

Humanism

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Humanism

During the French revolution, and soon after in Germany, humanism began to refer to an ethical philosophy centered on human kind. The designation Religious Humanism refers to organised groups that sprang up during the late 19th century and early 20th century. It is similar to protestantism, although centered on human need, interests and abilities rather than the supernatural.

"Humanism" was the major intellectual movement of Renaissance. In the opinion of the majority of scholars, it began in late 14th century in Italy, came to maturity in the 15th century and spread to the rest of Europe after the middle of that century. Humanism then became the dominant intellectual movement in Europe in the 16th century. It was a fulfilling faith, under the influence of classics,

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humanists developed a new rhetoric and a new learning. Some scholars argue that humanism articulated new morals and values offering guidance in life. It is not surprising that scholars have studied it intensively and view it in different ways. This entry provides a sampling of some of the best and most influential scholarship on the subject of humanism in the era of the Renaissance and Reformation.