



*A World Lit Only By
Fire:
The Medieval Mind
and the Renaissance
Portrait of an Age*

by William
Manchester

I strongly recommend that you read Manchester's book with the following three goals:

1. To gain an insight into the daily life and mindset of the Middle Ages from Pope to peasant.
2. To analyze the 'new way of thinking' that arose during the Renaissance.
3. To see if *YOU* agree with Manchester's Thesis/Scholarship.

Your ability to characterize the Middle Ages will constitute the backbone of our first lesson. It will also serve as the information we'll need to answer your first Essential Question; 'How did Europe look economically, socially, and politically during the Middle Ages?'

Your ability to analyze the 'new' Renaissance mindset will be assessed through your first formal essay due on Tuesday, September 23rd

Your take on Manchester's thesis will set us up for our first discussion seminar.

Essay Prompt:

The focus of Manchester's book is that "the power of the medieval mind was forever broken" during the 16th century. Examine how any three of the following events/movements are utilized by Manchester to support his thesis:

Sir Thomas More
Humanism (mandatory)
Literacy & Education
Desiderus Erasmus
Magellan's Voyage

Leonardo da Vinci
Printing
Nicolaus Copernicus

Thesis must follow the CSD3R formula.

Complexity + Subject + Direction + 3 reasons.

Writing Guidelines:

In this, as in all of your work, put forth the best product of which you are capable. Follow all the rules of formal writing. For example, avoid 1st and 2nd person (I, we, you), do not abbreviate or use contractions, check your drafts for correct spelling and grammar, etc. Type your final product in Times New Roman font (size 12), with double-spaced format. Use standard margins at the top and bottom. (1 inches) Cite whatever you take from the book by parenthetical notation with page numbers only. Example: (Manchester 23)

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| • Thesis Statement (a one sentence summary of your argument appearing in the first paragraph) | 10 pts |
| • Mechanics (spelling and grammar) | 20pts |
| • The strength of your argument and evidence | 60pts |
| • Metacog (see syllabus) | 10pts |
| Total | 100pts |