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1. An inherited idea of man, society and civilisation2. Individualism and the cult of creative personality; 3. Machiavelli and Castiglione; 3.1 Machiavelli; 3.2 Castiglione; Chap. 12 The Intellectual and the Ideal of Intellectual Cultivation; Chap. 13 Classical Scholarship; Chap. 14 Historiography; Chap. 15 Renaissance and Reformation; 1. Attitudes to the prince and the beginnings of the Reformation in Germany and England; 1.1 The problem: Luther's doctrines and their origins; 1.2 Luther's support; 1.3 The attitude of King Henry VIII; 2. Calvinism and the 'decline of magic'
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Sommario/riassunto

In this fascinating study, John Stephens interprets the significance of the immense cultural change which took place in Italy from the time of Petrarch to the Reformation, and considers its wider contribution to Europe beyond the Alps. His important analysis (which is designed for students and serious general readers of history as well as the specialist) is not a straight narrative history; rather, it is an examination of the humanists, artists and patrons who were the instruments of this change; the contemporary factors that favoured it; and the elements of ancient thought they revived.
