

EUROPE IN RETROSPECT

It is in the fifteenth century one observes many changes which marked the beginning of Modern Europe. In this century Constantinople was captured by the Ottoman Turks, America was discovered by Columbus, and there was the rise of national monarchies. These historic events, beside others, naturally, set apart this new era from the old. However, it is wrong to assume that the Middle Ages had nothing new to offer. If we fail to note the continuity and change which link these two eras, we may not catch the spirit. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the legacy of the Middle Ages in Europe so as to appreciate the beginnings of Modern Europe better.

The Christendom

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Roman Catholic Church became its natural successor. It maintained unity of all the Christians living in Europe and gave them hope and solace. Many who were disillusioned took shelter under its umbrella. Even the new barbarian rulers came very much under its influence and were compelled to treat their subjects with mercy and leniency. Under the inspiring leadership of the popes, Christianity spread among the Irish in the fifth century, until most of the Europeans became Christians by the eleventh century. In the words of Hayes, "For four hundred years prior to 1500, Christendom had been Europe, and Europe had been Christendom". But how long can Christendom survive without a political organisation? So many believed that it should have two wings, not totally separated, but working in unison. While the Church should wield supreme spiritual power, the empire its temporal power. Probably this thinking had much to do with the birth of the empire of the Franks under Charlamagne, and much later the birth of the Holy Roman Empire.

All did not go well with the Christendom. A dispute arose between Charlamagne and the Pope as to who was supreme. In the Byzantine Empire, many Christians accepted the interpretations of

the Roman Catholic Church. The Emperor and the Patriarch of Constantinople did not recognise the Pope as the supreme head and the final break in the Christendom occurred in 1054 when the Pope excommunicated the Patriarch of Constantinople. But the Greek Church continued, however, and took into its fold the Balkan peoples and the Russians as its adherents. But then, this Greek Church—also known as Greek Orthodox Church—remained subservient to the empire. The rest of the Europeans living in Western and Central Europe (Spaniards, Italians, Poles, Germans, Austrians, Scandinavians, French the Irish and others) stood fast by the Catholic Church.

The Holy Roman Empire

Charlamagne was undoubtedly one of the greatest figures of the eighth century Europe. He conquered western Europe to unite it and maintain peace and stability. He became the temporal head of the western Christendom after his coronation by Pope Leo III on the Christmas day in 800 A.D. A close alliance between the church and the empire was established when he joined the Pope to fight the Lombards to free the Church. This alliance caused the birth of the Holy Roman Empire, and Charlamagne did much to revive the glory of the ancient Roman Empire. After the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453, the Holy Roman Empire could claim its legitimacy to the inheritance of "ancient Roman tradition and the paramount temporal agency of all Christendom." (C.J.H. Hayes)

Many factors militated against the myth of the Holy Roman Empire from becoming a reality from the twelfth century. There was the "investiture contest" between King Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII followed by several other discords in the next few decades. The Holy Roman Emperor found it difficult to control his vassals in the fifteenth century and there was the growing insubordination of kings of Europe who increased their powers by reducing the power of the nobles. Therefore by the early sixteenth century, the Holy Roman Empire confined its control over to the German speaking peoples and the Czechs in Bohemia. The rest of Western and Central Europe no longer recognised its supremacy except the Netherlands and Swiss cantons. So in this reduced form, the Holy Roman Empire survived. But this was not all. Even the Emperor was chosen by the seven "electors", and these electors always chose a candidate who would yield to their demands. Besides this the

Emperor had to deal with an imperial Diet. This imperial Diet was composed of the seven electors, the lesser princes and representatives representing the free cities. Although the Emperor was without an army or treasury save what was granted to him by the electors and others, the fear of impending Turkish or Slavic invasions compelled all to remain united. Invariably the electors made it a practice to choose the head of the Habsburg family as the Holy Roman Emperor for he alone had the strength to defend the empire. The Holy Roman Empire became extinct with the advent of Napoleon in 1806. But the continuation of the Holy Roman Empire is seen in the form of a *dynastic* empire of the Habsburg of Austria.

Feudalism

For well over six centuries prior to 1500 the peoples of Western and Central Europe came under the spell of feudalism—a peculiar institution. It was a political and social system which evolved, in all its intricacies, on its own due to the absence of protection to life and property usually rendered by the State. The threat was posed by the renewed invasions of barbarians. Only a nobleman or a Lord who owned a castle could offer protection which he could not undertake unless he got something in return. So the people offered him land and agreed to become his vassals and received their land back in their new capacity as tenants-at-will. Thus arose in Western and Central Europe a large number of estates each headed by a lord or a duke or a baron in which land and the oath of fealty binding the vassals and their lord played an important role.

Feudalism also symbolised the rise of warrior-aristocracy in Europe which was bound by oath of loyalty to the king in return for grant of estates or fiefs. To be explicit, the king wanted their services in the form of military assistance coupled with loyalty and obedience. Thus the lords became the king's tenants-in-chief and they too granted land in their fiefs to knights in return for oaths of loyalty and service. The medieval ideal of chivalry expected a knight to defend the poor and oppressed, save the honour of the ladies and fight to protect the Christian religion.

Feudal laws and courts existed and some feudal lords eventually became more powerful than the king himself at times. Feudal structure existed in the church also because it was one of the largest landholders. In the place of lords, the bishops and abbots performed the functions of the lords. As the biggest landholder the

position of the church came to be much envied as it held land in perpetuity and escaped feudal inheritance tax. It also set up courts to punish those who were found guilty.

Feudal society

Feudalism produced a warrior-aristocracy. The society was divided into well defined social groups. The aristocratic class (or the warrior class) comprised nobles, and nobility became hereditary. A noble was in possession of a fief (including a castle), a fighting group of mounted warriors, and the knights. This along with the class consciousness marked him from the rest. Another badge of nobility was wealth and luxury which were always displayed to impress the lower class. Great nobles were served by knights. A title of a knight was very much sought after and received by those after strenuous effort.

The higher clergy also constituted an important part in the privileged class. Cardinals, bishops and archbishops remained in close touch with the nobility and the king and enjoyed many privileges. They lived a wordly life, thanks to the income they derived from church land and their association with the nobility. They did not feel shy in showing off their riches at their palatial homes. Unfortunately the conditions of the lower clergy were far from satisfactory but at least they could claim that they shared the hardships with the common people.

Besides, there were the agricultural workers and artisans. These constituted the lower class and performed menial tasks for the nobles. The peasant class comprised freemen and serfs. The latter were tied to the soil because of their bondage and their lord was not kind enough to liberate them. Under these circumstances, there was no hope that they would be set free. Moreover, those who were freed, were also no better because they could not get jobs in towns or cities. However at the end of Middle Ages, things were not hard as before and many of them could buy their freedom from their lords, or could make good their escape to the towns. But the conditions in eastern Europe remained horrible.

Medieval economy

The formative period of Middle Ages hardly witnessed any economic development on account of two constraints—the manorial system and the influence of the Church. There existed many barriers

to trade and travel. Money economy hardly existed in the countryside. The scene changed with the conclusion of the crusades. The crusades gave a powerful impetus to the revival of trade and commerce. The people of Europe demanded goods and articles which were produced in the east. The church needed ornaments and the nobles were in need of luxurious goods. On account of the convenient geographical situations, the Italian cities of Venice, Genoa, and Pisa played an important role in meeting the needs of the Europeans. Venice took full advantage of its maritime contact with the east, and after a brisk trade became extremely wealthy. The Venetian-merchants were engaged in pepper trade and annually sold 4,20,000 pounds of pepper to Western Europe which was brought from Egypt, which in turn received this from Ceylon and India. Ever since the Europeans developed a taste for spiced food. Similarly precious stones, silk, pearls, diamonds, sandalwood, musk and cane-sugar came from the eastern countries.

