




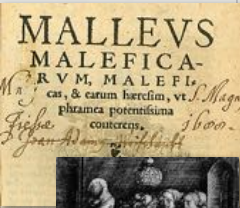

Rebirth or Renewed Inferiority?

- What was the power of women like during the Middle Ages?
- Status of UC women declined
- Humanist Education
 - Real educational advance for women
 - Problems:
 - Choice — marriage or study
 - Alienated from other women
- Women as decoration —
 - Woman pleasing to the man = prep for social functions, responsibilities of the home
 - “[B]eauty is more necessary to her than to the Courtier, for in truth that woman lacks much who lacks beauty.”
- Attitudes toward rape
 - William the Conqueror’s England (11th C)
 - Venetian laws 14th-15th C




Rebirth or Renewed Inferiority?

- Protestant Reformation and Catholic Reformation
 - Re-enforced Pauline view of women : “The Word and works of God is quite clear, that women were made either to be wives or prostitutes.”
- Witch Hysteria
 - “Linked to a fear of the devil was a fear of women.” (Mortimer Chambers)
 - 1560-1670 -- approx 30,000

Taking Sides

Did women and men benefit equally from the Renaissance?

Sofonisba Anguissola



Artemisia Gentileschi



Taking Sides

Did women and men benefit equally from the Renaissance?

Isabella d'Este

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- Set example -- women are not only ornamental displays for their husbands
- Patroness of the arts, writer, and ruler of Mantua



Taking Sides

Did women and men benefit equally from the Renaissance?

Catherine de Medici



- Unparalleled Education
- Queen of France, regent to her sons
- Laid the foundations of following the French Religious Civil Wars

Taking Sides

Did women and men benefit equally from the Renaissance?

Laura Cereta

On Renaissance Women:

Women's inferiority is derived not from the divine order of things but from women themselves: "For knowledge is not given as a gift, but through study . . . The free mind, not afraid of labor, presses on to attain the good."



Taking Sides

Did women and men benefit equally from the Renaissance?

Marsilio Ficino
(16th C Italian Humanist)



On Renaissance Women:

"Women should be used like chamber pots: hidden away once a man has pissed in them."

John McKay
(Modern Historian)

On Renaissance Women:

"In Renaissance society, blacks, like women were signs of wealth; both were used for display."