Defending Renaissance Italy: The Innovative Culture of Italian Military Engineers

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Abstract
The cultural and social effect of the Renaissance Italian military engineer is profiled within this thesis. It encompasses their vocational careers concerning the fluctuations in individuality, print censorship, and uneasiness attached to patronage and marketability. Their work and reputation directly coincided with the demand for trace italienne from numerous Italian city-states and entities throughout the cinquecento. As knowledge spread throughout the Italian peninsula, the individualistic demand for military engineers diminished, integrating their discipline with other professions. As the demand for patronage intensified, fears of fraudulence and plagiarism existed among printers and fellow engineers. This apprehension directly contributed to a lack of printed fortification treatises throughout the cinquecento and was escalated by foreign interventions (Sack of Rome, 1527). This thesis aims to tackle these issues met by Italian military engineers.

Recommended Citation

The Renaissance (or rebirth) is an Italian idea, and the Italian Renaissance generally covers the periods from the beginning of the fourteenth century to the end of the sixteenth century. The debate on its beginning and end is largely immaterial, but for the purposes of this site, we will begin at the start of the fourteenth. The Italians of the period considered themselves to be living in a golden age, superior to anything since the fall of the Roman empire a thousand years earlier, with painting, sculpture, music, poetry and architecture all awakening to a revival after sleeping for centuries. Italian Renaissance Art began with Giotto (c. 1267-1337) who is considered to be the first painter to have broken with the tradition of Byzantine art at the end of the middle ages. Italian Renaissance Culture “Humanism” is the modern term for the intellectual movement that initiated the Italian Renaissance, which later spread to northern Europe. The humanist movement originated in Florence in the mid-1300s and began to affect other countries shortly before 1500. The French presence escalated into the Italian Wars (1494–1559), a long conflict between France and Spain over control of Italy (see “Italian Wars dominate Renaissance” in Chapter 2). The final blow to Italian independence was dealt when Rome was sacked, or attacked, by the army of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in 1527. Culture During the Italian Renaissance, artists and writers made many advances in the arts and learning. Science and Technology The Renaissance witnessed the development of new artistic and
engineering techniques. The Renaissance Begins in Italy. ESSENTIAL QUESTION What factors helped make Italy the birthplace of the Renaissance? The Renaissance Begins. • Renaissance—movement of great creativity in art, writing, thought - began in Italy and spread throughout Europe; lasted 1300 to 1600. Growth of Independent Trading Cities. • Italy was center of Roman Empire; artists knew classical period wel