

Event Timeline

15th century: GERMANY

Germany: Johannes Gutenberg introduces movable type printing in 1439. +
Germany: Hans Holbein the Elder transitioned German art from Gothic to Renaissance style. +
Germany: George von Peuerbach lectures to kings and emperors about Ptolemaic astronomy. +
Germany: Albrecht Dürer is one of the greatest woodcut artists of the century. +
Italy: Michelangelo carves the Pietà in Rome. +
Italy: Botticelli's paintings represent the Golden Age of Renaissance art. +
Italy: The Italian wars lead to the end of Italian city-states. -
Italy: The Papacy returns to Rome, but the city is in decay. -
Spain: Spain settles the Canary Islands in 1403, beginning the Spanish Empire. +
Spain: Spain is unified under Ferdinand II and Isabella I. +
Spain: The Spanish Inquisition begins in 1481. -
Spain: Jews are expelled from Spain in 1492. -
France: Joan of Arc influences French victory in the Hundred Years' War in 1429. + France/- England
France: Paris is established as the hub of France by King Francis I. +
France: King Charles VI frequently suffers insanity. -
France: France suffers heavy losses to England during the battle of Agincourt. – France/+ England
England: England wins the Battle of Agincourt against France in 1415. + England/ - France
England: In 1431, Henry VI is crowned King of England. +
England: The War of the Roses decimates the country. -
England: Henry VI is deposed in 1461 in favor of Edward IV. -
Americas: Amerigo Vespucci arrives in South America in 1499 and 1502. +
Americas: Christopher Columbus lands in the Americas in 1492. +
Americas: Spanish colonization flourished in present-day Mexico. + Spain / - Americas
Americas: Aztecs regularly require tributes from conquered city-states. -

16th century: ITALY

Germany: The German Renaissance spreads humanism. +
Germany: Martin Luther reforms the Catholic Church, creating Lutherans (and Protestantism). +
Germany: The Bundschuh movement generates a wave of unsuccessful peasant rebellions. -
Germany: The Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire brings war to Germany. – Germany/ + Italy
Italy: Michelangelo creates the David in Florence in 1501. +
Italy: Leonardo da Vinci completes the Mona Lisa in 1506. +
Italy: Machiavelli writes the Prince in 1513. +
Italy: Titian and Raphael continue to lead innovation in not just Italian, but European art. +
Spain: Spanish conquistadores and explorers cross-cross the Americas. +
Spain: St. John of the Cross writes the best mystical poetry of Spanish literature. +
Spain: Bartolome de las Casas is a witness to the brutal subjugation of natives by conquistadors. -
Spain: Spain suffers from famine in 1504. -
France: Catherine de Medici is the most powerful women in Europe. +
France: French population recovers its pre-Black Death population in the early 16th century. +
France: The French Wars of Religion rage from 1562-1598. -
France: Riots spread in 1572 due to the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre. -
England: Elizabeth Tudor becomes Queen Elizabeth I in 1558. +
England: England defeats the Spanish Armada in 1588. + England/ - France

England: Mary, Queen of Scots is executed by Queen Elizabeth I. -
England: King Henry VIII executes Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I's mother. -
Americas: Francisco Vasquez de Coronado sees the Grand Canyon in 1540. +
Americas: Jacques Cartier discovers Canada. +
Americas: First African slaves arrive in the Americas in 1502. -
Americas: Hernan Cortes leads the conquest of Mexico from 1519 to 1521. – Americas/ + Spain

17th century: SPAIN

Germany: The Peace of Zsitvatorok ends the war between Austria and the Ottoman Empire in 1606. +
Germany: George Federic Handel is born in 1685. +
Germany: Danish King Christian IV invades Germany in 1625. -
Germany: Frederick V accepts the Bohemian throne, provoking the German states. -
Italy: Pope Urban VIII elected in 1623. +
Italy: St. Peter's Basilica completed in 1626. +
Italy: Galileo Galilei is tried by the Inquisition in 1633. -
Italy: Giordano Bruno is burned at the stake for advocating cosmic pluralism. -
Spain: The Spanish navy holds onto Anatolian islands under attacks from the Ottomans. +
Spain: Spain enjoys its Golden Age, the *Siglo de Oro*, due to its vast empire. +
Spain: Spain participates in the Peace of Westphalia. + Spain, England, France
Spain: Hapsburg rule continues through the end of the 17th century. +
France: Molière is born in 1622. +
France: The Sun King, Louis XIV, establishes an absolute monarchy. +
France: Francois Revailac commits regicide in 1610. -
France: Famine kills 2 million between 1692 and 1694. -
England: Peace comes to England with the Treaty of Westminster in 1674. +
England: The Bank of England established in 1694. +
England: The English Civil War begins in 1642, resulting in King Charles I's execution. -
England: London suffers a plague in 1665. -
Americas: The Mayflower Pilgrims arrive in Cape Cod in 1620. +
Americas: Harvard University is founded in 1636. +
Americas: The Salem witchcraft trials result in innocents executed as witches in 1692. -
Americas: European settlers firmly establish slavery in the colonies. -

