

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

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 2, Burckhardt considers three key themes: scientific discoveries concerning the world and the cosmos, changes in society and festivals, and developments in the fields of morality and religion.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

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

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy

VOLUME 2

JACOB BURCKHARDT



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

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/9781108079952

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1878

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07995-2 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

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
RENAISSANCE IN ITALY

VOL. II.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

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. II.

LONDON,
C. KEGAN PAUL & CO., 1 PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1878

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

(The rights of translation and of reproduction are reserved)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS
OF
THE SECOND VOLUME.



PART IV.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE WORLD AND OF MAN.

CHAPTER I.

JOURNEYS OF THE ITALIANS.

	PAGE
Columbus	4
Cosmographical purpose in travel	6

CHAPTER II.

NATURAL SCIENCE IN ITALY.

Empirical tendency of the nation	9
Dante and astronomy	10
Attitude of the Church towards natural science	10
Influence of Humanism	12
Botany and gardens	12
Zoology and collections of foreign animals	14
Human menagerie of Ippolito Medici	18

CHAPTER III.

THE DISCOVERY OF NATURAL BEAUTY.

Landscapes in the Middle Ages	22
Petrarch and his ascents of mountains	24
Uberti's 'Dittamondo'	27
The Flemish school of painting	28

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Æneas Sylvius and his descriptions	28
Nature in the poets and novelists	32

CHAPTER IV.

THE DISCOVERY OF MAN.—SPIRITUAL DESCRIPTION IN POETRY.

Popular psychological ground-work. The temperaments	36
Value of unrhymed poetry	38
Value of the Sonnet	39
Dante and the 'Vita Nuova'	41
The 'Divine Comedy'	42
Petrarch as a painter of the soul	44
Boccaccio and the Fiammetta	45
Feeble development of tragedy	46
Scenic splendour, the enemy of the drama	48
The intermezzo and the ballet	49
Comedies and masques	50
Compensation afforded by music	55
Epic romances	56
Necessary subordination of the descriptions of character	57
Pulci and Bojardo	58
Inner law of their compositions	59
Ariosto and his style	61
Folengo and parody	63
Contrast offered by Tasso	64

CHAPTER V.

BIOGRAPHY.

Advance of Italy on the Middle Ages	65
Tuscan biographers	67
Biography in other parts of Italy	69
Autobiography; Æneas Sylvius	72
Benvenuto Cellini	73
Girolamo Cardano	74
Luigi Cornaro	75

CHAPTER VI.

THE DESCRIPTION OF NATIONS AND CITIES.

The 'Dittamondo'	81
Descriptions in the sixteenth century	82

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*CONTENTS.*

vii

CHAPTER VII.

DESCRIPTION OF THE OUTWARD MAN.

	PAGE
Boccaccio on Beauty	87
Ideal of Firenzuola	88
His general definitions	92

CHAPTER VIII.

DESCRIPTIONS OF LIFE IN MOVEMENT.

Æneas Sylvius and others	95
Conventional bucolic poetry from the time of Petrarch	97
Genuine poetic treatment of country-life	98
Battista Mantovano, Lorenzo Magnifico, Pulci	100
Angelo Poliziano	102
Man, and the conception of humanity	103
Pico della Mirandola on the dignity of man	103

PART V.

SOCIETY AND FESTIVALS.

CHAPTER I.

THE EQUALISATION OF CLASSES.

Contrast to the Middle Ages	109
Common life of nobles and burghers in the cities	110
Theoretical criticism of noble birth	111
The nobles in different parts of Italy	113
The nobility and culture	115
Bad influence of Spain	115
Knighthood since the Middle Ages	116
The tournaments and the caricature of them	118
Noble birth as a requisite of the courtier	121

CHAPTER II.

OUTWARD REFINEMENT OF LIFE.

	PAGE
Costume and fashions	123
The toilette of women	126
Cleanliness	130
The 'Galateo' and good manners	132
Comfort and elegance	133

CHAPTER III.

LANGUAGE AS THE BASIS OF SOCIAL INTERCOURSE.

