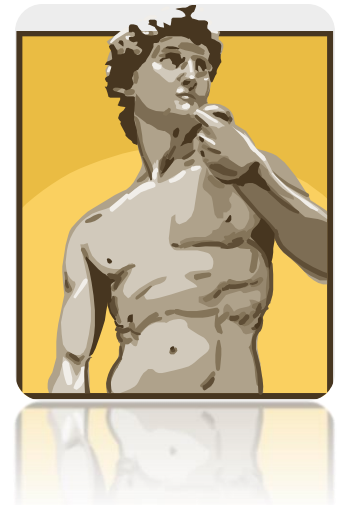


The Renaissance



- Questions:
 - What does it mean?
 - Renaissance = Rebirth
 - What is it?
 - A cultural movement calling for the revival of Greco-Roman ways throughout the 14th and 17th centuries in Europe
 - Where did it start?
 - Italy...in particular Florence Italy



The Italian Renaissance



- The Renaissance began in Italy because
 - Following the Crusades, many Greek scholars & texts came to Italy (fleeing from Constantinople)
 - While feudalism was collapsing in the rest of western Europe, Italy's city-states were urban (and not bound by feudal restrictions)
 - New trade routes caused merchants and bankers to become wealthy.
 - A “middle class” emerges in Europe.

A New “Middle Class”

- Following the Plague, thinking in Europe began to change.
- With plenty of money to pay for the necessities of life, these newly wealthy merchants and bankers could focus their lives on leisure, education, and the arts.



Florence



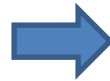
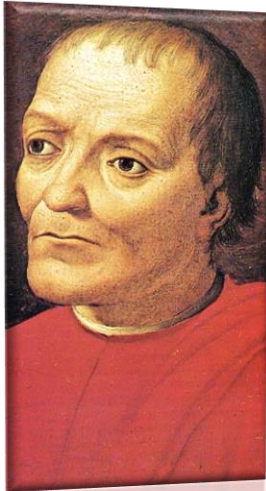
Florence

- Capital of the Italian Renaissance
 - Home to wealthy families such as the Medici, Pazzi, and Pitti
 - Home to great artists such as Michelangelo, Botticelli, Vasari, & Brunelleschi.
- Oligarchy ➡ *noun* - a small group of people who control a country, organization, or institution.
- Gained status & wealth through banking (Wall Street of the Renaissance)



The Medici

- Connected and influential family
- Gained power through textiles and banking
 - Estimated to be the most wealthy family in Europe
 - Loaned money to monarchs and the Church
 - » At 40 % interest rates



Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici
Founder of the Medici Bank

Medici coat
of arms; still
seen on
buildings in
Florence
today



The Medici

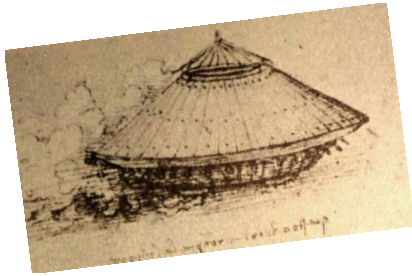
- In 1434 Cosimo de Medici becomes political boss of Florence
 - For next 100 years the Medici run Florence
- Patron of the arts
- 4 family members elected pope (Leo X, Clement VII, Pius IV & Leo XI)
- Catherine becomes Queen of France



