

## **Summer Reading Assignment for MEHAP (Modern European History AP)**

### **A. Read and annotate the following six reading packets:**

1. The Origins of the Italian Renaissance
2. Humanism and its influence on the Arts of the Italian Renaissance
3. The Renaissance in Northern Europe
4. The Rise of New Monarchies and the Growth of State Power
5. Spanish and Portuguese Overseas Expansion, 1450-1600
6. Continuity and Change: The Society of Renaissance Europe

After reading each packet, take notes on the **Key Questions** listed below and familiarize yourself with the **Terms to Know**.

### **B. Study the countries, physical features, and major cities of Europe.**

### **C. There will be a test consisting of multiple choice questions, map questions, and one of the essays below **on the third day of class**. There are practice MCQs at the end of this handout.**

1. Evaluate the extent to which the 14<sup>th</sup> century can be considered a turning point in European history.
2. Analyze the ways in which new ideas about the individual impacted the arts\* of the Renaissance period. (\* the arts include painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, and music).
3. Compare and contrast the Renaissance in Italy and Northern Europe.
4. Describe and analyze the political and economic factors that led to the rise of Spain and the decline of the Italian states between 1450 and 1550.
5. Analyze the impact of European overseas expansion between 1450 and 1600 on both Europeans and non-Europeans.
6. To what extent did the Renaissance bring about social changes in Europe?

### **D. Optional Video**

If you want to take a cool tour of Renaissance Florence, then watch the following video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ut-e40u3IS0>

## Renaissance Europe c. 1450-1550

### Reading 1: *The Origins of the Italian Renaissance*

#### Key Questions:

1. Describe and analyze the factors that brought about the collapse of medieval civilization.
2. To what extent did Renaissance humanists challenge traditional definitions of knowledge and sources of authority?
3. What role did technology play in sustaining this challenge?
4. Explain the political, social, economic, and cultural reasons the Renaissance began in northern Italy.

#### Terms to Know:

Bubonic Plague/Black Death	<i>popolo grosso</i>
Avignon Papacy	<i>popolo minute</i>
Great Schism	Francesco Petrarch
Humanism	Medici family
<i>Campanilismo</i>	Florence
Johann Gutenberg	

## Reading 2: *Humanism and its influence on the Arts of the Italian Renaissance*

### Key Questions:

1. To what extent did the four main values of Renaissance humanism (love of classical antiquity, individualism, secularism, and civic humanism) create a fundamentally new understanding of individuals and society?
2. Explain how the literature of the Renaissance embodies these four humanist values.
3. How does Machiavelli's *The Prince* present a secular concept of the state?
4. Analyze the importance of the moveable type printing press to humanist scholars.
5. Explain how the painting, sculpture, architecture, and music of the Renaissance embody humanist values (love of classical antiquity, individualism, secularism/naturalism, and civic humanism).

### Terms to Know:

Humanism

*Studia humanitatis*

Secularism

Civic Humanism

*Oration on the Dignity of Man* by Pico della Mirandola

*Book of The Courtier* by Baldassare Castiglione

*Donation of Constantine* by Lorenzo Valla

*The Prince* by Niccolò Machiavelli

Naturalism

*Primavera* by Botticelli

*The Birth of Venus* by Botticelli

*The School of Athens* by Raphael

*Vitruvian Man* by Leonardo da Vinci

*Mona Lisa* by Leonardo da Vinci

*David* by Donatello

*David* by Michelangelo

*Pietà* by Michelangelo

Gates of the Baptistery by Ghiberti

Dome of the Cathedral by Brunelleschi

Villa Rotunda by Palladio

Monophonic music

Polyphonic music

### **Reading 3: *The Renaissance in Northern Europe***

#### Key Questions:

1. How did the ideas of the Italian Renaissance spread to Northern Europe?
2. In his highly influential book, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (published in 1860), Swiss historian Jacob Burckhardt claimed that the Renaissance spread from civilized Italy to backward northern Europe. What evidence could be used both to support and refute this thesis?
3. What was the significance of Johann Gutenberg's printing press?
4. Compare Italian and Northern humanists. (at least one similarity and one difference)
5. How do the writings of Erasmus, Thomas More, and Johann Reuchlin reflect the values of Humanism?
6. What were the main similarities and differences between Italian and Northern Renaissance art?
7. Describe and explain how the paintings of Pieter Bruegel, Albrecht Dürer, and Jan Van Eyck, reflect the values of Humanism.

