

The Late Renaissance In Italy

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The Idea of Renaissance

lifting the veil of the Middle Ages . . .

The Three Crowns of Italian Literature

Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio



Political Overview

- 14th-15th Century rise of Despotism
- 15th Century: fragile balance of power
 - First half = wars and confrontations
 - Second half = peace led to complacency
- 16th Century: the cinquecento is dominated by foreign invasions that destroyed the autonomy of the Italian city states

Political Map of Italy



Giorgio Vasari

- “The Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects”, chronological series of artist bios (1550)
- THREE PHASES OF REBIRTH:

1) 14th Century Cimabue/Giotto

Painting style = Byzantine iconic to more realistic

2) 15th Century Donatello/Brunelleschi/Masaccio

Refinement of Ideas

3) 16th Century Leonardo/Raphael/Michelangelo

Ripened and matured with
the three giants of the Ren.



Saint Peter's Basilica



Michelangelo Buonarroti



Among all those artists, living and dead, he who wins the prize, transcending all others is Michelangelo Buonarroti; he reign supreme not only in art, but in all three (painting, sculpture, architecture). He has triumphed not only over all those artists who have almost vanquished Nature herself, but without a shadow of a doubt he has surpassed the most celebrated ancients whose works are so praised.

- Vasari, *Lives of the Artists*, 1550

The Sistine Chapel



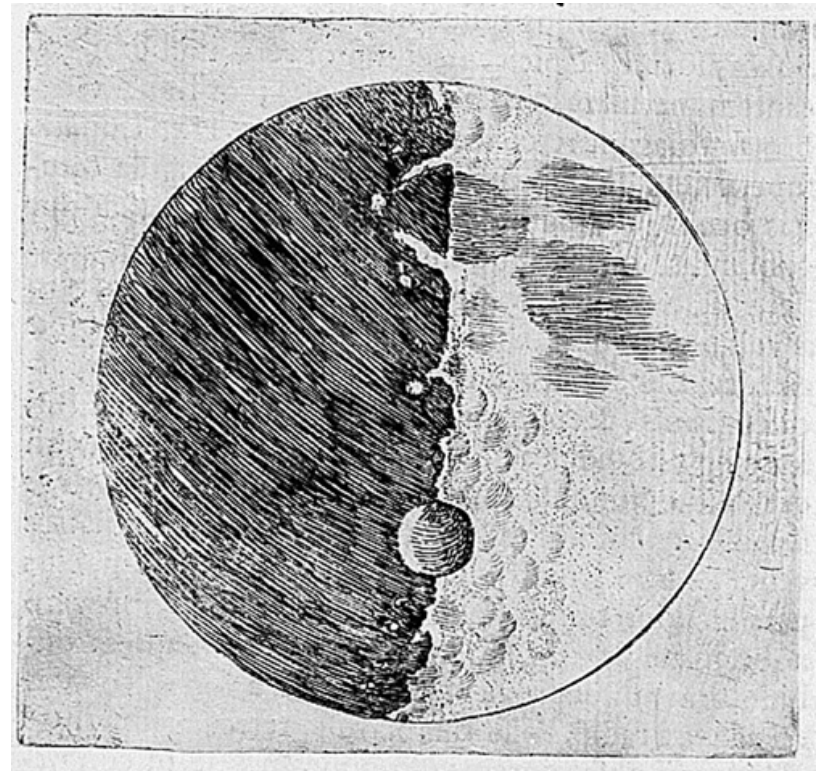
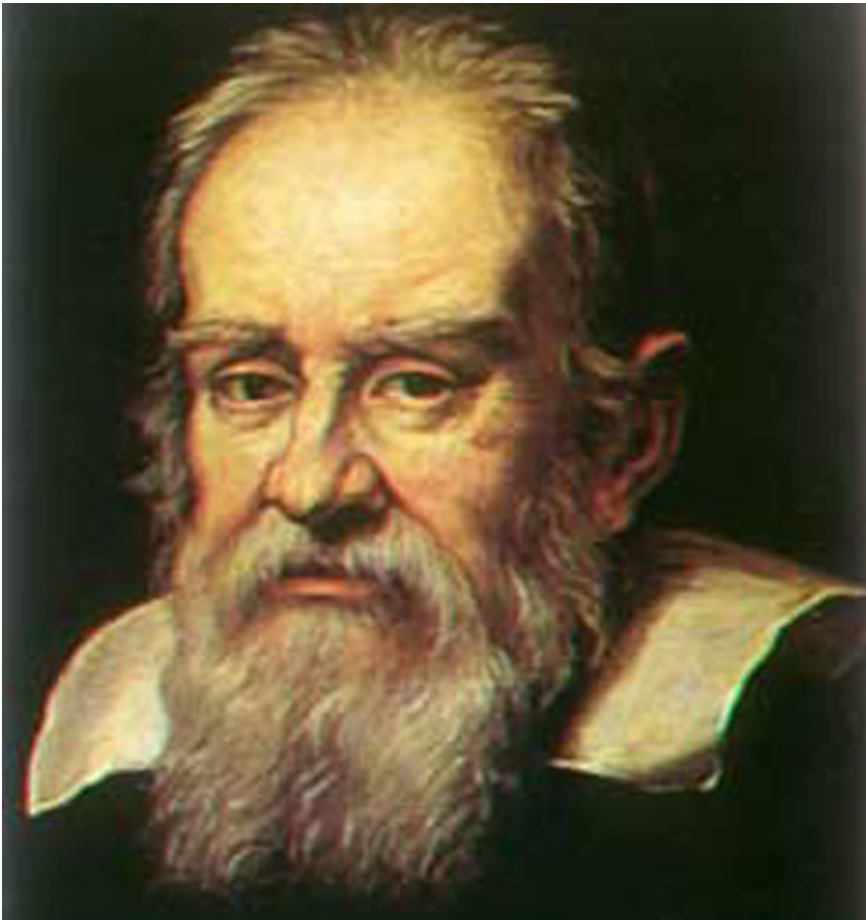
Machiavelli & Castiglione

The Prince and the Courtier



The Waning of the Age

- The Scientific Revolution is Pushed Northward



Conclusions Questions?

