

“The Time Machine, now & then” Comenius Partners



SPAIN,
PALMA DE MALLORCA



ITALY, MILAN



IRELAND, DUBLIN



GREECE, ACHARNES,
ATHENS



TURKEY, ANKARA

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND US...

THE STONE AGE



THE NEOLITHIC AGE



Man is active before history, before the emergence of the first written sources. His first steps have been traced about 2.5 million years ago. Taking into account the technological evolution, prehistory is distinguished between the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. Furthermore the Stone Age is divided internally in the Paleolithic, which covers the period from man's emergence until ca. 6,500 BC, and the Neolithic, which lasts from ca 6,500 BC to ca. 3,000 BC.

You see in these slides examples of Paleolithic tools, the famous cave paintings of Altamira in Spain and Neolithic tools from the settlement in Dimini, Greece.

Towards the end of the Neolithic Period, the usage of bronze is gradually increased and this is why the new age, covering the period from 3,000 to 1,100 BC, is called the Bronze Age. During this period the first great civilizations are developed in the part of the Middle East known to us as the "fertile crescent".

THE COUNTRY ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE



Egyptians

Egypt, aptly described by the ancient Greeks
“gift of the Nile”,
was history’s first unified powerful state. Its rulers
bore the title of Pharaoh,
and the Egyptians used a type of writing, the
hieroglyphics, on papyri and walls.
They built the splendid tombs in the Valley of the
Kings, known to us all as Pyramids.

THE SUMERIANS & THE BABYLONIANS



Sumerians and Babylonians

The Sumerians are an ancient historical people who lived in Mesopotamia between 3,500 and 1,500 BC. Their civilization was of high quality, they used a version of the cuneiform script and the wheel.

The Babylonians were a Mesopotamian people as well. Their most famous king was Hammurabi; during his reign Babylon reached its highest peak and we owe to him one of the first written codes of laws, the “Hammurabi’s Code”, which we see in the picture to the right.

THE ISRAELITES: THE ONE AND ONLY GOD



Israelites or Hebrews

People of Semitic origins who after an initial period of nomadic life, settled in the interior of Palestine.

Towards the end of the second millennium BC they founded a powerful state with Jerusalem as its capital, ruled by Saul, David and Solomon in direct line of succession. Soon, however, their country was conquered by the Assyrians.

They are history's first monotheistic people; the Bible, their holy book, was written gradually throughout the first millennium BC, recounting the story of the Israelites and containing their religious beliefs.

We see in the picture a reconstruction of Solomon's Temple.

THE AEGEAN CIVILISATIONS



In various parts of Greece emerged
the first important civilizations:
the Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean.

The Aegean Sea played an important role to the contact
between these cultures but also with neighboring civilizations of the East

View of the throne room of the second period's palace (1700 – 1450)
of the Minoan civilization in Knossos, Crete

Next is a golden mask from the shaft graves of Mycenae (1550 – 1500).

Previously it was believed that it belong to Agamemnon,
king of Mycenae but actually it is dated long before the Trojan war
(Archaeological Museum Of Athens)

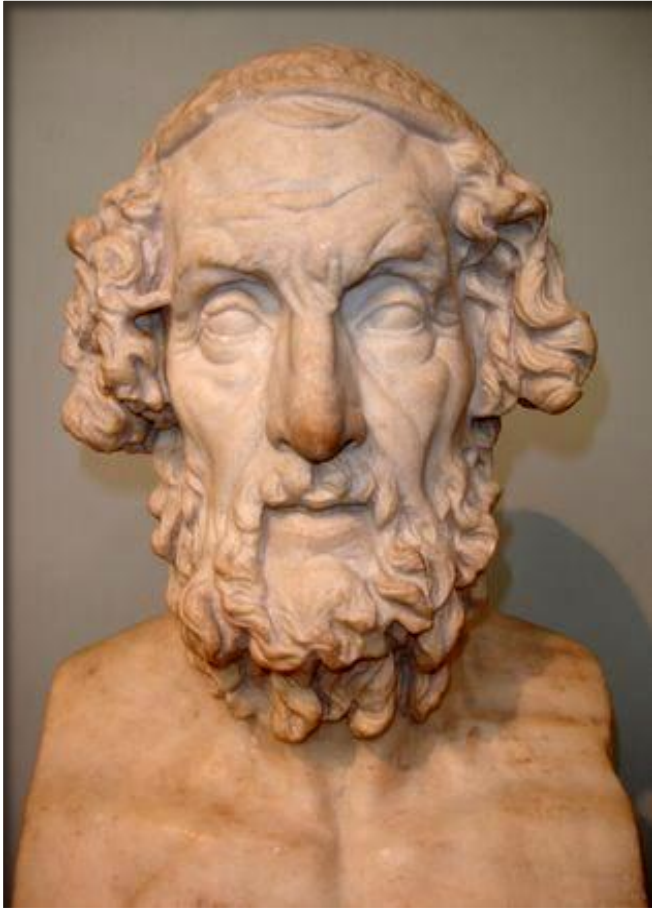
The marble figurines are
the most characteristic examples of the Cycladic civilization.

