The 15th century

The printing press, the dome, and a new world.

Brunelleschi raised the dome of Florence, Gutenberg printed the Bible, and Columbus crossed the Atlantic. Book production rose from tens of thousands a year to hundreds of thousands.

What rose

1420–36. Brunelleschi's dome of Florence Cathedral. Source: Florence Cathedral

c. 1455. The Gutenberg Bible. Source: Gutenberg Bible

1488. Dias rounds the Cape of Good Hope. Source: Bartolomeu Dias

1492. Columbus reaches the Americas. Source: Voyages of Christopher Columbus

1498. Vasco da Gama reaches India by sea. Leonardo paints the Last Supper. Source: Vasco da Gama

What fell or stalled

Constantinople fell to the Ottomans in 1453. Source: Fall of Constantinople

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