

## The Dates You Absolutely Need To Know

1348	The Black Plague hits Europe. Drives up the price of people. Disrupts the heck out of social, political, economic and religious activity.
1453	Turks take Constantinople. End of 100 Years War.
1455	Gutenberg Bible printed.
1469	Ferdinand and Isabella marry and begin unification of Spain.
1485	War of the Roses ends. Henry Tudor becomes Henry VII.
1492	Columbus sails the ocean blue.
1517	Luther nails up his 95 Theses.
1519	Charles V becomes HRE. Europe scared of Hapsburg hegemony. Period of Hapsburg supremacy lasts from 1519-1656.
1521	Diet of Worms.
1527	Two good reasons to call this year the end of the Renaissance: Rome sacked by HRE, and Machiavelli dies.
1529	Siege of Vienna by the Turks. A close call for Christian Europe.
1545	Council of Trent starts the Catholic Reformation.
1555	Peace of Augsburg declares the religion of the prince is religion of the people.
1556	Charles V abdicates as HRE and goes to live in a monastery.
1588	Spanish Armada defeated by England.
1589	Henry IV becomes the first Bourbon king of France.
1598	Edict of Nantes.
1618 – 1648	Thirty Years War. Last of the religious wars. Leaves Germany in shambles. France is the strongest country in Europe. Richelieu, working for Louis XIII, demonstrates the workings of the balance of power. Ends in Peace of Westphalia.
1642 – 1648	English Civil War. Oliver Cromwell takes control.
1643 – 1715	Louis XIV, The Sun King, rules with the help of Mazarin.
1660	Restoration of the Stuarts in England.

1688	Glorious Revolution.
1701 – 1714	War of Spanish Succession. Ends in Peace of Utrecht, which creates the Kingdom of Prussia. France severely weakened. England emerges as strongest European country.
1720	"Bubbles" burst in England and France.
1740	Frederick II "The Great" begins reign.
1740 – 1748	War of Austrian Succession. Frederick II seizes Silesia, but Maria Theresa of Austria gets to keep her throne.
1756 – 1763	Seven Years War. Ends in Peace of Paris.
1772	First Partition of Poland.
1776	American Revolution begins and Adam Smith writes <i>Wealth of Nations</i> .
1789	French Revolution begins.
1793	Second Partition of Poland.
1795	Third Partition of Poland.
1804	Napoleon proclaims himself Emperor.
1806	HRE finally bites the dust.
1815	Congress of Vienna restructures Europe after Napoleonic Wars.
1830	July Revolution removes Bourbons from France and replaces them with Louis Philippe.
1832	First English Reform Bill.
1846	Corn Laws repealed in England.
1848	Lots of European revolutions. Metternich flees to England. Louis Phillipe ousted, replaced by Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, thus beginning of Second Republic. Karl Marx writes the <i>Communist Manifesto</i> .
1852 – 1870	French Second Empire.
1854 – 1856	Crimean War.
1859	Darwin's <i>Origin of Species</i> published.
1861	Alexander II frees the serfs in Russia. Italian unification completed, except for the Papal States.

1867	Formation of the Dual Monarchy. Seven Weeks War.
1870	Franco-Prussian War. German unification completed. Start of the French Third Republic.
1878	Berlin Congress settles problems between Russia and Ottoman Empire.
1885	Berlin Conference. European powers carve up Africa.
1890	Bismarck fired by Kaiser William II.
1894 – 1906	Dreyfus Case in France.
1899 – 1902	Boer War.
1904 – 1905	Russo-Japanese War.
1905	Russian Revolution of 1905.
1912 – 1913	First and Second Balkan Wars.
1914 – 1918	World War I.
1917	Russian Revolution. Civil war continues until 1920. Balfour Declaration.
1922	Mussolini takes over Italy.
1929	The Great Depression begins.
1933	Hitler comes to power.
1935	Nuremberg Laws passed.
1936	Spanish Civil War.
1939	World War II begins.
Dec. 7, 1941	A day that will live in infamy. Japan bombs Pearl Harbor.
June 6, 1944	D-Day.
1945	FDR dies. World War II ends. Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
1947	Marshall Plan. India and Pakistan gain independence.
1948	Israel created. Apartheid instituted in South Africa.

1949	Communist Chinese win civil war. NATO organized.
1950 – 1953	Korean War.
1954	Defeat at Dien Bien Phu leads to French departure from Vietnam. Enter the USA.
1961	Berlin Wall built.
1989	End of communist regimes in Eastern Europe.
1991	Dissolution of the Soviet Union. Treaty of Maastricht.