



The Italian Renaissance

J.H. Plumb

Download now

Read Online 

The Italian Renaissance

J.H. Plumb

The Italian Renaissance J.H. Plumb

Spanning an age that witnessed great achievements in the arts and sciences, this definitive overview of the Italian Renaissance will both captivate ordinary readers and challenge specialists. Dr. Plumb's impressive and provocative narrative is accompanied by contributions from leading historians, including Morris Bishop, J. Bronowski, Maria Bellonci, and many more, who have further illuminated the lives of some of the era's most unforgettable personalities, from Petrarch to Pope Pius II, Michelangelo to Isabella d'Este, Machiavelli to Leonardo. A highly readable and engaging volume, THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE is a perfect introduction to the movement that shaped the Western world.

The Italian Renaissance Details

Date : Published June 19th 2001 by Mariner Books (first published 1961)

ISBN : 9780618127382

Author : J.H. Plumb

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : History, Cultural, Italy, Nonfiction, Art

 [Download The Italian Renaissance ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Italian Renaissance ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Italian Renaissance J.H. Plumb

From Reader Review The Italian Renaissance for online ebook

Martha Alami says

This is a selection of articles on various persons, places and events that influenced the development of the Renaissance in Italy. Having been to many of the places and seen many of the artworks, I found it to include a lot of interesting information. Some of the topics I had never heard of so the perspective was very informative. The book is not written by the late historian J. H. Plumb but includes various authors and scholars. They were all well researched and easy to read, however, I found myself looking up many of the names, places and artworks mentioned to gain more understanding. Although I found it interesting, if you want more detail and explanation, this is not the book.

Mark Singer says

This history of the Italian Renaissance was originally written in 1961 for the general reader, and is helped by Plumb's writing style. My only complaint is that there is no bibliography or suggested further reading. In the Mariner paperback edition, Plumb's narrative ends at page 157. The second half of the book is a series of biographical sketches on assorted figure like Petrarch, Machiavelli, Michelangelo, and others by various authors. As in the first half, there are no notes as to what books the skecthes are from. I would recommend this only if you know nothing about the period.

Mel Bossa says

Interesting essays on Machiavelli and Michelangelo...

Mike says

This was a tough short book to get through. It is a series of essays on important figures from Renaissance Italy. The essays were generally vague, random, and never had a focus on a particular aspect of its subject. There was no introduction or reason for the particular order of the essays. Often, I found that if I didn't have a knowledge background for a particular figure, I was completely lost as to what the author was talking about. I felt like I did get a decent impression of what Renaissance Italy looked like, but there are certainly better books out there that I could have read.

Sam Ruddick says

First half's by Plumb himself. Is good. Second half is made up of a bunch of essays by other folks: essays on particular personalities (Machiavelli, Petrarch, Sforza, so on). Is also good.

On the whole, it's a useful overview. Covers art, politics, and literature. Focuses on Florence, Rome, Venice, and Milan. The chapter on Rome is interesting in that it illuminates some of the reasons for the corruption in the Catholic Church. The Church wouldn't have survived that time period without said corruption. In order for the Church to be an independent power, not controlled by one state or another, it had to become a state in and of itself. Long story. Never mind. Read the book.

Unless you already know a lot about the Renaissance, you'll probably learn something new, even if it's just what and who else to read.

Alan says

A book divided, augmented: first half by Plumb, second half, chapter biographies by Origo on Pius II, Kenneth Clark on Michelangelo, Bronowski on Leonardo. Plumb's chapter on Renaissance Florence notes it was dominated by "the sword and the florin": banking, and to build that, military defenses against neighbors. Earlier, by the 13C, the guilds grew central: the lanuoli (wool), sete (silk-weavers), notaio (notaries, still overpaid in modern IT), and bankers (including money-changers, with a balance). For fascinating maps of where each guild tended to live, see online Burr Litchfield's "Florence Ducal Capital 1530-1630." For example, the shoemakers tended to live all over the city, all men, whereas the hosiers concentrated toward the center city, most on the Via di Calzaiuoli between Piazza Signoria and the Duomo. Probably the stockings were made by women all over the city, at home.

Plumb's chapter on the Image of Man covers from Alberti's sense of grandeur to Aretino's bisexual amorality. Still, Aretino was such a good writer that he was summoned to Rome by the man he had supported for the papacy, the second Medici pope, Clement VII. He entertained the Papal court until he got into a terrible fight with the husband of a wife he had seduced, and the Pope sent him away. Of course, Aretino filled his house in Venice with women and boys--evidently he had asked the Duke of Mantua to send him a boy he fancied (120). Even if we disapprove his life, we must approve Aretino's death: "in his sixties he roared too vehemently at a bawdy joke, had apoplexy, and died"(121). [See my Aretino trans. on my GoodReads writings]

Clark's Michelangelo is rich. Turns out M was the only Renaissance artist from aristocratic roots, his father claiming lineage from the Duke of Canossa, and strongly objecting to his son's becoming an artisan/ artist. Even when his son had obtained great fame (and always sent him money), the father considered his work with "bewildered incredulity" (194). Having grown up in Florence, making sculptures like the Greek, he was noticed by Lorenzo Medici; and, he grew up knowing Leo X, Lorenzo's son. But he also knew his predecessor Julius II, for whom he made a famous tomb featuring Moses with horns, a Vulgate mistranslation from the Hebrew for beams of light. When the sculptor returned to Florence, the city magistrates ordered something to stand outside the Palazzo Vecchio to do justice to the city. The David resulted.

