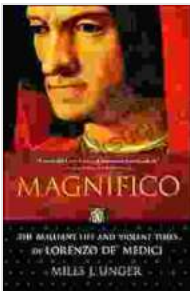


# The Brilliant Life and Violent Times of Lorenzo de Medici

Lorenzo de Medici was born in Florence, Italy, in 1449. He was the son of Piero de' Medici, the head of the powerful Medici family, and Lucrezia Tornabuoni, a noblewoman. Lorenzo was a precocious child, and he quickly showed a talent for learning. He studied Latin, Greek, and philosophy, and he became a skilled poet and orator. He also had a passion for the arts, and he collected paintings, sculptures, and books.



## Magnifico: The Brilliant Life and Violent Times of Lorenzo de' Medici

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1960 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 908 pages



In 1469, Lorenzo's father died, and Lorenzo became the head of the Medici family. He was only 20 years old, but he quickly proved to be a capable leader. He was able to maintain the family's political power and wealth, and he continued to patronize the arts. He commissioned some of the most famous works of art of the Renaissance, including Botticelli's "Birth of Venus" and Michelangelo's "David."

Lorenzo was also a skilled politician. He was able to negotiate peace treaties between Florence and its rivals, and he played a key role in the formation of the Italian League, a defensive alliance of Italian states. However, Lorenzo was also willing to use violence to achieve his goals. In 1478, he ordered the assassination of his political rival, Giuliano de' Pazzi. This act of violence led to a war between Florence and the Pazzi family, which Lorenzo ultimately won.

Lorenzo died in 1492, at the age of 43. He was succeeded by his son, Piero de' Medici. Piero was not as capable a leader as his father, and he was unable to maintain the Medici's political power. In 1494, the Medici family was expelled from Florence, and the city became a republic.

Lorenzo de Medici was a complex and controversial figure. He was a brilliant poet, scholar, and patron of the arts, but he was also a ruthless politician who was willing to use violence to achieve his goals. He was a product of his time, and he lived in a violent and turbulent period of Italian history. However, his legacy as one of the most important figures of the Renaissance remains secure.

### **Lorenzo de Medici's Legacy**

Lorenzo de Medici's legacy is vast and complex. He was a major figure in the Italian Renaissance, and his influence can be seen in the art, architecture, and literature of the period. He was also a skilled politician and diplomat, and his work helped to shape the political landscape of Italy. However, Lorenzo's legacy is also stained by his use of violence and his willingness to suppress his political opponents.

Lorenzo's most enduring legacy is his patronage of the arts. He was a major patron of some of the most famous artists of the Renaissance, including Botticelli, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci. His support helped to create a thriving artistic environment in Florence, and his patronage helped to make Florence one of the most important centers of the Renaissance. Lorenzo's own poetry and scholarship also had a significant impact on the development of Italian literature and culture.

Lorenzo's political legacy is more mixed. He was a skilled politician and diplomat, and his work helped to maintain peace and stability in Italy. However, he was also willing to use violence to achieve his goals, and his suppression of his political opponents led to a number of conflicts and wars. Lorenzo's legacy as a politician is therefore complex and controversial.

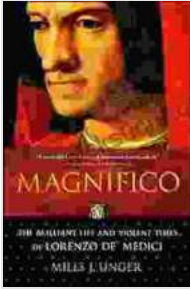
Overall, Lorenzo de Medici was a complex and contradictory figure. He was a brilliant poet, scholar, and patron of the arts, but he was also a ruthless politician who was willing to use violence to achieve his goals. His legacy is vast and complex, and it continues to be debated by historians and scholars today.

## **Additional Resources**

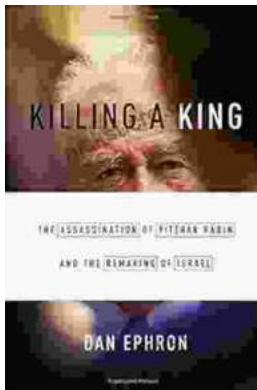
- [Lorenzo de' Medici on Britannica.com](#)
- [Lorenzo de' Medici on History.com](#)
- [Lorenzo de' Medici on the National Gallery website](#)

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