

Original Article

Renaissance: The Rise Of Art, Culture and Science in Europe

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Abstract:

This article examines the Renaissance as a period of revival of art, culture, and science in Europe from the 14th century to the modern era, which emerged after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD and the dominance of the church during the Dark Ages. The Renaissance, derived from the Latin "re" (again) and "naitre" (born), marked the transition to the modern era with a more humanistic and worldly Greco-Roman cultural inspiration, beginning in Italy such as Florence before spreading throughout Europe.

Keywords: Renaissance, art, Europe.

Introduction

Ancient Europe once shone brightly under Greek and Roman rule, with a rich and innovative classical culture. However, the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD left the continent in the Dark Ages of the Middle Ages, where church dominance stifled free thought and buried the classical heritage in favor of undeniable divine rule. Society was trapped in absolute obedience, until the emergence of the enlightenment movement of the Renaissance, a rebirth (from the Latin re-naître) that began in 14th-

century Italy and spread throughout Europe. The Renaissance was not simply a revival of classical Greco-Roman art and science, but rather a transition to the modern era that emphasized humanism, rationalism, and human autonomy. As cited by Saifullah (2014), this period brought worldly innovations, while Taufan Asfar & Akbar Asfar (2019) highlight its impact on art, where artists like Raphael—through the frescoes of the School of Athens—expressed creative freedom. Driving factors such as the migration of Byzantine scholars after 1453, church reforms, prosperous trade in Florence and Venice, and Gutenberg's invention of the printing press fueled an explosion of knowledge. Its characteristics include a humanitarian spirit that liberated humans from a mere afterlife, paving the way for the Age of Enlightenment (Aufklärung) and the emergence of nationalist states such as Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands. (Asfar, A. I. T., & Asfar, A. I. A. 2019 : 19.).

Methods

This study adopts a historical research method with a qualitative descriptive-analytical approach to examine the Renaissance as a revival of art, culture, and science in Europe. The research design is non-experimental, focusing on the reconstruction of historical events from the Middle Ages to the emergence of nationalist states, without manipulated variables, but through narrative and causal analysis of primary and secondary sources. The subjects or samples of the study are key events of the Renaissance (14th-17th centuries), including driving factors (Byzantium, church reform, trade), characteristics of humanism, figures (Dante, Leonardo da Vinci, Copernicus), and their impact on art and European countries (Spain, England, etc.)

The data collection procedure begins with heuristic sample identification, namely the search for primary sources such as Byzantine manuscripts, paintings (Raphael's School of Athens, Florence's Duomo), and contemporary documents (Gutenberg's notes, nationalist state treaties), as well as secondary sources in the form of cited literature. Data is collected systematically through literature studies from digital libraries, Indonesian academic journals, and visual archives, with the inclusion criteria: credible

sources from the period 2012-2025 that discuss the etymology of the Renaissance, factors, and implications of humanism.

Results

Background of the Renaissance of Art in Europe (14th Century) The Renaissance emerged as a response to the dark ages in Europe, where the church had great power over people's lives. Classical culture from Greece and Rome was neglected because it was considered contrary to church principles. The term Renaissance means "rebirth", which refers to the revival of art, culture, and knowledge from the past. This movement emphasized the importance of free thought, rationality, and the role of humans (humanism), and became a bridge between the Middle Ages and the modern age. Factors that encouraged the Renaissance were the collapse of the Byzantine Empire which allowed the entry of classical manuscripts and knowledge into Western Europe, the decline of the church's power due to the Reformation, and the increase in trade in Italian cities such as Florence and Venice. The innovation of the printing press also helped accelerate the distribution of knowledge and fresh ideas throughout Europe. The characteristics of the Renaissance were marked by a more materialistic perspective. Humans were seen as independent entities and could control their own future with their minds and skills. Life was not only considered from a spiritual aspect, but also from a worldly aspect. This condition gave rise to the spirit of humanism, the search for knowledge, and progress in art. The emergence of nationalist states such as Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands developed through territorial unification, political conflict, and resistance to foreign rule. This nationalism strengthened state power and weakened the feudal system. The revival of art from Gothic to Humanism began in the 12th century and was initially viewed negatively by the Renaissance because of its association with the Dark Ages. However, in the following period, Gothic art regained recognition, particularly in church designs characterized by towering structures, stained-glass windows, and natural lighting. This style reflected a combination of religious values and beauty. During the Renaissance, Gothic art continued to have a significant

impact on decoration, sculpture, and painting, particularly those related to religious themes. However, more realistic approaches, observations of the human body's structure, and attempts to convey more dynamic expression in works of art began to emerge. The function of Humanism in Changing Perspectives on Art was to shift art from a focus solely on religious aspects to a more humanitarian orientation. Art was no longer used solely for religious purposes, but also as a means of self-expression for humans in understanding the world, life, and themselves. Education and art began to place an emphasis on the human experience. Renaissance artists enjoyed a freedom in creating works, as evidenced by the application of natural human proportions, as well as elements of balance and harmony. The works of artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael demonstrate this freedom. Individualism grew alongside humanism, which is the belief that everyone has the freedom to choose their own path in life and express themselves. In the world of art, this has led to the birth of various styles and uniqueness from each artist.

Conclusion

The Renaissance Was A Period Of Revival Of Classical European Culture That Emerged After The Fall Of The Western Roman Empire And The End Of The Church's Absolute Dominance During The Middle Ages. This Era Marked The Transition From The Medieval Age To The Modern Age, Emphasizing Freedom Of Thought, Rationality, And Humanist Values. The Renaissance Was Influenced By Various Factors, Such As The Fall Of The Byzantine Empire Which Brought The Legacy Of Classical Knowledge To Western Europe, The Growth Of Trade And Prosperous Cities In Italy, Church Reforms, As Well As Technological Advances Such As The Printing Press. In The Field Of Art And Culture, The Renaissance Promoted A Shift From The Religious And Rigid Gothic Style To Art That Was More Naturalistic, Proportional, And Human-Centered. Humanism Played A Significant Role In Changing Perspectives On Art, Science, And Life, Placing Humans As The Main Subjects With The Freedom, Reason, And Potential To Determine Their Own Destiny. In Addition, The Renaissance Also Contributed To The Emergence Of National States In Europe As Well As The Development Of Science, Education, And Individualism, Which Became The Foundation Of Modern European

Civilization.

Suggestion

As a suggestion, discussions about the Renaissance and humanism should continue to be developed by relating them to modern life, especially in the fields of education, art, and science. Understanding the values of humanism can serve as a foundation for fostering critical thinking, creativity, and respect for freedom of thought without neglecting moral and social values. In addition, it is important for students to study the history of the Renaissance not only as a past event but as a process of civilizational change that teaches the importance of balancing rationality, faith, and humanity in building an advanced and civilized society.

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