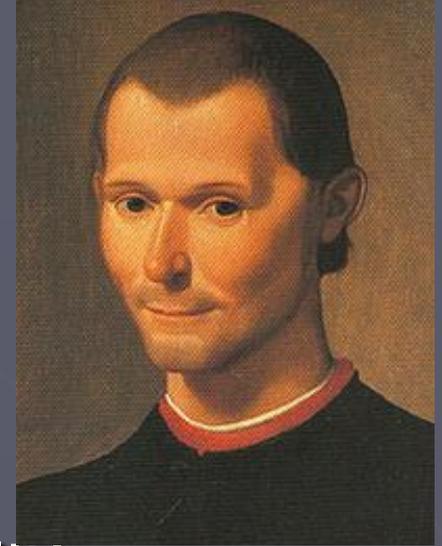


Renaissance Writers

E. Comparison between the Renaissance in Northern Europe and Italy

Northern Europe	Italy
Did not study the classics as much	Heavy emphasis on reading the classics
Art emphasized everyday life in greater detail	Art depicted everyday life, but not as detailed
Artists supported by royalty and nobility	Artists supported by wealthy merchant class
Linked with religion although studies of religion led to questioning of church practices	Not as much emphasis on religious issues, humanism very important

Niccolo Machiavelli



- ▶ IT philosopher, diplomat, poet, musician, playwright..
- ▶ Best known for The Prince – realist politics
 - Rulers should behave like a lion (aggressive and powerful) and at other times like a fox (cunning and practical)
 - “The Ends Justify the Means”
 - “It was better to be feared than to be loved”
 - All this done to keep peace and stabilize power
- ▶ 1st to publicly suggest immoral behavior for govt stability

Dante Alighieri

- ▶ “Father of the Italian Language”
- ▶ Wrote *The Divine Comedy*.
- ▶ *The Divine Comedy* is considered one of the greatest works of Italian and world literature.
- ▶ Dante was first to write in the vernacular, the language used in everyday life. Until his time, all European literature was written in Latin.

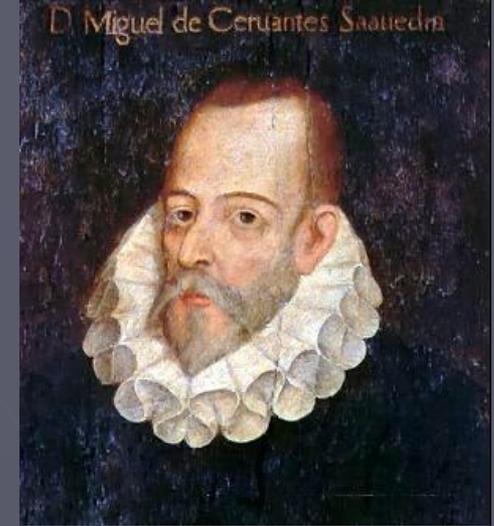


**Dante
Alighieri**

Writers of the Renaissance

- ▶ With the printing press, books become more affordable and more people (mostly wealthy) learn to read
- ▶ Dante, Petrarch and Machiavelli were all important writers of the time
- ▶ But there were more...

Miguel de Cervantes



- ▶ Cervantes was a Spanish novelist, poet, painter, and playwright. He was born in La Mancha, Spain.
- ▶ Cervantes wrote the novel *Don Quixote*, the most influential work of literature to come out of the Spanish Golden Age.
- ▶ Cervantes was a man of adventure. It was said that he left Castile because of a duel.
- ▶ Cervantes got the idea for *Don Quixote* while serving one of two prison terms for irregularities in his bookkeeping as a tax collector and purchasing agent.

William Shakespeare



"All the world's a stage,
and all the men and
women merely players
there, they have their exits
and their entrances, and
one man in his time plays
many parts...."

William Shakespeare

- ▶ Shakespeare is considered the greatest writer and dramatist of all time.
- ▶ Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *Henry IV*, *Henry V*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet* and more.
- ▶ Shakespeare wrote 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two narrative poems, and other poems.

Shakespeare

- ▶ **William Shakespeare (1564-1616)**– Elizabethan era
 - Greatest of English Renaissance authors
 - His work reflected the Renaissance ideas of classical Greek and Roman culture, individualism and humanism
 - Wrote comedies, tragedies, histories and sonnets
 - Known for the “timelessness” of his work
 - Close to 300 movies and TV adaptations have been made of Shakespeare’s work (e.g. Ten Things I Hate About You, a rendition of The Taming of the Shrew)

Sir Thomas More



- ▶ Wrote *Utopia* in which he criticizes wealth and greed of society
- ▶ It should be left to society to decide how people should be punished.
- ▶ Promoted an ideal society where wealth would be divided equally
- ▶ Beheaded by Henry VIII and head was hung from London Bridge.

Desiderius Erasmus



**Desiderius
Erasmus**

- ▶ Erasmus was a Dutch scholar, humanist, and theologian.
- ▶ Erasmus was ordained a Catholic priest, but never practiced priestly duties.
- ▶ Instead, he studied theology and classical Greek at the universities of Paris and Cambridge.
- ▶ Erasmus was critical of some of the practices and doctrines of the Catholic Church.
- ▶ Erasmus sought to reform the Catholic Church.