

The Renaissance

Italian Renaissance

- Greek Humanism (individualism)
 - Mirandola
- Art glorifying man (harmony)
 - Raphael's "School of Athens"
- Diplomacy and city-states
 - Machiavelli (Italy)

Northern Renaissance

- Christian Humanism (reform)
 - Erasmus
- Art portraying man as he is (details)
 - Van Eyck's "Arnolfini"
- Monarchy and centralization
 - Ferdinand and Isabella (Spain)
 - Henry VII (England)

Northern Monarchy and Centralization

Feudal monarchies (small) gradually evolved into unified national monarchies (big).

As a result, taxes and laws became national policies (uniformity).

Political theorists defended the sovereign rights of monarchy.

*There was intellectual support for political centralization.

Monarchs needed increasing amounts of revenue, which brought them into conflict with the nobility who refused to pay taxes.

France

Charles VII

- professional army, strong economy, national administration

Louis XI

- France becomes great power after the Hundred Years' War

Charles VIII

- invaded the Italian city-states (weakened France)

Louis XII

- invaded the Italian city-states, defeated Holy League, and gained authority over the French clergy (strengthened monarchy)

Spain

-Results of union between Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile:

1. Secure borders
2. Subdue people
3. Military actions abroad
4. Christianize Spain

-Under Ferdinand and Isabella the toleration of Judaism and Islam ceased due to the introduction of state-controlled religion.

-The Inquisition, led by Tomas de Torquemada, monitored converted Jews and Muslims

-1492, Jews are expelled from Spain and their property is confiscated

-1492, Spain sponsors the voyage of Christopher Columbus, which leads to Spanish Empire in Mexico and Peru

England

- Following the conclusion of the Hundred Years' War with France, England experienced civil war over the throne between the House of York and the House of Lancaster (War of the Roses)
- The conflict was resolved in 1485 when Henry Tudor (Lancaster) took the throne as Henry VII (reign 1485-1509).
- Henry VII created the Court of Star Chamber to curb the nobility's abuse of the law (more equitable court system)
- Henry VII also used the court to advance the goals of the monarchy and his son Henry VIII inherited a powerful government

Holy Roman Empire

- German territories and cities resisted all efforts of centralization and national unity.
- “Germany” was actually 300 autonomous political entities
- The power of Emperor Charles IV within the HRE was balanced by the power of the independent princes.
- However, the Reichstag was created as a national assembly to coordinate internal “German” policies and to keep the peace.
- The decentralized and independent nature of the German territories and cities would prove fertile ground for the Protestant Reformation