

Four Periods of Modern European History

I. 1450 – 1648

- Renaissance
- Reformation
- Scientific Revolution

II. 1648 -1815

- Absolutism
- Enlightenment

III. 1815 – 1914

- Industrialization
- Nationalism
- Imperialism

IV. 1914 - Present

- World Wars
- Cold War
- new millennium uncertainty

4 Periods of Modern European History - Timeline

PERIOD I : 1450-1648				
TOP TIER			ADDITIONAL	
Year	Event(s)	significance	Year	event
476 C.E.	End of the Roman Empire/	(Beginning of the Middle Ages)		
1347	Black Death appears in Europe	Severe depopulation		
			1378	Beginning of Great Western Schism
			1417 –	end of Great Western Schism
1450	Printing press in Europe	Major increase in literacy	1450 –	Fall of Constantinople
1453	End of 100 years war	Rise of sovereign states		
1492	Columbus's voyage	Expansion of European influence		
			1509	Praise of Folly (Erasmus)
			1513	The Prince (Machiavelli)
1517	95 Theses	start of Reformation		
			1524	Peasant Rebellions
1534	Act of Supremacy	start of English Reformation		
			1536	Institutes of the Christian Religion (Calvin)
1543	<i>On the Revolution [de Revolutione] of Heavenly Spheres</i> (Copernicus)	start of Scientific Revolution		
1545	Council of Trent begins	Start of Catholic and Counter-reformation		
1555	Peace of Augsburg	Recognized Lutheranism as a religion		
			1558	Elizabeth's Act of Uniformity
			1562	Beginning of French Wars of Religion
			1572	St. Bartholomew Day Massacre
1588	Defeat of the Spanish armada	Beginning of Spanish Decline		
1598	Edict of Nantes	End of French Wars of Religion		
1603	End of Elizabeth I's reign/	Beginning of Stuart rule in England		
			1618	Beginning of 30 years war
			1632	<i>Dialogues (Dialogo) Concerning 2 Chief World Systems</i> (Galileo)
			1642	Beginning of English Civil War
1648	Peace of Westphalia	End of 30 years War		

PERIOD 2 : 1648-1815

Top Tier			ADDITIONAL	
Year	Event(s)	significance	Year	event
			1649	Execution of Charles I
			1651	<i>Leviathan</i> (Thomas Hobbes)
1653	End of the Fronde	Firmly establish reign of Louis xiv		
			1683	Battle of Vienna
			1685	Edict of Nantes revoked by Louis XIV
			1687	<i>Mathematical Principles [Principia] of Natural Philosophy</i> (Newton)
1688	Glorious Revolution	End of English absolutism		
			1689	<i>Two Treatises on Gov't</i> (Locke)/ English Bill of Rights
			1701	Act of Settlement
1715	Death Louis XIV	Beginning of decline of French Absolutism	1715	End of the War of Spanish Succession
			1720	Mississippi Bubble scandal
			1725	Death of Peter the Great
1740	War of Austrian Succession	Beginning Austro/Prussian Rivalry		
			1748	<i>Spirit of the Laws</i> (Montesquieu)
			1756	Diplomatic Revolution
1763	End of 7-years War	Britain established as world Power (over France)		
1776	Declaration of Independence	American Colonies establish democracy	1776	<i>Wealth of Nations</i> (Smith)
1787	U.S. Constitution written	American federal government established		
1789	Storming of the Bastille	Beginning of French Revolution		
			1792	Execution of Louis XVI
1799	Napoleon becomes Consul	Rise of Napoleon		
			1804	Napoleon crowns himself Emperor
1815	Congress of Vienna	end of Napoleonic Wars	1815	Beginning of Concert of Europe

PERIOD 4 – 1914-present

Top Tier			ADDITIONAL	
Year	Event(s)	Significance	Year	event
			1915	Sinking of Lusitania
			1916	Easter Rising (Ireland)
1917	Russian Revolutions	Russia exits WW1/ begins Communism	1917	US enters WWI
1918	WW1 armistice	End of WW1 fighting		
1919	Treaty of Versailles	Germany is blamed for WWI		
1922	Mussolini elected Prime Minister of Italy	Rise of Fascism	1922	End of Russian Civil War
1923	Occupation of the Ruhr begins	Hyperinflation encourages fascism in Germany	1923	Hitler attempts Beer Hall Putsch (Munich)
			1924	Death of Lenin
1929	US Stock Market crash	Beginning of Great Depression		
			1931	Japan invades Manchuria (China)
1933	Hitler elected German Chancellor	Nazi party takes control of Germany		
			1934	Night of Long Knives eliminates Hitler's enemies
			1935	Italy invades Ethiopia
			1936	Stalin's Great Purge Begins
1938	Munich Pact	Appeasement fails	1938	Kristallnacht riot against German Jews
1939	German Invasion of Poland	Beginning of WW 2		
			1940	Fall of France
1941	Germans start Operation Barbarossa	Russia enters WW2/ Britain is spared	1941	US enters WW2
1943	Italy Surrenders	Italy switches sides	1943	Tehran Conference
			1944	D-Day
1945	German, then Japanese surrender	End of WW2		
1948	Berlin Airlift	First major Cold War Crisis		
			1949	Soviets test their first atomic bomb
1953	End of the Korean War	First proxy war ends in a draw		
1956	Kruschev secret speech	Perceived softening of Soviet Communism	1956	Cold War Crises in Hungary, Poland, Suez
			1957	Launch of Sputnik I starts space Race
			1960	U2 Spy plane incident
1961	Berlin Wall built	Symbolized Communist oppression in Eastern Europe	1961	Failed US invasion of Cuba (Bay of Pigs)
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis	Height of Cold War nuclear tension		
1968	Prague Spring	Brezhnev doctrine reaffirms Soviet dominance		
1975	US leaves Vietnam	American loss after 20 year Cold War conflict		
1979	USSR invades Afghanistan	Known as the "Soviet Vietnam"		
1985	Gorbachev elected Soviet Premier	Soviet oppression eased		
1989	Fall of Berlin Wall	Reunification of Germany		
1991	Fall of USSR	End of Cold War		
1993	Maastricht Treaty	Established the European Union		
1999	The Euro adopted as the common EU currency	Expansion of European economic power		
2001	September 11 th attacks in the U.S.	Beginning of War on Terror	2001	US begins war in Afghanistan
			2007	US subprime Mortgage crisis
			2009	Beginning of European debt crisis
2014	Beginning of European migrant crisis	Largest refugee migration since ww2 increases nationalism	2014	End of NATO combat operations in Afghanistan
2016	Brexit referendum	Threatens European unity		