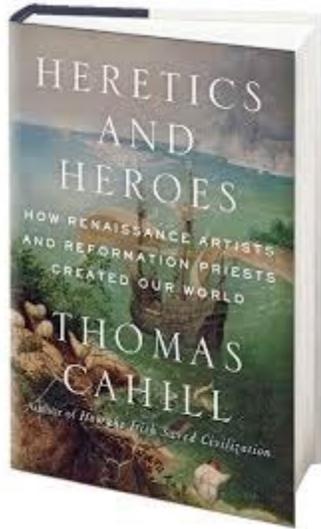


Advanced Placement European History

Summer Reading 2020



Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World
by Thomas Cahill

"It's hard to imagine a more palpable or engaging history of venal popes and the horrific torture and burning of heretics in the 1500s than Thomas Cahill's *Heretics and Heroes*, the sixth in his Hinges of History Series. Cahill is our king of popular historians, and rightly so. He is eminently learned and wise, fluent in several languages, and opinionated and unsparing in his view of history. . . . In a little over 300 pages, Cahill encapsulates several dozen major artistic, political and ecclesiastical figures across a spread of several centuries. He touches on so many subjects, is so knowledgeable on everything he touches on, is so pithy and sharp, it doesn't matter if you know a little, a lot or nothing at all about Renaissance art or Northern Europe's rocky break from Catholic Rome. Cahill, you feel, would be the ideal dinner or driving companion."

The Dallas Morning News

This recent and engaging history on the Renaissance/Reformation time period that will serve as an introduction to the course. As you read, annotate or take separate notes on key people, ideas and events. These notes should be no more than a paragraph for each section. I've copied my notes for the first bit of the text onto the back of the page to give you a clearer idea of how to handle the text. I suggest skipping Cahill's many footnotes. Sometimes they help, but often they are just random rants that history teachers are so famous for 😊 In addition, it helps to know that Cahill's politics are unapologetically liberal.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in the fall. Until then, if you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at gerhardc@nths.net

Ms. Gerhardt

This is a sample of my notes from the text, which are fairly detailed. Yours do not have to be a thorough.

Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World

By Thomas Cahill

Prelude: Philosophical Tennis Through the Ages

Plato v. Aristotle became a “doubles match” joined by Augustine (Platonic) and Aquinas (Aristotelian). Peter Abelard is on Aristotle’s side, as well, creating a swing to his side during the 12th and 13th centuries. Plato was #1 during Ren/Ref. The two debate the ultimate reality of nature. For Plato, man only sees partial glimpses of truth. Ultimate reality is known as Forms (Beauty, Truth, Justice, Unity—or Oneness, and Goodness), of which Goodness is the highest since all others express Good.

Augustine identifies Plato’s Good as the God of the Jews. On his own, man can only misunderstand what is seen because of sin. A few are granted grace and can see the light (i.e.—Plato’s Philosopher king). For Aristotle, the Forms are universal ideas but they exist in things. He pursued the science of *Natural Philosophy*. Cahill goes on to discuss realism and idealism for a page, but says it’s a serious bore☺ (PS—The soul is rational because man has to use reason to see beyond his own self—interest and embrace the greater good)

Introduction: Dress Rehearsal for Permanent Change

1282: The Sicilian Vespers—Easter Monday, 1282, the Sicilian capital of Palermo rose in revolt against the French occupation forces. They were inspired by the bad behavior of the French and the fleet of King Peter III of Aragon. The fleet was ostensibly for a crusade, but landed in Sicily instead. Crowned Peter I of Sicily, he deposed the despot Charles of Anjou, who was supported by the Pope. Peter’s wife Constance was the sole legitimate heir to Frederick Barbarossa (Hohenstaufen). HRE already super big, so the Pope preferred to use France as a counter—weight. Peter built his fleet with \$ from Michael Paleologos, the Roman Emperor of the East, since Charles had built a fleet with a mind to invade Constantinople. This ended the invasion plans and helped formalize the schism between eastern and western churches. So Sicilian Vespers ended the possibility of a universal papacy dominating Christendom, allowing for the development of nation states (and ultimately Protestantism).