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# 1st century BC

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **1st century BC** started the first day of 100 BC and ended the last day of 1 BC. It is considered part of the Classical era, epoch, or historical period. An alternative name for this century is the **last century BC**. The AD/BC notation does not use a year zero; however, astronomical year numbering does use a minus sign, so '2 BC' is equal to 'year -1'.

In the course of the century all the remaining independent lands surrounding the Mediterranean were steadily brought under Roman control, being ruled either directly under governors or through puppet kings appointed by Rome. The Roman state itself was plunged into civil war several times, finally resulting in the marginalization of its 500 year old republic, and the embodiment of total state power in a single man - the emperor. The internal turbulence which plagued Rome at this time can be seen as the last death throes of the Roman Republic, as it finally gave way to the autocratic ambitions of powerful men like Julius Caesar, Mark Antony and Octavian. Octavian's ascension to total power as the emperor Augustus is considered to mark the point in history where the Roman Republic ends and the Roman Empire begins. Some scholars refer to this event as the Roman Revolution. It is generally concluded that the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity took place at the close of this century.

## Events

- 92 BC Lucullus invades Armenia, setting off the centuries long Roman vs Persian Wars.
- 81 BC Sulla is appointed dictator of the Roman state, and brings about major reforms.
- 73 BC A slave rebellion lead by the escaped gladiator Spartacus leads to the Third Servile War.
- 63 BC Pompey captures Jerusalem, and establishes Roman annexation of Judea as a client kingdom. King Judah Aristobulus II removed from power, while his brother John Hyrcanus II becomes king under Roman suzerainty.
- 57 BC Silla is founded in southeastern Korea (traditional date according to *Samguk Sagi*, a 12th century AD historical document).
- 53 BC The Parthians defeat the Romans under Crassus in the Battle of Carrhae
- 49 BC January 10: Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon river, precipitating war with Rome
- 44 BC Julius Caesar murdered
- 37 BC Goguryeo is founded in southern Manchuria (traditional date according to *Samguk Sagi*)

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium BC
<b>Centuries:</b>	2nd century BC · <b>1st century BC</b> · 1st century
<b>Decades:</b>	90s BC 80s BC 70s BC 60s BC 50s BC 40s BC 30s BC 20s BC 10s BC 0s BC
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 1st century BC.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 1st century BC.



- 31 BC Roman Civil War: Battle of Actium - Off the western coast of Greece, forces of Octavian defeat troops under Mark Antony and Cleopatra.
- 27 BC The Roman Senate votes Octavian the title of Augustus. Augustus eventually assumes all authority formerly held by the Roman senate becoming the first emperor. The Roman state is henceforth known as the Roman Empire, and the period from 27 BC to AD 305 as the Principate.
- 18 BC Baekje is founded in midwestern Korea (traditional date according to *Samguk Sagi*)
- c. 6 to 4 BC Birth of Jesus of Nazareth (see Chronology of Jesus' birth and death and Anno Domini for further details)

## Significant persons



*Cicero Denouncing Catiline* by Cesare Maccari. One of several political conflicts in the Roman Republic during this century



- Burebista, greatest king of Dacia
- Catiline, attempted to overthrow Roman Republic
- Caesar Augustus, Roman emperor
- Cicero, Roman politician and writer
- Cleopatra VII of Egypt, Egyptian ruler
- Herod the Great
- Hillel the Elder, Jewish rabbi
- Horace, Roman poet
- Jesus of Nazareth, central figure of Christianity
- Jing Fang, Chinese mathematician and music theorist
- Julius Caesar, Roman politician
- Livy, Roman historian
- Lucretius, Roman philosopher
- Marcus Antonius, Roman politician
- Marcus Junius Brutus, Caesar's adopted son, supposedly killed him
- Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa, Roman statesman and general
- Marcus Vitruvius Pollio Roman writer, architect and engineer
- Sextus Pompeius, Roman general
- Ptolemy XIII of Egypt, drowned in Nile
- Ovid, Roman poet
- Virgil, Roman poet
- Spartacus, gladiator
- Sima Qian, Chinese historian, father of Chinese historiography
- Tigranes the Great, king of Armenia



An ancient stone tablet depicting Cleopatra VII and Ptolemy XV Philopator Philometor Caesar, Alexandria, Egypt. These two rulers were the last Pharaohs

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- Sunspots, first recorded by Chinese
- The Antikythera mechanism is made
- The first dome was built by the Romans
- Glass blowing is invented in Roman Syria
- The Chinese *Ji Jiu Pian* dictionary published in 40 BC during the Han Dynasty is the earliest known reference to the hydraulic-powered trip hammer device.

## Decades and years



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# 1st century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **1st century** was that century that lasted from 1 to 100 according the Gregorian calendar. It is considered part of the *Classical era, epoch, or historical period*

During this period Europe, North Africa and the Near East fell under increasing domination by the Roman Empire, which continued expanding, most notably conquering Britain under the emperor Claudius ( 43). The reforms introduced by Augustus during his long reign stabilized the empire after the turmoil of the previous century's civil wars. Later in the century the Julio-Claudian Dynasty, which had been founded by Augustus came to an end with the death of Nero in 68. There followed the famous Year of Four Emperors, a brief period of civil war and instability, which was finally brought to an end by Vespasian, 9th Roman emperor, and founder of the Flavian Dynasty.

China continued to be dominated by the Han Dynasty, despite a 14 year interruption by the Xin dynasty under Wang Mang. Han rule was restored in 23; Wang Mang's rule represents the watershed between the Western/Former Han and the Eastern/Later Han. The capital was also moved from Chang'an to Luoyang.

## Christianity

According to the New Testament, during the reign of Tiberius, Jesus, a religious teacher from Galilee, was crucified in Judea for bringing a new religion in the unstable region. Over the next few decades his followers carried his message far and wide, eventually introducing it to Rome itself. Roman rulers began to persecute the new sect almost immediately, and would continue to do so for centuries, sometimes vigorously, and other times passively, until Christianity was eventually taken up by the emperor Constantine, and later established as the official religion of the Roman state.

## Events and economy

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	1st century BC · <b>1st century</b> · 2nd century
<b>Decades:</b>	0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 1st century AD.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 1st century AD.



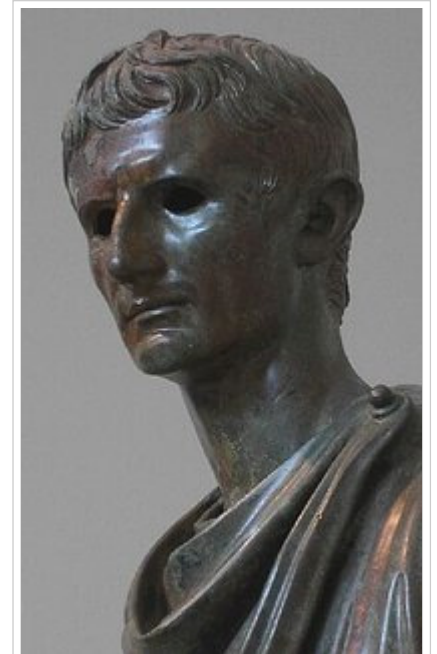
- 1: Lions became extinct in Western Europe.
- c.6: Census of Quirinius
- 8– 23: Wang Mang temporarily overthrew the Han dynasty of China.
- 9: Three Roman legions were ambushed and destroyed at Teutoberg Forest by Germans under the leadership of Arminius.
- 14: Augustus Caesar, first emperor of Rome, dies. His nephew Tiberius is his successor.
- 28– 75: Emperor Ming of Han, Buddhism reaches China.
- 27– 36: Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Death of Jesus.
- Masoretes adds vowel pointings to the text of the Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible.
- Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka first write down Buddha's teachings, creating the Pali canon.
- Tacitus mentions the Suiones, who will one day be called the Swedes.
- Kaundinya, an Indian Brahmin marries Soma and establishes the Pre-Angkor Cambodian Kingdom of Funan.
- The Goths settle in northern Poland, which they called Gothiscandza, and shape the Wielbark culture.
- Christian Council of Jerusalem.
- 52 (?) Arrival of Apostle Thomas to Malabar, India. Beginning of Christianity in India
- July 19, 64: Great Fire of Rome, first Roman mass Persecution of Christians, earliest significant recognition of Christians in Rome.
- 66– 73 First Jewish-Roman War.
- 70, August: destruction of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans under Titus.
- 79, August: Pompeii and Herculaneum destroyed by eruption of Mount Vesuvius.
- Jewish Council of Jamnia.
- Spread of the Roman Empire, reaches largest size under Trajan.
- Arena (colosseum) is constructed, origin of the name Arena.
- Late 1st century — Cityscape, detail of a Second Style wall painting from a bedroom in the House of Publius Fannius Synistor, Boscoreale, is made. It is now at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
- The painting "Alexander the Great confronts Darius III at the Battle of Issos", detail of mosaic floor decoration from Pompeii, Italy is made. It is a Roman copy after a Greek painting of c. 310 BC, perhaps by Philoxenos or Helen of Egypt. It is now at Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples, Italy.