The one depicting a man playing a harp,
maybe participating in a religious ceremony,
is a Cycladic figurine masterpiece.

Fresco from the palace of Knossos.

Sacred ritual centered on the bull, a type of bull-fighting.

HOMER & THE HEROIC AGE



The Greeks of the so-called Geometric Era
(10th, 9th and 8th centuries BC)
were interested in their past
and were preoccupied with the discovery of their roots.

Homer's (picture on the left) epic poems
are a typical example.
Shaped at the turn of the 9th to the 8th century
and drawing from local tradition,
the poems' aim was to revive the past,
the era of the Trojan War,
the time of kings and heroes.

We see in the pictures
on the right Achilles and Patroclus (on the top)
and Ulysses (on the bottom).

THE PERSIAN WARS & THE ATHENIAN DEMOCRACY



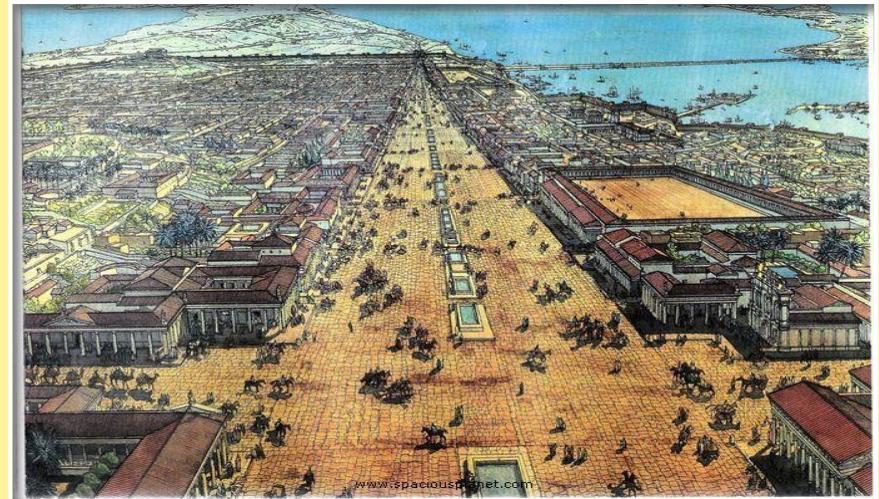
During the following centuries (800 – 479 BC)
Hellenism transcended its boundaries
and united will repel the imperial expansionist policy
of the Achaemenid Persian Empire.

Marathon was the field of the first major victory
(pictures below) in 479 BC.

The ensuing victories consolidated
the conviction that democracy was
the appropriate regime for free citizens.

Pericles' (upper left) vision of his city
and his great building program made
Athens the centre of the world of its time (Acropolis).

