

Nuremberg's Rise to Economic and Cultural Center

In the Early Modern Period, Nuremberg experienced a rapid upturn. Craft production and trade grew in the 15th and 16th centuries, science and art flourished. Just below the Imperial Castle the artist [Albrecht Dürer](#), the most famous son of the city, had his home and studio. Dürer's works as well as those from the master carver Veit Stoß or sculptor Adam Kraft were recognized and appreciated far over the borders of the city. The city, which had grown to a population of 50,000, was innovative in many areas: In Nuremberg, the first paper mill north of the Alps was built and the clarinet was invented. The oldest surviving depiction of the world as a [globe](#) was created by Nuremberg trader Martin Behaim. Astronomical instruments, navigation devices and maps from the Free Imperial City were leaders on the world market. Even Copernicus praised Nuremberg's location at the heart of Europe ("quasi centrum europae"). Through Willibald Pirckheimer, the name of Nuremberg is closely tied to humanism in Germany. The open-mindedness for new intellectual trends led to an acceptance of the Reformation in 1525. In nearby Altdorf, the Nuremberg City Council opened the "publica et trivialis schola" (English: public school) in 1575, which became the university of Nuremberg in 1622.