The skeleton called the "Ring Lady" unearthed in Herculaneum, one of the victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79

## Significant people

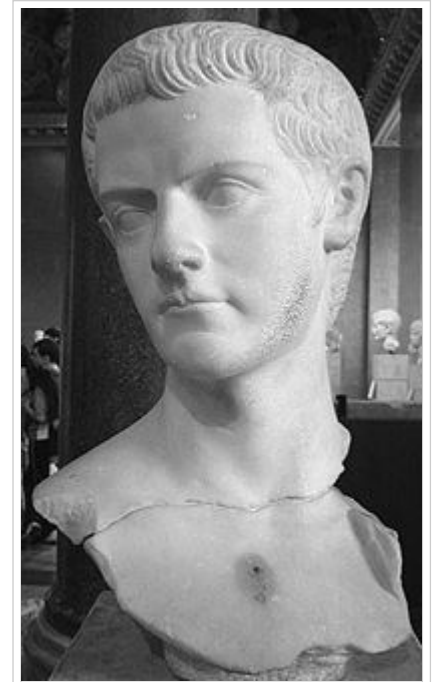




Bronze statue of Augustus,  
Archaeological Museum, Athens.



- Apollonius of Tyana
- Akiba
- Arminius
- Boudica, also known as Boadicea
- Augustus
- Caligula
- Claudius
- Clement I of Rome
- Decebalus
- Domitian
- Du Shi
- Elisha ben Abuyah
- Galba
- Germanicus
- Guangwu of Han, Emperor
- Hero of Alexandria
- Hillel the Elder
- Ignatius of Antioch
- James the Just
- Jesus of Nazareth
- John the Baptist
- Josephus
- Liu Xin
- Livy
- Ma Yuan
- Ming of Han, Emperor
- Nero
- Nerva
- Otho
- Paul of Tarsus
- Philo
- Pliny the Elder
- Pontius Pilate
- Seneca the Younger
- Strabo
- Tacitus
- Thomas the Apostle



Bust of Caligula.



- Tiberius
- Titus
- Trajan
- Vespasian
- Vitellius
- Wang Chong
- Wang Mang

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- Codex, the first form of the modern book, appears in the Roman empire
- Year 78 — the beginning of the Saka Era used by South Asian calendars.
- Bookbinding
- Various inventions by Hero of Alexandria, including the steam turbine (aeolipile), vending machine, water organ, and various other water-powered machines.
- In 31, the Han Dynasty Chinese engineer and statesman Du Shi (d. 38) from Nanyang invented the first-known hydraulic-powered bellows to heat the blast furnace in smelting cast iron. He used a complex mechanical device that was powered by the rushing current against a waterwheel, a practice that would continue in China.
- Although Philo of Byzantium described the saqiya chain pump in the early 2nd century BC, the square-pallet chain pump was innovated in China during this century, mentioned first by the philosopher Wang Chong around 80 AD. Wang Chong also accurately described the water cycle in meteorology, and argued against the mainstream 'radiating influence' theory for solar eclipses, the latter of which was accepted by many, including Zhang Heng.
- The Chinese astronomer Liu Xin (d. 23) documented 1080 different stars, amongst other achievements.

## Decades and years

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# 2nd century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **2nd century** is the period from 101 to 200 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era. It is considered part of the *Classical era, epoch, or historical period*

Early in the century, the Roman Empire attained its greatest expansion under the emperor Trajan, but after his death became primarily defensive for the rest of its history. Much prosperity took place throughout the empire at this time, ruled as it were by the Five Good Emperors, a succession of just and able rulers. This period also saw the removal of the Jews from Jerusalem during the reign of Hadrian after Bar Kokhba's revolt. The last quarter of the century saw the end of the period of peace and prosperity known as the Pax Romana at the death of the emperor Marcus Aurelius, last of the "Five Good Emperors", and the accession of his ineffective and deranged son Commodus.

Although the Han Dynasty of China was firmly cemented into power and extended its imperial influence into Central Asia during the first half of the century, by the second half there was widespread corruption and open rebellion. This set in motion its ultimate decline, until it was overthrown in 220.

## Events

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	1st century · <b>2nd century</b> · 3rd century
<b>Decades:</b>	100s 110s 120s 130s 140s 150s 160s 170s 180s 190s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 1st century AD.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 1st century AD.



- 96–180: Five Good Emperors of Rome: Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius
- The kingdom of Aksum emerges
- 122–132: Hadrian's Wall across Britain
- 132–135: Bar Kokhba's revolt against Rome
- 144: Marcion, rejected by Church of Rome, founds Marcionism
- 167–175: First Marcomanni War
- 178–180: Second Marcomanni War (depicted in the movie *Gladiator*)
- 184–205: the Yellow Turban Rebellion of the Han Dynasty in China begins

## Significant persons

- Rabbi Akiva Head of all the Jewish Sages
- Rabbi Yehuda haNasi Prince of the Jewish people
- Commodus, Roman Emperor, claimed to be Hercules reincarnated
- Galen, medical writer
- Irenaeus, second bishop of Lyon
- Juvenal Roman satirical poet
- Montanus, Christian heretic
- Nagarjuna, founder of Madhyamaka Buddhism
- Pliny the Younger
- Plutarch, Greek historian
- Ptolemy, Greek astronomer, astrologer and geographer
- Septimius Severus, Roman Emperor
- Suetonius, Roman historian
- Valentinius, most famous Christian Gnostic
- Zhang Daoling, Chinese Taoist hermit
- Zhang Heng, Chinese statesman, poet, inventor, astronomer, geographer, and engineer

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- Cai Lun of China invents paper (c. 105)
- Ptolemy compiles a catalogue of all stars visible to the naked eye. He also compiles three of the most influential books in western history:
  - the Almagest which becomes the basis for western and Middle Eastern astronomy until the time of Copernicus and Kepler;
  - the astrological treatise, Tetrabiblos;



Pieces of Hadrian's Wall remain near Greenhead and along the route, though large sections have been dismantled over the years to use the stones for various nearby construction projects.



- and the Geographia

- 125: Zhang Heng of China invents the world's first water-powered armillary sphere
- 132: Zhang Heng of China invents first seismometer to detect the cardinal direction of earthquakes

## Decades and years

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# 3rd century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **3rd century** is the period from 201 to 300 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era.

In this century, the Roman Empire sees a crisis, marking the beginning of Late Antiquity. In Persia, the Parthian Empire is succeeded by the Sassanid Empire.

In India, the Kushan Empire is replaced by the Gupta Empire. China is in the Three Kingdoms period. The Xiongnu form the Tiefu state under Liu Qubei. Korea is ruled by the Three Kingdoms of Korea. Japan enters the Kofun period.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the Bantu expansion reaches Southern Africa.

In Pre-Columbian America, the Adena culture of the Ohio River valley declines in favour of the Hopewell culture. The Maya civilization enters its Classic Era.

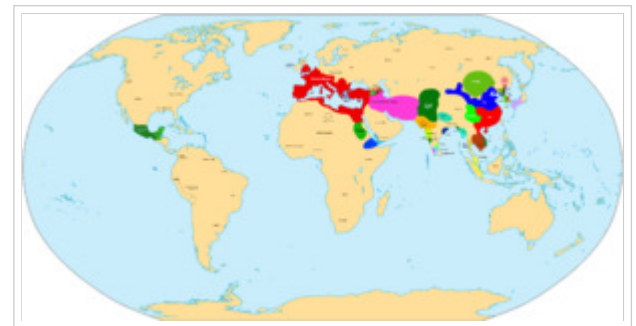
## Roman Empire

After the death of Commodus in the previous century the Roman Empire was plunged into a civil war. When the dust settled, Septimius Severus emerged as emperor, establishing the Severan dynasty. Unlike previous emperors, he openly used the army to back his authority, and paid them well to do so. The regime he created is known as the Military Monarchy as a result. The system fell apart in the 230s, giving way to a fifty-year period known as the Military Anarchy or the Crisis of the Third Century, where no fewer than twenty emperors held the reins of power, most for only a few months. The majority of these men were assassinated, or killed in battle, and the empire almost collapsed under the weight of the political upheaval, as well as the growing Persian threat in the east. Under its new Sassanid rulers, Persia had grown into a rival superpower, and the Romans would have to make drastic reforms in order to better prepare their state for a confrontation. These reforms were finally realized late in the century under the reign of Diocletian, one of them being to divide the empire into an eastern and western half, and have a separate ruler for each.