Due to trade and commerce, some towns of Europe grew into cities. They were mostly situated either on the important trade routes or where Roman garrisons had earlier existed. In northern Italy one observes the emergence of Venice, Pisa, Milan, Bologna, Florence and Genoa as flourishing commercial centres. In France, particularly in the south, there grew cities like Toulouse, Marseilles and Narbonne, and in the Rhine Valley, Cologne, Mainz, and Strasbourg. Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck lined up along the northern sea coast. Venice and Genoa dominated in the sphere of trade that was going on between the Mediterranean and the Orient, and in the course of time acquired great wealth by exporting the goods brought from the Orient to its western European neighbours.

It must be remembered that merchants played an important role in the development of cities and their governments. They liberated the townsmen from feudal obligations by purchasing a charter—charter of freedom—from the feudal lord. A city government was set up to promote and protect the interests of the merchant community.

Due to expansion of overseas commerce and internal trade, barter system gradually yielded place to money economy everywhere. The resistance of the church to money lending business gradually waned. Minting of coins and banking institutions became the main features of the newly developing merchantalist capitalism. The professions of bankers, money changers and money-lenders assumed respectability.

Universities in the Middle Ages

One of the legacies of the later Middle Ages was the development of university education. The development of the intellect was given full scope and this could be done only in universities which were springing up all over Europe. During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries there was a great demand for trained civil servants, physicians, teachers and theologians. Therefore higher education received due attention. There were nineteen universities spread all over Europe in the thirteenth century, some acquiring great reputation. For example, the University of Salerno produced great physicians and the University of Paris great theologians.

The universities in those days were quite unlike their modern counterparts. They lacked many facilities such as big buildings, spacious halls, playgrounds, furniture, teaching aids, records and libraries. The students assembled in dinghy rooms, sat on the floors and took notes from the lectures delivered by their professors. The universities were termed as 'Universitas' to denote that it was also a guild with teachers as master-craftsmen and students the apprentices. After obtaining a masters or doctoral degree from the university, a student became eligible to take up teaching in a particular branch of a discipline or join the civil service. As for the university organisation, there was a Chancellor or Vice-chancellor supervising the work of each faculty with the assistance of deans. Each faculty was headed by a dean. At the advent of Renaissance, the number of universities increased from nineteen to seventy.

The medieval universities played an important role in moulding the intellectual and cultural life of the people. The students of Civil and Canon law helped in promoting the idea of nation-state. Similarly students of science promoted the idea of scientific approach or scientific spirit. There was a growing feeling among the scholars that some occurrences or happenings needed an intelligent or scientific explanation. "Desire to understand, systemize, and elaborate served as a foundation of pure science, as a prerequisite to the work of Galileo, Descartes and Newton." Roger Bacon put emphasis on first-hand knowledge rather than observation of others.

Scientific inventions

He predicted the coming of oarless boats, horseless carriages and airplanes. However, these did not appear until much later. But then Europe made advances in the use of gunpowder for destructive

purposes, the compass, and the lens. Invention of the moveable type of printing press was indeed a historic development. It came as a great boon to teachers and students and helped in the spread of knowledge. The manufacture of paper on large scale enabled publishers to publish books at low price. John Gutenberg of Germany invented a moveable type of printing press in 1455 and heralded the coming of a new era which was to witness a series of explosions in knowledge. Europe took a great leap towards the bright future of mankind.

Gothic architecture

One of the great splendours of the Middle Ages was the Gothic architecture. It developed as a logical development after the decline of Byzantine and Romanesque architectures. The Catholic church provided the greatest inspiration to the architects and artists. Cathedrals became the greatest form of artistic expression and each town had one. The chief patrons who built cathedrals, such as the De Medicis of Italy, gave jobs to hundreds of artisans, architects and sculptors. The citizens too liberally donated vast sums of money to show support to the cause of religion.

Political developments

In contrast to the decline of Holy Roman Empire, the Ottoman Empire was reaching great heights of glory. At the expense of the Byzantine empire, it began to extend its dominion far and wide. The Ottoman empire represented the force of Islam.

The Turks were a tribal people. Their original home was in the deserts of Turkestan of Central Asia. During the Middle Ages they began to emigrate and finally settled in Mesopotamia, Syria and Egypt. They embraced Islam. Among the Turkish tribes, the most active and war-like was the one which was led by Othman or Osman. The Turks who followed him were called Ottoman. Osman and his followers occupied central Asia in 1300 and he assumed the title of Amir. The successors of Othman extended control over all the other Turkish tribes and subsequently they built a most powerful military state. They were ready to sacrifice their lives for the cause of Islam. After conquering the rest of Asia Minor and a few Muslim kingdoms during the first half of the fourteenth century, they turned their attention to the Christian-Byzantine Empire. They conquered a number of Greek cities thus much reducing the size of the Byzantine empire. Their Amir took the title of the Sultan and made Bursa the

seat of his capital. In the meantime, the Venetians occupied some Greek islands and Greek peninsula. The Slavs occupied most of the Balkan peninsula. Thus the Byzantine empire had to contend with three powers, namely, the Venetians, the Slavs and the Ottomans, for its survival.

During the second half of the fourteenth century, the Ottoman Turks began to concentrate their military activities in the Balkan peninsula conquering one region after another except a few which included Constantinople. The Byzantine Emperors at Constantinople begged the Pope to save their empire from Turkish menace. The Popes urged all Christian countries, particularly the Italians, the Hungarians and the Poles to help the Greeks to ward off this menace. But in the end all their efforts proved of no avail. The writing on the wall was clear and that was that Constantinople would fall inevitably into the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

This act was accomplished by Mohammed II, one of the ablest of the Ottoman Sultans, in 1453. With a force of 1,50,000 soldiers he laid siege to Constantinople, the Byzantine capital. After two months of determined resistance, this great city surrendered. With the fall of the city into the hands of Moslem Turks, the last Byzantine Emperor, Constantine, also perished. The Muslims and Christians had great stakes in retaining this city, for that was the fame Constantinople achieved since the time of its construction by Emperor Constantine. Thenceforth it became the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

After the death of Mohammed II (1451-1481), the Ottoman Empire began to grow rapidly. During the next forty years, the Ottoman empire extended to the Middle-East. However, under the Sultan Suleiman II, the Magnificent, the Ottoman Turks captured Belgrade, and Budapest and laid seige to Vienna. A large part of Hungary and Rumania became a part of Ottoman empire. All attempts by the Holy Roman Emperor and the Polish King to drive the Turks out of Europe failed miserably. After subduing the Caucasus, Emperor Suleiman wrested the control of the Mediterranean Sea from the seafaring merchants of Italian cities (Venice and Genoa). The whole Christendom was facing a grim crisis during the sixteenth century. All trade between the East and West came to a standstill. The Ottoman Turks would not allow Christian merchants and pilgrims safe passage to the East through Constantinople unless

Christian rulers signed treaties (See chapter on the Rise of Ottoman Empire).

Suggested Readings

1. Tawney, Richard H., *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism.*
2. Heckscher, Eli., *Merchantalism.* 2 Vols.
3. Cheyney, E.P., *Dawn of New Era, 1250-1453 in the Rise of Modern Europe.*
4. Grant, A.J., *History of Europe, 1494-1610.*
5. Pollard, A.F., *Factors in Modern History.*

THE AGE OF TRANSITION

I. THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERIES

Causes of the Geographical Discoveries

The Geographical Discoveries of the 15th and 16th centuries opened a new chapter in the maritime history of the world. A number of causes led to these discoveries. (1) The Turks captured Constantinople in 1453. Constantinople occupied a conspicuous position in the trading world. It was through it that the West carried on trade with the East. As the Turks imposed heavy duties on the goods that passed through their land, the Europeans were forced to discover an alternative trade route to the East. (2) The second and the most powerful cause was the loss of trade in spices with the East. The West was not prepared to lose such a profitable trade. Circumstances coupled with necessity forced the people of the West to discover alternative trade routes. (3) The development of the art of ship-building, the invention of Mariner's Compass and other things connected with seafaring activities made it easier to undertake on a much wider scale maritime enterprises. (4) The story of the Polo brothers and Marco Polo spread wild news about the wonders of China and Japan. (5) The insatiable thirst of the missionaries to get new converts to the Christian faith also served as potent cause for the geographical discoveries. (6) As parts of Europe were already overpopulated and as acute poverty faced them in all its fury, the people in those regions were only ready to explore the unexplored regions out of sheer force and necessity. (7) The national and patriotic spirit of the people goaded them to earn name and fame to their respective countries in geographical discoveries. (8) The gun-powder provided adequate self-defence to the explorers in alien and inhospitable regions. (9) Above all, the spirit of adventure, the lust for new lands, the crusading fervour and the intellectual awakening caused by the Renaissance stimulated the people and the rulers of the West to dedicate themselves to such daring deeds.

