

## The Renaissance

During the Middle Ages, a period that took place between the fall of ancient Rome in 476 A.D. and the beginning of the 14th century, Europeans made few advances in science and art.

The intellectual basis of the Renaissance was its version of humanism, derived from the concept of Roman *humanitas* and the rediscovery of classical Greek philosophy, such as that of Protagoras, who said that "man is the measure of all things". This new thinking became manifest in art, architecture, politics, science and literature.

The Renaissance was a cultural movement that profoundly affected European intellectual life, in the early modern period. Beginning in Italy, and spreading to the rest of Europe by the 16th century, its influence was felt in other aspects of intellectual inquiry. Renaissance scholars employed the humanist method in study, and searched for realism and human emotion in art.

All in all, the Renaissance could be viewed as an attempt by intellectuals to study and improve the secular and worldly, both through the revival of ideas from antiquity, and through novel approaches to thought.

178 words