

Factors that Contributed to the Beginning of the Renaissance

- ▣ Trade and commerce increased
- ▣ Cities grew larger and wealthier
- ▣ Newly wealthy merchants and bankers supported the growth of the arts and learning
- ▣ The Renaissance was an age of recovery from the disasters of the 14th century, such as the plague, political instability, and a decline of Church power
- ▣ Recovery went hand-in-hand with a rebirth of interest in ancient culture (e.g., ancient Greece and Rome)
- ▣ A new view of human beings emerged as people in the Italian Renaissance began to emphasize individual ability

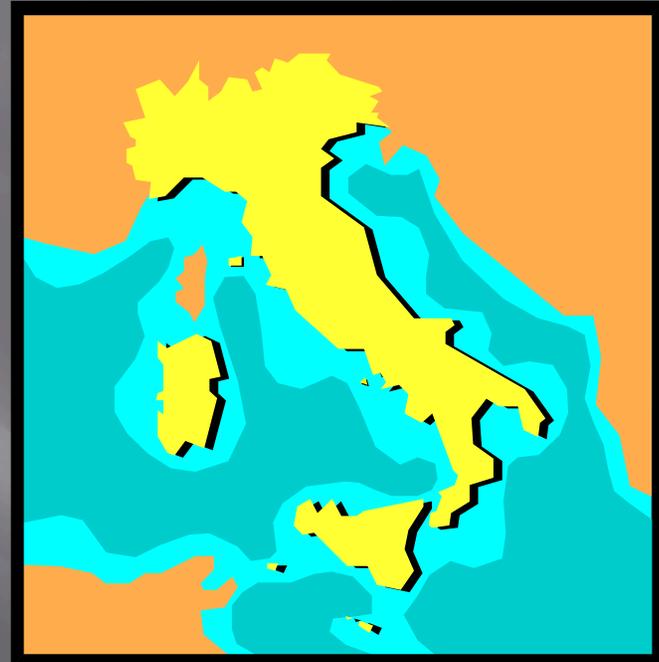
What was the Renaissance?

The Renaissance was a **cultural movement** and a time of **renewal** (Europe was recovering from the Dark Ages and the Black Death/Bubonic Plague)

Renaissance means "**rebirth**" of classical knowledge and "**birth**" of the modern world (new intellectual and artistic ideas that developed during the Renaissance marked the beginning of the modern world)

Where did the Renaissance begin?

- Italy
- Italian Cities
 - Urban Societies
 - Major **Trading** Centers



- **Secular** Movement
 - People lost their faith in the church and began to put more focus on human beings and material possessions

When did the Renaissance Take Place?

Roughly the 14th to the 17th century

How did the Crusades contribute to the Renaissance?



Crusades (1095 - 1291) = Religiously sanctioned military campaigns waged by Roman Catholics against Muslims who had occupied the near east since the Rashidun Caliphate (founded after Muhammad's death in 632, the Rashidun Caliphate was one of the largest empires of the time period)