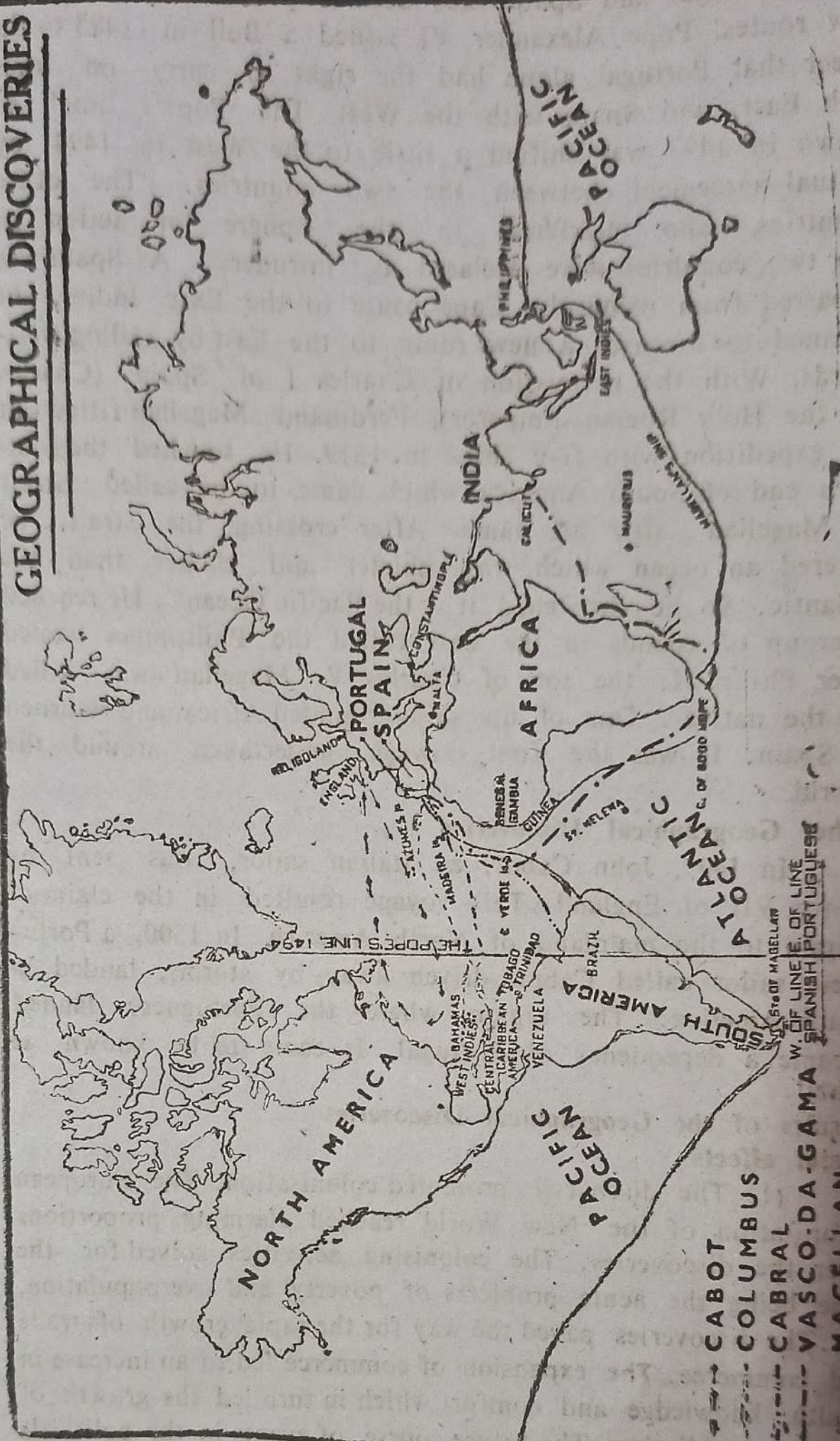
Portugal

Portugal became the pioneer in the work of exploration. The enthusiasm and encouragement given by King Henry (1394-160), commonly styled "the Navigator" resulted in the discovery of Madiera and Azores Islands. During subsequent expeditions, his explorers penetrated through the Guinea coast into the interior of the 'Dark Continent'. One of his explorers explored the Senegal and Gambia rivers and discovered the Cape Verde Islands. Though the 'Navigator' died in 1460, the zeal which he aroused in the minds of the explorers lived after him. In 1488, Bartholomew Diaz reached the southern most part of Africa and called it "the Cape of Storms", because his ships were driven away by a terrible storm. The Portuguese King, John II, however, renamed it "the Cape of good Hope", as it gave a new hope to discover a route to the East. In 1497, Vasco da-Gama with four small ships fitted out an expedition, doubled the Cape of Good Hope and arrived at Calicut in India in 1498 A. D. Thus Vasco da Gama discovered a new route to the Old World.

Spain

Spain followed the footsteps of Portugal in the work of exploration. Christopher Columbus, a Genoese sailor, wanted to discover an all-water-route to the East Indies by travelling westwards. As the Portuguese Government did not help him, he sought the help of the Spanish Queen, Isabella. He got the required help and set out in 1492. After many hardships on the way, he set foot on a new land thinking that it was some part of the East Indies. But he landed only on the Bahamas in the West Indies. He called the natives of the new land "Indians". Even today these islands are called "West Indies". The name "West Indies" still remains as a monument of his mistaken notion. In spite of his three subsequent voyages to the land, he did not know the truth. But still nurturing the mistaken notion, he explored the coasts of the Caribbean Sea, Venezuela and Central America. It was only Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian Navigator, who found out the mistake. He pointed out that what Columbus had discovered was not a part of the East Indies, but a "New World". It therefore came to be called "America" after his name. In spite of this, Columbus richly deserves to be called the "Discoverer of the New World".

GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERIES



- CABOT
- - - COLUMBUS
- · · CABRAL
- · - VASCO-DA-GAMA
- - - - - MAGELLAN

THE POPE'S LINE 1494
 TROPIC OF CAPRICORN
 W. OF LINE E. OF LINE
 SPANISH PORTUGUESE

Magellan

Portugal and Spain thus became pioneers in exploring new routes. Pope Alexander VI issued a Bull in 1493 to the effect that Portugal alone had the right to carry on trade with East, and Spain with the West. The 'Pope's Line' so drawn in 1493 was shifted a little to the West in 1494 by mutual agreement between the two countries. The other countries who interfered in the sphere of action of the two countries were declared as 'intruders'. As Spain was debarred from using the Cape route to the East Indies, she planned to discover a new route to the East by sailing westwards. With the permission of Charles I of Spain (Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor), Ferdinand Magellan fitted out an expedition with five ships in 1519. He touched the southern end of South America which came to be called "Strait of Magellan" after his name. After crossing the strait, he entered an ocean which was quieter and calmer than the Atlantic. So he christened it "the Pacific Ocean". He reached a group of islands in the East called the Philippines named after Philip II, the son of Charles V. Magellan was killed by the natives. One of his ships rounded Africa and returned to Spain. It was the first voyage undertaken around the World.

Other Geographical Discoveries

In 1497, John Cabot, an Italian sailor, was sent by Henry VII of England. This voyage resulted in the claim of Britain to the mainland of North America. In 1500, a Portuguese sailor called Cabral driven away by storms, landed in South America. The region where the Portuguese landed became a dependency of Portugal. It came to be known as Brazil.