The Renaissance Artists

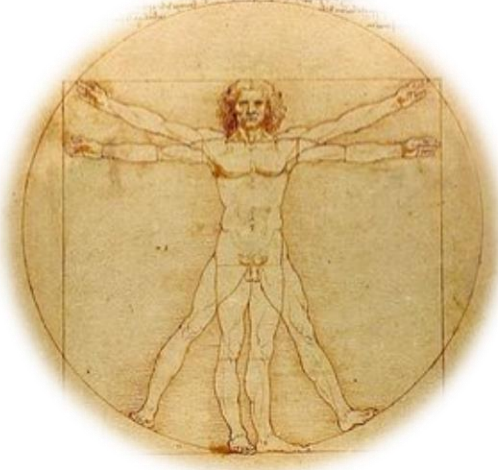
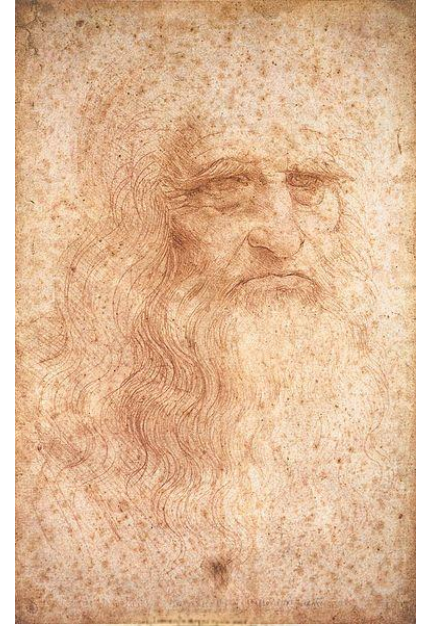
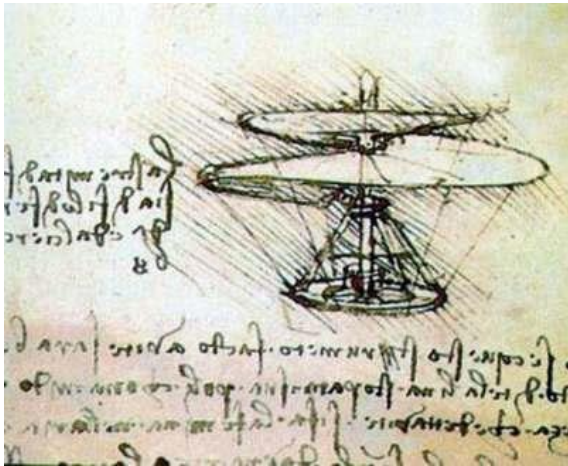
- Florence was the home to many of the great Renaissance artists
 - Michelangelo Buonarotti
 - Painter, sculptor, and architect
 - Considered greatest sculptor of all-time
 - Leonardo Di Vinci
 - Painter, inventor, and more!
 - Donatello
 - Bass-relief sculptor
 - Raffaello Sanzio
 - Painter & architect