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	2nd century · <b>3rd century</b> · 4th century
<b>Decades:</b>	200s 210s 220s 230s 240s 250s 260s 270s 280s 290s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 2nd century AD.



Map of the world in AD 250.



## Events

- 208: the Chinese naval Battle of Red Cliffs occurs
- 212: Constitutio Antoniniana grants citizenship to all free Roman men
- 212–216: Baths of Caracalla
- 220: The Han Dynasty comes to an end with establish of the Wei Dynasty.
- 230–232: Sassanid dynasty of Persia launches a war to reconquer lost lands in the Roman east
- 235–284: Crisis of the Third Century shakes Roman Empire
- 250–538: Kofun era, the first part of the Yamato period in Japan
- 258: Valerian's Massacre of Christians
- 260: Roman Emperor Valerian I is taken captive by Shapur I of Persia
- 184–280: Period of the Three Kingdoms in China
- 280–420: Jin Dynasty (265-420) of China
- Sarnath becomes a centre of Buddhist arts in India
- Diffusion of maize as a food crop from Mexico into North America begins
- The Kingdom of Funan reaches its zenith under the rule of Fan Shih-man
- The Goths move from Gothiscandza to Ukraine, giving birth to the Chernyakhov culture



The Baths of Caracalla, in 2003

## Significant persons

- Clement of Alexandria
- Diocletian, Roman emperor
- Diophantus of Alexandria, wrote *Arithmetica*
- Hippolytus, considered first Antipope
- Liu Hui, Chinese mathematician
- Mani (prophet), founder of Manichaeism
- Origen
- Pappus of Alexandria, Greek mathematician
- Plotinus, founder of Neoplatonism
- Tertullian, sometimes called *father of Latin church*
- Wang Pi, Taoist
- M. Sattonius Iucundus, restorer of the Thermae in Heerlen
- Zhuge Liang, known as the greatest strategist during the period of the Three Kingdoms
- Liu Bei, founding emperor of the Kingdom of Shu
- Cao Cao, founding emperor of the Kingdom of Wei





## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- A primitive form of glasses were developed for a nearsighted princess in Syria.
- The South Pointing Chariot invented by Ma Jun, a wheeled mechanical device that acts as a directional compass

## Decades and years

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# 4th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **4th century** (per the Julian/ Gregorian calendar and Anno Domini era) was that century which lasted from 301 to 400.

## Overview

In the West, the early part of the century was shaped by Constantine I, who became the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity. Gaining sole reign of the empire, he is also noted for re-establishing a single imperial capital, choosing the site of ancient Byzantium in 330 (over of the current capitals, which had effectively been changed by Diocletian's reforms to Milan in the West, and Nicomedia in the East) to build the city soon called Nova Roma (New Rome); it was later renamed Constantinople in his honour.

The last emperor to control both the eastern and western halves of the empire was Theodosius I. As the century progressed after his death it became increasingly apparent that the empire had changed in many ways since the time of Augustus. The two emperor system originally established by Diocletian in the previous century fell into regular practice, and the east continued to grow in importance as a centre of trade and imperial power, while Rome itself diminished greatly in importance due to its location far from potential trouble spots, like Central Europe and the East. Late in the century Christianity became the official state religion, and the empire's old pagan culture began to disappear. General Prosperity was felt throughout this period, but recurring invasions by Germanic tribes plagued the empire from AD 376 onward. These early invasions marked the beginning of the end for the Western Roman Empire.

According to archaeologists, sufficient archaeological correlates of state-level societies coalesced in the 4th century to show the existence of the Three Kingdoms (AD 300/400-668) of Baekje, Goguryeo, and Silla.

## Events

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	3rd century · <b>4th century</b> · 5th century
<b>Decades:</b>	300s 310s 320s 330s 340s 350s 360s 370s 380s 390s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 4th century AD.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 4th century AD.



- 301: Armenia first to adopt Christianity as state religion, followed by Ethiopia, circa 320
- 306– 337: Constantine I, ends persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire, calls First Council of Nicaea, see also Constantinian shift, Constantinople becomes new seat of government ( New Rome)
- 350: About this time the Huns begin to invade the Sassanid Empire.
- 376: Visigoths appear on the Danube and are allowed entry into the Roman Empire in their flight from the Huns.
- 378: Battle of Adrianople. Roman army is defeated by Visigoth cavalry. Emperor Valens is killed.
- 378– 395: Theodosius I, Roman emperor, bans pagan worship, Christianity is made the official religion of the Empire.
- 383: Battle of Fei River in China

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- The Stirrup was invented in China, no later than 322
- Kama Sutra
- Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Vaticanus, earliest Christian bibles
- Book of Steps, Syriac religious discourses

## Decades and years

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Contemporary bronze head of Constantine I.



# 5th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **5th century** is the period from 401 to 500 in accordance with the Julian calendar in Anno Domini.

## Overview

This century is noted for being a time of repeated disaster and instability both internally and externally for the Western Roman Empire, which finally unravelled, and came to an end in AD 476. The west was ruled by a succession of weak emperors, and true power began to fall increasingly into the hands of powerful generals. Internal instability and pressing military problems caused by foreign invaders finally resulted in the sacking of Rome by a Visigoth army in 410. Some recovery was made in the following decades, but the Western Empire received a serious blow when another barbarian group, the Vandals occupied Carthage, capital of the extremely important province of Africa, a major supplier of wealth and grain. Attempts to retake the province were interrupted by the invasions of the Huns under Atilla. After Atilla's final defeat and death both Eastern and Western empires joined forces for a final assault on Vandal North Africa, but their campaign was a spectacular failure.

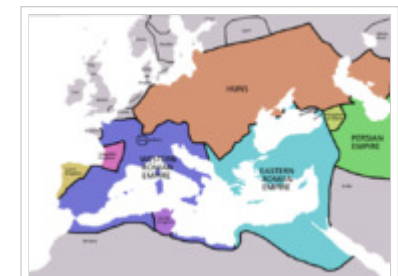
## The Fall of the Western Roman Empire

The year 476 is widely understood as the point at which the Western Roman Empire came to an end. In 476 the last Western Roman Emperor, Romulus Augustus (nicknamed *Augustulus* "Little Augustus") was deposed by a Germanic foederati general named Odoacer. The Eastern Roman Empire finally ceased trying to prop up its hopeless Western twin, whose former lands were then divided into numerous barbarian kingdoms. The last de-facto Western Roman Emperor, Julius Nepos was murdered in Dalmatia in 480 AD. The last fragment of the Western Empire, the Domain of Soissons ruled by Duke Syagrius, was conquered by the Frankish King Clovis in 486. Roman power continued in the east however, under the rulers of Constantinople. Scholars normally refer to their empire as the Byzantine Empire, however its inhabitants considered themselves Roman throughout. Recognizable Roman culture continued to exist in the east for another 200 years before the Arab invasions of the 7th Century set off a chain of events that forever changed the face of the Eastern Roman Empire, and the entity that emerged in the next few centuries is what one might refer to as the true Medieval Byzantine Empire.

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	4th century · <b>5th century</b> · 6th century
<b>Decades:</b>	400s 410s 420s 430s 440s 450s 460s 470s 480s 490s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 5th century AD.



Europe in 450





## Events

- 399–412: The Chinese Buddhist monk Faxian sails through the Indian Ocean and travels throughout Sri Lanka and India to gather Buddhist scriptures.
- 406: The west frontier of the Roman Empire collapses as waves of Suevi, Alans, and Vandals cross the frozen Rhine near Mainz, and enter Gaul.
- 407: Constantine III leads many of the Roman military units from Britain to Gaul, occupying Arles (Arelate). This is generally seen as Rome's withdrawal from Britain.
- 410: Rome sacked by Visigoths, St. Augustine writes *The City of God*.
- 439: Vandals conquer Carthage.
- At some point after 440, the Anglo-Saxons settle in Britain. The traditional story is that they were invited there by Vortigern.
- 451: Huns under Attila facing the Romans and the Visigoths are defeated in the Battle of Chalons.
- 452: Pope Leo I allegedly meets personally with Attila the Hun and convinces him not to sack Rome.
- 453: Death of Attila. The Hunnic Empire is divided between his sons.
- 454: Battle of Nedao. Germanic tribes destroy the main Hunnic army and throw off Hunnic domination.
- 455: Vandals sack Rome.

- The city of Chichen Itza is founded in Mexico.