Results of the Geographical Discoveries**Social effects**

- (1) The discoveries promoted colonisation. The European colonisation of the 'New World' reached alarming proportions after the discoveries. The colonising activities solved for the time being the acute problems of poverty and overpopulation.
- (2) The discoveries paved the way for the rapid growth of trade and commerce. The expansion of commerce led to an increase in wealth, knowledge and comfort which in turn led the growth of an urban middleclass. The future course of events in the political,

social and cultural activities was shaped to a great extent by this class. (3) An evil result of the discoveries was the beginning of Negro slavery. The European planters in America imported Negro slaves from Africa to work in their plantations.

Economic effects

(1) Trade and Commerce registered vast changes and improvement. The trade routes passed from the Mediterranean to the vast oceans. (2) As the merchants needed bigger and stronger ships for oceanic trade, the discoveries gave an impetus to the development of the ship-building industry. (3) In the field of commerce, vast changes were noticed. Larger quantities of commodities such as timber, grain, and livestock were carried in bigger and stronger ships. (4) The guild system gave place to the capitalistic method of production. (5) As trade was carried on a large scale, it required huge stock. So joint-stock companies and Banking enterprises took the place of individual efforts and enterprises. (6) The continuous flow of precious metals from America into Europe due to favourable balance of trade created new monetary problems. The flow of gold ultimately resulted in the emergence of a new concept in Economics called "Mercantilism". The abundant supply of money reduced its value and so the governments of the period in question had to face acute monetary problems. (7) The immense riches amassed by the trading classes led to the rise of Capitalism.

Political Effects

(1) The age-long isolation between Europe and the rest of the world came to an abrupt end as a result of the geographical discoveries. (2) The discoveries resulted in the establishment of colonial powers. The mad race for territories among colonial powers resulted in mutual rivalries and jealousies which in turn paved the way for the global wars of the present century. (3) The middle-class which grew in wealth and influence, lent able support to the Kings in their struggle with the nobles and the clergy.

Cultural effects

(1) Apart from enriching the European colonisation, the discoveries quickened the pace of the expansion of European civilisation to distant lands such as America, Africa and Asia. (2) The discovery of new places and the association with new people hastened the Renaissance movement.

THE RENAISSANCE

Carlton J. H. Hayes remarks, "More important than the rise of national states and royal absolutism in the realm of politics, and hardly less significant than the expansion of Europe and the development of capitalism in the economic sphere, was the intellectual quickening which occurred in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and which has had profound effect on modern society and civilization."

The word 'Renaissance' has been used both in extensive and narrow forms. In extensive form it implies all those important movements of fifteenth and sixteenth centuries which changed the medieval outlook into the modern one, but in narrow sense it means a new spirit in learning. Fergusson Bruun has thus described Renaissance :

"The age of the Renaissance was an age of chaotic change, in which there was much that was still medieval, much that was recognizably modern, and much also that was peculiar to itself. It bridged the gap between the Middle ages and Modern times, but it was also cultural period in its own right, filled with a great political, social and intellectual ferment."

Renaissance denotes revival or rebirth but in history it has been referred to as rebirth of culture and civilization. Hence Scheville, a prominent scholar of history writes, "The Renaissance was not a sharp break with the Middle Ages. It was a worldly movement and included all the intellectual changes that were visible at the close of the Middle European period and at the commencement of the Modern times."

Renaissance enabled a man to secure respectable and honourable place in the society. Now a man could follow his religion and traditions according to his own will and could also discard them, in case he did not wish to follow them. The Renaissance invoked the spirit of enquiry and knowledge among the mankind. So far, people used to follow the commands of the Pope like blind fellows but with the advent of Renaissance, people woke up from the slumber of ignorance. Thetcher has also remarked in this connection, "The Renaissance had taught the importance of the individual, had urged the need of criticism and enquiry and weakened the respect for long-established authority."

A famous historian has also said that "Renaissance was that great transitional movement of Europe which swept away medieval unprogressive economic system and internationalism, and in their place

substituted scepticism, individualism, materialism, emancipation, self-expression, a more sound economic system and nationalism."

Causes of Renaissance

The following factors contributed to the advent of Renaissance :

Fall of Constantinople. During the medieval period Constantinople was the centre of Christianity and fine arts. In 1453 Ottoman Turks achieved victory over Constantinople and forced the Christian scholars to flee to European countries where they not only spread their education and literature among the people of Europe but also impressed the European scholars by their knowledge and learning. A. J. Grant has remarked, "The movement received a strong impetus in 1453 when owing to the capture of Constantinople by the Turks, Greek scholars were compelled to flee to Italy."

Hayes also comments about the contact between the Greek and the Christian scholars : "By coming into contact with the Greek scholars the Europeans gradually got interested in Greek and Roman literature. By patient labour they executed the culture of antiquity added to their meagre medieval stock of knowledge."

Influence on Literature. The scholars who fled from Constantinople and settled in Italy, soon had contacts with the other scholars of the country. They studied their books and translated them into their own languages so that the general masses who were ignorant of Latin and Greek could understand them. Among the contemporary scholars the names of Petrarch, Dante, Chaucer, Martin Luther and Erasmus need special mention. They made a great contribution to the rise of intellectual renaissance. Owing to the inspiration of these great scholars the darkness and dogmatism disappeared and a spirit of enquiry developed among the people.

Influence of Religious Wars. Medieval Age was popularly known for religious wars. Various warriors used to fight in the name of religion. As a result of religious wars, the Europeans came in contact with different races. It brought a change in the geographical knowledge and social living. Three religious wars were fought between the Muslims and the Christians in order to establish control over Jerusalem, for which the Christians of various countries had to take part in the religious wars. Thus they came in contact with other countries. It increased their knowledge and widened their mental outlook. It is said that the use of paper, cotton and ammunition was the outcome of these religious wars. H. A. L. Fisher points out that the people of Europe were forced to think about religion because of the religious conflict between the Church and the State. A. J. Grant also writes, "A new heaven and a new earth were opening for those who had eyes to see."

Invention of Printing Press. In the beginning of the Modern era Printing Press and paper were invented. It made the books cheap in Europe. After the invention of Printing Press, Bible and some other books of ancient Greek and Roman literature were translated into English, French and German languages, so the people could be able to go through

Bible and the works of Plato and Aristotle. It added to the knowledge of the people. During the Medieval period the education was confined only to the priests, hence the people used to accept whatever was uttered by the priests without any hitch. But in the Modern era with the expansion of education the ignorance disappeared and people began to accept only those commands of the Pope and the priests which they found perfectly in accordance with their own wisdom. Hayes, a prominent historian has pointed out about the development of human capability after the invention of printing press in these words, "The invention of the press multiplied the books and made culture accessible to every common man in the society. Ideas, hitherto the exclusive right of the nobility and the clergy now began to throw light into the dark and uncivilized lives of the many."

Discovery of New Countries. The Turks had established their control over Constantinople in A.D. 1453 and started plundering the merchants who were trading with India. Hence, the route of Europe to India was closed for fear of the Turks. Hence the Europeans tried to find out a new route for India. In 1492 Columbus tried to find out this route. He made a perilous journey through dangerous Atlantic Ocean and reached America. Earlier, the people of Europe did not know about America, hence now it came to be known as the New World. On the other hand, the Portuguese sailor Vasco da Gama in 1498 taking a round of Africa reached Calicut. After this the people of Europe discovered Africa and Australia. They established their trade relations with these countries and began to settle there. It added to their knowledge. A. J. Grant also writes in this connection, "The discoveries of new lands not only inspired the explorers to increase their trade in the colonies but they resolved to spread their culture, literature and also their religion among the people in the colonies. This meant that they aimed at establishing a greater Europe outside the continent."

Colonialism. The Europeans made various perilous journeys in order to find out the new routes for the expansion of their trade. They established trade relations with India, America and Africa and founded their colonies there. They used to purchase the raw material from these colonies at a very cheap rate and sold their manufactured articles in the same colonies at a high price. As a result of colonialism the European merchants came in contact with the people of foreign countries and their knowledge about the second world grew. It helped in the advent of Renaissance.

