Great Cities: Capitals of Western History
Winter 2021 – Encore Edition

Over the centuries, European history unfolded in a series of major stages. Each of these stages can be seen as having a Capital City, an urban center from which power and influence radiated. Part of this influence took the form of creative expression, since each of these cities were also capitals of a distinctive artistic culture. As the course moves chronologically from Renaissance to Modern times, each class session highlights the leading city of its epoch – six Great Cities in their Golden Age.

Great City

1) **Venice** – Renaissance – Gateway to the Exotic Orient
   Maritime Empire – Venetian Doge & Senate

2) **Madrid** – Age of Exploration – Conquering New Worlds
   Counter-Reformation – Inquisition & Armada

3) **Amsterdam** – Commercial Revolution – Venice of the North
   Protestant Ethics & the Spirit of Capitalism

4) **Vienna** – Bastion of Tradition – Seat of Holy Roman Empire
   Congress of Vienna – Grand Art of Historicism

5) **London** – Industrial Revolution – Ingredients for Growth
   Seat of World Empire – Victorian Sensibilities

6) **New York** – Triumph of Modernity – The First Metropolis
   Great Melting Pot – Subways & Skyscrapers

**Great Melting Pot**

**Visual Feature**

- **Venetian Cityscapes**
- **Baroque Intensity**
- **The Dutch Masters**
- **Habsburg Dynasty**
- **Romantic Protest**
- **NY’s Modern Artists**

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