

# Renaissance



- Rebirth of classical learning and culture
- An explosion of creativity in art, writing, and philosophy that lasted approximately from 1300 – 1600
- Began in Italy and gradually spread to the rest of Europe
- Italy had three advantages as the birthplace of the Renaissance:
  - Thriving cities
  - Wealthy merchant class
  - Classical heritage of Greece and Rome

# Italian Renaissance Artists



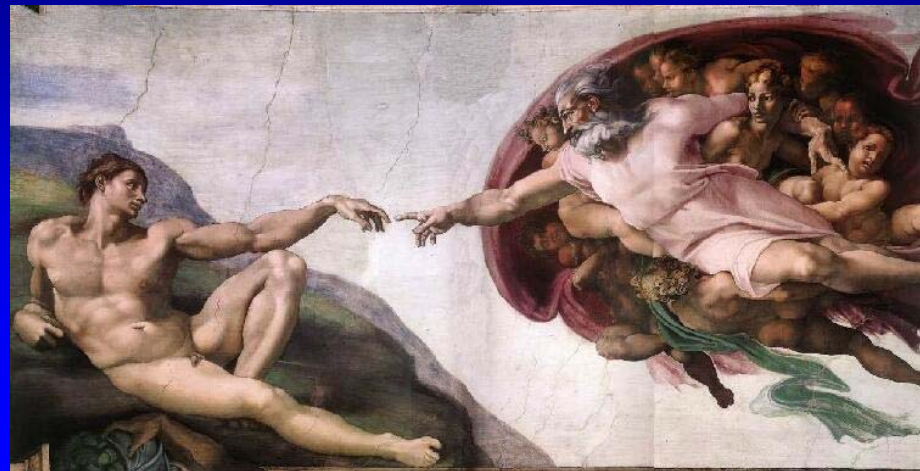
- Donatello, sculpture, *David*
- Leonardo de Vinci, painter, sculpture, scientist, *Mona Lisa*, *Last Supper*



# Italian Renaissance Artists, cont.



- Raphael, painter, promoter of realism in works
- Michelangelo, painter, sculptor, architect, poet, Sistine Chapel, Statue of David





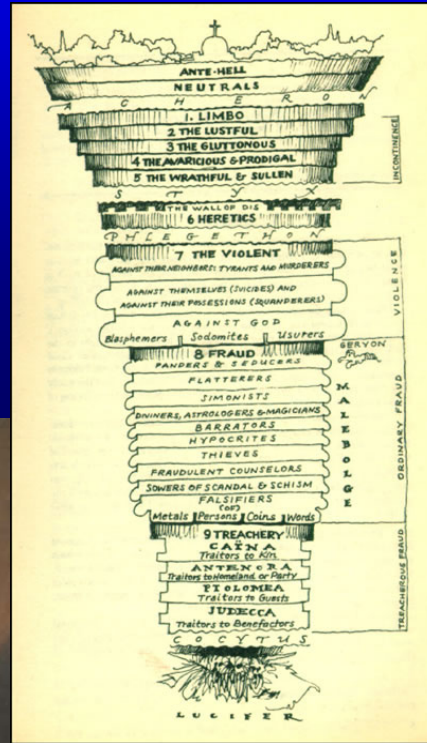
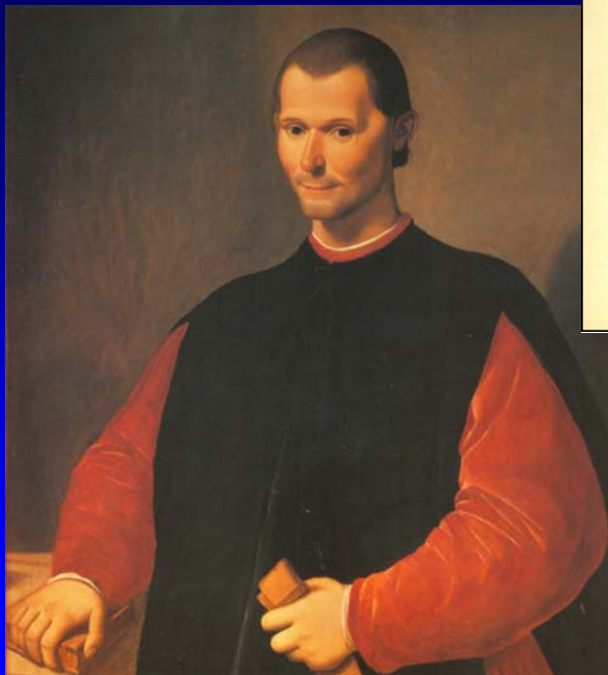
# Northern European Artists



- Rembrandt, Dutch



# Literature



- Focused on humanism, about the potential of human achievement
- Dante's *Divine Comedy*, describing the Inferno or hell is part of it
- Spirit of Renaissance was secular – worldly rather than spiritual
- Writers wrote in the vernacular or native languages
- Some women writers during the Renaissance
- Machiavelli's *The Prince* is a politicians guide book on how to rule
- Later in England William Shakespeare, the most famous writer of this era in England

# Philosophy

- Humanistic movement focusing on the potential of human intellect and achievement
- Greater emphasis on secularism, worldly rather than spiritual
- Italian humanists were interested in reviving interest in classical studies
- Northern European humanists sought reform in society and promoted education
- Desiderius Erasmus of Holland and Thomas More of England were some of the better known philosophers





# Scientific Contributions of the Renaissance



- Anatomy of humans was of great interest to the artist
- Renewed interest in all aspects of science
- Invention of Johann Guttenberg's printing press revolutionizes the availability of written works
- Renewed interest in arts and science led the way to the Scientific Revolution
- New discoveries were published leading to more investigation and discovery

