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In the Renaissance period, there were a lot of improvement in many ways such as the rebirth of arts, education and commerce. Moreover, Florence, the city in Italy, has been developed a lot. Surprisingly, the only family who played the most crucial role in Florence's development was the Medici family¹ but not all of the Medici members involved in this phenomena such as Pope Leo X², the pope that corrupted the church by selling indulgences. On the other hand, Cosimo de Medici³ was the most influential person in this city at that time because he devoted himself to do several things for the country such as being a patron of art, being a ruler of Florence and being a good leader for the people. There are many other fascinating aspects about him but the most interesting thing about Cosimo de Medici was the exile of him.⁴

In order to cause someone to be exiled, one must have enough power or enough money to make others feel jealous and call for an exile. Therefore, Cosimo who had become so powerful and wealthy was banished out of Florence. Where his wealth arose from was obvious because the medici bank⁵ which was well-known by everyone as the richest bank of Florence was owned by his father, Giovanni de

¹ The Medici Family. *The World Book Encyclopedia*.1991, vol.13 p. 362.

²Leo X, Austin Cline, <http://atheism.about.com/library/glossary/western/bldef_leox.htm>

³ Cosimo de' Medici Biography ,*encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2010, <<http://biography.yourdictionary.com/cosimo-de-medici>>

⁴ K. Dorothea Ewart Vernon, *Cosimo de' Medici (1899)*. Chapter2

⁵ Bank Medici , *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*, 25 July 2012 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bank_Medici>

Medici. Not only money and fortune that could make him become so powerful but also there were many other things which could be considered to be a stepping stone for his power. First, having a lot of supporters and followers was one way Cosimo used to gain such a power. He began by bringing his relatives, friends and close people to be his supporters. After that, by using his skillful leadership in business and politics is another factor which brought him a lot of power. In politics, as he was an administrator of Florence, he never ignored the middle and lower class unlike other administrators that cared more about the rich: thus, it was undoubtedly that most of the people like him because three fourth of Florence people were middle and lower class. Furthermore, in business, as an inheritor, he did well to manage his father company, the Medici bank, which made him have a lot of business connection not only in the particular city but also cities around Florence and in some situation, he did things patiently in order to wait for his opportunity so he never made a big mistake. However, happiness never lasts long because it always came with sadness, while he was rich and influential, one of the oligarchs named Albizzi⁶ which was once his friend became jealous of him because he wanted to be the number one in Florence. So he decided to betray his best friend by making an allegation to arrest Cosimo and had a purpose of taking his life. In this indictment said that he corrupted the country and had to be killed but his friends and connections could to alleviate reduce the punishment to be only being a ten-year exile.

During his exile, everyone thought that he would be uncomfortable, had to suffer for living because government of Florence had blocked him from the Medici

⁶ Albizzi, Rinaldo Degli (1370–1442) Peter Hainsworth, David Robey, *Oxford Reference* 2002<<http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095400313>>

bank. As you know, staying in this world with no money is the hardest thing on Earth but Cosimo was smart. He could maintain his economic and his finance by asking his friends and his connections to send him money so he was not powerless. Surprisingly, citizens in Padua and Venices, cities in Italy, gave him a hand because people in both cities welcomed to have such a powerful man into their society.⁷ Consequently, his exile was not only gave him more comfortable but also made him gain some foreign connections, and political power. On the other hand, in Florence, after Cosimo were banished, the oligarchs seemed to have problems among each other because everyone wanted to be dominant so there was no good leader to rule the city. Lack of a good leader, Florence's economy declined and the city grew much slower than Cosimo era. Therefore, citizen of Florence rebelled and called for the return of Cosimo since every citizen was happy under Cosimo's administration.

In 1434, Cosimo returned to his home town with triumph because he could enter the city before 10 years as what was written in the indictment that he could not return to the city before 10 years⁸. Nevertheless, he had to be careful because there were plenty of his enemies in the government so he entered the city at night in order to avoid people's sight but many citizens, supporters, and his friends noticed that he would arrive what time so, at night, they stood in front of their houses to welcome back Medici. Since he couldn't work comfortably because of the enemies, he slowly replaced his enemies by his supporters and exiled them. After, doing all these, he was now become powerful than before again but now even more powerful because he knew many more other cities' ambassadors. As a result, when government wanted to

⁷ Kelly Ann Gilbert, *Medici Power and Patronage under Cosimo the Elder and Lorenzo the Magnificent*, 2005 Senior Honors Theses. Paper 103.

⁸ The Banishment and Restoration, K. Dorothea Ewart Vernon,, *Cosimo de' Medici (1899)*. Page 43-72

create policy about or contact with foreigners, they would take Medici decision whether to create this policy or not. After the restoration, one thing he did which made Florence people trust in him was that he was a patron of art. He was normally interested in arts but couldn't create any beautiful art himself so he supported art by sponsored the art by giving money to the artist to draw or paint a picture to the society. This really created a positive image of him and made people believe that he was generous and benevolent.

Obviously, all of these events would not happen without the Medici bank because the bank gave Cosimo power, money, and followers leading to the exile and the restoration because with money and power in hand, this could make a miracle that you could do everything successfully. Nevertheless, only money was not enough to make Cosimo come back from exile and become even more powerful in the city but it was also his own character: he was clever, patient, benevolent, and so forth that paved the way for his achievement. If Medici had not been exile, he would not reaches the highest position because in order to get to that position, one must pass the lowest position before. Therefore, there is no doubt why he was a Pater Patriae⁹, the Father of Florence.

⁹ Cosimo de' Medici Biography ,*encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2010, <<http://biography.yourdictionary.com/cosimo-de-medici>>