

About the middle of the fifteenth century Europe was thoroughly awake. What caused the awakening? It

was brought about by the rediscovery of the classics, especially of the writings of the Greeks. A few Greek teachers had come to Western Europe before 1400, but when in 1453 the Turks captured Constantinople they fled with their precious manuscripts and spread over all the western lands. In the classics men found a new spirit far different from that of the Middle Ages. Everywhere was desire to study this newly revealed knowledge and the teachers of Greek were deluged with pupils. It is impossible for us now to realise what this revelation meant to the men of the time. The Renaissance (or rebirth) as this awakening was called, quickly spread through Europe, and manifested itself in many ways. In it the modern world was born, with its science, its inventions, its curiosity and love of experiment.

As the Renaissance reached its period of full flowering, there came an invention which immensely aided the spread of the new ideas, the invention of printing. In the Middle ages, since all books were copied by hand, they were rare and costly. An Italian writer records that when in the early days of the Renaissance, an Italian Prince, Cosimo De Medici wished to make a library he had to employ forty-five scribes for twenty-two months to make two hundred books. But after 1460 the invention of printing made a plentiful supply of the cheap books possible. The first books were printed from solid blocks of wood on which the letters were cut in relief, but soon movable type was invented. Printing presses were established in the cities of Italy, France, the Netherlands and England. Printed books of all kinds were poured out from them. Bibles, grammars, dictionaries, copies of the works of the classical authors, pamphlets and poems. Some were great, expensive folios which only the rich could buy, but even these were cheaper and more plentiful than the hand-copied books had been. As time went on cheap editions became common, so that all who could read could possess copies of the works of the writers of Greece and Rome. No wonder, with this invention to aid it, that the new ideas spread all over Europe. (380 words)

Renaissance in Europe

In the middle of fifteenth century, Europe was awakened by the rediscovery of classics, especially of the greek writings. Before 1400 some greek teachers moved / came to western europe whose classics inspired men to become their pupil. The Renaissance swiftly spread around Europe which gave birth to a new world of science, creation, reasoning and experimentation. As renaissance was at its peak, printing was invented. Before renaissance and even at the start of renaissance book making was time consuming and books were few and expensive. But printing made books cheap. Printing presses were opened in several countries of Europe some prints were expensive but still cheaper than the hand copied books had been. Cheap editions became plentiful with time so that all literates could possess it. Printing helped in the spread of knowledge all over Europe. (Total words: 127)