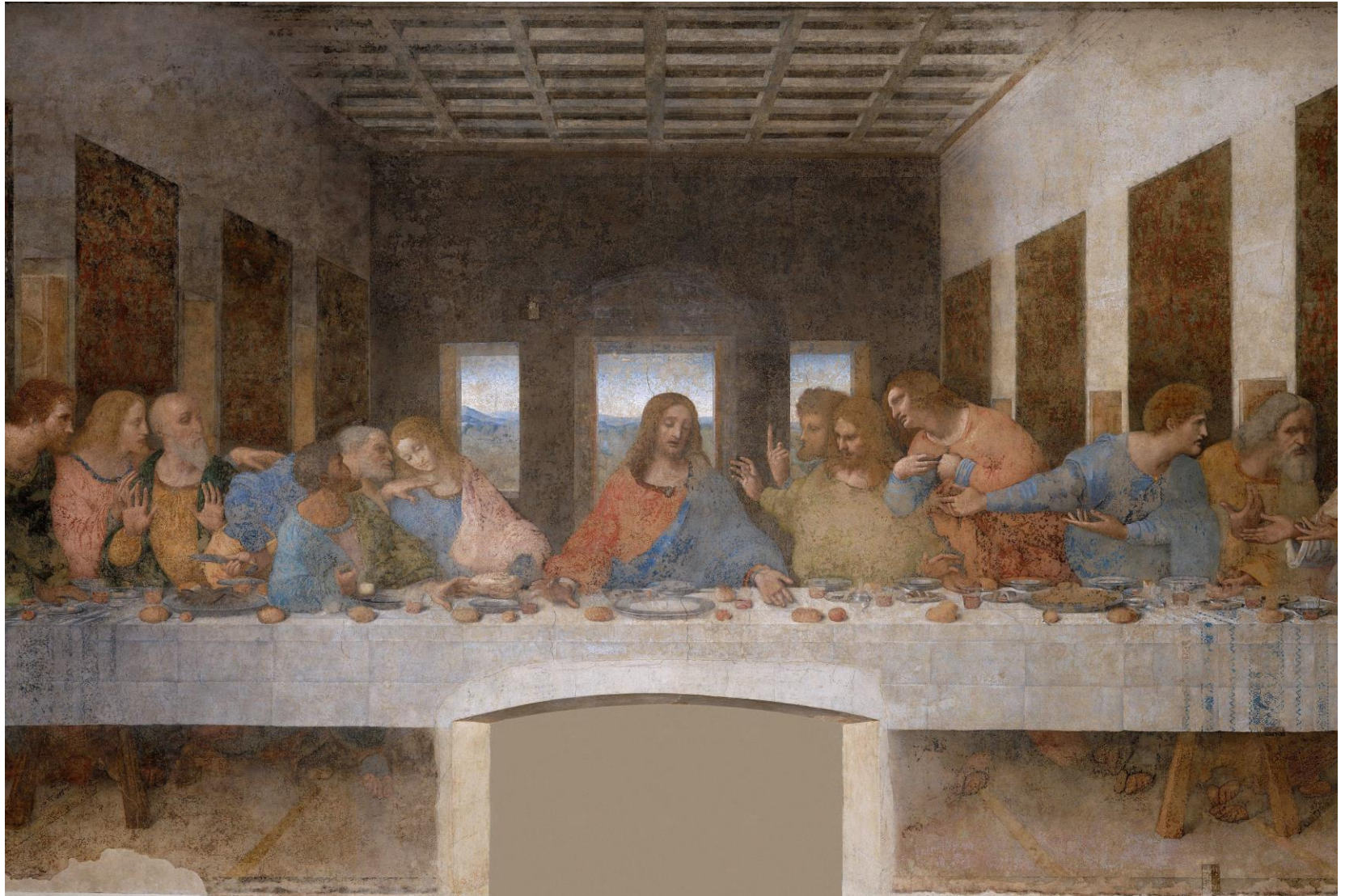


Renaissance Artists

- Leonardo da Vinci
 - Inventor, painter, engineer, sculptor, scientists, and architect
 - The true “Renaissance Man”



