



In the Antiquity this region was inhabited by the people veneti. When the Etruscan ones started invading Italy in the VIth century, the inhabitants of some cities (Padua between others) sheltered in these islands. They established and went so far as to have their own government presided by 12 tribunes, so many people as principal islands there was. Almost from the beginning this community was autonomous and it obtained his independence in the VIIIth century. The government of the city shows a slope or bulging, change of character.

In the High Middle ages, Venice expanded thanks to the control of the commerce with East and to the benefits that this supposed, expanding to the sea Adriatic Sea. The climax of Venice reached his zenith in the first half of the XIVth century, when the Venetians began his expansion for Italy, as response to the threatening advance of Gian Galeazzo Visconti, duke of Milan.

Venice could take advantage of all the changes that happened in the Occident: * It Was right on having been allied by the France against the Angevinians. * It Was right on having been allied by the Byzantine Empire against the Normans. * It Was right in his benevolence and tolerance with the Islam, so that after the Byzantine Empire was in war with the Arabs this one could not deal without big risk and was then when the Venetian ships were going to Alexandria, Beirut and Jaffa, monopolizing that commerce.

The capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453 marked the beginning of the decline, the discovery of America displaced the currents commercial and Venice turned out to be forced to support an exhausting struggle against the Turks.

