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## **Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to the Popular Defining Documents in History Series: *Renaissance and Early Modern Era (1308-1600)***

*Defining Documents in World History: Renaissance and Early Modern Era* surveys key writing and documents produced from 1308 to 1600. Maps are included to help the reader understand the state of the world during this period. This title contains 30 primary source documents that provide a compelling view of this unique period of world history.

The Renaissance is a period in European history named “rebirth” after human kind’s emergence from the “dark ages” (partly named for how little of history had actually been known ), and into an era of intense intellectual, artistic, and scientific development inspired by revelations in historical fact and widespread cultural appreciation for knowledge. Scholars during the Renaissance used these new revelations of knowledge to expand their understanding of the world in terms of religion, philosophy, and ethics. *Defining Documents in World History: Renaissance and Early Modern Era* is organized under five broad categories

- The Black Death
- Europe in War and Peace
- Renaissance Arts and Letters
- New World Encounters and Conflicts
- The Protestant Reformation and After

Each document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians and teachers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, Author Biography, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. Readers will appreciate the diversity of the collected texts, including journals, letters, speeches, political sermons, and laws among others. An important feature of each essay is a close reading of the primary source that develops evidence of broader themes, such as author’s rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view, and other relevant issues. In addition, essays are organized by section themes, listed above, highlighting major issues of the period, many of which extend across eras and continue to shape life as we know it around the world.

Each section begins with a brief introduction that defines questions and problems underlying the subjects in the historical documents. A brief glossary is included at the end of each document, highlighting keywords that are important in the study of the primary source. Each essay also includes a Bibliography and Additional Reading section for further research.

## About the Series

*Defining Documents* consists of a collection of essays on important historical documents by a diverse range of writers on a broad range of subjects in American history. The series offers a broad range of historical documents on important authors and subjects in American history, with primary source documents, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive lesson plans that represent the diversity of ideas and contexts that define social, political and cultural subjects throughout American history. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in American History since 1492.

## The following titles make up the entire Defining Documents series:

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