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CHAPTER 1: The Spirit of the Renaissance

STUDY NOTES
1. St. Thomas Aquinas: the most significant medieval philosopher, known for his integration of Greek philosophy with Christian thought and for his extensive and original expositions of Christian theology
2. Wars of the Roses: a series of civil conflicts in England in the fifteenth century over claims to the throne
3. Tudors: an English royal family of Welsh origins; began ruling following the Wars of the Roses
4. Queen Elizabeth: Elizabeth I, Queen of England, 1533-1603
5. Hundred Years’ War: a series of conflicts waged between the royal houses of France and England in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries over the right to rule France; France was ultimately victorious
6. Louis XI: King of France, 1461-1483
7. Francis I: King of France, 1515-1547
8. Henry IV: King of France, 1589-1610
9. Ferdinand of Aragon: King of Aragon (part of modern-day Spain), 1479-1516, and King of Castile, 1474-1516, due to his marriage to Isabella of Castile
10. Isabella of Castile: Queen of Castile (part of modern-day Spain), 1474-1504
11. Reintroduction of Greek: During the period of late antiquity, the knowledge of ancient Greek was gradually lost in Europe, even in centers of learning like the monasteries. Although some Greek texts were available in Latin (the intellectual language of the West during this time), many important texts, including Aristotle’s works, were not. The reintroduction of Greek texts came first through contact with the Arab world, since Arab scholars had long retained knowledge of Greek. Famed theologian Thomas Aquinas is noted for his integration of the newly rediscovered philosophy of Aristotle with mainly Platonic Christian theology, two systems that many at the time argued were irreconcilable. Throughout the late medieval era and early Renaissance, Greek texts continued to be "rediscovered" in the West, in part due to the influx of Byzantine scholars after the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453, and study of the Greek language began to slowly resurge throughout the same period. This reintroduction of Greek and Greek texts was one of the most important forces shaping the intellectual landscape in Europe in the late medieval era and throughout the Renaissance.

WORDS TO DEFINE
1. scriptorium: ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

2. sordid: ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

3. temporal: ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

[1] MacCulloch 78, Eire 70
IDENTIFICATION

1. Renaissance: ________________________________________________________________________________
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2. Holy Roman Empire: ________________________________________________________________________
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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the general ethos organizing European society in the medieval era? Give examples of areas in which this ethos was demonstrated.
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2. How did the European political landscape begin to shift in the early Renaissance? Explain how these changes were manifested in England, France, and Spain.
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3. Name at least five factors which influenced the changes that came about in the Renaissance, and explain what each of these factors contributed.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The concept of the individual began to emerge as a more important principle in the Renaissance. Trace some of the changes discussed in this chapter that demonstrate a shift to more individualistic thinking. What are some of the pros and cons of these shifts?

2. Based on the information presented in this chapter, how would you define the "Spirit of the Renaissance"?