- 469: Death of Dengizich, last Khan of the Hunnic Empire.
- 476: August 28: Deposition of Romulus Augustulus by Odoacer: traditional date for the Fall of Rome in the West.
- 480: Assassination of Julius Nepos, the last de jure Emperor of the Western Roman Empire, in Dalmatia.
- 481: Clovis I becomes king of the Western Franks upon the death of Childeric I.
- 486: Clovis defeats Syagrius and conquers the last free remnant of the Western Roman Empire.
- 490: Battle of Mount Badon (approximate date). According to legend, British forces led by Arthur defeated the invading Saxons.
- 491: King Clovis I defeats and subjugates the Kingdom of Thuringia in Germany.
- 493: Theodoric the Ostrogoth ousts Odoacer to become king of Italy.
- 494: Northern Gaul is united under Frankish King Clovis I, founder of the Merovingian dynasty.
- 496: Battle of Tolbiac. King Clovis defeats and subjugates the Alamanni.
- Buddhism reaches Myanmar and Indonesia.
- African and Indonesian settlers reach Madagascar.
- Hopewell culture in North America ends.



Romulus Augustus, Last Western Roman Emperor

## Significant persons



- Agatharcos — Greek artist
- Flavius Aëtius, last of the great Roman generals
- Alaric I, king of the Visigoths that sacked Rome
- Aspar, Eastern Roman general and politician
- Attila the Hun
- Augustine of Hippo, bishop, theologian
- Bodhidharma, founder of Zen Buddhism
- John Chrysostom, Patriarch of Constantinople
- Clovis, first Frankish king to unite all the Frankish peoples
- Cyril of Alexandria, Patriarch of Alexandria
- Faxian, Chinese Buddhist monk
- Geiseric, Vandal king and founder of the Vandal kingdom in North Africa
- Hawaiiloa, discovered and settled Hawaii
- Huiyuan, Chinese Buddhist
- Hypatia of Alexandria, woman philosopher
- St. Jerome hermit, cleric, Bible translator
- Pope Leo I
- Ricimer, Western Roman general, politician and ruler
- Saint Mesrob, Armenian monk
- Niall Noigiallach, founder of one of Ireland's greatest dynasties.
- St. Patrick, completed the conversion to Christianity in Ireland
- Socrates Scholasticus, Byzantine Church historian
- Sozomen, Christian church historian
- Theoderic the Great, Ostrogothic king
- Zu Chongzhi, Chinese astronomer and mathematician

## **Inventions, discoveries, introductions**

- Horse collar invented in China
- Heavy plow in use in Slavic lands
- Metal horseshoes become common in Gaul
- Anglo-Saxon futhorc alphabet used in England
- Armenian alphabet created by Mesrob Mashtots c. 405

## **Other**



The gomphothere , an elephant-like species, becomes extinct.

## Decades and years

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# 6th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

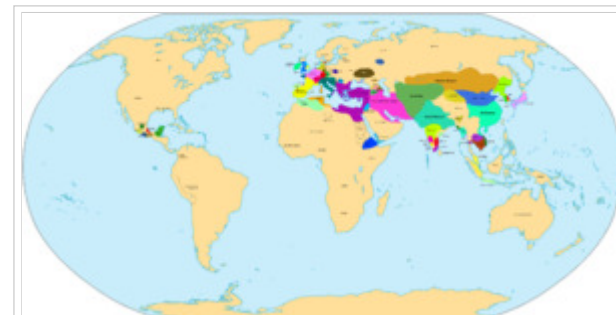
The **6th century** is the period from 501 to 600 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era. This century is widely considered to mark the end of Classical Antiquity and the beginning of the Dark Ages.

## Overview

Following the collapse of the Western Roman Empire late in the previous century, Europe fractured into many small Germanic Kingdoms, which competed fiercely for land and wealth. From this upheaval the Franks rose to prominence, and carved out a sizeable domain encompassing much of modern France and Germany. Meanwhile, the surviving Eastern Roman Empire began to expand under the emperor Justinian, who eventually recaptured North Africa from the Vandals, and attempted to fully recover Italy as well in the hope of re-establishing Roman control over the lands once ruled by the Western Roman Empire. Following Justinian's death, most of his gains were lost. The Sassanid Empire reached the peak of its power under Khosrau I in the 6th century.

## Events

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	5th century · <b>6th century</b> · 7th century
<b>Decades:</b>	500s 510s 520s 530s 540s 550s 560s 570s 580s 590s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



The world at the beginning of the 6th century AD.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 6th century AD.





- The first academy of the east the Academy of Gundeshapur founded in Iran by Khosrau I of Persia.
- Irish colonists and invaders, the Scots, began migrating to Caledonia (later known as Scotland). Migration from south-west Britain to Brittany.
- Glendalough monastery, Wicklow Ireland founded by St. Kevin. Many similar foundations in Ireland and Wales.
- The monastery on Iona is founded by St. Columban
- Zen Buddhists enter Vietnam from China.
- Buddhist Jataka stories are translated into Persian by order of the Zoroastrian king Khosrau.
- 518 - Roman Emperor Anastasius I dies and is succeeded by Justin I.
- 527 — Justinian I succeeds Justin I as Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire.
- 529 — Saint Benedict of Nursia founds the monastery of Monte Cassino in Italy.
- 532 — Nika riots in Constantinople; the cathedral is destroyed. They are put down a sennight later by Belisarius and Mundus; up to 30,000 people are killed in the Hippodrome.
- 535 - Possible volcanic eruption causes several years of abnormally cold weather, resulting in mass famine.
- 537: Battle of Camlann, final battle of King Arthur
- c. 538- 540 - First Pandemic of bubonic plague hits Byzantine Empire.
- Buddhism introduced to Japan from Baekje in 552, thus contributing to the changes that occurred in the Asuka period.
- 554, Eviction of the Ostrogoths from Rome, and the re-unification of all Italy under Imperial rule.
- Outbreak of bubonic plague in Constantinople and the rest of the Byzantine Empire ( Plague of Justinian).
- The Kutrigur Bulgars move into modern Romania.
- Jewish influence in Aksum.
- Nubia is largely converted to Coptic Christianity.
- The area of modern Aargau falls into the Franks.
- The Kingdom of Funan dies out.
- Black Death raged over south east Asia.
- Silk Road farther into Europe.
- 589–618: Sui Dynasty of China
- Old Irish language develops
- Old Dutch language develops
- Abraha attacks Kaaba in Mecca (*circa* 571)
- 590, Pope Gregory I succeeds Pope Pelagius II as the 64th pope.



This Buddhist stela from China, Northern Wei period, was built in the early 6th century.

## Significant persons

- Muhammad, prophet of Islam, born in 570.
- Pope Gregory the Great (590–604)
- Arthur, (fictional?) defeated the Anglo-Saxons



- Justinian, Byzantine Emperor (527–565)
- Khosrau I of Persia, Sassanid king (531–579)
- Belisarius, Byzantine general.
- Gregory of Tours (c. 538–594)
- Beowulf, (fictional?) king of the Geats
- Jordanes, author of the *Getica*.
- Procopius, Byzantine historian.
- Bozorgmehr, Persian sage.
- Empress Suiko of Japan
- Taliesin, Welsh poet
- Abraham Kidunaia
- Austell
- Yasodharman, king of Malwa in India, defeats the Huns.

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- Dionysius Exiguus creates the Anno Domini system, inspired by the birth of Jesus, in 525. This is the system upon which the Gregorian calendar and Common Era systems are based.
- Backgammon (*nard*) invented in Persia by Burzoe
- Chess, as chaturanga, entered Persia from India and was modified to shatranj.
- Breast-strap horse harness in use in Frankish kingdom
- Byzantine Empire acquires silk technology from China
- Vaghbata, Indian medical books
- In 589 AD, the Chinese scholar-official Yan Zhitui makes the first reference to the use of toilet paper in history.
- Significant to the history of agriculture, the Chinese author Jia Sixia wrote the treatise *Chi Min Yao Shu* in 535, and although it quotes 160 previous Chinese agronomy books, it is the oldest existent Chinese agriculture treatise. In over one hundred thousand written Chinese characters, the book covered land preparation, seeding, cultivation, orchard management, forestry, animal husbandry, trade, and culinary uses for crops.

## Decades and years

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# 7th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **7th century** is the period from 601 to 700 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era.

## Overview

During this century, the Eastern Roman Empire continued suffering setbacks, which increased after the 630s, when the prophet Muhammad established the geographically Islamic state, and set the stage for the rapid expansion of the Arab Empire. Although life in the countryside deteriorated, Constantinople grew to become the largest and wealthiest city in the world. It is estimated that the plague killed as many as 100 million people across the world. It caused the Europe's population to drop by around 50% between 550 and 700. It also may have contributed to the success of the Arabs.

In the Iberian Peninsula, the seventh century was the *Siglo de Concilios*, that is, century of councils, referring to the Councils of Toledo.