THE STATE OF ALEXANDER, THE GREAT



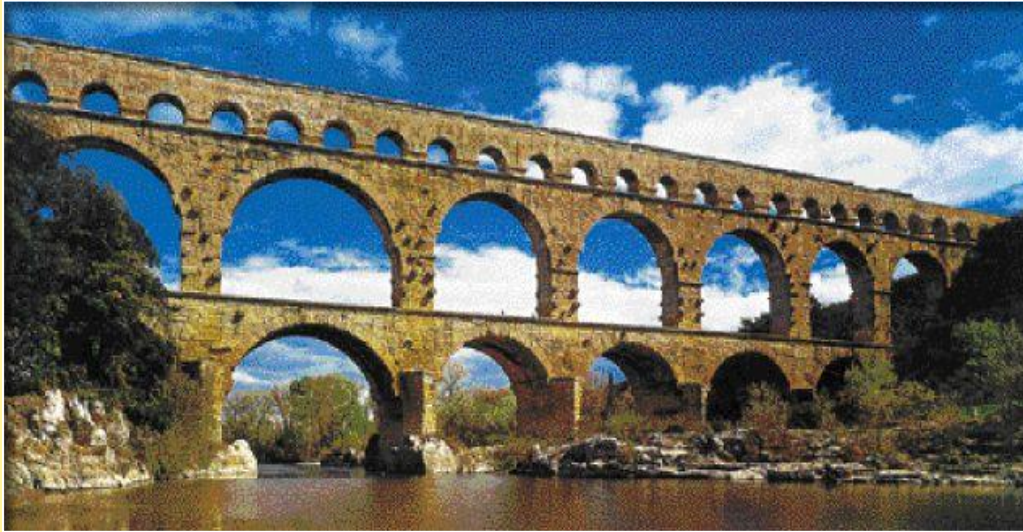
The Macedonians, faithful to their traditions, maintained the institution of kingship.

Alexander the Great, after persuading the Greeks to follow him, was able to conquer the Achaemenid Empire and reached India (see map above).

Through him and his Hellenistic Successors (Seleucids, Ptolemies, Attalids) Greek culture and the Greek way of life were widely spread in the East.

Transcending borders, peoples and history, Alexander became a myth (representation of Alexandria).

THE RULERS OF THE WESTERN WORLD

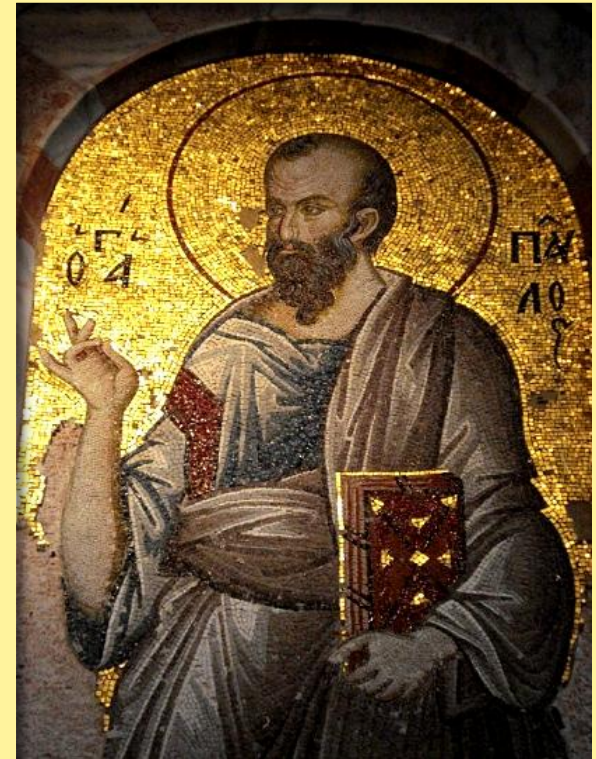


At the same time Rome rises to power in the West,
subdues Carthage and imposes its will
on mainland Greece (146 BC)
and the rest of the Hellenistic world (30 BC).

The economy grows rapidly, the sciences are promoted,
the architecture is impressive
(top left an example of an aqueduct)
and sculpture attempts to express man's inner world
(on the right a statue of the emperor Octavian Augustus).

Rome within few years
managed to become a world empire.
Within the historical context of Pax Romana
Christianity will be developed.

A MESSAGE OF JOY



THE EXPANSION OF CHRISTIANISM
IN THE WESTERN WORLD

Jesus Christ was born in Palestine during the reign of Augustus (31 BC – 12 AD); the New Testament informs us about his work and his teachings.

He was accused of aspiring to become the king of the Hebrews and Pontius Pilate, the Roman Perfect, sentenced him to die by crucifixion.

Today we cannot fathom what this method of punishment meant. Death by crucifixion is by far more excruciating and agonizing than hanging.

So the “cross of shame” became for the Christians the symbol of salvation.

His message of joy, called *evangelion* – that is ‘good news’ – was brought to the West by Apostle Paul with Athens as an intermediary stop.

From Rome the new religion spread throughout the world.

