

VENICE

Renaissance City-State



As Florence flourished near the western coast of Italy, another city emerged as the most powerful port city in Renaissance Italy; **VENICE**.

Venice is located on the East Coast of Italy in the north and at the time, had a population of over 150,000.

Venice is a one-of-a-kind city built entirely on **Piles** sunk into the marshy islands at the head Of the **Adriatic** Sea. The City has hundreds of **Canals**, which function as roads and highways.



NAVY of VENICE

Venice became a successful city because of its Leaders. The leaders of Venice created the most Powerful **Navy** through which Venice was able to gain control of the trade routes on the **Mediterranean** Sea.

Venetians (people from Venice) maintained hundreds of merchant ships and warships and thousands of sailors. The city's navy and its watery surroundings made the city very difficult to attack. Venice kept its Independence throughout the entire Middle Ages and the city was only conquered in the 1800's when Napoleon took over successfully.

GOVERNMENT OF VENICE

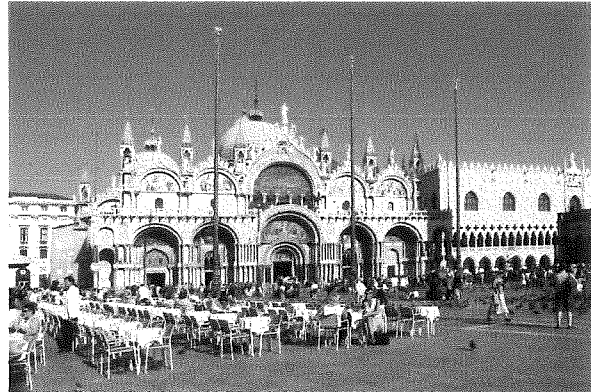
Venetians referred to their city as a **REPUBLIC** (a state in which the citizens select representatives to form a government). This is a form of **DEMOCRACY** but the people of Venice had very little political freedom. The supreme ruler of Venice was the **DOGE** (pronounced Doj) who was elected for life. The city had a Senate and a Great

Council that passed laws. The Doge and all the members of the government came from wealthy families.

Venice also had a “**Secret Council of Ten**”. This council had the power to imprison, torture, and execute any citizens of Venice all in secret.



The Doge Palace



St. Marks Cathedral, Venice
(Doge Palace Beside it)

VENICE ART & SOCIETY

Venice, like Florence, had many famous artists who were commissioned by the wealthy merchants of the city. Architects build beautiful palaces and Venetian artists painted and sculpted many pieces. The most famous Venetian Artist was **TITIAN** who worked all of his life and died when he was 99 years old. Many of Titian's works were massive paintings ordered by the Republic of Venice to record the glory of the city.

Titian also painted people and often painted women with light red hair. The colour is still known today as “**Titian Red**”.



The Grande Canal

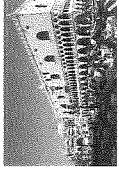


St. Mark's & Gondolas



Italian City-State Comparison

Florence & Venice



Two of the most powerful Renaissance City-States were Florence and Venice. Please complete the following comparisons of the two cities.

	FLORENCE	VENICE
Businesses & Economy		
(Geography Pros/Cons) Special Features of Famous facts		
Government		
Military		
Artists & Work		

