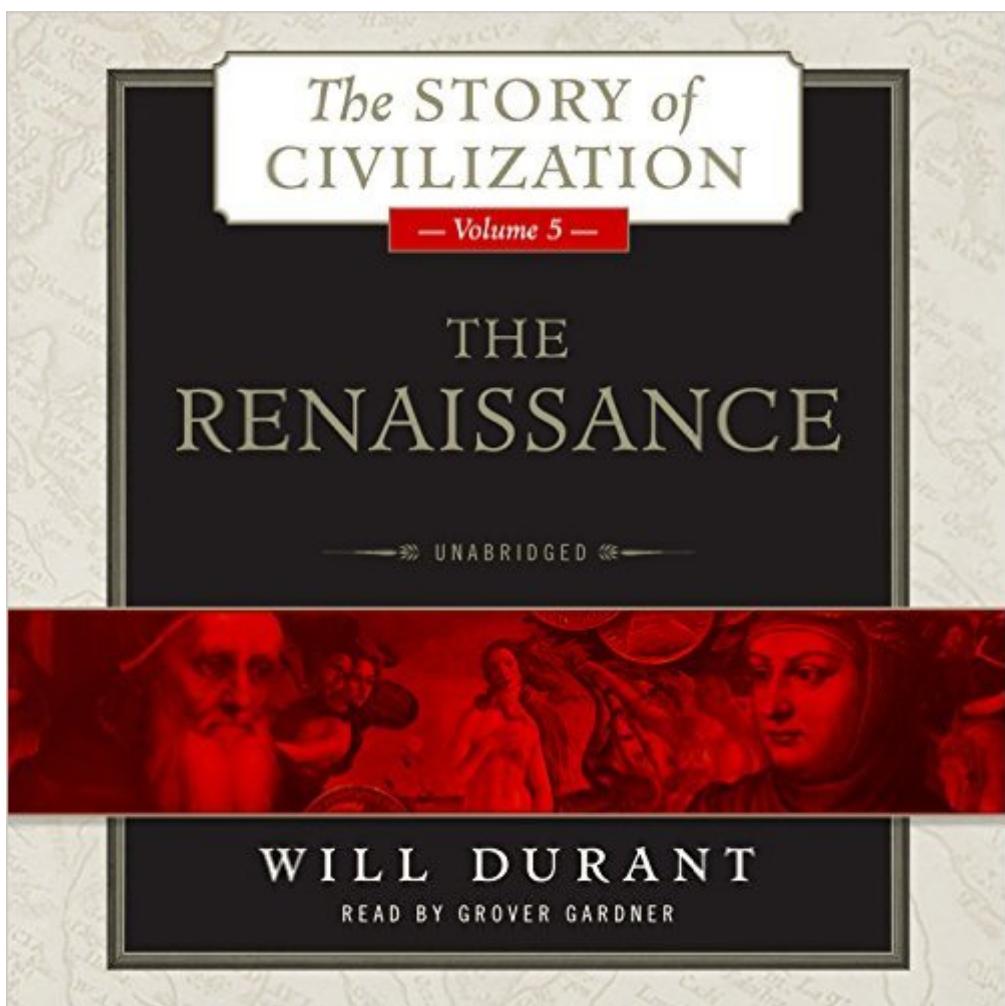


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The Renaissance: A History Of Civilization In Italy From 1304 -1576 AD (The Story Of Civilization Series, Volume 5) (Story Of Civilization (Audio))



Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner] An engrossing volume on the Italian Renaissance by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Will Durant. This fifth volume of Durant's acclaimed Story of Civilization, The Renaissance chronicles the history of Italy from 1304 to 1576. In this masterful work, listeners will encounter: *the poets Petrarch and Boccaccio, the fathers of the Renaissance; *the paintings, sculptures, and architecture of Milan, Florence, and Venice; *the life and accomplishments of Leonardo Da Vinci; *the Catholic church and the popes of Avignon and Rome; *the politicians and philosophers of Italy, including the Borgia family, Julius II, and Machiavelli; *the Italian Wars, the conflicts with France, and the country's decline.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I strongly recommend this incredibly sweeping inclusive detailed book on the Renaissance in Italy. Durant does an outstanding job covering the philosophical, theological, artistic, literary, and political movements of this fascinating time. Whereas this was a time of increased humanism and exploration of classical antiquity, it was also a time of considerable political uproar. This was a time when a new perspective of mankind emerged, built upon a merger of the Christian tradition with a rediscovery of the architecture, sculpture, philosophy, literature of classical antiquity. This was a time in which the Papal States split Italy in half and thus made it a potential target for the forces of France, Germany, Austria, and Spain. Italy was a house divided, ruled by multiple powerful feudal families, none of which were really strong enough to withstand permanently the forces of Francis I of

France or Charles V, the Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperor who controlled Spain and Germany. Durant discusses the writings of Petrarch and the rise of humanism. Boccaccio's Decameron, a string of tall tales, is explained. Giotto's artistic breakthrough whereby he ceased to portray humans in the geometric Byzantine style and painted more naturalistic versions of humans engage in walking or talking or climbing stairs with a simplicity and honesty that made the paintings reveal human interactions rather than icons. The Papacy dominates this period of history with such misadventures of the splitting of the Papacy with popes in Avignon France and Rome. Of course it is impossible to explore the Italian Renaissance without exploring the power of the Medici family, a family of bankers that became royalty with two Queens of France.

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