#### Terms to Know:

Christian Humanism

Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*, *Julius II Excluded*

Thomas More, *Utopia*

The Reuchlin Affair

Pieter Bruegel the Elder, *The Peasant Wedding*

Albrecht Dürer, *Self Portrait at Age 28 with Fur Coat*

Jan Van Eyck, *The Arnolfini Marriage*

## Reading 4: *The Rise of New Monarchies and the Growth of State Power*

### Key Questions:

1. Explain why strong centralized states did not emerge during the Middle Ages.
2. Explain how the New Monarchies subordinated the nobility to the state
3. Explain how the New Monarchies subordinated the Catholic Church to the state. How could the Church be useful to the state? Why might a ruler not want religious minorities? In what ways did the Catholic Church remain a powerful force within various kingdoms?
4. Explain how towns and educated/wealthy middle class men benefitted from the rise of centralized states.
5. How did new technologies further the process of centralization?
6. How did the theories of political philosophers like Machiavelli further the process of centralization?
7. Explain why political centralization did not occur in either Italy or the Holy Roman Empire.
8. Explain the reasons behind the short-lived Italian commitment to collective security and balance of power in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### Terms to Know:

Feudal political system

New Monarchy

Tithe

Ecclesiastical courts

Excommunication

Interdict

Black Death

Avignon Papacy

Great Schism

Hundred Years' War

Royal town charters

Ferdinand of Aragon

Isabella of Castile

*Reconquista*

Moorish Kingdom of Granada

*Hermanidades*

Royal Council

Edict of Expulsion

*Conversos*

*Moriscos*

Spanish Inquisition

Tomás de Torquemada

Pope Alexander VI

Catherine of Aragon

Joanna of Castile

Emperor Charles V

Charles VII (Valois)

*Taille*

*Gabelle*

Gallican Liberties

Duchy of Burgundy

Wars of the Roses

Henry VII (Tudor)

Law against "livery and maintenance"

Star Chamber

Peace of Lodi

## Reading 5: *Spanish and Portuguese Overseas Expansion, 1450-1600*

### Key Questions:

1. Assess the relative influence of economic, religious, and political motives in promoting Spanish and Portuguese exploration and colonization.
2. Why did European overseas expansion coincide with the rise of New Monarchies?
3. What political and technological developments enabled the Spanish and Portuguese to establish and administer overseas commercial and territorial empires?
4. How did overseas expansion shape European culture, politics, economy, and society?
5. Explain the economic policy of mercantilism.
6. What impact did contact with Europe have on non-European societies?
7. What attitudes did Europeans have towards non-Europeans in this time period?
8. Compare and contrast Spanish and Portuguese overseas expansion between 1450 and 1600

### Terms to Know:

Bartholomeu Dias	Pope Alexander VI
Christopher Columbus	Line of Demarcation
Vasco da Gama	Treaty of Tordesillas
Amerigo Vespucci	Potosí
Ferdinand Magellan	Price Revolution
Hernan Cortes	Emperor Charles V
Francisco Pizarro	Mercantilism
<i>Hacienda</i>	Bartolomé de Las Casas
<i>Encomienda</i>	New Laws of 1542
<i>Mita</i>	Mestizo
Columbian Exchange	Michel de Montaigne <i>Of Cannibals</i>

**Reading 6: *Continuity and Change: The Society of Renaissance Europe***

Key Question:

1. To what extent did Renaissance humanism, the emergence of New Monarchies, and overseas expansion change European society?

Terms to Know:

*Popolo Grosso*

Patronage

Cosimo de Medici

Christine de Pisan, *The Treasure of the City of Ladies*

Lorenzo de Medici

*The Fight Between Carnival and Lent* by Pieter Bruegel the Elder

### Practice Multiple Choice Questions

“To study new phrases and to affect words that are not of current use proceeds from a trivial and scholastic ambition. Not that fine speaking is not a very good and commendable quality, but not so excellent or necessary as some would make it, and I am outraged that our whole life should be spent in nothing else. I would first understand my own language and that of my neighbors with whom most of my business and conversation lies. No doubt but Greek and Latin are very great ornaments, and of great use, but we buy them at too great an expense. My late father, having made the most precise inquiry of an exact method of education, believed that the tedious time applied to the learning of these tongues was the sole cause we could not arrive to the grandeur of soul and perfection of knowledge of the ancient Greeks and Romans.”

