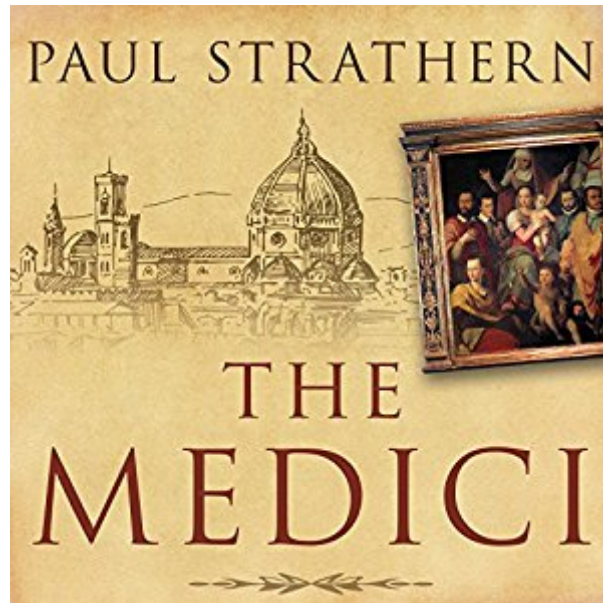


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# The Medici: Power, Money, And Ambition In The Italian Renaissance



## Synopsis

A dazzling history of the modest family that rose to become one of the most powerful in Europe, The Medici is a remarkably modern story of power, money, and ambition. Against the background of an age that saw the rebirth of ancient and classical learning, Paul Strathern explores the intensely dramatic rise and fall of the Medici family in Florence as well as the Italian Renaissance, which they did so much to sponsor and encourage. Interwoven into the narrative are the lives of many of the great Renaissance artists with whom the Medici had dealings, including Leonardo, Michelangelo, and Donatello as well as scientists like Galileo and Pico della Mirandola. In his enthralling study, Strathern also follows the fortunes of those members of the Medici family who achieved success away from Florence, including the two Medici popes and Catherine de' Medici, who became queen of France and played a major role in that country through three turbulent reigns.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm grateful to author, Paul Strathern, for writing this book. The stripped down genealogical chart at the start is an example of how the book will cover centuries when each decade had outstanding people and events and social, artistic and political developments. For me, this is the perfect mix of research, interpretation (background, significance and what to leave in/take out) and character development for putting together the story of this family and its influence on western civilization. After a Prologue on events of April 1478, the book begins with Giovanni di Bicci de Medici who founded what was to become the most famous bank of Italy and his son Cosimo who expanded the bank's geographical footprint and laid the political foundation for growing the family's influence. As Cosimo was groomed for leadership, he groomed his sons. Strathern poses that

because the Mediciâ€™s were not nobles and Florence was a republic the family built its political position by bonding with the people through buildings, public art, hosting dignitaries with large community events and presenting a modest demeanor. Strathern shows how Lorenzo (the Magnificent), in carrying on his grandfather Cosimoâ€™s program of public works and art, and modest personal style, became a patron to the eraâ€™s most gifted artists of and fostered what is now known as the Renaissance. Strathern examines the term itself: how it was used in this era, how âœ•re-birthâœ• harkened back to pre-Christian humanism during ancient republican times and how this re-birth needed a city, like Florence, free of authoritarian rule, to grow.

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