Imperialist Tendency. The people of Europe not only needed the raw materials from their colonies but they also were in search of permanent markets for the disposal of their manufactured goods. Only colonial markets were not the permanent solution of this problem because the rulers of the colonies could create hindrance in the smooth running of business at any time, so the Europeans wanted to establish their full control over these colonies. Hence, they began to interfere in the domestic affairs of the native rulers. They resorted to the policy of 'Divide and Rule' and often helped the friendly country against its enemy

economically and militarily in order to augment their power. Taking the advantages of the mutual conflicts and feuds of the native rulers they occupied some of the small states in different regions with the help of their military power. With the passage of time, these small states were converted into big kingdoms. Besides studying the culture of vanquished countries, the Europeans also preached their culture and civilization in these countries. It enhanced and developed their outlook. A. J. Grant writes about it, "Europeanization of the world was a principal feature of the Renaissance period and it led immensely to the growth of new ideas, literature and culture in the continent."

Contribution of Middle Class. The European trade with India, America and Africa developed a lot due to discovery of new sea routes and various new states were established in Europe which helped in the rise of middle class that consisted of merchants, small industrialists, government officials, lawyers, doctors and teachers. The people of this class had great interest in the study of science, administration, history, art and other subjects. This class contributed a lot to the Renaissance.

Downfall of Feudalism and Rise of Powerful Monarchies. During the Medieval period the position of feudal lords was quite strong. They lived in their own fortresses and the rulers used to provide them with fiefs for their subsistence. In return thereof, they were expected to help the king at the time of war. For this they used to maintain troops. During the Medieval Age, the rulers did not have permanent armies. These feudal lords were uneducated and they passed most of their time in sexual pleasures, hunting and mutual feuds. Their mutual conflicts had weakened them. Secondly, the kings had established their control over them due to the invention of ammunition. Now the feudal lords had no courage to challenge the power of the king. In this way, with the decline of the power of the feudal lords the rise of powerful monarchies took place in Europe.

During the Medieval era the institution of Church was very strong. The people of Europe used to follow the commands of the Pope blindly. Even the kings had no power to oppose the commands of the Pope but with the commencement of the Modern era, the powerful monarchs began to oppose the verdicts of the Pope and started working according to their own sweet will. Thus, the first and the foremost effect of the Renaissance was that it weakened the hold of the Church. The rulers of England and some other countries established national churches. It weakened the power of the Pope, the head of the Catholic religion. They gave shelter to many scholars which helped a lot in the advent of the Renaissance.

Economic Prosperity. The people of Europe became quite rich as lots of money poured into Europe due to foreign trade. The availability of raw material and sale of manufactured goods in the colonies encouraged the traders to establish their industries in Europe. After being free from economic problems people began to pay attention to the study of science, literature and art. It helped a lot in the development of Renaissance.

In this way all the factors referred to above helped in the development of Renaissance in Europe.

Main Characteristics of Renaissance

The following were the main characteristics of Renaissance :

Rise of Humanism. Humanism was found in excess in Ancient Greek and Roman literature but in the Medieval Age owing to the influence of Church the spirit of spiritualism, escapism and worship of God became quite popular and people began to think more of the other world than this one. But owing to the influence of Renaissance, people again began to take interest in Ancient Greek and Roman literature. Now they began to take interest in expansion of humanism and their interest in the medieval culture and civilization diminished.

In the Modern period Petrarch is supposed to be the originator of humanism. Dante and other authors and supporters of humanism were the followers of Petrarch. First of all Florence, a town of Italy became the centre of Renaissance in Europe because the contemporary ruler of Florence, Lorenzo de' Medici was not only the great patron of scholars but also a lover of art and an efficient politician. He provided shelter to various authors of humanism. Besides Petrarch, Dante and others also saw their heyday in the regime of Lorenzo de' Medici. The humanism spread from Italy to other countries of Europe. Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Dantalo, Botticelli, Robbia, Ficino, Verrochio, Perugine and Guiciardini were some significant writers of humanism.

Michelangelo and Alberti were past masters in architecture, painting and sculpture. They were also lovers of literature and social workers. Erasmus was also their contemporary and well known for his ability who contributed a lot to the humanistic movement. They severely condemned the medieval fanaticism. John Reunchin and Philip Melancothan were two prominent figures of this movement in Germany and in England the strings of this movement were in the hands of John Colet and Thomas Moore. Thomas Moore wrote *Utopia* and earned a lot of fame. In this book he condemned and criticised the medieval traditions and led a way of to intellectual Renaissance.

Development in Architecture. The other characteristic of Renaissance is this that the ideals of Ancient Greek and Roman philosophy were incorporated in the contemporary architecture. Florence, Rome and Venice became the centres of the architecture of intellectual Renaissance age. Filippo Brunclleschi was the first artist who began this architecture in Florence. Medici Church of Florence is a fine specimen of this art. In this tower the ancient architecture has been presented in a new style but this architecture actually flourished in Rome. St. Peter's Church at Rome was built by an artist named Bramnate which highlighted the climax of this type of architecture. This Church is very beautiful. Scholars like Raphel, Michelangelo etc. contributed a lot to the development of architecture. This art developed in France and Spain during the reign of Francis I (A.D. 1515-1547), and

Philip II (A.D. 1556-1598) respectively. Both of them were great patrons of Art. In England this art flourished in the 17th century.

Development of Sculpture. Development of sculpture took place at Florence in Italy as a part of architecture. In this art also the ancient Greek and Roman styles have been presented in a new and beautiful form. Lorenzo Gilberti was the first man who contributed to the rise of sculpture. Other artists also represented his artistic ideals in a very attractive style. Dontello, Luccadella, Robbia and Vorochhio were the great artists of sculpture. But Michelangelo was supposed to be the best of all. He was expert in architecture, painting and sculpture also. The specimen of sculpture which he made in the churches of Florence and Rome are the finest examples of sculpture. Ideals and reality have been blended in it in a very beautiful style. In the sixteenth century sculpture also developed in England, France, Spain and Germany and the contemporary rulers encouraged and patronized the artists.

Development of Painting. The medieval painting was inspired by religious feelings but during the Renaissance the religious ideals were mingled with realism in a very fine way. This art was also encouraged by the Church. Like other arts painting also flourished in Italy. Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Titan were the most famous Italian painters. The rulers of France, Spain and Germany also patronized this art later on.

Development of Music. Music also made tremendous progress in the fourteenth century. People began to take much interest in the instrumental music instead of vocal. Various changes occurred in the system of music. Like other arts, Italy led the path in music also. The contemporary musicians were very impressed by the ancient Greek, Roman and Hebrew (Jew) cultures.

Rise of National Languages and Vernacular Literature. In the beginning of Renaissance people were greatly interested in the Latin and Greek languages and literature but they were quite difficult and the general masses were unable to understand them. Hence, in the 16th century attempts were made for the rise of the Italian, French, German, English and Spanish languages and books of Ancient Greek and Latin literature were translated into the national languages so that the general masses could follow them easily. Martin Luther, a well-known scholar of Germany, translated Bible in the German language. Crammer composed the *Book of Common Prayer*. Calvin wrote *Institutes of Christian Religion*. Chaucer, Milton, Shakespeare, Thomas Moore, Spenser and others also did yeoman service to humanity through the English literature. Precious books were also written in Italian, French and Spanish languages. The invention of Press made the books quite cheap and they came within the reach of the people in general. The study of these books developed the spirit of enquiry and superstitions flew away from the hearts of the contemporary people. Scheville writes, "While the townsmen were taught in the toils of trade and industry and were journeying into far countries to make acquaintance with strange climes and peoples, the world in which

they lived began to assume a new form due to the revival of learning, spread of new ideas and rise of a new and a distinct philosophy.”

Reformation and Rise of Protestantism. As a result of Renaissance a great cultural development took place in Europe. During Medieval period the education was confined only to the priests and it too was available in Latin which was a very difficult language. But with the advent of Renaissance various national languages flourished in Europe and religious books, such as, *Book of Common Prayer* and *Institutes of Christian Religion* were translated into these languages. These books could be made available to the general masses due to the invention of Printing Press. It added to the knowledge of the people. They not only came to know of their religion but also developed a spirit of enquiry among themselves. By this time various evils had cropped up in the Roman Catholic religion and people began to condemn and criticise the unfair means of collection of wealth adopted by the Pope. It created a feeling of doubt among the people about the existence of God and supremacy of Pope. Martin Luther challenged the supremacy of Pope and founded a new religion – Protestantism. His Reformation movement became very popular and a great number of people joined Protestantism. Thus the Christian world was divided into two folds – Roman Catholics and Protestants.

