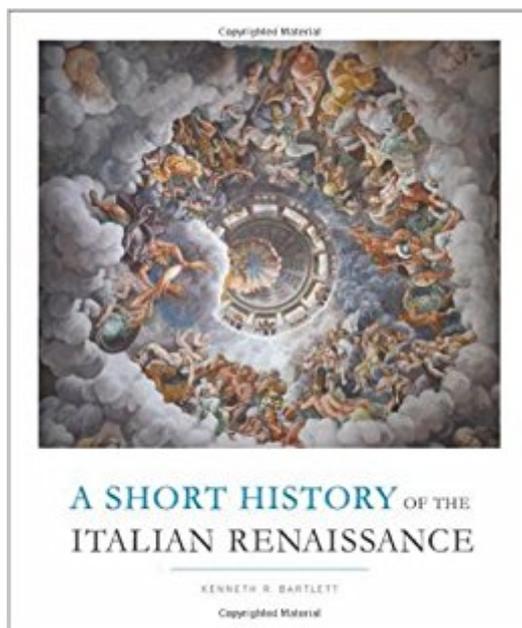


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A Short History Of The Italian Renaissance



Synopsis

Award-winning lecturer Kenneth R. Bartlett applies his decades of experience teaching the Italian Renaissance to this beautifully illustrated overview. In his introductory Note to the Reader, Bartlett first explains why he chose Jacob Burckhardt's classic narrative to guide students through the complex history of the Renaissance and then provides his own contemporary interpretation of that narrative. Over seventy color illustrations, genealogies of important Renaissance families, eight maps, a list of popes, a timeline of events, a bibliography, and an index are included.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps a scholar of Italian Renaissance may find this book too elementary, the remaining 99% of us will be entertained and informed. The author presents a history of this place and time with an eye to the interplay of various forces that together create a fascinating and thoughtful epic tale. The author manages to adroitly incorporate these disparate but essential threads into a tapestry that makes sense both along the way and most, most gratifying, in the end. When I closed the back cover, I felt gratifyingly familiar with the art, the politics, the economics and the culture of Renaissance Italy (and in relevant part contemporary Europe), not to mention the key figures and events made fascinatingly memorable in the author's telling.

I'd give this book a 4.5. It is an excellent read, extremely thorough, and I learned things I didn't know despite teaching Italian Renaissance many times. To the degree I have any problem with the book, it deals with lack of attention to two main facets of the Renaissance -- 1) art and 2) women, gender

and sexuality issues. There is a chapter on art, but almost nothing on the huge field of artistic patronage and its importance as a facet of familial vanity/honor/competition and conspicuous consumption. Bartlett doesn't deal at all (except for a few sentences) with women, gender and sexuality, despite Joan Kelly's opening of that field long ago with her article "Was there a Renaissance for women?" Even though her answer was no, not for Italy, not then, it led to numerous works on female writers and artists of the Renaissance as well as lives of wives, widows, prostitutes and courtesans. Likewise, many books have dealt extensively with sexuality in the Renaissance. I have added these subjects separately to my syllabus with other readings. I think this is an excellent book, but those are areas that need attention. Less attention could be paid to the minor states of the peninsula.

Very informative. I mean, it's a textbook, but it's actually a fun read, if you happen to like this sort of thing. personally, I really love this book!

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