## Events

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	6th century · <b>7th century</b> · 8th century
<b>Decades:</b>	600s 610s 620s 630s 640s 650s 660s 670s 680s 690s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



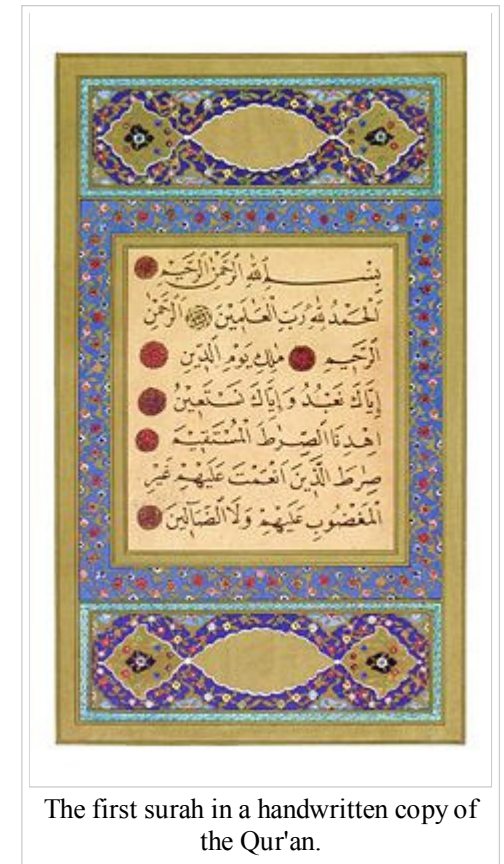
Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 7th century.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 7th century.



- Islam begins in Arabia, the Qur'an is documented.
- The world's population shrinks to about 208 million people.
- The Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy emerges at the beginning of this century.
- Sutton Hoo ship burial, East Anglia (modern England)
- Xuan Zang (aka Hsuan-Tsang) traveled from China to India, before returning to Chang An in China to translate Buddhist scriptures.
- End of sporadic Buddhist rule in the Sindh.
- Croats and Serbs entered their present territory early in the 7th century AD, settling in six distinct tribal delimitations, whilst Croats set up early states.
- Teotihuacan is sacked and burnt.
- The religion of Shugendo evolves from Buddhism, Taoism, Shinto and other influences in the mountains of Japan.
- The Bulgars arrive in the Balkans; establishment of the powerful Bulgarian Empire.
- Arab traders penetrate the area of Lake Chad.
- Earliest attested English poetry
- 600, Smallpox spreads from India into Europe.
- 603, last mention of the Roman Senate in Gregorian Register. It mentions that the senate acclaimed the statues of emperor Phocas and empress Leontia.
- 606, Boniface elected papal successor on the death of Pope Sabinian. He sought and obtained a decree from Byzantine Emperor Phocas which stated that "the See of Blessed Peter the Apostle should be the head of all the Churches". This ensured that the title of "Universal Bishop" belonged exclusively to the Bishop of Rome.
- 610, Heraclius arrives by ship from Africa at Constantinople, overthrows East Roman Emperor Phocas and becomes Emperor. His first major act is to change the official language of the East Roman Empire from Latin to Greek (already the language of the vast majority of the population)
- 615, The Sassanid Empire under Chosroes II sacks Jerusalem, taking away the relic of the True cross.
- 616, Khosrau II of Persia invades Egypt.
- 616, Aethelfrith of Northumbria defeats the Welsh in a battle at Chester.
- 618, Tang Dynasty of China initiated by Li Yuan.



The first surah in a handwritten copy of the Qur'an.



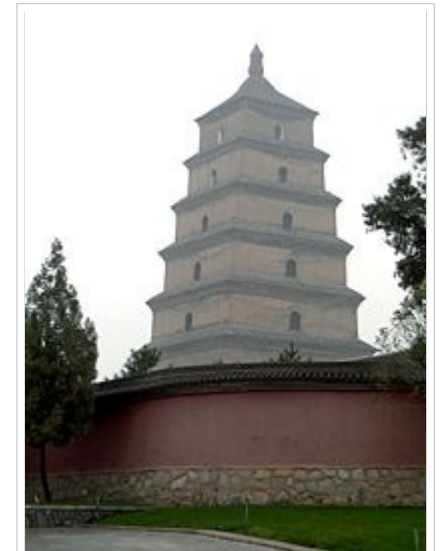
- 618, The Chenla kingdom completely absorbed Funan.
- Guangzhou, China, becomes a major international seaport, hosting maritime travelers from Egypt, East Africa, Arabia, Persia, India, Sri Lanka, and South East Asia, including Muslims, Jews, Hindus, and Nestorian Christians.
- 622, Year one of the Islamic calendar begins, during which the Hijra occurs — Muhammad and his followers emigrate from Mecca to Medina in September.
- 623, The Frankish merchant Samo, supporting the Slavs fighting their Avar rulers, becomes the ruler of the first known Slav state in Central Europe.
- 626, The Avars and the Persians jointly besiege but fail to capture Constantinople.
- 627, Emperor Heraclius defeats the Persians, ending the Roman-Persian Wars.
- 629, The Byzantine-Arab Wars begin. Much of the Roman Empire is conquered by Muslim Arabs led by Khalid ibn al-Walid.
- 629- 630, Emperor Taizong's campaign against Eastern Tujue, Chinese Tang Dynasty forces under commanders Li Jing and Li Shiji destroy the Göktürk Khanate.
- 632, The Muslim conquests begin.
- 636, Around this time the Battle of al-Qādisiyyah resulted in a decisive victory for Muslims in the Islamic conquest of Persia, the Persian Empire is conquered by Muslim Arabs led by Sad Ibn Abi Waqqas.
- 639, Muslim conquest of Egypt and Armenia
- 642, Library of Alexandria destroyed again
- 664, Conquest of Kabul by Muslims.
- 650, The Khazar-Arab Wars begin.



An Anglo-Saxon helmet found at Sutton Hoo, probably belonging to Raedwald of East Anglia circa 625.



- 651, Emperor Yazdgerd III is murdered in Merv, ending the rule of Sassanid dynasty in Persia (Iran).
- 656– 661, The First Islamic civil war.
- 658, Two Chinese monks, Zhi Yu and Zhi You, reconstruct the 3rd century South Pointing Chariot mechanical compass-vehicle for Emperor Tenji of Japan.
- 661, Caliph Ali ibn Abi Talib is assassinated. He is succeeded by Hasan ibn Ali as the Shia Imam and Muawiyah I as the Sunni Caliph. This was the foundation of the Umayyad caliphate.
- 663, The Tang Dynasty of China and Korean Silla Kingdom gain victory against the Korean Baekje Kingdom and their Yamato Japanese allies in the naval Battle of Baekgang.
- 668, The end of the Goguryeo-Tang Wars, as Goguryeo fell to a joint attack by Tang China and Unified Silla of Korea, the latter of which held the Goguryeo domains.
- 670 In 670 an Arab Muslim army under Uqba ibn Nafi entered the region of Ifriqiya. Finally in the late 670s conquest of North Africa has been completed.
- 674, The first Arab siege of Constantinople begins.
- 677, Most of the Arab fleet is destroyed by Greek fire.
- 680, Battle of Karbala took place near Kufa which led to killing of Husayn ibn Ali and the division of Muslim community. The Bulgars subjugate the country of current-day Bulgaria.
- 683– 685, The Second Islamic civil war.
- 688, Emperor Justinian II of the Byzantine Empire defeats the Bulgars.
- 694, Hispano- Visigothic king Egica accuses the Jews of aiding the Muslims, and sentences all Jews to slavery.
- 698, The Arabs capture Carthage from the Byzantine Empire, and destroy it completely.



The Tang Dynasty Giant Wild Goose Pagoda of Chang'an, built in 652 AD, in modern-day Xi'an, China.

## Significant persons

- Muhammad ( 570– 632), final prophet of Islamic religion
- Abu Bakr, first caliph of Islam
- Umar, second caliph of Islam
- Uthman, third caliph of Islam
- Ali ibn Abi Talib ( 600– 661), cousin of Muhammad, fourth caliph of Islam, first Shi'a Imam
- Emperor Taizong of Tang ( 599– 649 AD), China
- Khalid ibn al-Walid (*The Sword of Allah*) ( 592– 642), Muslim Arab military commander who defeats both the Roman and Persian empires in over eighty battles.
- Asparuh — Khan of the Bulgars and founder of contemporary Bulgaria
- The Unknown Archont led the Serbs to the Balkans from the north
- Pacal the Great, ruler of Maya state of Palenque
- Aethelbert, King of Kent
- Antara Ibn Shaddad, Arab poet



- Augustine Eriugena, Irish scientist
- Li Shiji, Chinese general and later prime minister
- Brahmagupta, Indian mathematician
- Caedmon, English poet.
- Cenn Fáelad mac Aillila, Irish scholar, died 679
- Gregory the Great (Pope, 540– 604)
- Saint Cuthbert
- Heraclius — Warrior Emperor of Byzantium who won numerous victories against the Sassanids (Persians)
- Li Shiji, Chinese general and later prime minister
- Yeon Gaesomun, Generalissimo of Goguryeo
- Emperor Taizong of Tang China
- Pulakesi II, comes to power
- Isaac of Nineveh (d 700) Nestorian theologian
- Saint Asaph
- Dae Jo Yeong, founder of Balhae, a state in ancient Manchuria

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- 650, The first Chinese Paper money is issued.
- 670s, Greek fire invented in Constantinople.
- The stirrup introduced to Persia from China, late 7th century
- Earliest known record of the game Chatrang, predecessor to Chess
- After sailing from Ethiopia, Sa`d ibn Abi Waqqas brings the first Quran to China, and establishes the first Islamic mosque of China in Guangzhou in the 630s.
- The Xumi Pagoda in Zhengding, China is built in 636 AD.

