

# The Italian City-States and the “New Monarchs”



# Why Italy?

- Why did the Renaissance begin in northern Italy?
- “Geography is destiny!”
- Italian cities witnessed the birth of the commercial revolution!
  - Trade/Money economy
  - Banking
  - Capitalism



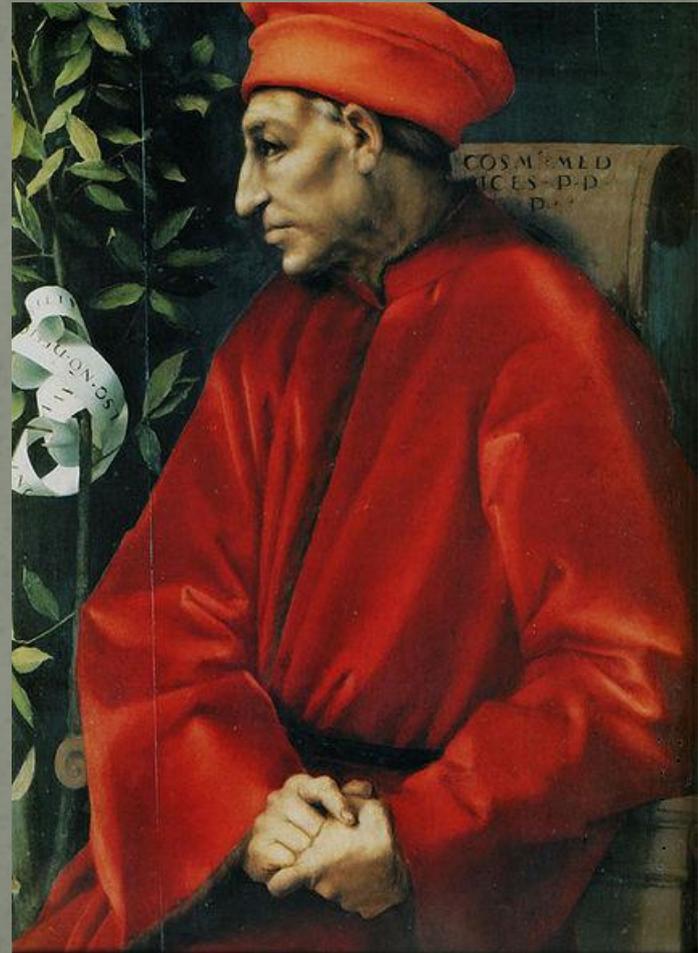
# Social Structure of Italian City-States

- Grandi
  - Old Rich
- Popolo grasso
  - New Rich
- Middle-burgher
  - Craftsmen
- Popolo minuto
  - Lower classes



# Political development of City-States

- Commune
  - Association of free men
  - Run by guilds
- Oligarchy
  - Grandi and popolo grassi formed to create a new ruling class
- Republic
  - Brief grabs for power by the lower classes
  - Oligarchies hired condottieri to regain control
- Signori
  - Rule by one man



# The Major Italian City-States

- The Republics
  - Venice
  - Florence
    - Great Medici banking family
- Principality of Milan
  - After Visconti, ruled by the Sforza condottieri
- Papal States
  - Temporal power in the hands of the popes
- Kingdom of Naples
  - Did not experience the same type of cultural rebirth as the north



