

Dylan Blad

Lecture 8: Political Thought & State Formation in Renaissance Europe

Christian Humanism

↳ Ad fontes, different fontes

↳ Greek + Hebrew

↳ Still look at ancients

- "pagan" thinkers

- not ignored, even people like St. Augustine

- What have Athens to do w/ Jerusalem?

↳ Hardcore on Platonic thinking

- Reality is beyond this world

- Platonic love - love of the soul, mind, body

- less emphasis on Aristotle

Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536)

↳ Network of correspondence

↳ Tension - love for classical antiquity & Christianity

↳ ^{picky} "Laid the egg that Luther hatched"

Sir Thomas More

↳ Utopia - 1516

- Criticizes political society

- Fictional wonderland

- distances himself - Raphael Nonsenso

The Debate

More's Utopia

Erasmus' Education of a Christian Prince

Castiglione's The Book of the Courtier

Machiavelli's The Prince / Discourses

All direct contemporaries —————→

Education of a Christian Prince — class discussion

Erasmus + Machiavelli —→ comparable to Plato/
Aristotle (not cut and dry, nuanced pairings)

The Discourses — class discussions