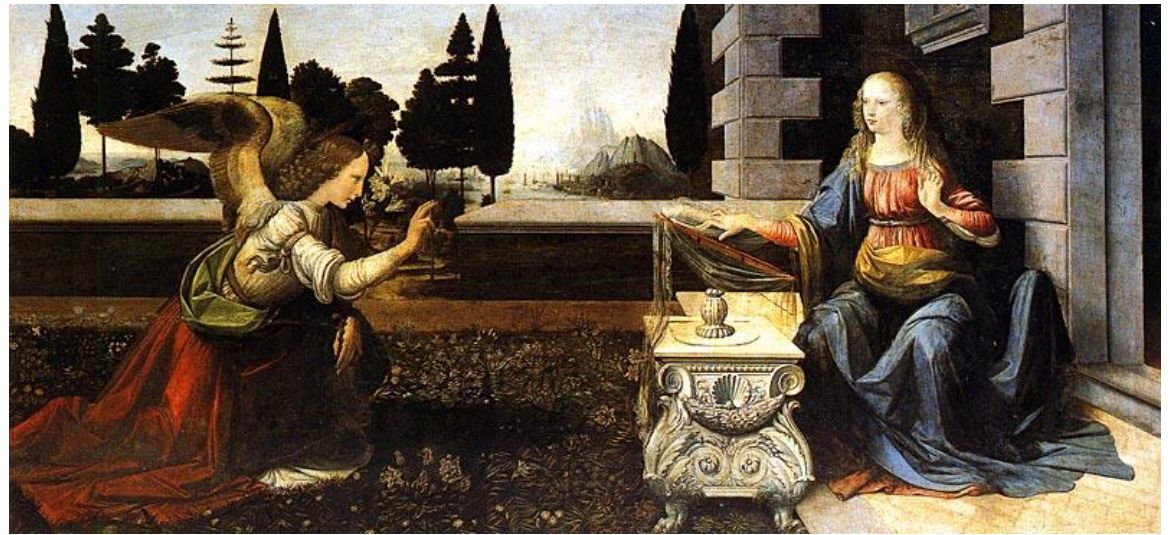
The Last Supper





Italian Renaissance Artists

- Characteristics
 - Celebration of the human body
 - Portraits of wealthy and politicians
 - Religious art focused on the human aspects of the Divine
 - Greco-Roman mythology & themes

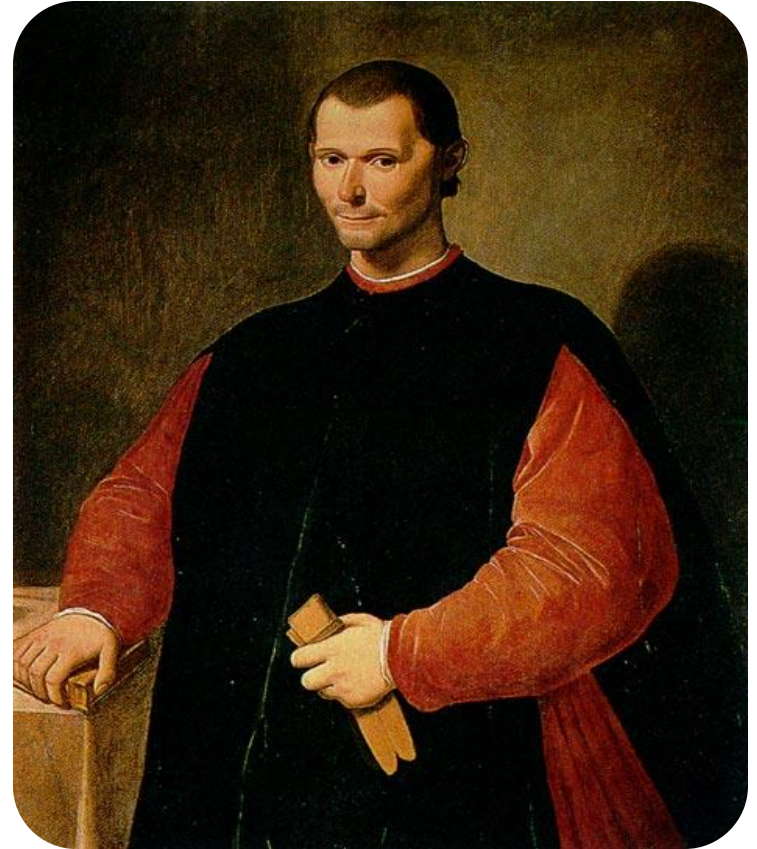


Humanism and Secularism

- Humanism emphasizes the worth and uniqueness of each individual.
- Secularism is a non-religious viewpoint.
- While these ideas first became popular in Italy, they eventually spread to the rest of Europe.

Niccolò Machiavelli & Civic Humanism

- Civic Humanism
 - It was the duty of virtuous men to take positions of leadership in government
- One of the first modern ambassadors
 - Had political ambition
- Wrote *The Prince*
 - Detailed his views on what makes a good leader & how to stay in power
 - Dedicated to the Medici family in hopes of gaining favor w/the powerful family



Machiavelli's *The Prince*



The cover page of the 1550 edition of Machiavelli's *The Prince* and *The Life of Castruccio Castracani of Lucca*.