

Y2W12-D-H 3 Besieged Italy

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Notes



Peace and almost unity

The five states had

- common language
- a common literature
- love of art

Led to a feeling of common nationality ... sense of nationality awoke, and not as in other nations through war and a necessity for combining against a common foe.

Politically ... no Italians. There were merely Venetians, Florentines, Genoese, Neapolitans, and so on.

Between the years 1447 and 1492 Italy was more free, and more at rest from foreign domination, than it had been for many generations. Had this time of peace been allowed to last unity might have been attained much earlier than centuries later.

I changed the map at ...

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Invasion by Charles VIII (France)

Ludvico found it convenient to have France invade to clear away any support for his rival to his title - King Ferdinand of Naples.

It wasn't just Ludvico though. When Pope Innocent died, there was a struggle over who would become the next pope. Neither were very Christian and they were both intent on power and wealth. One became pope and the rival went to France to try to undermine the Pope so that he could be installed into that position.

This would lead to what would only be the first of many Italian Wars where other countries fought over control of Italy.

In 1494,

- Charles came - feudal pomp and pageant
- his army was almost entirely made up of Swiss mercenaries.
- Without drawing a sword he marched through Italy all the way to Naples. With the Naples' leader, Alfonso, fleeing, he simply claimed the crown "Emperor of the East and King of Jerusalem".
- His play at empire didn't escape the notice of others though.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Battle_of_Pavia,_oil_on_panel.jpg

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League to Remove Charles VIII from Italy

League members by 1495

- Ferdinand (king of Spain)
- Maximilian I (emperor of Germany)
- Some of the Italian Princes including Ludvico, Duke of Milan who had made that invitation to invade Italy. Florence didn't join, due to the influence of Savonarola who we will learn about shortly.

Charles ... Retreat to try to get back to France.

The two sides met at Ferno

The French won by the barest of margins which was just enough to secure their passage back to France.

Though, Charles' excursion into Italy was short-lived, countries were now taking interest in Italy and that would mean that Italy would once again meet with a succession of other countries wanting to rule it in the coming centuries instead of Italy uniting into a country of its own as we see in modern times. It would also bring France down as its energies being diverted to take control of Italy would weaken it too.



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Pope Rodrigo Brogia (Pope Alexander VI)

The infamous Rodrigo Borgia was the pope that had won the election.

Plan - profiting and setting up his son as the ruler over a kingdom in Central Italy even if all the rest of Italy had to be sacrificed to do it.

He taken - Alexander VI

Alexander was one of the worst popes who ever sat upon the papal throne.

- Good Traits
 - Courteous,
 - Magnificent
 - great lover of art
- Bad Traits
 - wicked and cruel
 - greedy of wealth and power, both for himself and his family
 - He cared not if he plunged the whole of Italy into war to gain his ends.

Da Vinci was commissioned in 1502 in Florence by Borgia as a military architect and traveled with him throughout Italy.

End result - The Pope suddenly died right in the middle of seeming to succeed in his plans. The whole of the lands reverted to the church but Borgis's son, Caser, got none of it and left Italy.



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Girolamo Savonarola

Where - Florence

- raised his voice against the pope
- He was austere as a Hebrew prophet, and spoke with such fierce eloquence that the pleasure-loving Florentines were shaken out of their careless paganism.
- At his bidding they made bonfires of their works of art, and all such "vanities"; they cast away their splendid garments of silk, their ornaments of gold, and dressed with the simplicity of monks and nuns.

Savonarola was a reformer before the Reformation - not schism but righteousness, and to the day of his death he believed with all his heart in the teaching of the Church.

When the other Italian princes gathered to fight Charles, Savonarola refused to involve Florence. This made Pope Brogia mad. At first he tried bribing with the offer of a cardinal seat for Savonarella, but savonarella said he would rather wear the red crown on a martyr.

The pope excommunicated him.

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Savoerola continued on in great influence because he called the people to righteous living and lived so himself, yet he trusted to the aid of other nations, France which had just been turned away in the invasion, instead of calling the people to become a nation which had some long term problems for Italy in the century to come. Eventually, Savoerola too would be executed for heresy and schism.

What happened to the scheming pope? The Pope suddenly died right in the middle of seeming to succeed in his plans. The whole of the lands reverted to the church but Borgis's son, Caser, got none of it and left Italy.

for France, the contact with Italy would bring

- great debt
- French Renaissance in art and culture through the contact with Italy.

Charles VIII died from a tennis accident when he struck his head on a door, went in to a coma, and died.

France and other countries would be back at war over control of Italy in a mere 15 or so years in the second of several Italian Wars.

Credits

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