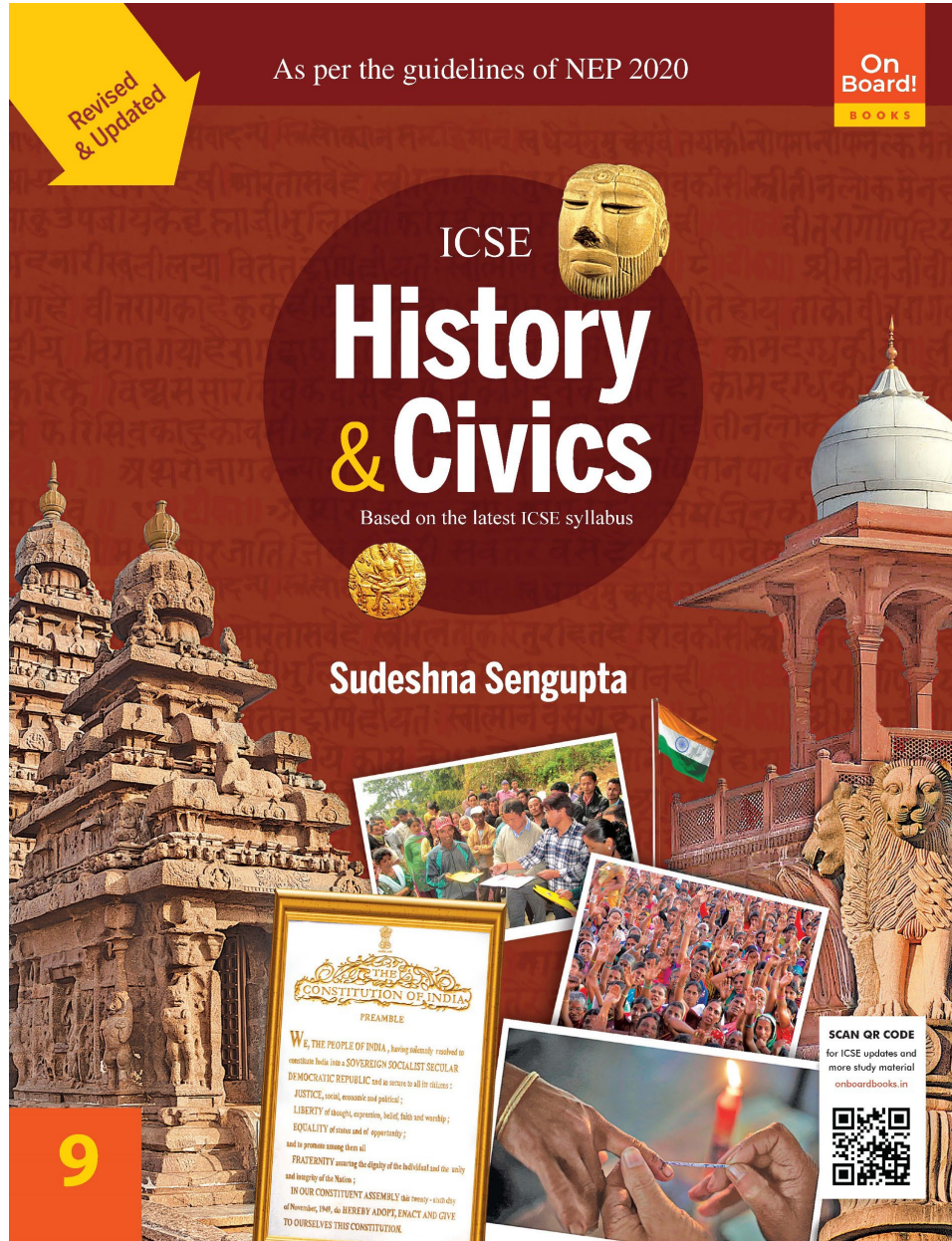


On Board!

B O O K S

History and Civics 9



History 9

Chapter 11: The Renaissance

Inside the Chapter

CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF RENAISSANCE

Rediscovery of ancient texts

Capture of Constantinople

Decline of feudalism

Crusades

Art and learning flourished

Geographical discoveries

Invention of the printing press

IMPACT OF RENAISSANCE IN ITALY

IMPACT OF RENAISSANCE

To Remember

Chapter 11: The Renaissance

The word 'Renaissance', which in French means 'rebirth', was a cultural movement. It spanned roughly between the fourteenth and the seventeenth centuries, beginning in Italy in the late Middle Ages and later spreading to the rest of Europe. During this period, there was a revival of learning based on classical sources, the rise of courtly and papal patronage, the development of a new perspective in painting, and advancements in science.

