

Florence Image Analysis



The City of Florence

Due to its ideal location on the Arno River, Florence became a center for trade and commerce. This allowed Florence to play a key role in the textile and banking industries. One leading Florence family, the Medici, contributed to these industries greatly, and eventually controlled much of Florence.

Art and literature flourished in Florence due to the amount of money coming in to the city from trade and commerce. Many residents were very wealthy and could afford to be patrons (supporters) of artists and thinkers. Patrons donated money to artists to live and eat, allowing artists to focus on their art.

Many travellers came to Florence regularly. Some came to do business, while others came to study art. Still others came to learn at the city's schools and libraries.

Florentine Politics

The Medici family controlled most aspects of city life. They were able to pay for a strong army, build palaces, and sponsor art. Their sponsorship made the city beautiful and famous. Although they were very powerful, the Medici's had to be very watchful for plots against them.

An author name Machiavelli wrote a political book called The Prince that was very modern for its time. HE wrote how politics and government functioned and how rulers could make their sates strong. The Prince shocked people with its cold realism. Yet, it was a modern work because it separated religion from government and was concerned with real world operations of government and politics.