Scientific Progress. In the beginning of Modern era various scientific inventions were made which contributed a lot to the advent of Renaissance for it ended the religious dogmas and superstitions prevalent among the masses. People began to think in scientific terms. No doubt, invention of ammunition and decline of feudalism helped develop a spirit of enquiry among the people.

The other significant characteristic of Renaissance was that once again people began to study ancient Greek literature and invented new things. People began to go through the principle of Pythagoras again pertaining to mathematics. Copernicus wrote *Concerning of Revolution of the Heavenly Bodies*. He proved that the earth was also a planet like others and it revolved round the sun as a result of which day and night occur. Though it was a wonderful contribution to knowledge, the orthodox Church opposed it because earlier it was propounded by Ptolemy that all the planets revolve around the earth as it was the centre of the world. In case, any one tried to oppose this principle, he was punished by the Church. Copernicus could not get his book published for quite a long time due to the fear of the Church. Later on, it was published in 1543 but its publicity was quite slow for the fear of the orthodox Church.

The invention of Mariner's Compass also contributed a lot to facilitating voyages and geographical discoveries. Galileo's telescope also proved quite helpful in seeing the distant celestial bodies.

Newton, the famous scientist, discovered the law of gravitation of earth. Minerology, chemistry and medical science also developed during this period. Galen and others led the modern medical science. Harvey and Vasalus also wrote books on medical science. All these achievements and scientific developments contributed a lot to the field of Renaissance.

New Sea Routes. One more characteristic of intellectual Renaissance is geographical discoveries of the contemporary period for it widened the parameters of human knowledge. After the conquest of Constantinople when people discovered new sea routes, they came in contact with America, India and Africa and they knew the culture and civilization of these places. They also established trade relations with these countries which made them rich and prosperous.

The Portuguese were the first who discovered and occupied various countries and islands. The names of Azores and Cape of Good Hope need special mention. Mariner's Compass was also a significant invention. It helped the navigators very much. The adventurous journey of Vasco da Gama and discovery of new sea route for India made him quite popular. The Portuguese developed their trade relations with different countries due to these new sea routes. Later on, they established their colonies in Goa and Diu.

Seeing the expansion and prosperity of the Portuguese other countries such as France and England also wanted to establish trade relations. The British East India Company and the French East India Company were established in A.D. 1600 and 1602 respectively. Gradually, with the help of their ambassadors, the English people went on getting concession. They also established their factories and colonies in India. The French East India Company also established colonies in Pondicherry, Chandranagar and Mahi. The French East India Company taking the advantage of the decline of the Mughals and the deplorable condition of India, intended to establish its empire in India. The British company was also anxious to occupy India. Hence, both the countries fought thrice against one another in which ultimately the English attained victory. The power of the Portuguese had already been crushed by the Mughals, hence the British established themselves in India. Thus the new sea routes helped colonialism and imperialism in due course of time.

The people of Spain were also quite active in geographical discoveries. Columbus discovered America in A. D. 1492 and the people of Spain established their colonies in some parts of South America, such as, Mexico, Peru, Columbia, Brazil, Philippine Islands etc. Later on, Italy, Holland, France and England also established their colonies in Africa and took part in the rise of imperialism.

Thus, Europeans came in contact with different races and cultures. It widened their outlook and crushed the Medieval dogmas and superstitions. Their trade flourished tremendously and they became quite prosperous. It later on gave rise to capitalism and various banks were established. However, the tendency of monopolizing their trade gave birth to untold miseries and wars in the long run.

The discoveries of new sea routes diminished the significance of the Mediterranean Sea and commercial towns of Italy such as Rome, Geneva, Venice etc. and enhanced the importance of Atlantic Sea and new commercial cities were established in Europe which later on came to be known as the centres of Modern culture and civilization.

To sum up, we may quote Thetcher, "The Renaissance marked a speedy development of individualistic spirit, freedom of thought and a critical scientific temper, freedom of art and letters from the Church tutelage and the growth of Vernacular literature."

Importance and Influence of Intellectual Renaissance

Intellectual Renaissance or cultural reawakening is a very significant event in the history of Europe because it influenced almost all the spheres of Europe.

As a result of Renaissance the significance of an individual enhanced and the importance of feudal lords diminished. During the Medieval period the general masses had no authority to educate themselves. It was confined to priests only, hence people used to follow the commands of the priests without any ifs and buts. Dogmatism and fanaticism was in vogue everywhere but it ended with the rise and development of the modern era. The invention of Printing Press made the books available to the general people in their own vernacular at cheap prices. Thus high standard of Vernacular literature began to reach the people of Europe. Martin Luther's German version of Bible provided new light to the followers of Christianity as now people began to understand the real principles of their own religion. Now they began to weigh the pros and cons of all matters before accepting them. Thus the Renaissance gave freedom of thought and critical aptitude to Europe.

On account of Renaissance, art, literature and science developed to a great extent. Dante and Petrarch not only contributed to the development of national languages but also injected spirit of patriotism among the people of Europe. Fisher has rightly commented that really Petrarch was the originator of humanism in Europe. His love towards ancient books was not less than worship. Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Burke, Spenser and Sir Thomas Moore also wrote books in English and contributed a lot to the development of English language. Rabelais, the French author, also wrote a sarcastic and ironical book. Besides, some other writers wrote literature of a high standard. Martin Luther's German version of Bible became very popular as people could follow it very easily. Spain also did not lag behind in the race for writing high-class literature. Cervantes was one of the most popular authors of Spain. Later on, books of Prose, Poetry, One Act Plays, Short Stories etc. were also written. It ended the Medieval era and emergence of Modern period became inevitable. A. J. Grant writes in this connection, "It was due to the development of the Renaissance and its literature that civilization lost its distinctive medieval character and began to take on modern forms."

All arts, *viz.*, architecture, sculpture, painting, music and dancing developed tremendously due to Renaissance. Artists made beautiful churches, palaces and buildings for the rich persons and decorated them in a very fine way.

As a result of the renaissance revolutionary changes took place in the scientific sphere and cannons and guns began to be manufactured in great number due to the invention of ammunition and they began to prove decisive in the battlefield. Hence, the rulers made themselves quite

powerful by establishing their control over ammunition. They also curtailed the strength of feudal lords. Gradually, these monarchies took national form in England, France etc. Now people began to think about interests of their own countries and began to oppose too much autocracy of the rulers. The revolution of 1789 which took place in France against the atrocities of the rulers, shook the entire world.

The astronomers like Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo etc. made the principle popular that the sun is stationary and the earth revolves round it, as a result of which climatic changes take place. The mariner's compass made the voyages easy and people could easily go on adventurous journeys. Besides the medical science, physics, mathematics etc. also developed a lot which almost altered the outlook of the people. Now they came out of the darkness and dogmatism of the Medieval period and were ushered into the light of Modern era. Renaissance injected an inspiration and hope of making progress into them. Prominent historian Scheville has also remarked about it, "While the townsmen were caught in the toils of trade and industry and were journeying into countries to make acquaintance with the strange climes and peoples, the world in which they lived began to assume a new form due to the revival of learning, spread of new ideas and rise of a new and distinct philosophy."

Besides the good effects, there was one dark side of this Renaissance, it let the rulers and princes think that they had no moral restraints over themselves. *The Prince* of Machiavelli confused the people of Europe to a great extent. Ramsay Muir has described about it, "Rulers learnt to regard themselves as exempt from all moral restraints and the ideal prince seemed to be a sort of tiger man, strong, pitiless and winning, using every device of force and fraud without scruple or misgiving, to impose his will upon subjects or rivals."

COUNTER REFORMATION

Martin Luther opposed the evils and dogmas rampant in the Catholic Church very firmly. His statement was based on truth and reality and hence his reformation movement earned the sympathy of the people and spread in entire Europe rapidly. Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin exposed all the evils and corruption of the Roman Catholic Church before the people. As a result, the significance of the Pope decreased among the people. Spain and Rome were the centres of Roman Catholics but the people of these places also began to realize that in case, the current of Reformation Movement was not checked in time, the centuries-old Roman Catholic religion would lose its importance for ever, hence in order to check this destruction of Catholic religion, they resorted to Counter Reformation. Actually, it was a scheme of introducing some reforms in Roman Catholic religion for the safety of Catholicism. Hayes has written about it that the movement of sixteenth century which took place to check the progress and development of Protestantism came to be known as Counter Reformation.

Scheville writes, "The movement known as Counter Reformation was really reformation applied to the Catholic Church."

H. A. L. Fisher defines that being afraid of the expansion of the teachings of Luther, the religious authorities of Roman Catholic religion chalked out a plan to uproot the evils rampant in Catholicism. The reformative step came to be known as Counter Reformation.

Southgate writes about Counter Reformation that "the aim of Catholic Reformation was to reestablish the sanctity of the Roman Catholic Church and its high ideals. Owing to the election of the new Popes the defects of Catholic Church were removed by the latter half of the 16th century and Catholicism had been reformed. Various sects and classes of Catholic Church proved significant to make the Counter Reformation a success."

Causes of Counter Reformation

The following factors contributed to the outbreak of Counter Reformation :

Expansion of Protestantism. Martin Luther opposed the evils and corruption rampant in Roman Catholic religion in Germany. Later on, this movement became quite extensive. Besides Germany, it influenced other countries as well. The extension of Protestantism harmed the significance of the Catholic religion to a great extent. It created confusion in the minds of the Catholics and they decided to make some reforms in

came to be known as Counter Reformation in the history of Europe.

Mutual Differences of the Catholics. Fortunately, when the Catholics tried to make reforms in their religion the circumstances were quite favourable. Martin Luther was the originator of Protestant religion. With the passage of time, his differences grew with the preachers of other countries. It divided Protestantism into three categories. Lutheranism also gave birth to Zwinglianism and Calvinism. All the three religions were against the evils and corruption of the Catholic religion and were trying to reform it according to their own thinking and working system. Their mutual differences inspired the Catholics to amend their own religion and reestablish its lost prestige.

Internal Reforms in Catholic Religion. Shortcomings of Catholic religion were the main factors contributing to the growth and progress of Protestantism. The adjective 'Protestantism' was used for the religion which opposed Catholicism in Europe. Hence it was essential that in case, the development of Protestantism was to be checked, the introduction of reforms was essential in Catholic religion. Hence the Popes paid their attention to reforming the administration of the Church and asked the clerics to lead a pure and sacred life. The Popes of the contemporary time were also leading sacred and pious lives. The clergy were inspired by their lives. Keeping in view the idea of reforms, a committee was organized at Trent which worked for 18 years in order to remove the evils rampant in the Roman Catholic religion. New revised edition of the Bible was published. It was also arranged that the clergy who did not perform their duties properly, were to be dismissed from their posts. These reformative steps are known as Counter Reformation in history.

Establishment of New Institutions. As soon as the followers of Catholicism realized that reforms were necessary for the existence of Roman Catholic religion, they devoted themselves to this great task. In order to make this work easy and practical they founded Jesuits' Society, Trent Council, Inquisition and various other institutions for the good of Catholicism.

Preachers of Catholic Religion. Fortunately, the Catholics could find some such preachers in their religion who really wanted to reform Catholicism. All these persons belonged to high category and were very influential. Among these persons the name of Ignatius Loyola was the most famous. He was a soldier in the beginning of his career but after being injured in the war and while reading the lives of great saints, he was influenced by them. Moreover, he became lame on account of his wounds that he sustained in the battlefield and became unfit for the military services; hence he studied theology and philosophy for some years in Paris University and established Society of Jesuits, Trent Council and Religious Inquisition which helped a lot in reforming the Roman Catholic religion.

Working of Jesuits' Society and Ignatius Loyola. Jesuits' Society of Ignatius Loyola was one of the active institutions which worked for the good of Roman Catholic religion. Soon he was summoned by his followers. Among them Francis Xavier and Iago were his most devoted

disciples. They promised to follow the path of purity, poverty and obedience. Besides, they promised to obey each command of the Pope immediately. Hence the Pope got the support and cooperation of this institution at a very appropriate time, when his power was on the verge of declining. It strengthened not only the Pope but also the Roman Catholic religion. The followers of this society had taken a vow to follow the orders of the Pope Paul III in 1540 and after getting his approval, Loyola organized a powerful movement for the reformation of Roman Catholic religion. He organized his movement on military pattern. The leader of this movement was designated as General. The working of this department was divided into 12 sections in which Japan and China were also included.

The chief characteristic of this society was strict discipline and complete surrender to the Pope. Ignatius Loyola had composed a book of 'Spiritual Exercise' for the daily routine of the followers of Jesuits' Society. Every member of the society accepted this book as his religious scripture. Gradually, this society became a very powerful and mighty sword, the handle of which was in the hands of the Pope and its point could pierce anyone. Hayes has written about it that "it was like a military organization for religious work, the members of which were the devoted soldiers of the Pope."

Activities of Jesuits' Society. The members of Jesuits' Society tried to inject new life into Catholicism by their acts of service, education, charity and religious contemplation. For the common people these followers of Jesuits' Society were not the religious persons but ordinary persons like them who lived without any pomp and show and who treated all equally but at last they had to bow down before the people and a meeting was summoned at Trent in A.D. 1562. By this time Protestants had acquired a lot of power and they needed only a pact to be concluded. Hence the Council had to consider only the condition of the people. The committee discussed the following points between A.D. 1545-1562 in its various meetings :

1. The religious provisions of the Catholics were highlighted.
2. The religious authorities were directed to lead a life of simplicity, truthfulness and purity.
3. Religious education began to be imparted in the monasteries, churches and schools.
4. The translation of the Bible in Latin language was declared authentic.
5. The supremacy of the Pope was accepted and he was recognized to be the final authority in the matters of religion.
6. The corrupt officers were punished.
7. The religious teachers were asked to impart only religious education.
8. The seven Samskars were declared essential.
9. Devotion, good deeds and charity were supposed to be essential for the opposition to Martin Luther.

Influence of Council. The following were the significant influences of the Council of Trent :

1. The darkness rampant in the Church was removed and the principles of Catholicism were decided for the benefit of the people.
2. The spirit of discipline, purity and dutifulness was injected into the officials of the church.
3. The sale of posts in the Church was banned and the priests devoted themselves to the deeds of morality.
4. The sale of indulgence was stopped and the proper arrangement was made for the education of the clergy.
5. Owing to the efforts of the Council various evils of the Church were removed and many Protestants rejoined the fold of Catholicism.

The Council of Trent provided a new vigour and power to Catholic religion. It reformed its discipline and organization and thus it reestablished the lost prestige of Catholicism.

Inquisition. According to the decision of the Council of Trent, a list of the banned books was prepared in 1559, the study of which was prohibited for the Roman Catholics. A. J. Grant writes that the books of Erasmus and Machiavelli were also included in this list. In 1564 it was also decided that, in case, the objectionable portions of these books were removed, they could be reprinted. The help of the Catholic rulers was sought for the reprinting of the banned books.

In order to crush the atheism the Pope Paul II established an Inquisition in Rome in A.D. 1542. Later on, the Pope Paul IV established its branches in many kingdoms. The Pope Paul IV appointed his six cardinals as the representatives and judges in the religious courts. They started capturing and punishing the atheists. They also confiscated the property of the atheists. They had no right to punish any one but they could request the emperor of any country to give death punishment to an atheist. The Pope also had the privilege to pardon any atheist or to readmit him to the fold of Catholicism, if he felt it worthwhile.

The Inquisition tried its best to find out the atheists and punish them. It also endeavoured forcibly to implement the orders of the Catholic Church. The Inquisition acted very severely and got the support of Catholic rulers in its work. Hence the Protestants of Italy and Spain were crushed ruthlessly and revolt broke out in Holland owing to the atrocities of the Inquisition. Thus the leaders of Catholicism tried to strengthen their religion and they succeeded in their goal to a great extent by reforming it.