What do American cities order to exhibit their pride? Where I taught for 35 years had a fireworks display every August 15, Feast of the Assumption, but since it couldn't be called that, it was named for the city. Boston may consider the Marathon its true face. Maybe Kansas City Missouri, so filled with public sculptures, ordered a sculpture. Urra if they did.

Gary says

History should be exciting. This book was not. It read as if it was a text book and all of the great stories that take place in this time period and the reason why it was so important for the reformation, enlightenment and today's times are not told within this book. Little context and no narrative is provided.

The author looks at each of the major Italian cities and describes them separately, then looks at some of the importance of painting, art and architecture of the period, and very little of the beginnings of the humanist thought or philosophy is presented in this book.

Don't get me wrong on this review. If you start the book, you'll probably finish it, but you will only be getting a text book like presentation of an incredibly exciting period of time and might be better served with another book on the topic which brings the history alive and would keep you on the edge of your seat the way such an exciting period of time should be told. History should be fun and this book wasn't.

David Withun says

It was slow in starting, but once it got rolling, this book was terrific! The first several chapters sounded like the "hype" you hear in television commercials for upcoming action flicks, and the style got old after only a few pages. Once the book really began, however, it was excellent through to the end. Plumb and his fellow authors do not shy away from the most terrible and disgusting aspects of the Renaissance, such as the revival of pederasty and the rampant adultery committed by middle class men, nor do they fail to give praise where praise is due. You get a real feel for the Renaissance and the great personalities, achievements, and events of the period. The last few chapters, which cover several of the greatest individuals of the Renaissance, are particularly good. They lead the reader to a real appreciation for the people of the Renaissance, a real understanding of what makes them tick, and an empathy for each of them as a person. This book taught me to love the Renaissance.

Stephen Brooke says

Although it has been more than fifty years since this little book was published, it remains a decent and reasonably interesting approach to understanding the Renaissance through the lives of some of its leading personalities.

It can be a bit dry. This is the work of historians and sticks to the known facts — there are no fictionalized incidents inserted to spice it up. They are not needed.

Think of them as snapshots. Behind the men and women in the foreground of these pictures are glimpses of the great landscape of the Italian Renaissance. It just might make you want to explore there a bit.

Cora P Bartemes says

The Italian Renaissance Revealed

Unbelievably readable. This book makes the Renaissance come alive and describes this complicated period in terms and description that shed light and meaning to today's reader of history.

Paul Pellicci says

This book was a "can't put down" book for me. I really found interesting how Italy was made up of many city states which most of the time could not get along. The continual wars, the large death tolls and the diplomacy.

This book goes through the various states and their customs. Venice, ruled in an interesting way. How they picked their rulers and how they relied on every citizen to be a spy.

I would recommend this book for the reader who is interested in Art, Politics and the Italian way.

Marcus Glover says

The Italian Renaissance is a very good book and very descriptive and is packed with a lot of information I enjoyed reading and I bet you will. to.

Mike says

Loved this book! The writing is engaging and interesting, bringing the reader right into the thoughts and minds of the people discussed. This text provides a fantastic introduction to those seeking more information on the Italian Renaissance period without being too vague or trying to cover too much. The book is divided into two sections, the first being a general overview of the Renaissance period in Italy, followed by the second part which is a collection of writings from various authors on key figures of the Italian Renaissance, such as Lorenzo de' Medici, Leonardo da Vinci, and Niccolò Machiavelli.

Shae Johnson says

Some was interesting, but mostly it read like a textbook. I would have enjoyed more and learned more had the author included anecdotal stories of historic events.

Peter van de Pas says

I have mixed feelings about this book. First of all, the text by Professor Plumb makes up only half of this edition. At a meager 150 pages this cannot be but a superficial introduction to the Italian Renaissance, which is exactly what it is. Not more than 15 pages are spent on themes as broad as 'The Arts', 'Women of the Renaissance' etc. Dividing up such a short book into 10 chapters each devoted to a single topic only accentuates the lack of depth. The writing, however, is fluent and engaging.

The other half of this book is filled with mini-biographies of significant persons from this age, all written by different writers. The best of these is, in my opinion, Morris Bishop's essay on Petrarch. He makes Petrarch really come to life and made me take out my as yet unread volume of his 'Song Book'. The rest of the essays vary in quality, the worst being a rather incoherent text on Beatrice and Isabelle d'Este by Maria Bellonci.

All in all, some good essays and an amusing if superficial introduction to the Italian Renaissance. If you just want a quick introduction to this period you should pick up this book but if you prefer some headier fare, don't bother.