Increased demand for **Middle Eastern** products

Stimulated **production** of goods to trade in Middle Eastern markets

Encouraged the use of **credit** and **banking**

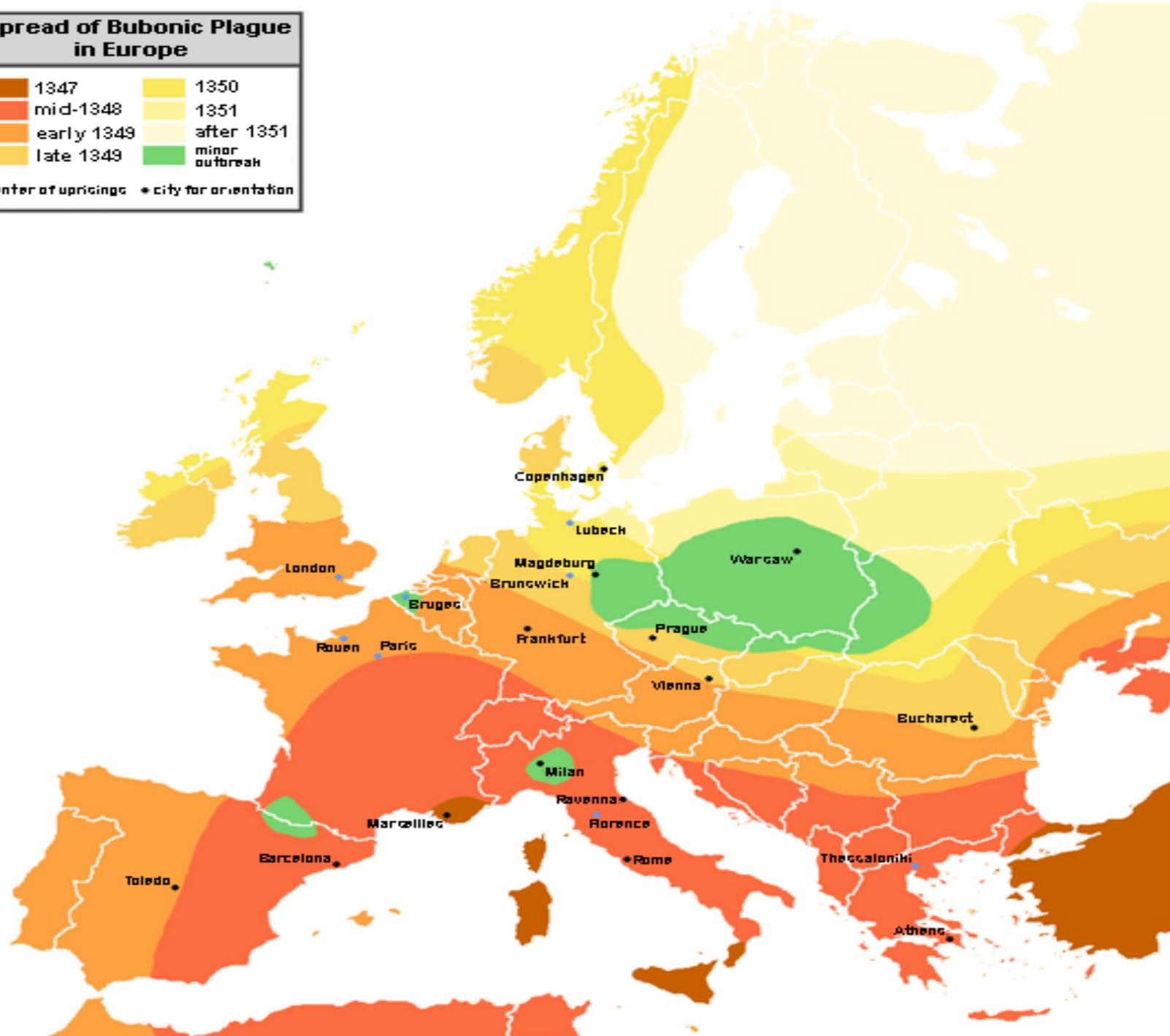
The Black Death: Bubonic Plague

- ▣ 1330s - An outbreak of deadly bubonic plague occurred in **China**
- ▣ Mainly affects rodents, but fleas can transmit the disease to people
- ▣ Once people are infected, they infect others very rapidly
- ▣ Plague causes fever, painful swelling of the lymph glands, and spots on the skin that are red at first and then turn black = Black Death
- ▣ Since China was one of the busiest of the world's trading nations, it was only a matter of time before the outbreak of plague in China spread to western Asia and Europe
- ▣ In 1347, Italian **merchant ships** returned from a trip to the Black Sea, one of the key links in trade with China. When the ships docked in Sicily (Italy), many of those on board were already dying of plague.
- ▣ Within days the disease spread to the city and the surrounding countryside

Bubonic Plague Continued

- After five years **25** million people were dead--**one-third of Europe's population**.
- Even when the worst was over, smaller outbreaks continued, not just for years, but for centuries. The survivors lived in constant fear of the plague's return, and the disease did not disappear until the 1600s.
- The disease took its toll on the church as well. People throughout Christendom had **prayed** devoutly for deliverance from the plague. Why hadn't those prayers been answered? A new period of political turmoil and philosophical questioning lay ahead.

Spread of Bubonic Plague in Europe



Political Ideas of the Renaissance



Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527)

An Italian Philosopher and Writer based in Florence during the Renaissance

The Prince (Published in 1532)

Machiavelli believed:

"One can make this generalization about men: they are ungrateful, fickle, liars, and deceivers, they shun danger and are greedy for profit"

Machiavelli observed city-state rulers of his day and produced guidelines for how to gain and maintain power.

Absolute Rule

He felt that a ruler should be willing to do anything to maintain control without worrying about conscience.

Machiavelli: The Prince

- ▣ Better for a ruler to be feared than to be loved
- ▣ Ruler should be quick and decisive in decision making
 - ▣ Ruler keeps power by any means necessary
 - ▣ The end justifies the means
 - ▣ Be good when possible, and evil when necessary

Today, the term "Machiavellian" refers to the use of deceit in politics

