17-1 Notes

* Renaissance – means “re-birth” of art and learning in Europe during the 1300s and 1500s.
* During the Renaissance people became more secular – more interested in this world than in religion and getting to heaven.
* Three reasons why the Renaissance began in Italy (1) it was the center of the Roman Empire (2) they could afford to pay the artists (3) the region was still divided into wealthy city-states.
* A person who fights in an army for money is called a mercenary.
* The Italian city-states grew wealthy from trade because of geography.
* Marco Polo – an Italian explorer from Venice who took a journey to much of Asia. He wrote a book about his travels causing much interest in Italy.
* Venice and Florence were two very wealthy Italian city-states.
* Florence became wealthy because of making cloth and banking.
* The Medici family was the wealthiest family in Florence, Italy and were bankers.
* Venice was the wealthiest city-state because of shipbuilding. Its streets are canals and gondolas are long narrow boats used to travel along the canals.
* City-states developed diplomacy – the art of negotiating or making deals with other countries.
* Niccolo Machiavelli, a diplomat in Florence, claimed that people were greedy and self –centered. He believed that rulers should do whatever is necessary to keep power.