

The Renaissance: A Very Short Introduction

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More than ever before, the Renaissance stands out as one of the defining moments in world history. Between 1400 and 1600, European perceptions of society, culture, politics and even humanity itself emerged in ways that continue to affect not only Europe but the entire world.

In this wide-ranging exploration of the Renaissance, Jerry Brotton shows the period as a time of unprecedented intellectual excitement, cultural experimentation, and interaction on a global scale, alongside a darker side of religion, intolerance, slavery, and massive inequality of wealth and status. Brotton skillfully guides us through the key issues that defined the Renaissance period, from its art, architecture, and literature, to advancements in the fields of science, trade, and travel. In its incisive account of the complexities of the political and religious upheavals of the period, the book argues that there are significant parallels between the Renaissance and our own era. This is the first clear and concise account of the Renaissance as a global phenomenon, an important new vision of the Renaissance for the 21st century written by a young Renaissance scholar of a new generation.

Dr.

Jerry Brotton

is a Lecturer in English at Royal Holloway, University of London.

'Review from previous edition a young Turk who likes to entertain . . . Brotton's book is full of arts and crafts . . . engaging and alluring . . . This is a Renaissance you can touch and feel

Sunday Times

'energetic and committed agenda

Financial Times

'offers some impressive fresh evidence'

Independent

'this is a Renaissance you can touch and feel'

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

Other Books

Hobbes: A Very Short Introduction. Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) was the first great English political philosopher, and his book Leviathan was one of the first truly modern works of philosophy. Richard Tuck shows that while Hobbes may indeed have been an atheist, he was far from pessimistic about human nature, nor did he advocate totalitarianism. By locating him against the context of his age, we learn that Hobbes developed a theory of knowledge which rivalled that of Descartes in its importance for the formation of modern philosophy.

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