

# The ideal city for Leonardo Bruni: an analysis of *Laudatio florentinae Urbis*

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## Abstract

Leonardo Bruni, chancellor and historian of Florence, and among the first men to translate Plato and Aristotle in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, is also the author of one of the main praises to the city of Florence in that period. By writing the *Laudatio florentinae urbis*, in 1404, the humanist shows Florence and its government as the ideal to a fair city, organised, beautiful, and where freedom and civic engagement against all tyranny reigns. This article aims to understand the *Laudatio* not only as a political brochure and rhetorical work, defending the republican ideals on a key moment of the city history, but also as one of the earliest texts to see Florence as a model of the ideal city; the city built according to reason and perfectly suited to the new political man and the city-state which then flourished in the Italian Renaissance.

**Keywords:** Leonardo Bruni, Italian republicanism, Renaissance.