## Decades and years

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# 8th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **8th century** is the period from 701 to 800 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era.

## Overview

During this century the Middle East, the coast of North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula comes rapidly under Islamic Arab domination. The westward expansion of the Arab Empire is famously halted at the Battle of Tours. The tide of Arab conquest came to an end in the middle of the 8th century. Late in the century the Vikings, seafaring peoples from Scandinavia begin raiding the coasts of Europe and the Mediterranean creating a terrifying legacy. They go on to found several important kingdoms.

## Events

- Probably at some time in this century, Beowulf is composed.
- The first Serbian state is formed at the beginning of the century.
- Borobodur, the famous Indonesian Buddhist structure, begins construction, probably as a non-Buddhist shrine.
- Buddhist Jataka stories are translated into Syriac and Arabic as Kalilag and Damnag.
- An account of Buddha's life is translated into Greek by Saint John of Damascus, and widely circulated to Christians as the story of Barlaam and Josaphat.
- The Moravian principality and the Principality of Nitra arise in central Europe (see Great Moravia)

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	7th century · <b>8th century</b> · 9th century
<b>Decades:</b>	700s 710s 720s 730s 740s 750s 760s 770s 780s 790s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 8th Century.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 8th century AD.





- Many Volga Bulgarians convert to Islam.
- Kanem-Bornu arises north of Lake Chad.
- Height of the Classic period in pre-Columbian Maya civilization history.
- Śāntideva, a Buddhist monk at Nalanda Monastery in India, composes the famous *Bodhicaryāvatāra*, or *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life*
- The height of the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda in Xian, China is extended by 5 stories.
- 701, the Taihō Code is enacted in late Asuka period Japan
- 705, the reign of China's first and only sole-ruling empress, Wu Zetian, ends in this year
- 708 - 711, Arab armies occupied Sindh.
- 710, Empress Gemmei moves the capital to Heijō-kyū (present day Nara), initiating the Nara period of Japan.
- 711, Tariq ibn-Ziyad crosses the Straits of Gibraltar. With the creation of Al-Andalus, most of the Iberian peninsula is conquered by Arab and Berber Muslims, thus ending the Visigothic rule, and starting almost eight centuries of Muslim presence there.
- 732, Battle of Tours. Near Poitiers, France, leader of the Franks Charles Martel and his men, defeat a large army of Moors under the governor of Cordoba, Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi, who is killed during the battle. The Battle of Tours halts the advance of Islam into Western Europe and establishes a balance of power between Western Europe, Islam and the Byzantine Empire.
- 742, for the municipal census of the Tang Dynasty Chinese capital city Chang'an and its metropolitan area of Jingzhou Fu (including small towns in the vicinity), the New Book of Tang records that in this year there were 362,921 registered families with 1,960,188 persons.
- 748, the Chinese Buddhist monk Jian Zhen writes in his *Yue Jue Shu* of the international sea traffic coming to Guangzhou, ships from Borneo, Persia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and others bringing tons of goods.
- 750, The last Umayyad Caliph Marwan II ( 744–750) is overthrown and executed by the first Abbasid Caliph, Abu al-Abbas al-Saffah. The Caliphate is moved to Baghdad, within the territory of the former Persian Empire; this would prove to be a momentous event for Baghdad which developed into a centre of trade and culture. The Ghana Empire begins.
- 751, Arabian armies defeated Chinese Tang Dynasty troops in the Battle of Talas, in the high Pamirs near Samarkand and conquest central Asia completely.
- 755– 763, the An Shi Rebellion devastates China during the mid Tang Dynasty.
- 758, Arab and Persian pirates and travelers burn and loot the Chinese city of Guangzhou, while the Tang Dynasty authorities shut the port down for the next five decades.
- 772– 804, Charlemagne invades what is now northwestern Germany, battling the Saxons for more than thirty years and finally crushing their rebellion, incorporating Saxony into the Frankish Empire and the Christian world
- 785, beginning in this year, Tang Dynasty Chinese begin landing regular maritime missions on the coast of East Africa, cutting out middlemen Arab sea merchants.
- 785– 805, writing between these years, the Chinese geographer Jia Dan describes large lighthouse pillars built in the Persian Gulf, which is confirmed a



Borobudur from a distance



The Leshan Giant Buddha of Sichuan province, China; construction began in 713, completed in 803.



century later by al-Mas'udi and al-Muqaddasi

- 793, the very first Viking raid is carried out on the abbey of Lindisfarne in northern England.
- 794, Emperor Kammu moves the capital to Heian-kyō (present day Kyoto), initiating the Heian period of Japan.
- 800, Begins the ancient west African state of Takrur or Tekrou, which flourished roughly parallel to the Ghana Empire.

## Significant persons

- Jia Dan, Chinese scholar-official, cartographer, and geographer
- Charles Martel, Frankish leader until 741 (Battle of Tours, 732)
- Pippin the Younger, king of the Franks until 768
- Charlemagne, king of the Franks from 771 to 814
- Alcuin, English monk, scholar, and teacher; Charlemagne's advisor in educational affairs
- The Venerable Bede, English scholar
- Harun al-Rashid, fifth Abbasid Caliph
- Li Po, Chinese poet
- Du Fu, Chinese poet
- Han Gan, Chinese painter
- Empress Gemmei
- Emperor Kammu
- An Lushan
- Muhammad bin Qasim, Arab general who conquered Sindh and Punjab.

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- heavy plow in use in the Rhine valley
- horse collar in use in Northern Europe in 8th or 9th century — perhaps introduced from Asia
- papermaking introduced from China to Arabs
- beginning of the decline of the Classical Maya civilization
- ca. 770 — iron horseshoes come into common use
- Pattadakal, Chalukya Architecture
- The Chinese Buddhist monk Yi Xing applies the first known clockwork escapement mechanism to operate and rotate his astronomical celestial globe
- The Pictish peoples of Scotland design the first European triangular harp

## Decades and years



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# 9th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **9th century** is the period from 801 to 900 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era.

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	8th century · <b>9th century</b> · 10th century
<b>Decades:</b>	800s 810s 820s 830s 840s 850s 860s 870s 880s 890s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 9th century AD.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 9th century AD.



## Western European



This earthenware dish was made in 9th century Iraq. It is housed in the Freer Gallery of Art of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

### Art of the "Dark Ages"

First and foremost, art existed because the Church required it. The basic tools of the Roman Catholic mass, thousands of golden art objects were made. Sacred cups, vessels, reliquaries, crucifixes, rosaries, altar pieces, and statues of the Virgin and Child or Saints all kept the flame of art from dying out in the period. Architecture began to revive to some extent by the 9th century. It took the form of Church facilities of all kinds, and the first castle fortifications since Roman times began to take form in simple "moat and baily" castles, or simple "strong point" tower structures, with little refinement.

### Worldwide Events



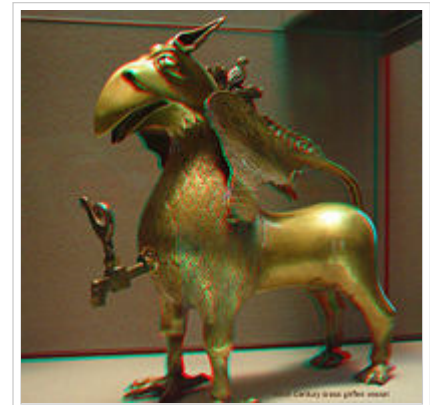
Europe in 9th century



- The Arab merchant Shulama wrote that Chinese junk ships could carry 600 to 700

passengers aboard for sailing missions into the Indian Ocean. He wrote that the draft of Chinese ships was too deep for entering the Euphrates River (modern-day Iraq), which forced them to land small boats on the banks of the river for passengers and cargo instead.