An excerpt on love from Paul's epistle to the Corinthians

- If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.....
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps not record of wrongs. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.....
- And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of all is love.

BYZANTIUM, A STARRY NIGHT, NOT THE DARK AGES



From the 3rd century AD
the empire's center is gradually shifted
towards the East which is dominated by the Greek element.

Constantine the Great transferred the capital
from Rome to Constantinople,
changing the course of history.

Justinian I (on top left mosaic from Ravenna) will partially restore
the empire to its old Roman boundaries in the West
and adorn it with building masterpieces
(on top right Hagia Sophia).

Constantinople was conquered in 1204 by the Crusaders
and in 1453 by the Ottoman Turks.

THE CELTS: THE FRONTLINERS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CHRISTIANITY IN EUROPE



After the great migrations of people in the West and the disruption caused by the invasions of the Huns, the task of rescuing the ancient heritage and Christianity (on top a page from the Lindisfarne gospel) fell into the hands of the Celtic monasteries of Ireland and Gaul.

The saints Columbanus (top middle), Palladius, Boniface and Patrick founded dozens of monasteries in continental Europe and taught Christianity to the German tribes.

From the 7th to the 10th centuries Ireland was the only major center of Greek Studies in Northern Europe.

The monasteries conserved the Roman tradition alongside the Christian spirit (Celtic cross on the top left)

CHARLEMAGNE:

THE CONQUEROR WHO KNEW HOW TO GOVERN

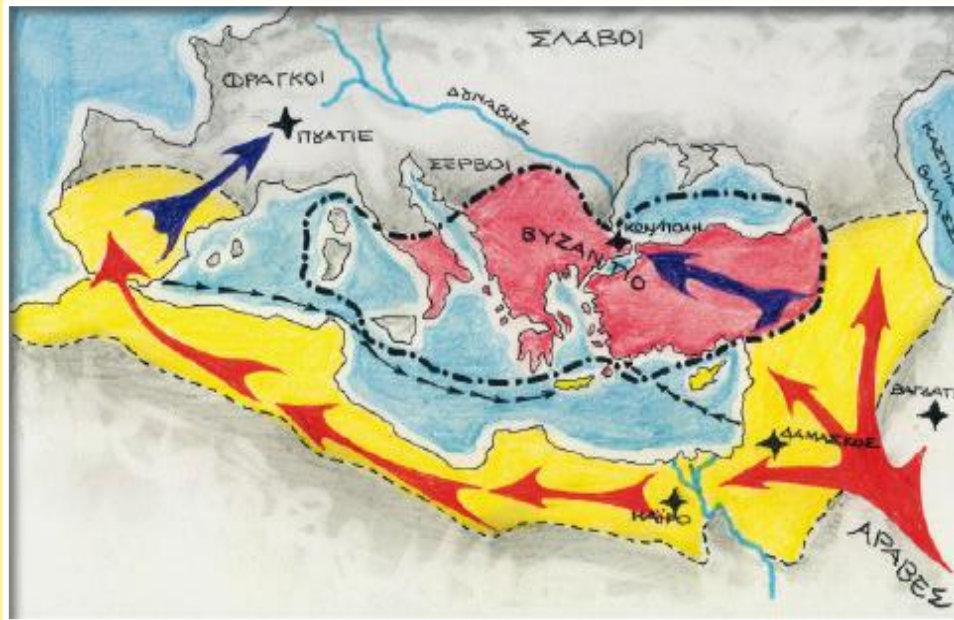


Charlemagne (left) was able through constant warfare to create a huge and powerful Christian state in central Europe (bottom right).