- French humanist, Michel de Montaigne (1580)

1. The passage above is different from many Renaissance works like Castiglione's *The Book of the Courtier*, as it seems to contradict
  - (A) the importance of education
  - (B) the emphasis on vernacular literature
  - (C) the reverence for Greek and Latin learning
  - (D) the written word
2. Which of the following sources from the Renaissance parallels Montaigne's thoughts on language?
  - (A) Pietro Bembo of Venice published his *Prose della Volgar Lingua* which was one of the earliest Italian grammars
  - (B) Thomas More's *Utopia* was published in Latin to allow humanists throughout Europe a common tongue to share learning
  - (C) Erasmus was the editor the first New Testament to be printed in its original Greek
  - (D) Johann Reuchlin's works promoted the study of Hebrew in order to better understand the Old Testament



“You should know that the said King of Portugal has leased this island to Christians for ten years, so that no one can enter the bay to trade with the Arabs save those who hold the license. These Christians have dwellings on the island and markets where they buy and sell with the said Arabs who come to the coast to trade for merchandise of various kinds, such as woolen cloths, cotton, silver, and coarse cloth, that is cloaks, carpets, and similar articles and above all grain, for they are always short of food. The Arabs give in exchange slaves whom the Arabs bring from the land of the Blacks, and gold dust. The King therefore caused a castle to be built on the island to protect this trade forever. For this reason, Portuguese caravels come and go all year long to this island.”

- Alvise de Ca'da Mosto, Venetian merchant, describing the Portuguese island of Arguim off the west coast of Africa, 1454

3. The licensing of trade described in the passage is an example of which of the following state policies?

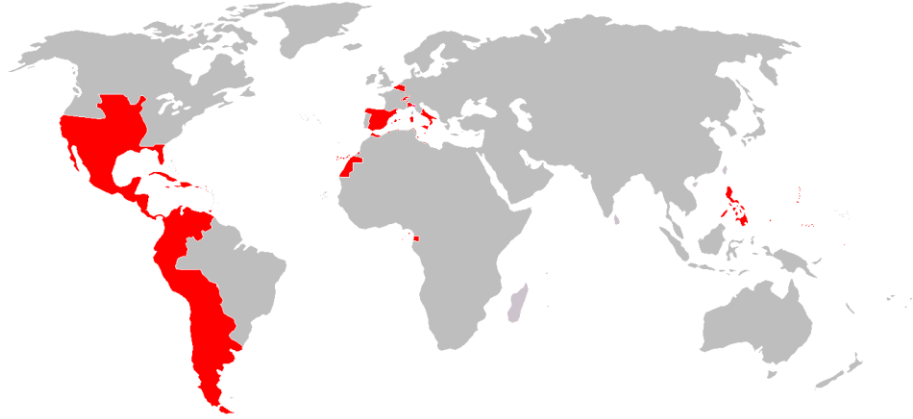
- (A) The monopolization of force by the state
- (B) The preservation of regional autonomy and tax collection
- (C) The implementation of mercantilism to promote the state's economic interests
- (D) The development of new banking techniques to enhance commerce

4. The Portuguese slave trade described in the passage led most directly to which of the following?

- (A) Columbus' voyages of exploration
- (B) The development of new navigational technology
- (C) The foundation of English and French colonies in North America
- (D) The establishment of a European-dominated system of plantation agriculture



5. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic feature of Renaissance art depicted in the painting above?
- (A) Use of geometric perspective
  - (B) Distortion and illusion
  - (C) Classical influence
  - (D) Human-centered style
6. How were the artistic changes in the painting linked to economic changes during this time?
- (A) The development of trade routes with Asia introduced Chinese landscape painting techniques to Europe
  - (B) The declining wealth of the Catholic Church meant that few paintings reflected religious subject matter
  - (C) Links to the new world undermined traditional approaches to the visual arts
  - (D) Growing wealth promoted a secular focus which was reflected in detailed representations of this world
7. A historian arguing that the Renaissance was not a “beginning of a new age” would focus on which of the following features related to the painting?
- (A) The realistic style, the introduction of which can be traced to Crusades-era art
  - (B) The religious subject matter, which was simply portrayed in a new way
  - (C) The absence of any sort of classical focus, which was the hallmark of the modern age
  - (D) The use of human expressions to explore the thoughts that the individuals in the painting were thinking



8. Which of the following was an outcome for the country controlling the red shaded areas on the map?
- (A) Deflation in agriculture and industry
  - (B) Expanding military power in Europe
  - (C) Long wars with China to control the spice trade
  - (D) Control of European textile manufacturing
9. The development of the empire on the map resulted in which of the following social changes?
- (A) European rule over subjugated states in the Americas
  - (B) The exchange of plants and animals between Eastern and Western hemispheres
  - (C) Demographic catastrophe for many indigenous populations
  - (D) The expansion of mercantilist policies
10. The development of the empire above and others like it represented a turning point in European history in that...
- (A) it marked the beginning of the decline of the Roman Catholic Church
  - (B) imports of Asian luxury items were greatly reduced
  - (C) it spread Renaissance ideas to the Americas, Africa, and Asia
  - (D) the focus of trade shifted from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic