

## Duccio's *Madonna and Child* SmartHistory

In this period and for many hundreds of years later, Italy was not a unified country, but rather was divided into many small countries we call **city-states**. Florence, Siena, Milan, Venice -- these were essentially their own countries, with their own governments. The city-states were often at war with each other.

Siena had a unique style emphasizing decorative surfaces, sinuous lines, elongated figures and a heavy use of gold. Duccio is the founder of the Sienese style, and his work is quite different from Giotto's, since Giotto emphasizes a greater naturalism -- creating figures who are more monumental (large and feeling the pull of gravity, in correct proportion) and a greater illusion of three-dimensional space.