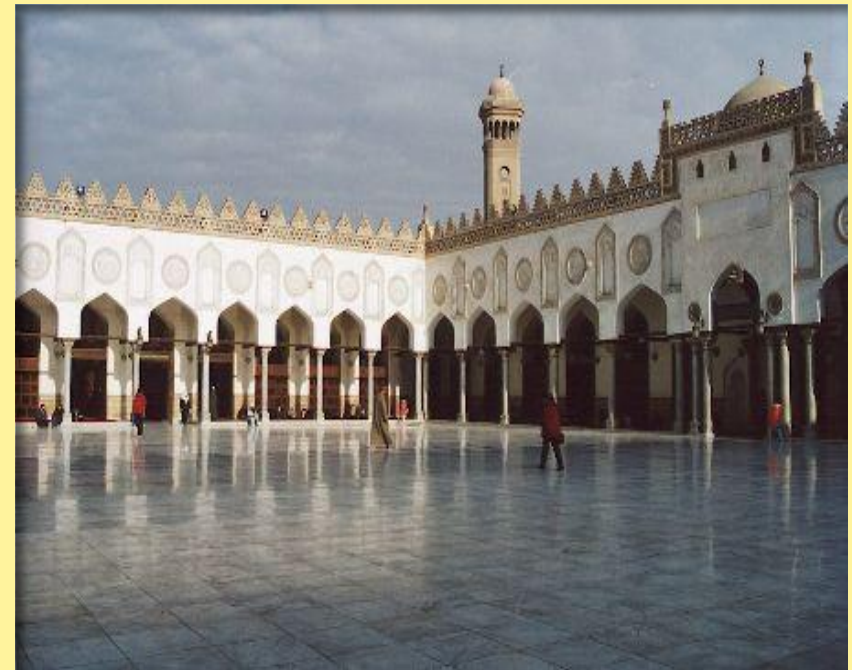
In 800 AD he was crowned Emperor of the Romans (Imperator Augustus) by the Pope.

He organized the political and administrative institutions utilizing both Roman tradition and German customs.

He laid the foundations of modern Europe (right above Charlemagne's cathedral in Aachen).



THE EXPANSION OF ISLAM



The Arab expansion had a profound impact on world history. It sprung from the conversion of the Arabs to Islam, the monotheistic religion founded by Muhammad. Two years after the Prophet's death the Arabs conquered Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia, the coast of North Africa, Carthage, Gibraltar and most of Spain (map).

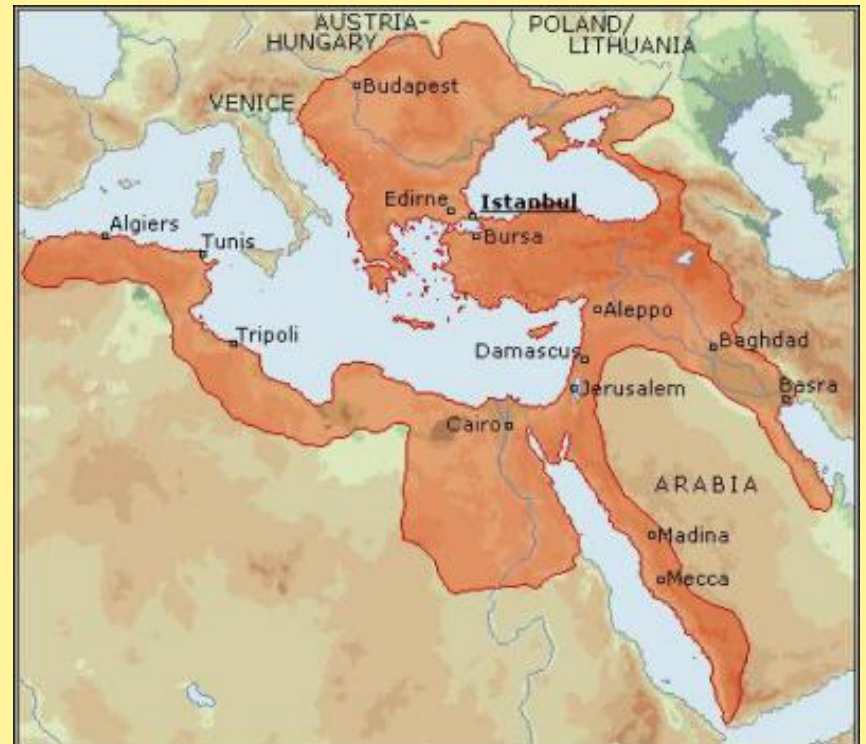
They were stopped in 732 AD by Charles Martel at Poitiers, north of the Pyrenees, and in 717 AD by Leon III the Isaurian at Constantinople.

The Arab expansion led to the disruption of the Mediterranean world.

The West was greatly influenced by Arabic arts and culture (bottom right mosaic from the Damascus mosque).



THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



The Ottomans after the conquest of Constantinople completed the conquest of the Balkans, Mesopotamia, parts of Arabia and the whole of North Africa.