- An unknown event causes the decline of the Maya Classical Era.
- Beowulf might have been written down in this century, though it could also have been in the 8th century.
- Reign of Charlemagne, and concurrent (and controversially labeled) Carolingian Renaissance in Western Europe.
- Large-scale Viking attacks on Europe begin, devastating countless numbers of people.
- Oseberg ship burial.
- The Magyars arrive in what is now Hungary, taking it from Bulgaria.
- The Tukolor settle in the Senegal river valley.
- Muslim traders settle in the northwest and southeast of Madagascar.
- 800 — Arab fleet sails up the Tiber.
- 803 — Construction on the Leshan Giant Buddha in Tang Dynasty China is complete, after 90 years of rock-carving on a massive cliff-side.
- C. 813–c. 915 — period of serious Arab naval raids on shores of Tyrrhenian and Adriatic seas.
- 830 - House of Wisdom, a library and translation institute, established by al-Ma'mun, Abbasid caliph, in Baghdad to transfer the knowledge of Greeks, Persians, Indians, etc to Muslim world. Also The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing which is one of the book of algebra is written by Al-Khwarizmi who worked there.
- 848– 852 — The west bank of the Tiber is annexed into the city of Rome. A defensive wall, commissioned by Pope Leo IV, is built around what came to be called the Leonine City.
- 851 — The Arab merchant Suleiman al-Tajir visits the Chinese seaport at Guangzhou in southern China, and observes the manufacturing of porcelain, the Islamic mosque built at Guangzhou, the granary system of the city, and how its municipal administration functioned.
- 863 — The Chinese author Duan Chengshi describes the slave trade, ivory trade, and ambergris trade of Somalia in East Africa.
- 870 — Prague Castle founded.
- 800– 909 — rule of Aghlabids as an independent Muslim dynasty in North Africa.
- 850– 875 — The first Norse settlers arrive on Iceland.
- 859 Muslim established the oldest university in the world, University of Al Karaouine, in Fez, Morocco
- 863– 879 — period of schism between eastern and western churches.
- 864 — Christianization of Bulgaria under Boris I
- 875– 884 — Huang Chao leads an unsuccessful rebellion against the Tang Dynasty in China.
- Late 9th century: Bulgaria stretches from the mouth of the Danube to Epirus and Bosnia.



Brass Griffin beverage urn from 9th century



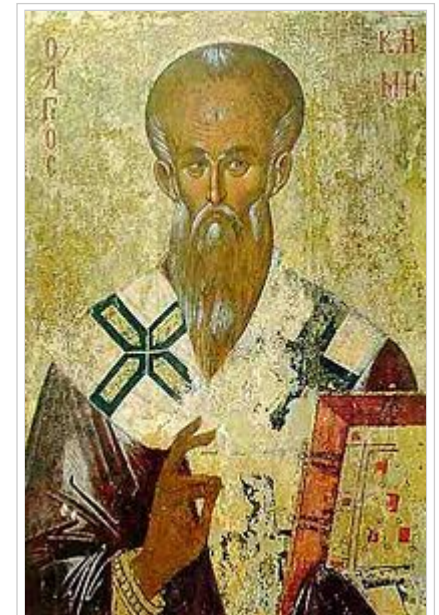
The Three Pagodas of Dali, Yunnan province, China, 9th and 10th centuries.



- In Italy, some cities became free republics: for instance Forlì, in the 889.
- The Christian Nubian kingdom reaches its peak of prosperity and military power. ( Early history of Sudan).
- Harald Fairhair was victorious at the battle of Hafrsfjord, and Norway was unified into one kingdom.
- Chess reaches Japan.
- 862 — The beginning the Rurik Dynasty in Russia
- 885 — arrival of the disciples of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Clement of Ohrid and Naum of Preslav in Bulgaria. Development of the Cyrillic Alphabet.
- 867 — onward Revival of the Byzantine Empire under the Macedonian dynasty.
- The Medieval Warm Period begins.

## Significant people

- Adi Sankara
- Al-Jahiz
- Alfred the Great
- Arnulf of Carinthia
- Basil I the Macedonian (Βασίλειος Α') ( 811– 886), ruled ( 867)–( 886)
- Boris I of Bulgaria
- Charlemagne
- Clement of Ohrid
- Han Yu
- Harald I of Norway
- Huang Chao
- Kenneth I of Scotland
- Louis the Pious
- Naum of Preslav
- Rurik
- Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius
- Taizu of Later Liang
- Wang Kon



Saint Clement of Ohrid

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- First image of a rotary grindstone in a European source — illustration shows crank, first known use of a crank in the West ( Utrecht Psalter, A.D. 843)
- First known printed book, the *Diamond Sutra*, printed in China using woodblock printing in 868 AD.
- Invention of gunpowder by Chinese Taoist Alchemists
- Vulgar Latin begins to devolve into various Romance languages



## Decades and years

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# 10th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **10th century** was that century which lasted from 901 to 1000.

## Overview

The tenth century is usually regarded as a low point in European history. In China it was also a period of political upheaval. In the Muslim World, however, it was a cultural zenith, especially in Spain. Also it was the zenith for the Byzantine and Bulgarian Empires.

Medievalist and historian of technology Lynn White said that "to the modern eye, it is very nearly the darkest of the Dark Ages", but concluded that ". . . if it was dark, it was the darkness of the womb." Similarly, Helen Waddell wrote that the tenth century was that which "in the textbooks disputes with the seventh the bad eminence, the nadir of the human intellect." Even in the fifteenth century, Lorenzo Valla described it as the **Century of Lead and Iron**.

## Events

<b>Millennium:</b>	1st millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	9th century · <b>10th century</b> · 11th century
<b>Decades:</b>	900s 910s 920s 930s 940s 950s 960s 970s 980s 990s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere at the beginning of the 10th century AD.



- The beginning of the Medieval Warm Period
  - Viking groups settle in northern France — Norse become Normans
  - Foundation of Cluny, first federated monastic order
  - In 917 the Bulgarians destroyed the Byzantine army in the battle of Anchialus, one of the bloodiest battles in the Middle Ages
  - 927, official recognition of the first independent national Church in Europe, the Bulgarian Patriarchate
  - Incursions of Magyar (Hungarian) cavalry throughout Western Europe (47 expeditions in Germany, Italy and France, 899– 970)
  - Mieszko I, first duke of Poland, baptised a Christian in 966
  - Khazar kingdom is attacked and defeated by Kievan Rus ( 965)
  - Vladimir I, Prince of Kievan Rus, baptised a Christian in 988
  - Collapse of the central lowland Maya civilization. End of Classic Maya period, begin Post-Classic May.
  - Rise of the Toltecs in Mexico
  - Golden age of the Ancestral Puebloans ( Pueblo II)
  - Collapse of Great Moravia
  - Buddhist temple construction commences at Bagan, Myanmar
  - In 932, the first use of gunpowder in battle occurred with the Chinese Battle of Lang-shan Jiang (Wolf Mountain River), where the naval fleet of the Wen-Mu King was defeated by Qian Yuan-guan because he had used 'fire oil' (huo yóu, 火油) of gunpowder- fuse ignited flamethrowers to burn his fleet.
  - Laguna Copperplate Inscription, Kavi script, inscribed in Luzon, Philippines, dated *Saka year 822* (AD 900)
  - In 910 Parantaka I of the Chola Dynasty drove out the Pandayas from southern India into Sri Lanka, which he also eventually conquered.
  - The medieval Croatian state becomes a unified kingdom under Tomislav
  - Twentieth century Belgian astronomer Jean Meeus asserts that the positions of the eight planets and Pluto were within the same 90° arc of the solar system on 1 February 949. The next time it is thought this will occur is on 6 May 1492.
  - Coastal cities on the Malay Peninsula are the seed for the first recorded Malay kingdoms
  - The Fatimid dynasty arises in eastern Algeria
- 
- Swedish influence extends to the Black Sea
  - The Christian Nubian kingdom reaches its peak of prosperity and military power ( Early history of Sudan)
  - The Mississippian culture begins in present day Southern USA
  - The Byzantine empire reaches the height of its military and economic strength
  - Baile Átha Cliath (Dublin) was founded ( 988)
  - Reindeer become extinct in Scotland
  - Lions become extinct Europe by this date, with the last dying in Caucasus.
  - 980s - Al-Azhar University is established in Cairo by Fatimid dynasty.
  - 993 — the Arab maritime captain Abu Himyarite from Yemen toured Guangzhou port, and was an avid



This statue of a yogini goddess was created in Kaveripakkam in Tamil Nadu, India, during the 10th century.