18th century: FRANCE

Germany: Serfdom gradually abolished by the Austrian monarchy between 1781 and 1785. +
Germany: King Frederick William I rules a newly-centralized Prussia. +
Germany: Austria and Prussia invade France, losing at the Battle of Valmy in 1792. – Germany/ + France
Germany: The coldest winter of 500 years occurs in 1709. -
Italy: The Trevi Fountain is completed in Rome. +
Italy: The Enlightenment comes to Italy under Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II. +
Italy: Venice loses independence after a thousand years with Napoleon's invasion in 1797. –
Italy/+France
Italy: The Spanish rule Naples and Sicily after the Battle of Bitonto in 1738. -
Spain: Philip V rules over the first unified Spanish state. +
Spain: Felipe de Neve founds Los Angeles during his time as governor of the Californias. +
Spain: War of Spanish Succession wages from 1701 to 1714. -
Spain: The Anglo-Spanish War begins in 1796. –Spain/+ England
France: France, Britain, and the Netherlands sign the Triple Alliance in 1717. +France and England

France: The Treaty of Paris is signed in 1783, ending the American Revolutionary War. +France, Americas/- England
France: French court etiquette becomes a symbol of refinement internationally. +
France: The French Revolution triggers the rise of democracy. +
France: The French Rococo style transforms European taste. +
England: The Kingdom of Great Britain is created in 1707. +
England: Britain establishes the world's first copyright law. +
England: Scotland rises in a failed rebellion in 1714. -
England: The South Sea company loses its share price, resulting in the nation's economic decline. -
Americas: The Declaration of Independence is signed in 1776. + Americas/ - England
Americas: The US Constitution written in 1787. +
Americas: The French and Indian War is fought between 1754 and 1763. -
Americas: French Acadians are displaced from Canada and move south to Louisiana. -

19th century: ENGLAND

Germany: Beethoven astounds audiences with the Moonlight Sonata in 1802. +
Germany: The University of Berlin is founded in 1810. +
Germany: The Berlin Conference brings European colonialism to Africa. -
Germany: Napoleon's army crushes the Prussians at the Battle of Jena. – Germany/ + France
Italy: Pope Leo XIII generates the first Catholic document on Social Justice in 1891. +
Italy: The Italian unification movement, or *Risorgimento*, centralizes Italy into one nation. +
Italy: The Carbonari, secret revolutionaries, terrify authorities. -
Italy: Southern Italy suffers unequal social and economic status. -
Spain: The Spanish Inquisition ends in 1834. +
Spain: King Alfonso XII finally brings peace to Spain in 1874. +
Spain: The Ten Years' War between Cuba and Spain is fought, ends in a draw between 1868 and 1878. – Spain/ - Americas
Spain: The First Republic in Spain exists for only a year: 1875. -
France: Napoleon dies in exile in 1821. +
France: The Eiffel Tower is built in Paris in 1889. +
France: Alfred Dreyfus is wrongfully convicted of treason due to anti-Semitism. -
France: Napoleon crowns himself Emperor in 1804. -
England: Ireland and Great Britain merge to form the United Kingdom in 1801. +
England: roses is banned throughout the empire in 1833. +
England: England enjoys Pax Britannica between 1815 and 1914. +
England: The British Empire reaches its apex between 1837 and 1901. +
Americas: The US doubles in size with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. +
Americas: The first women's rights convention in the US held in Seneca Falls in 1848. +
Americas: The American Civil War is fought between 1861 and 1865. -
Americas: Native Americans are forcibly removed through the Trail of Tears in 1838. -

20th century: AMERICAS

Germany: Albert Einstein lives in Germany between 1914 and 1933. +
Germany: East and West Germany are reunified in 1990. +
Germany: Germany loses WWI in 1918. – Germany / + Americas, France, England
Germany: Nazism rises in Germany in 1933. -
Italy: Montessori education begins in 1907. +
Italy: Italy joins the UN in 1955. +

Italy: Fascism rises in Italy in 1922. -
Italy: King Umberto is assassinated in 1900. -
Spain: The Spanish miracle ushers in a period of economic growth between 1959 and 1973. +
Spain: In 1976, a transition to democracy begins. +
Spain: Miguel Primo de Rivero rules as dictator between 1923 and 1930. -
Spain: Civil War wracks Spain between 1936 and 1939. -
France: Paris is the center of modernism in the early decades of the twentieth century. +
France: The Channel Tunnel opens between London and Paris in 1994. + France / + England
France: Tensions between regional and national culture persist throughout the century. -
France: France is occupied by Germany during World War II. – France/+ Germany
England: Oxford University opens to women in 1920. +
England: Queen Elizabeth II will become the longest-reigning monarch of England. +
England: The English crush the Easter Rising in Ireland in 1916. -
England: The English sustain heavy losses during WWI. -
Americas: The first PC is invented in the United States in 1957. +
Americas: The United States begins to address concerns regarding Civil Rights and Women’s Rights. +
Americas: American popular culture dominates the world through radio, television, and film. +
Americas: The United States becomes the strongest economy in the world following WWII. +