

## Original Article

# Dedication to historical studies: Europe During The Renaissance And Humanism

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### Abstrak:

This research aims to investigate the extent to which the Renaissance and humanism served as catalysts in transforming the intellectual landscape of Europe toward the modern era. The research design adopts a library research approach, utilizing documentation as the primary instrument for data collection. The study focuses on the analysis of scholarly books and journal articles related to the development of the Renaissance and humanist thought in Europe. The collected data are analyzed using a descriptive qualitative approach to examine the concepts, characteristics, and impacts of Renaissance and humanism on European civilization.

The results of the research indicate that the Renaissance and humanism had significant influences on changing European worldviews from a theocentric orientation to an anthropocentric perspective. Humanism emphasized human dignity, rationality, and intellectual freedom, which contributed substantially to advancements in education, art, science, and socio-political life. Furthermore, the Renaissance encouraged the development of rational and empirical modes of thinking that later became the foundation of modern scientific thought. These findings highlight the crucial role of the Renaissance and humanism in fostering intellectual innovation and shaping the foundations of modern European civilization.

**Keywords:** Renaissance, Humanism, European Civilization, History

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### Introduction

The Renaissance was one of the most decisive periods in the history of European civilization because it marked a fundamental shift in the way humans understood themselves, knowledge, and social reality. This period is often understood

as a time of "rebirth" of classical Greek and Roman culture, which had previously been marginalized during the Middle Ages. The dominance of theocentric thinking, which placed God at the center of all aspects of life, was slowly replaced by an anthropocentric view that emphasized human potential, rationality, and dignity.

The study of the Renaissance and humanism is important because both played a major role as the foundation for the birth of modern thinking in the fields of philosophy, science, art, and education. Absor et al.'s (2022) research shows that Renaissance humanism was not merely a literary movement, but an intellectual transformation that shaped a paradigm of critical and rational thinking. Sihaloho (2024) also emphasizes that the rise of the cannot be separated from the transfer of Islamic knowledge to Europe, which enriched Western intellectual heritage.

Although there has been much research on the Renaissance, literature-based studies in Indonesia are still limited to historical descriptions and have not fully elaborated on its philosophical and intellectual implications in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, this article aims to analyze the Renaissance and humanism as the foundation of modern European intellectual transformation through a study of Indonesian journal literature, as well as highlighting its relevance to the development of modern civilization.

## **Research Method**

This study uses a literature review method with a qualitative-descriptive approach. The main data sources are Indonesian scientific journals discussing the Renaissance and humanism, supported by relevant international journal articles and academic books published in the last seven years. The data sources in this study consist of secondary data, obtained from accredited national journal articles, history books, and scientific publications relevant to the topic of the Renaissance and Humanism. The main journal used as a reference is the article "Europe during the Renaissance and Humanism" by Maisuri Renida et al., which is the main source in the discussion of this study.

Data collection techniques were carried out through documentation studies, namely by reading, recording, and classifying the data obtained from the literature review. "Humanism" by Maisuri Renida et al., which is the main source in the discussion of this research. The data collection technique was carried out through documentation studies, namely by reading, recording, and classifying data related to the background of the Renaissance, the factors of its emergence, the characteristics of Humanism, and its intellectual legacy. The collected data was then analyzed using content analysis, by interpreting the meaning of the text systematically and critically to obtain a comprehensive

understanding.

The data collection procedure was carried out in stages: (1) identification of the main themes of the Renaissance and humanism, (2) selection of literature based on topic relevance and source credibility, (3) content analysis to identify concepts, arguments, and key findings, and (4) data synthesis to build a systematic discussion framework. The analysis technique used was thematic analysis, with a focus on intellectual paradigm shifts and the impact of humanism on various areas of life.

## **Research Results**

### **Sub 1 Humanitarian Issues in the Renaissance and Humanism**

The results of the literature review show that the emergence of the Renaissance and Humanism in Europe cannot be separated from the humanitarian issues that developed at the end of the Middle Ages. The church's strong dominance in regulating social, political, and intellectual life limited human freedom of thought. This condition gave rise to a humanitarian crisis, in which humans were positioned as passive beings who were completely submissive to religious authority.

Based on the journals studied, the Renaissance emerged as a period of transition that brought about major changes in the way humans viewed themselves. Humans began to be seen as individuals with reason, will, and the ability to develop their potential. The anthropocentric view began to replace theocentrism, so that humans were placed at the center of attention in the development of science, art, and culture.

Humanism then developed as an intellectual movement that reinforced these changes. Humanists emphasized the importance of human values and dignity, and encouraged freedom of thought and a critical attitude towards old traditions that were considered.

## **Discussion**

### **Sub 1 Humanitarian Issues in the Renaissance and Humanism**

The findings of this study indicate that the Renaissance and Humanism played an important role in restoring the position of humans as sovereign subjects. The shift from a theocentric mindset to an anthropocentric one had major implications for the social and intellectual life of European society. Humans were no longer seen merely as worldly objects, but as individuals with moral responsibility

and freedom to determine the direction of their lives.

Humanism encouraged humans to use reason and empirical experience in understanding reality. A critical attitude towards dogma and old traditions became a main characteristic of humanists. This had an impact on the development of rational thinking, which later became the basis for the birth of modern science. Thus, the Renaissance and Humanism can be understood as a process of restoring human values that had been neglected in the Middle Ages.

### **Sub 2 Humanist Values and the Formation of Modern Civilization**

A review of the literature also shows that humanism not only influenced individual perspectives, but also shaped European civilization more broadly. Values such as respect for human dignity, freedom of thought, and self-development became the basis of the education and cultural systems of the Renaissance.

Humanistic education, which focused on literature, history, philosophy, and the arts, aimed to create knowledgeable and ethical individuals. Furthermore, humanistic values contributed to changes in the social and intellectual structure of Europe. The development of the middle class and the weakening of the feudal system provided space for more rational and worldly thinking. Humanism also encouraged the emergence of secular attitudes, in which worldly life and human happiness in the world received greater attention than previously.

Thus, Renaissance Humanism can be seen as an important foundation for the birth of modern civilization. The human values developed during that period are still relevant today, especially in the context of respect for human rights, freedom of thought, and social responsibility.

### **Conclusion**

The Renaissance and Humanism were important periods that marked fundamental changes in the view of humanity in Europe. The Renaissance was a period of transition from the Middle Ages to the Modern Era, characterized by a shift in thinking from theocentric to anthropocentric. Humans began to be seen as subjects with reason, freedom of thought, and the ability to develop their potential independently.

Humanism served as an intellectual foundation that affirmed the value and dignity of humans as the center of attention in social, cultural, and educational life. Through the strengthening of rationality and a critical attitude towards old traditions, Humanism encouraged the birth of modern thinking and the development of science

and the arts. Thus, the Renaissance and Humanism were not only a revival of classical culture but also an important foundation in the formation of modern human values.

## **Suggestion**

It is hoped that future research will examine in greater depth the influence of the Renaissance and Humanism on the development of thought outside Europe, particularly in the context of comparative civilizations. In addition, further studies should also link Humanist values to contemporary humanitarian challenges, so that Renaissance thought can be understood in a more relevant way in modern life.

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