



Early Civilizations & Empires

Mesopotamia (c. 3500-539 BCE)

Key Features:	Developed in the Fertile Crescent. Known for city-states (Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, Assyria). Cuneiform writing system, ziggurats, Code of Hammurabi.
Significant Rulers:	Hammurabi (Babylon), Sargon of Akkad
Decline:	Conquered by various empires, including the Persians.

Ancient Egypt (c. 3100-30 BCE)

Key Features:	Unified kingdom along the Nile River. Pharaoh as divine ruler. Pyramids, hieroglyphic writing, complex religious beliefs.
Significant Rulers:	Pharaohs such as Ramses II, Tutankhamun, Hatshepsut
Decline:	Gradual decline due to internal strife and foreign invasions (Persians, Greeks, Romans).

Ancient Greece (c. 800 BCE - 600 CE)

Key Features:	City-states (Athens, Sparta, Corinth). Development of democracy (Athens). Philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), art, and literature (Homer).
Significant Events:	Persian Wars, Peloponnesian War, rise of Alexander the Great
Decline:	Conquered by the Roman Empire.

Medieval Period (c. 500-1500 CE)

Europe in the Middle Ages

Key Features:	Feudalism, manorial system, dominance of the Catholic Church. Crusades, Black Death.
Significant Events:	Fall of the Western Roman Empire, rise of Charlemagne, Norman Conquest of England
Important Figures:	Charlemagne, William the Conqueror, Pope Urban II

Islamic Civilizations

Key Features:	Rapid expansion across the Middle East, North Africa, and Spain. Golden Age of Islamic science, mathematics, and philosophy.
Significant Dynasties:	Umayyad Caliphate, Abbasid Caliphate, Ottoman Empire
Important Figures:	Muhammad, Saladin, Ibn Sina (Avicenna)

East Asia

Key Features (China):	Tang Dynasty, Song Dynasty. Technological innovations (gunpowder, printing, compass). Civil service examination system.
Key Features (Japan):	Heian Period, rise of the samurai class, feudal system.
Important Figures:	Empress Wu Zetian (China), Minamoto Yoritomo (Japan)

The Early Modern Period (c. 1450-1750)

Renaissance and Reformation

Renaissance:	Revival of classical art, literature, and learning in Europe. Humanism, artistic achievements (Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo).
Reformation:	Religious movement challenging the authority of the Catholic Church. Martin Luther, Protestantism.
Key Figures:	Martin Luther, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, John Calvin.

Age of Exploration

Key Features:	European exploration and colonization of the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Columbian Exchange, rise of global trade.
Significant Explorers:	Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Ferdinand Magellan
Consequences:	Transatlantic slave trade, exploitation of resources, cultural exchange

Absolutism and Enlightenment

Absolutism:	Centralization of power in monarchs (Louis XIV of France). Divine right of kings.
Enlightenment:	Intellectual movement emphasizing reason, individualism, and human rights. John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau.
Key Figures:	Louis XIV, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Isaac Newton

Modern History (c. 1750-Present)

Revolutions

American Revolution (1775-1783):	Colonists in America seek independence from British Empire due to taxation without representation. Led to creation of the United States.
French Revolution (1789-1799):	Overthrow of the French monarchy, rise of republican ideals, Reign of Terror. Napoleon's rise to power.
Haitian Revolution (1791-1804):	Successful slave revolt led by Toussaint Louverture. Establishment of Haiti as the first independent black republic.

Industrial Revolution

Key Features:	Technological advancements (steam engine, power loom), factory system, urbanization. Social changes, rise of capitalism and socialism.
Significant Impacts:	Increased production, new social classes (working class, bourgeoisie), environmental pollution.
Key Figures:	James Watt, Karl Marx, Adam Smith

20th Century Conflicts & Globalization

World War I (1914-1918):	Major global conflict, caused by nationalism, imperialism, and alliances. Treaty of Versailles, League of Nations.
World War II (1939-1945):	Global conflict involving Axis powers (Germany, Japan, Italy) and Allied powers (United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union). Holocaust, atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
Cold War (1947-1991):	Geopolitical struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union. Nuclear arms race, proxy wars (Vietnam War, Korean War).
Globalization:	Increasing interconnectedness of the world through trade, technology, and cultural exchange. Rise of multinational corporations, global issues (climate change, pandemics).