They besieged without success Vienna, twice in 1529 and 1683 (map). Since then the Ottoman Empire begun to continuously give ground and Russia became the prominent force of the anti-ottoman struggle.

The Ottoman Empire reached its peak during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent (top left).

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE: THE PIONEERS OF THE NEW AGE



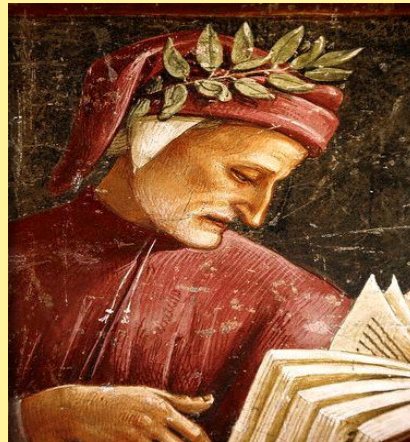
Losing land access to the Silk Road first to the Arabs and then the Ottomans forced the Europeans in seeking to gain access to the East through the sea.

The compass (bottom right), the Portolan charts, the caravel (top right) and the astrolabe are the new technologies which facilitated the discoveries.

The Portuguese were pioneers and Vasco de Gama in 1498, sailing along the coast of Africa, arrived to India.

The Genoese Columbus under the service of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain (left in the picture) discovered islands and parts of Central America. The centre of economic developments was transferred from the Mediterranean to Northern Europe and the contact with new peoples was a serious blow to the prejudices of the past.

THE RENAISSANCE STARTS OUT FROM FLORENCE



The Renaissance is an artistic and intellectual movement whose main characteristic was the revival of the values of classical antiquity in order to establish a new world.

The birthplace of these developments was the cities of Italy, Florence (above right), Venice, Milan and Rome with famous leaders such as the Medici (Lorenzo on the left), the Sforza, the Pope Julius II and the Doges of Venice.

The shift to the antiquity is called humanism.

Erasmus, François Rabelais, Thomas More wrote their works in their national languages (on the bottom Dante and Petrarch).

Translation centres of ancient literature were established in western monasteries.

King Alfonso X of Spain,

taking advantage of Islam's spiritual radiance, will transform the Toledo School of Translators

to a cultural melting pot where Christian and Jewish scholars would translate the Greek and Latin literature from the Arabic language.

EVOLUTION OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE MIDDLE AGES



The first church is characteristic of the Late Middle Ages of the West.

This is the Romanesque architectural style.

During the Middle Ages the church was the only tall building in every town and village and made a great contrast to the humble houses of the ordinary people.

The churches had round arches, held in place by compact pillars, few decorations and windows (and therefore they were dark) and solid concrete walls like castles (to the left church of the Romanesque style in Germany).

During the 12th century the so-called Gothic style begins to develop in Northern France.

Bishops built the new churches in the cities to emphasize the power of the Church.

The buildings' prominent features are the pointed arches, ribbed vaults, flying buttresses, excessive height, large windows and the sense of smallness of the individual when a person is inside them (Milan Cathedral).

RAPHAEL



Renaissance's ideology is better expressed in art.

