

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

European History

This series includes accounts of historical events and movements by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, as well as landmark studies that assembled significant source materials or developed new historiographical methods. It covers the social and political history of continental Europe from the Renaissance to the end of the nineteenth century, and its broad range includes works on Russia and the Balkans, revolutionary France, the papacy and the inquisition, and the Venetian state archives.

The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy

On several journeys to Italy in the mid-nineteenth century, the Swiss historian Jacob Burckhardt (1818–97) saw in the figures and events of the Italian Renaissance certain traits that he believed to be mirrored in the politics of his own day, notably some aspects of ‘an unbridled egoism, outraging every right, and killing every germ of a healthier culture’. Revolutionary in his all-encompassing and unflinching examination of the Italian Renaissance, Burckhardt saw developments in statecraft and war as giving rise to the more publicised artistic progress of the era. First published in 1860, this work is considered to be his magnum opus on the subject, and is here reissued in the accessible two-volume English translation of 1878 by S.G.C. Middlemore. In Volume 1, Burckhardt considers three key themes: the state as a work of art, the development of the individual, and the revival of antiquity in education and philosophy.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy

VOLUME 1

JACOB BURCKHARDT



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108079945

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1878

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07994-5 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
RENAISSANCE IN ITALY
VOL. I.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE CIVILISATION
OF THE PERIOD OF THE
RENAISSANCE IN ITALY

BY JACOB BURCKHARDT

AUTHORISED TRANSLATION

BY

S. G. C. MIDDLEMORE

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I.

LONDON

C. KEGAN PAUL & CO., 1 PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1878

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

(The rights of translation and of reproduction are reserved)

P R E F A C E.



DR. BURCKHARDT'S work on the Renaissance in Italy is too well known, not only to students of the period, but now to a wider circle of readers, for any introduction to be necessary. The increased interest which has of late years, in England, been taken in this and kindred subjects, and the welcome which has been given to the works of other writers upon them, encourage me to hope that in publishing this translation I am meeting a want felt by some who are either unable to read German at all, or to whom an English version will save a good deal of time and trouble.

The translation is made from the third edition of the original, recently published in Germany, with slight additions to the text, and large additions to the notes, by Dr. LUDWIG GEIGER of Berlin. It also contains some fresh matter communicated by Dr. BURCKHARDT to Professor DIEGO VALBUSA of Mantua, the Italian translator of the book. To all three

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

PREFACE.

gentlemen my thanks are due for courtesy shown,
or help given to me in the course of my work.

In a few cases, where Dr. GEIGER's view differs
from that taken by Dr. BURCKHARDT, I have called
attention to the fact by bracketing Dr. GEIGER's
opinion and adding his initials.

THE TRANSLATOR.

LONDON, *1 April* 1878.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.



PART I.

THE STATE AS A WORK OF ART.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

	PAGE
Political condition of Italy in the thirteenth century	4
The Norman State under Frederick II.	5
Ezzelino da Romano	8

CHAPTER II.

THE TYRANNY OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

Finance and its relation to culture	10
The ideal of the absolute ruler	12
Inward and outward dangers	13
Florentine estimate of the tyrants	15
The Visconti	17

CHAPTER III.

THE TYRANNY OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

Intervention and visits of the emperors	23
Want of a fixed law of succession. Illegitimacy	28
Founding of States by Condottieri	29

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Relations of Condottieri to their employers	31
The family of Sforza	32
Giacomo Piccinino	35
Later attempts of the Condottieri	36

CHAPTER IV.

THE PETTY TYRANNIES.

The Baglioni of Perugia	39
Massacre in the year 1500	42
Malatesta, Pico, and Petrucci	45

CHAPTER V.

THE GREATER DYNASTIES.

The Aragonese at Naples	48
The last Visconti at Milan	52
Francesco Sforza and his luck	54
Galeazzo Maria and Ludovico Moro	56
The Gonzaga at Mantua	60
Federigo da Montefeltro, Duke of Urbino	62
The Este at Ferrara	65

CHAPTER VI.

THE OPPONENTS OF TYRANNY.

The later Guelphs and Ghibellines	76
The conspirators	78
Murders in church	79
Influence of ancient tyrannicide	80
Cataline as an ideal	81
Florentine view of tyrannicide	82
The people and tyrannicide	83

CHAPTER VII.

THE REPUBLICS: VENICE AND FLORENCE.

Venice in the fifteenth century	86
The inhabitants	89
Dangers from the poor nobility	90

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*CONTENTS.*

ix

	PAGE
Causes of the stability of Venice	91
The Council of Ten and political trials	93
Relations with the Condottieri	94
Optimism of Venetian foreign policy	96
Venice as the home of statistics	96
Retardation of the Renaissance	100
Mediæval devotion to reliques	102
Florence from the fourteenth century	103
Objectivity of political intelligence	104
Dante as a politician	105
Florence as the home of statistics : the two Villanis	106
Higher form of statistics	109
Florentine constitutions and the historians	113
Fundamental vice of the State	115
Political theorists	117
Macchiavelli and his views	117
Siena and Genoa	120

CHAPTER VIII.

FOREIGN POLICY OF THE ITALIAN STATES.