Development of an ideal language	135
Its wide diffusion	137
The Purists	137
Their want of success	141
Conversation	142

CHAPTER IV.

THE HIGHER FORMS OF SOCIETY.

Rules and statutes	144
The novelists and their society	145
The great lady and the drawing-room	146
Florentine society	147
Lorenzo's descriptions of his own circle	148

CHAPTER V.

THE PERFECT MAN OF SOCIETY.

His love-making	151
His outward and spiritual accomplishments	151
Bodily exercises	152
Music	153
The instruments and the Virtuosi	155
Musical dilettantism in society	158

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*CONTENTS.*

ix

CHAPTER VI.

THE POSITION OF WOMEN.

	PAGE
Their masculine education and poetry	161
Completion of their personality	162
The Virago	164
Women in society	165
The culture of the prostitutes	166

CHAPTER VII.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

Contrast to the Middle Ages	170
Agnolo Pandolfini (L. B. Alberti)	171
The villa and country-life	173

CHAPTER VIII.

THE FESTIVALS.

Their origin in the mystery and the procession	177
Advantages over foreign countries	179
Historical representatives of abstractions	183
The Mysteries	183
Corpus Christi at Viterbo	188
Secular representations	190
Pantomimes and princely receptions	192
Processions and religious Trionfi	195
Secular Trionfi	197
Regattas and processions on water	203
The Carnival at Rome and Florence	205

PART VI.

MORALITY AND RELIGION.

CHAPTER I.

MORALITY.

	PAGE
Limits of criticism	211
Italian consciousness of demoralisation	213
The modern sense of honour	215
Power of the imagination	218
The passion for gambling and for vengeance	218
Breach of the marriage tie	225
Position of the married woman	227
Spiritualisation of love	233
General emancipation from moral restraints	234
Brigandage	237
Paid assassination : poisoning	240
Absolute wickedness	244
Morality and individualism	246

CHAPTER II.

RELIGION IN DAILY LIFE.

Lack of a reformation	249
Relations of the Italian to the Church	250
Hatred of the hierarchy and the monks	251
The mendicant orders	252
The Dominican Inquisition	257
The higher monastic orders	258
Sense of dependence on the Church	260
The preachers of repentance	262
Girolamo Savonarola	273
Pagan elements in popular belief	281
Faith in reliques	284
Mariolatry	287
Oscillations in public opinion	290
Epidemic religious revivals	291
Their regulation by the police at Ferrara	293

CONTENTS.

xi

CHAPTER III.

RELIGION AND THE SPIRIT OF THE RENAISSANCE.

	PAGE
Inevitable subjectivity	299
Worldliness	300
Tolerance of Mohammedanism	301
Equivalence of all religions	302
Influence of antiquity	305
The so-called Epicureans	306
The doctrine of free will	308
The pious Humanists	310
The less pronounced Humanists	311
Codrus Urceus	312
The beginnings of religious criticism	314
Fatalism of the Humanists	316
Their pagan exterior	318

CHAPTER IV.

MIXTURE OF ANCIENT AND MODERN SUPERSTITIONS.

Astrology	321
Its extension and influence	322
Its opponents in Italy	332
Pico's opposition and influence	334
Various superstitions	337
Superstition of the Humanists	340
Ghosts of the departed	342
Belief in dæmons	344
The Italian witch	346
Witches' nest at Norcia	348
Influence and limits of Northern witchcraft	351
Witchcraft of the prostitutes	353
The magicians and enchanters	354
The dæmons on the way to Rome	356
Special forms of magic : the Telesmata	358
Magic at the laying of foundation-stones	360
The necromancer in poetry	362
Benvenuto Cellini's tale	363
Decline of magic	365
Special branches of the superstition	366

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07995-2 - The Civilisation of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy: Volume 2

Jacob Burckhardt

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER V.

GENERAL DISINTEGRATION OF BELIEF.

	PAGE
Last confession of Boscoli	370
Religious disorder and general scepticism	372
Controversy as to immortality	373
The pagan heaven	375
The Homeric life to come	377
Evaporation of Christian doctrine	378
Italian Theism	379