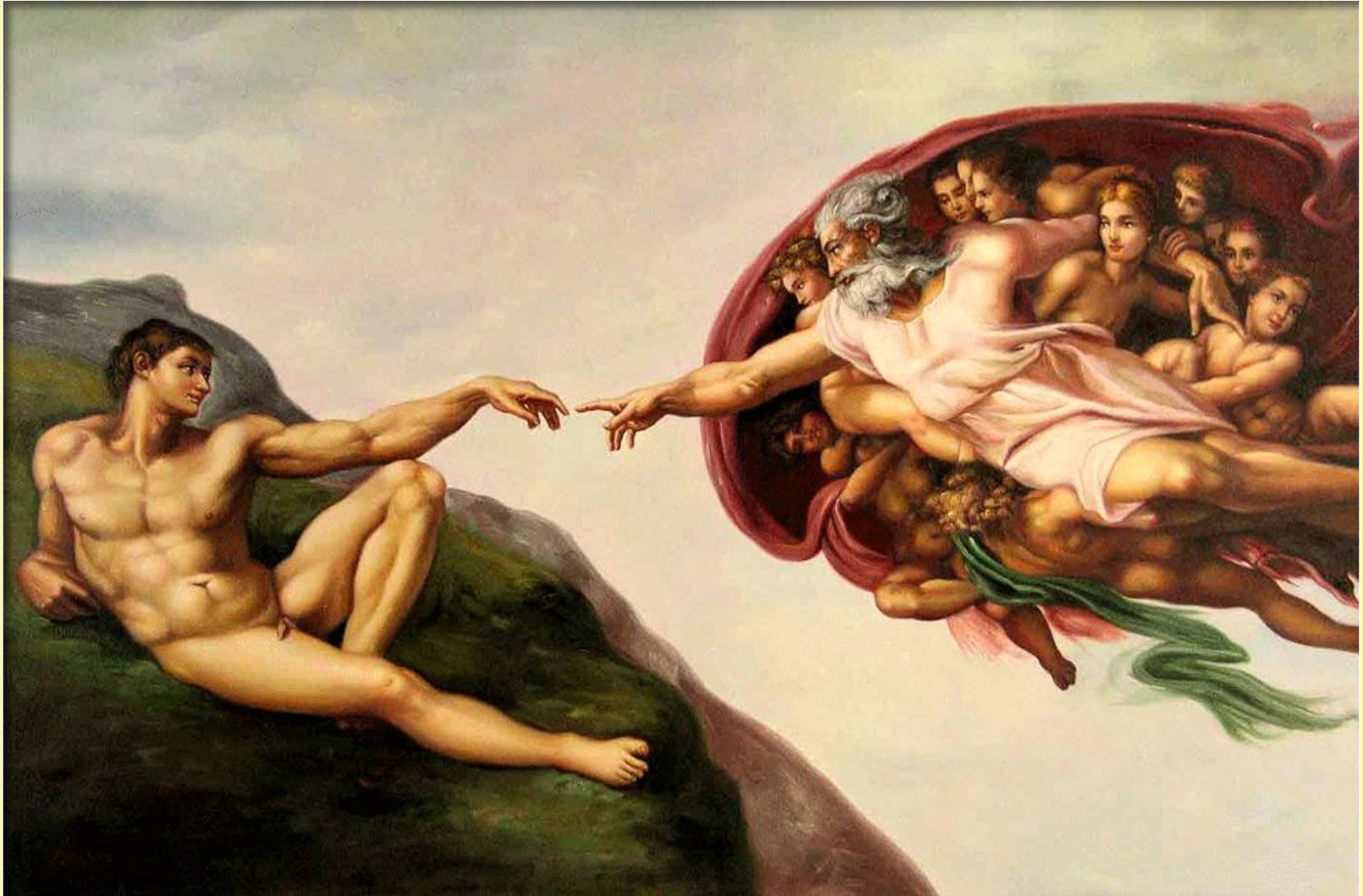
In architecture the artists adopted features inspired by classical antiquity.

After centuries painters do not hesitate to depict the human body naked and to present secular themes alongside the ecclesiastic ones.

Great artists of this era are:

- a) Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino (Raphael 1483 – 1520), who emphasizes in his work the human element, nobility and spirit, characteristics of ancient art and the trends of his time...

MICHELANGELO



b) Michelangelo,
considered to be the leader of the Florence School.
Included among his masterpieces are the paintings
of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel at Rome
representing the Creation;

c) Leonardo da Vinci,
who was also an architect, engineer and inventor.
He devised the *sfumato* painting mode,
a technique without lines and borders
creating the impression of light fog around the shapes
and adding a sense of mystery

LEONARDO DA VINCI



DOMENICO THEOTOKOPOULOS



d) Doménikos Theotokópoulos (El Greco),
in whose works we discern influences from
the Renaissance in the themes and perspective,
and from Byzantine art
in the shape of the figures and spirituality.

His works exhibit strong emotional conditions
such as drama and passion.

EUROPEAN MULTILATERAL COMENIUS
PROGRAMME

“THE TIME MACHINE,
now & then”



“HISTORICAL MILESTONES”

THE GREEK COMENIUS TEAM

UNDER

MRS. AMALIA ALEXATOU

Translation: **Dr. Michael Iliakis**
(editing: *Anastasia Kelesakou*)



THE GREEK COMENIUS TEAM BEFORE OUR VISIT TO MILAN
APRIL 2012