Envy felt towards Venice	124
Relations to other countries : sympathy with France	125
Plan for a balance of power	126
Foreign intervention and conquests	128
Alliances with the Turks	129
Counter-influence of Spain	132
Objective treatment of politics	132
Art of diplomacy	134

CHAPTER IX.

WAR AS A WORK OF ART.

Firearms	137
Professional warriors and dilettanti	138
Horrors of war	140

CHAPTER X.

THE PAPACY AND ITS DANGERS.

Relation of the Papacy to Italy and foreign countries	141
Disturbances in Rome from the time of Nicholas V.	145

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Sixtus IV. master of Rome	146
States of the Nipoti in Romagna	147
Cardinals belonging to princely houses	149
Innocent VIII. and his son	150
Alexander VI. as a Spaniard	152
Relations with foreign countries	153
Simony	155
Cæsar Borgia and his relations to his father	155
Cæsar's plans and acts	156
Julius II. as Saviour of the Papacy	163
Leo X. His relations with other States	167
Adrian VI.	169
Clement VII. and the sack of Rome	169
Reaction consequent on the latter	172
The Papacy of the Counter-Reformation	174
Conclusion. The Italian patriots	175

PART II.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

CHAPTER I.

THE ITALIAN STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL.

The mediæval man	181
The awakening of personality	182
The despot and his subjects	183
Individualism in the Republics	185
Exile and cosmopolitanism	186

CHAPTER II.

THE PERFECTING OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

The many-sided men	190
The universal men	192

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*CONTENTS.*

xi

CHAPTER III.

THE MODERN IDEA OF FAME.

	PAGE
Dante's feeling about fame	197
The celebrity of the Humanists : Petrarch	198
Cultus of birthplaces and graves	200
Cultus of the famous men of antiquity	202
Literature of local fame : Padua	205
Literature of universal fame	206
Fame given or refused by the writers	211
Morbid passion for fame	213

CHAPTER IV.

MODERN WIT AND SATIRE.

Its connection with individualism	216
Florentine wit : the novel	217
Jesters and buffoons	218
Leo X. and his witticisms	220
Poetical parodies	222
Theory of wit	223
Railing and reviling	225
Adrian VI. as scapegoat	227
Pietro Aretino	229

PART III.

THE REVIVAL OF ANTIQUITY.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Widened application of the word ' Renaissance '	239
Antiquity in the Middle Ages	241
Latin poetry of the twelfth century in Italy	242
The spirit of the fourteenth century	245

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER II.

ROME, THE CITY OF RUINS.

	PAGE
Dante, Petrarch, Uberti	247
Rome at the time of Poggio	250
Nicholas V., and Pius II. as an antiquarian	251
Antiquity outside Rome	253
Affiliation of families and cities on Rome	254
The Roman corpse	255
Excavations and architectural plans	257
Rome under Leo X.	258
Sentimental effect of ruins	259

CHAPTER III.

THE OLD AUTHORS.

Their diffusion in the fourteenth century	261
Discoveries in the fifteenth century	262
The libraries	265
Copyists and 'Scrittori'	268
Printing	270
Greek scholarship	272
Oriental scholarship	275
Pico's view of antiquity	281

CHAPTER IV.

HUMANISM IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

Its inevitable victory	284
Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio	285
Coronation of the poets	289

CHAPTER V.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS.

Position of the Humanists at the Universities	294
Latin schools	297
Freer education : Vittorino da Feltre	298
Guarino of Verona	300
The education of princes	302

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07994-5 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 1

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*CONTENTS.*

xiii

CHAPTER VI.

THE FURTHERERS OF HUMANISM.

	PAGE
Florentine citizens : Niccoli and Manetti	303
The earlier Medici	307
Humanism at the Courts	311
The Popes from Nicholas V. onwards	312
Alfonso of Naples	315
Frederick of Urbino	317
The Houses of Sforza and Este	318
Sigismondo Malatesta	320

CHAPTER VII.

THE REPRODUCTION OF ANTIQUITY. LATIN CORRESPONDENCE
AND ORATIONS.

The Papal Chancery	323
Letter-writing	325
The orators	327
Political, diplomatic, and funeral orations	329
Academic and military speeches	332
Latin sermons	333
Form and matter of the speeches	335
Passion for quotation	336
Imaginary speeches	338
Decline of eloquence	339

CHAPTER VIII.

LATIN TREATISES AND HISTORY.

Value of Latin	341
Researches on the Middle Ages : Blondus	345
Histories in Italian ; their antique spirit	349

CHAPTER IX.

GENERAL LATINISATION OF CULTURE.

Ancient names	351
Latinised social relations	353
Claims of Latin to supremacy	354
Cicero and the Ciceronians	356
Latin conversation	358

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER X.

MODERN LATIN POETRY.

	PAGE
Epic poems on ancient history : The 'Africa'	362
Mythic poetry	363
Christian epics : Sannazaro	365
Poetry on contemporary subjects	367
Introduction of mythology	369
Didactic poetry : Palingenius	371
Lyric poetry and its limits	372
Odes on the saints	373
Elegies and the like	374
The epigram	376

CHAPTER XI.

FALL OF THE HUMANISTS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

The accusations and the amount of truth they contained	383
Misery of the scholars	389
Type of the happy scholar	391
Pomponius Lætus	393
The Academies	395