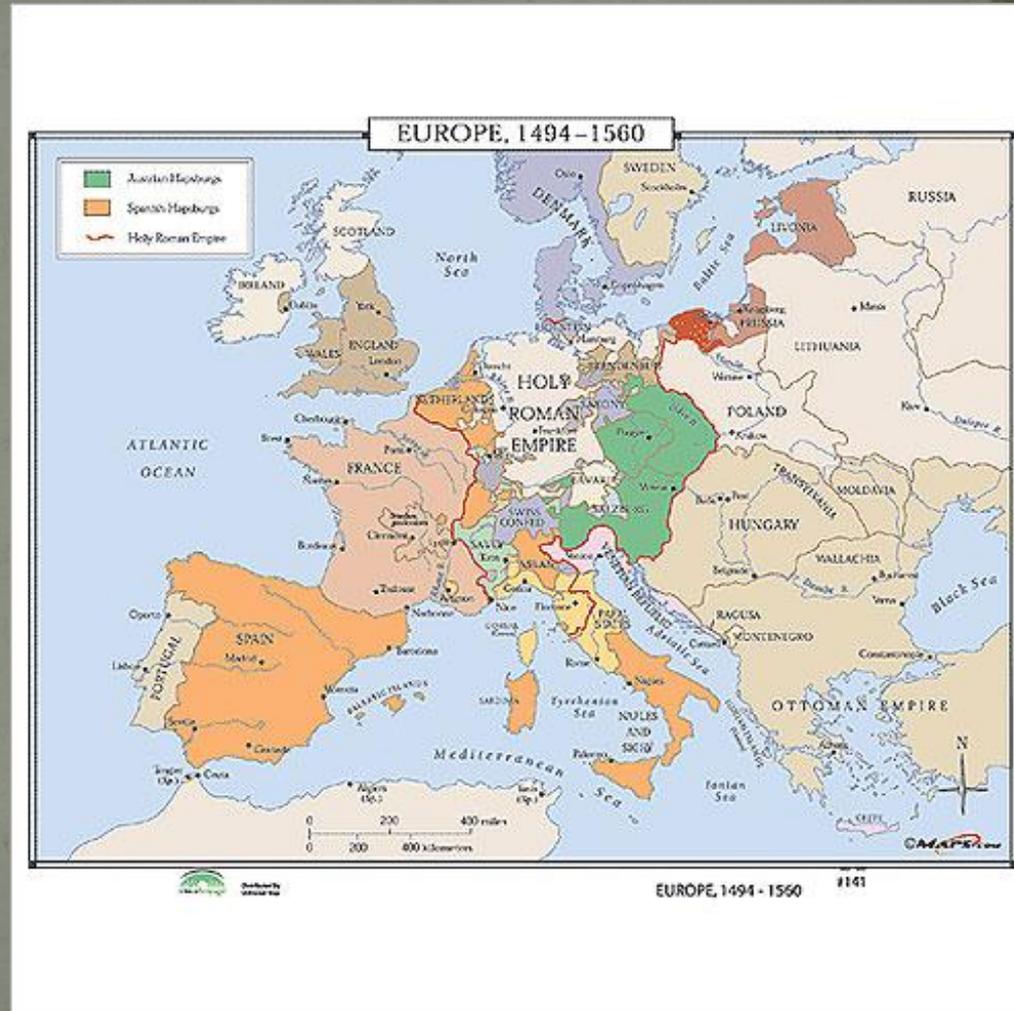
# Disunity in Italy

- Why did Italy fail to unify during the age of “New Monarchs”?
- Balance of Power
  - Established in the Peace of Lodi (1454)
  - Establishment of modern ambassadors and embassies
- Renaissance
  - Loyalty to city-states caused competition in the form of patronage of arts



# Rise of the “New Monarchs”

- What was it?
  - Transition from feudalism to unified nation-states
- How did it occur?
  - Subjugation of the nobility and the church
  - Rise of nationalism
  - Growing importance of towns in society



# Characteristics of “New Monarchies”

- Taxes, wars, and laws
  - Local → National
- Process of centralization
  - Proto-bureaucracy of local officials loyal to and paid by the state
  - These new state officials were composed of the new middle class
- Irrelevance of representative assemblies
- Use of professional standing armies
- State control of religion



Fig. 395.—The Entry of Louis XI. into Paris.—Fac-simile of a Miniature in the “Chroniques” of Monstrelet, Manuscript of the Fifteenth Century (Imperial Library of Paris).

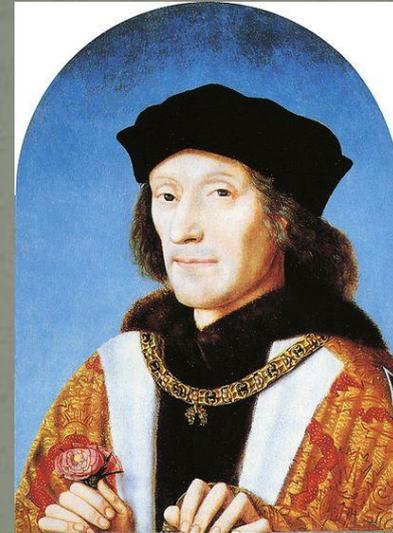
# Spanish Unification

- Marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella in 1469
- Centralized power through support of *hermandad*
- Reconquista completed with defeat of Navarre in 1512
  - Inquisition – secured the religious unification of Spain



# English and French Monarchs

- England
  - War of the Roses → Henry Tudor becomes king
  - Court of Star Chamber
- France
  - Charles VII consolidates French territory after Hundred Years' War
  - Louis XI – “Spider King”
    - Machiavellian!



# The Decline of the City-States

- Sparked by the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453
  - Why?
- In 1494, the Peace of Lodi fell apart, and Italy returned to constant warfare
- Lack of unity in Italy allowed new nation-states to take advantage



# Habsburg-Valois Wars

- Charles VIII of France invaded Italy in 1494 to regain Naples and Milan
- In response, Ferdinand created the League of Venice
  - France vs. Spain
- Involvement of the papacy in temporal affairs
  - The Borgias (Alexander VI)
  - Pope Julius II (Warrior Pope)
- Charles I of Spain becomes Emperor Charles V of HRE in 1519!



# End of the High Renaissance

- 1527 – Sack of Rome by Charles I