Causes of the Success of Counter Reformation (Catholicism)

The following causes contributed to the success of Catholicism :

European Countries' Support to Catholicism. No doubt, Protestantism had spread in Northern Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Finland, Netherlands etc., but the people of Italy, France, Spain, Austria, Bohemia, Moravia etc. being motivated by their political interest continued to support the Roman Catholic religion and got the

support of people in the long run. When Counter Reformation broke out, the people of these countries expressed unremitting enthusiasm to strengthen this movement. Thetcher has remarked about the progress of Counter Reformation during the regime of Philip II of Spain, "Philip II of Spain was the champion of the Counter Reformation. It reached its high watermark under him and its decline began with the destruction of Armada."

Work of the Council of Trent. The work pertaining to the reformation done by the Council of Trent proved to be very fruitful and it led to the success of the Reformation movement.

Ideal Life of the Jesuits. The Jesuits inspired the people by their sacrificial and ideal life and they again joined Catholicism. Hence people saying goodbye to the evils of Roman Catholic religion, began to lead a simple and pious life. The Jesuits produced the best examples of the missionaries. Besides Europe they went to Africa, Latin America and different countries of Asia. They bore all the difficulties there and devoted themselves to the task of preaching the Catholic religion. Their activities injected new vigour and enthusiasm into the Catholics for the expansion of Catholicism.

Contribution of Different Sects of Catholics and the Pope. All the sects of Catholicism contributed a lot in order to strengthen the Catholic Church. Pope Leo X led a very luxurious and licentious life and corruption was rampant in the Catholic Church in the fifteenth century. Therefore, the preachers of the Protestant religion succeeded in the expansion of their religion. The Popes of the latter half of the sixteenth century were quite simple, devoted, dutiful and men of morality. They were completely against corruption and immorality and wanted to purify the Catholic Church. They made constant efforts to introduce reform in the corrupt system and succeeded in purifying the Church.

Contribution of Inquisitions. The Inquisition also helped a lot in the success of the Catholic movement. It removed corruption and led the people towards theism. The close eye of the Inquisition suppressed anti-religious Protestants.

Actually, owing to the attempts of the Pope and the other religious authorities not only the path of the expansion of Protestant religion was hampered, but it also injected new life and vigour into the Roman Catholic religion. No doubt, religious wars occurred between the Catholics and the Protestants but with the declaration of the Edict of Nantes in 1598, the religious wars came to an end in France because the ruler of France gave equal rights to the people of other religions.

Results and Consequences of the Counter Reformation

Owing to Renaissance, the people of Europe came out of their slumber of ignorance; consequently, reformation was ushered in, in Europe. No doubt, the Reformation was a wonderful event in the history of Europe. It affected all the aspects of human life extensively. As a result of this movement not only the views of the people of Europe were changed but it also altered the standard of living, behaviour and the traditions. The

significant result of the Counter Reformation can be divided into four main categories :

1. Religious Results.
2. Political Results.
3. Economic Results.
4. Social Results.

Religious Results. As a result of the Counter Reformation the unity of Christianity came to an end. By this time the sovereignty of Catholicism was established in Europe and nobody had the power to challenge this supremacy of the Catholic religion. Later on, some evils crept in, in this religion as a result of which both the church and religion became the centres of corruption. The Counter Reformation opposed these evils and directed the people towards the ideal path of religion. The Counter Reformation challenged the monopoly of the Pope. By this time the Bible was available only in the Latin language; hence, whatever was spoken by the priests and the Pope, was accepted by the people as the words of God. As a result of the reformation the Bible was translated in different Vernacular languages which enabled the people to go through it. Thus the influence of the Pope and the clergy declined in due course of time. All people developed the religious attitude and differences cropped up among the people of different religions which ultimately took the form of religious wars. In many countries the supremacy of the Pope was put down and the powerful rulers captured the power in their hands. The Pope considered himself supreme in the field of religion and politics and no ruler was powerful enough to oppose his commands. As a result of this reformation the supremacy of the Pope came to an end and the rulers took a sigh of relief, being free from the clutches of the religious authorities. Scheville writes about it, "Christian religion was largely nationalised. Protestantism was the religious aspect of nationalism. It assumed everywhere a national form. Each Protestant country established a state religion.

Besides, various philosophers were born during this period who thought over the contemporary problems according to their own ways. They changed the outlook of the people in such a way that they gave up the superstitions. Now they used to assay every problem on the basis of logic. Their spirit of enquiry had enabled them to find out the truth before accepting anything. The rise of materialism strengthened the economic condition of the people; hence the decrease in the significance of religion was but natural.

Political Results. The Protestant movement also had a wide impact on the political life of the people of Europe. As a result of this movement the spirit of patriotism and nationalism flourished in the hearts of the people of every country. Considering the Pope a foreigner, they began to make efforts to free themselves from the yoke of the Church. They did not wish to be controlled by any power whether it was political or religious. In some of the countries National Churches were established in place of the Roman Catholic Church which extended the power and

rights of the rulers. W. Stubbs writes that the rulers enhanced their power by the nationalization of church. Hence the birth of autocratic regime in politics was the outcome of the Reformation movement.

In fact Protestants and especially, Calvinists were not only democratic but aggressive too. It encouraged the democratic system and helped make extensive propaganda for the freedom of the people. H. A. L. Fisher, a prominent historian writes about it, "Protestantism, specially of the Calvinistic type was aggressive and democratic in character. Hence it fostered democratic principles and thereby furthered the cause of civil liberty."

Thus, the rise of democratic states in modern Europe took place due to Reformation movement. The religious missionaries ignored the rights of the minority, as a result of which various wars were fought between the people belonging to the minority and the majority classes and some revolutionary changes could be possible in the contemporary political principles. Macaulay, the famous author writes about it, "The countries which had adopted Protestantism outdistanced the Catholic countries in political progress and material prosperity."

Economic Results. Directly or indirectly, the Reformation movement affected the economic life of Europe and the economic life of the people developed a lot as compared with the earlier one. The religious missionaries found out the new sea routes for expansion of their religion and established trade relations with different nations which made the countries of Europe quite prosperous. Calvinism placed much stress on the significance of labour. It enabled the labourers to work more. Thus they earned much by working hard. People began to invest their money in the development of trade and commerce. Thus capitalism developed in Europe.

The property and wealth of the Catholic churches was confiscated by the Protestant rulers in their countries and they invested it in the economic development of their countries. It solved the problem of unemployment to some extent and made the countries rich and prosperous. Secondly, the people began to develop a spirit of dedication to their country and thirdly, the people were attracted to do all the more physical labour in order to earn more and more wealth. Thus, with the advancement of material happiness, the standard of living of the people of Europe enhanced.

Social Results. As a result of the Counter Reformation movement, the people could get rid of the burden of taxes so far imposed by the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. Consequently, the age of peace and happiness was ushered in, in their life but soon they came to be subjected to the exploitation of the autocratic rulers and the capitalists. Hence it is rightly said that though their masters changed, their condition remained the same and they continued to suffer at the hands of one or the other person.

A. J. Grant writes in this connection, "The peasants suffered much from the religious changes. What they gained through a diminution of

ecclesiastical dues and taxes was more than lost through the growth of royal despotism and exactions of hard-hearted lay proprietors."

The Counter Reformation movement marred the significance of the priests. The property of the monasteries was nationalized and many monks became unemployed, hence the government had to take various steps for dealing with the problem of unemployment. As the importance of the Protestant Church decreased and its resources of income were cut short, it failed to provide the required funds and grants to the schools and colleges, nor could they open new schools; therefore, as a consequence, the progress and development of education was checked for the time being.

The Renaissance inspired the rise of fine arts and architecture developed due to construction of fine and ornamental churches but the Reformation Movement proved an impediment in the development of arts as the followers of Calvin were against all painting and sculpture. They stressed simplicity and worship of God strictly according to the Bible but in Catholic countries the decline of fine arts did not mean much.