There is a general consensus that the Renaissance began in Florence, in Italy, in the fourteenth century. Various theories have been proposed to explain its origin and characteristics, focussing on several factors, including the social and political peculiarities of Florence at that time.

CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF RENAISSANCE

Rediscovery of Ancient Texts

The rediscovery of ancient texts, that had been long forgotten by the western civilization, but were preserved in some monastic libraries as well as translations of Greek and Arabic texts into Latin paved the way for Renaissance.

Capture of Constantinople

Greek and Arabic knowledge was not only assimilated from Spain, but also from the Middle East. The decline of the Byzantine Empire after AD 1204 and its eventual fall in AD 1453 led to an exodus of Greek scholars to the west, especially to Italy. These scholars brought with them texts and knowledge of the classical Greek civilization which had been lost for centuries.

Decline of Feudalism

Feudalism, with its hierarchical pattern from the king down to the serfs, was based on the concept of service. This system of obligation was thus opposed to progress. But with the development of trade and commerce, the traders became prosperous. The economic focus shifted from agriculture to commerce. Consequently individualistic ideas and growth of free spirit and thinking made it conducive for Renaissance to flourish during this period.

Crusades

Crusades were religious wars that were fought between the Christians and the Muslims. They not only weakened the power of the feudal lords but also indirectly, led to an exchange of ideas between the East and the West. This gave an impetus to learning.

Art and Learning Flourished

In this period towns and cities emerged as centres of activity. Merchants and artists began living in these cities. Most of the merchants patronized learning. Thus schools and universities came up in Paris, Bologna, Naples, Padua, Oxford and Cambridge. Individual artists and scholars also received royal patronage.

Geographical Discoveries

The need to discover sea routes became essential when the Turks refused to allow trade through Constantinople. Columbus set out to discover a western route to the Indies but instead discovered America. Bartholomew Diaz was successful in reaching the Cape of Good Hope. Vasco da Gama discovered India. These discoveries not only gave new outlets of trade to the West, but also influenced the contemporary western thought.

Invention of the Printing Press

Renaissance received a major boost after the invention of the printing press. Earlier the manual copying of books and manuscripts made reading an expensive proposition. But the printing press brought books not only within the reach of scholars but common people also. Knowledge no longer remained the select prerogative of the rich.

IMPACT OF RENAISSANCE IN ITALY

Italy was the cradle of Renaissance. Gradually, it spread to the other parts of the world.

- Italy was the seat of the glorious Roman Empire. It had preserved many relics of worth, which attracted a number of scholars and artists from all over Europe.
- The Greek scholars who had fled from Constantinople also found a haven in the towns of Italy. These scholars were a source of inspiration for the people of Italy.
- Trade had resulted in profits for the Italian port towns and cities. The wealthy merchants patronized men of letters and art, which led to the revival of classical culture and literature.
- The opportunity so provided by the geographical explorations polished the outlook and vision of the western world. This helped in nurturing Renaissance.






IMPACT OF RENAISSANCE

With the dramatic changes brought about by inventions and discoveries all around the world, it was inevitable that the effects of the movement would be tremendous.








- The Renaissance with its discoveries and achievements paved the way for Reformation.
- Man found himself as the centre of all activities and he started questioning, observing and critically analyzing events taking place.

- Meaningless rituals and practices were no longer blindly accepted.
- The human form and human life was eulogized.
- Independent thinking was encouraged and accepted.
- The focus of attention shifted from the Church and theology to man, his interests, achievements and his very existence.
- Humanism developed, as did the study of humanities.
- This undermined the position of the Church greatly.
- With the collapse of feudalism, professional men like lawyers, traders, soldiers, bankers, i.e. the middle class became important. These men wanted peace and security and so they supported the monarchy. Hence the growth of the middle class indirectly led to the rise of the monarchical form of government. The concept of Nationalism also gained ground as the political reins of the country came to be controlled by the rulers of the day.
- The discovery of new lands and new sea routes enhanced trade in Europe. Industries developed, as did the desire for material gains.
- The search for new lands was also based on the requirement of raw materials along with newer markets for their products. Renaissance thus stimulated economic growth.
- Culturally, the study of Greek and Latin gave impetus to education, which consequently led to the establishment of schools and colleges teaching philosophy, politics and sciences.
- Inventions and discoveries encouraged the study of the sciences and allied subjects.
- Development in the field of art and architecture created a new genre of work so typical of the period. Innovations in buildings, paintings, sculptures, portraits, etc. made the age varied and rich.






PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

Name	Profession	Creation		Details
Leonardo da Vinci	Sculptor Painter Artist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Last Supper ◆ Mona Lisa 		Painting was an imitation of nature. An artist was an inspired creator.
Michelangelo	Sculptor Painter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ David ◆ Pieta ◆ Paintings in the Sistine Chapel 		The presence of the human figure denoting power and magnificence.
Raphael	Painter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sistine Madonna ◆ Painted the Chigi Chapel 		Worked in service of the Pope. The figures displayed wisdom and dignity.
Lorenzo Ghiberti	Sculptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Two bronze doors for the baptistery at Florence 		The doors were like the doors to Paradise.
Donatello	Sculptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Bronze statue of David, triumphant over the body of the slain Goliath 		The first nude statue in the field of art, 13 ft tall, depicts the beauty of the human form.






SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Name	Discoveries
 <p>Nicolaus Copernicus</p>	Proved that the earth is round, the earth, the moon and the planets revolved round the sun.
 <p>Johannes Kepler</p>	Proved that the earth and the other planets do not move around the sun in a circle but in an elliptical orbit.
 <p>Galileo Galilei</p>	Proved that the speed of falling objects depends upon distance and not weight. He invented the thermometer and hydrostatic balance.
 <p>Sir Isaac Newton</p>	Discovered the Universal Law of Gravitation.
 <p>William Harvey</p>	Described in detail the circulation of blood in human body.
 <p>Edmund Halley</p>	Calculated the orbit of the comet. Also calculated the year of its return. The Halley's comet is named after him.
 <p>Rene Descartes</p>	Propounded analytic geometry.

LITERATURE

Name	Profession	Works	DETAILS
 <p>Machiavelli</p>	<p>Political Writer</p>	<p><i>The Prince</i></p>	<p>Political concepts that were a guide for rulers.</p>
 <p>Dante</p>	<p>Poet</p>	<p><i>Divine Comedy</i></p>	<p>An epic poem that talks about the love for one's country and the social and religious life of the people of contemporary Italy.</p>
 <p>Petrarch</p>	<p>Scholar, called the 'Father of Humanism'</p>	<p><i>Canzoniere</i></p>	<p>Talked about the economic, social and political aspects of life.</p>
 <p>Boccaccio</p>	<p>Prose Writer, called the 'Father of Italian Prose'</p>	<p><i>Decameron</i></p>	<p>A collection of 100 novellas, wherein morality and virtue were highlighted.</p>
 <p>Geoffrey Chaucer</p>	<p>Poet, called the 'Father of English Poetry'</p>	<p><i>The Canterbury Tales</i></p>	<p>Social, religious and moral issues highlighted through central characters as they embark upon a long journey.</p>

Continued

	Thomas More	Prose Writer	<i>Utopia</i>	An ideal society where there is no exploitation and no class distinctions.
	William Shakespeare	Dramatist, Playwright and Poet	<i>Julius Caesar</i> <i>Macbeth</i> <i>Hamlet</i>	All based on human relationships, conflicts and resolutions.
	John Milton	Poet	<i>Paradise Lost</i>	The fall of Satan and the tussle with God.
	Montaigne	Essayist	<i>Essays</i>	He wrote against authority, the tyranny of the past and the real life experiences of men.
	Cervantes	Writer	<i>Don Quixote</i>	Ridiculed chivalry and talked about achievement.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERIES

Name	Details
Bartholomew Diaz	Reached the southernmost tip of Africa in AD 1488. Called it the 'Cape of Storms'. This was later renamed the 'Cape of Good Hope'.
Vasco da Gama	Reached Calicut on the western coast of India in AD 1498. Thus India and the East were opened to trade.
Christopher Columbus	Reached an island in AD 1492 on his search for a new sea route to the East. Thought it was the Indies, but it was actually America.
Amerigo Vespucci	Reached America after following the route of Columbus. Stated that the New World discovered was very different from Asia. America is named after him.
Ferdinand Magellan	The first voyager to circumnavigate the earth.
Hernan Cortés	Discovered Mexico.
John Cabot	Reached the north-east shores of North America. Named one island as Newfoundland.
Sir Francis Drake	Made a voyage around the world.

To Remember

Meaning of Renaissance— French for rebirth, a cultural movement that began in Florence in Italy, spread in Europe in the sixteenth century, Renaissance affected every aspect of human life, Causes for the rise of Renaissance: Rediscovery of ancient texts, capture of Constantinople, decline of feudalism, Crusades, art and learning flourished, geographical discoveries, invention of the printing press, Impact in Italy: Attracted scholars and artists, wealthy merchants patronized

men of letters and art, broadened outlook because of contact with the East, Impact of Renaissance: Paved the way for Reformation, growth of middle class helped secure peace, impetus to economic growth, encouraged studies in different disciplines.

Thank You