The Bulgarian victory at Anchialos.



visitor to China

## Significant people

- Tomislav, king of Croatia, united the medieval Croatian state into the Kingdom of Croatia, crowned in 925
- Topiltzin Ce Acatl Quetzalcoatl, semi-legendary Toltec ruler, (exact years of his life are unknown)
- Abd-ar-rahman III of Cordoba
- Adikavi Pampa an early Kannada language poet (born in 902)
- Simeon the Great, Emperor of Bulgaria (reigned 893– 927)
- Nicephorus II, Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire (lived 912– 969, reigned 963– 969)
- Otto I the Great, Holy Roman Emperor (lived 912– 973, reigned 936– 973)
- King Edmund I of England (lived 921– 946, reigned 939– 946)
- John I Tzimisce, Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire (lived 925– 976, reigned 969– 976)
- Ranna, an early Kannada language poet from India, (born in 949)
- Hugh Capet (lived 938– 996), first Capetian King of France
- Huyan Zan, Chinese general (died in 1000)
- Géza of Hungary, ruler of the Magyars (lived 940– 997, reigned 970– 997)
- Otto II, Holy Roman Emperor (lived 955– 983, reigned 973– 983)
- Li Cheng, Chinese landscape painter
- Theophanu, wife of Otto II, mother and Regent of Otto III, (lived 956– 991, reigned 983– 991)
- Tailapa II, re-established the Western Chalukya Empire of India (reigned 973- 997)
- Tsar Samuil of Bulgaria (lived 958– 1014, reigned 976– 1014)
- Zhang Sixun, Chinese astronomer and mechanical engineer
- Vladimir I, Prince of Kievan Rus (lived 958– 1015)
- Basil II, Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire, (lived 958– 1025, reigned 976– 1025)
- Otto III, Holy Roman Emperor (lived 980– 1002, reigned 983– 1002)
- Ferdowsi Persian poet
- Li Fang, Chinese scholar and encyclopedist ( 925- 996)
- Erik the Red Viking Explorer, founded Greenland
- Ubayd Allah al-Mahdi Billah, founder of the Fatimid dynasty of Egypt in 909
- Emperor Taizu of Song, founder of the Chinese Song Dynasty (lived March 21, 927– November 14, 976, reigned 960- 976)
- Parantaka I, ruler of the Chola Dynasty of India (reigned 907- 950)



Half-section of the *Night Revels of Han Xizai*, by Chinese artist Gu Hongzhong, 10th century. A woman is seen entertaining guests with a pipa on the right-hand side.



## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- Hop (plant) first mentioned in connection with beer brewing
- Zhang Sixun of China uses for the first time liquid mercury (element) instead of water to power the escapement mechanism rotating an armillary sphere, since liquid mercury does not freeze easily like water during winter, and doesn't rust metal parts
- Fire Arrows are invented by the Chinese, along with the use of the first blackpowder impregnated fuses for igniting the blast of double-piston flamethrowers which employed Greek Fire, an imported good from Arabia in the early part of the century.
- Construction begins on the Brihadeeswarar Temple of India, during the reign of Rajaraja Chola I
- The first pound lock is invented by the Chinese engineer Qiao Weiyo, improving the canal lock system.
- Three of the *Four Great Books of Song* are published (the last one in 1013), which were enormous Chinese encyclopedias having millions of written Chinese characters each.

## Decades and years

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Earliest known representation of a gun (a fire lance) and a grenade (upper right), from the cave murals of Dunhuang, China, 10th century.



# 11th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **11th century** is the period from 1001 to 1100 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era. In the history of European culture, this period is considered the early part of the High Middle Ages. There was a sudden decline of Byzantine power and rise of Norman domination over much of Europe, along with the prominent role in Europe of notably influential popes. In what is now Northern Italy, a growth of population in urban centers gave rise to early organized capitalism and more sophisticated, commercialized culture by the late 11th century. In Song China and the Islamic world, this century marked the high point for both classical Chinese civilization, science, and technology and medieval Islamic science, technology, and literature. Rivaling political factions at the Song Dynasty court created strife amongst the leading statesmen and ministers of the empire. There was also a population explosion, doubling to the size of 100 million, and an economic revolution in China that spurred manufacture and production rates which rivaled even Great Britain's coal and iron output in the early Industrial Revolution. For Chola-era India and Fatimid-era Egypt, they had reached their zenith in military might and international influence. The Western Chalukya Empire (the Chola's rival) also rose to power by the end of the century. In this century the Turkish Seljuk dynasty comes to power in the Middle East over the now fragmented Abbasid realm, while the first of the Crusades were waged towards the close of the century. In Japan the Fujiwara clan continued to dominate the affairs of state. In the Americas the Toltec and Mixtec civilizations flourished in central America, along with the Huari Culture of South America and the Mississippian culture of North America. In Russia, there was the golden age for the principality of Kievan Rus. In Korea the Goryeo Kingdom flourished and faced external threats from the Liao Dynasty ( Manchuria). In Vietnam the Lý Dynasty began, while in Myanmar the Pagan Kingdom reached its height of political and military power.

## Overview

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	10th century · <b>11th century</b> · 12th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1000s 1010s 1020s 1030s 1040s 1050s 1060s 1070s 1080s 1090s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere in early half of 11th century.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 11th century AD.



The Brihadeeswarar Temple of Chola era southern India, completed in 1010 AD, during the reign of Rajaraja Chola I.

In European history, the 11th century is regarded as the beginning of the High Middle Ages, an age subsequent to the Early Middle Ages. The century began while the *translatio imperii* of 962 was still somewhat novel and ended in the midst of the Investiture Controversy. It saw the final Christianisation of Scandinavia and the emergence of the Peace and Truce of God movements, the Gregorian Reforms, and the Crusades which revitalised a church and a papacy that had survived tarnished by the tumultuous tenth century. In 1054, the Great Schism rent the church in two, however.

In Germany, it was marked by the ascendancy of the Holy Roman Emperors, who hit their high watermark under the Salians.

In Italy, it opened with the integration of the kingdom into the empire and the royal palace at Pavia was sacked in 1024. By the end of the century, Lombard and Byzantine rule in the Mezzogiorno had been usurped by the Normans and the power of the territorial magnates was being replaced by that of the citizens of the cities in the north.

In Britain, it saw the transformation of Scotland into a single, more unified and centralised kingdom and the Norman conquest of England in 1066. The social transformations wrought in these lands brought them into the fuller orbit of European feudal politics.

In France, it saw the nadir of the monarchy and the zenith of the great magnates, especially the dukes of Aquitaine and Normandy, who could thus foster such distinctive contributions of their lands as the pious warrior who conquered Britain, Italy, and the East and the impious peacelover, the troubadour, who crafted out of the European vernacular its first great literary themes. There were also the first figures of the intellectual movement known as Scholasticism, which emphasized

dialectic arguments in disputes of Christian theology as well as classical philosophy.



In Spain, the century opened with the successes of the last caliphs of Córdoba and ended in the successes of the Almoravids. In between was a period of Christian unification under Navarrese hegemony and success in the Reconquista against the taifa kingdoms which replaced the fallen caliphate.

In China, there was a triangular affair of continued war and peace settlements between the Song Dynasty, the Tanguts-led Western Xia in the northwest, and the Khitans of the Liao Dynasty in the northeast. Meanwhile, opposing political factions evolved at the Song imperial court of Kaifeng. The political reformers at court, called the New Policies Group (新法, Xin Fa), were led by Emperor Shenzong of Song and the Chancellors Fan Zhongyan and Wang Anshi, while the political conservatives were led by Chancellor Sima Guang and Empress Dowager Gao, regent of the young Emperor Zhezong of Song. Heated political debate and sectarian intrigue followed, while political enemies were often dismissed from the capital to govern frontier regions in the deep south where malaria was known to be very fatal to northern Chinese people (see History of the Song Dynasty). This period also represents a high point in classical Chinese science and technology, with figures such as Su Song and Shen Kuo, as well as the age where the matured form of the Chinese pagoda was accomplished in Chinese architecture.

In India, the Chola Dynasty reached its height of naval power under leaders such as Rajaraja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I, dominating southern India ( Tamil Nadu), Sri Lanka, and regions of South East Asia. They also sent raids into what is now modern-day Thailand.

In Japan, the Fujiwara clan dominated central politics by acting as imperial regents, controlling the actions of the Emperor of Japan, who acted merely as a ' puppet monarch' during the Heian period.

In the Middle East, the Fatimid Empire reached its zenith only to face steep decline, much like the Byzantine Empire in the first half of the century. The Seljuks came to prominence while the Abbasid caliphs held traditional titles without real, tangible authority in state affairs.

In Korea, the rulers of the Goryeo Kingdom were able to concentrate more central authority into their own hands than in that of the nobles, and were able to fend off two Khitan invasions with their armies.

## Events



The Iron Pagoda of Kaifeng, Song Dynasty China, built in 1049 AD during the reign of Emperor Renzong of Song.



- 1001- 1008 - Japanese Lady Murasaki Shikibu writes the first novel, *The Tale of Genji*
- 1001 ± 40 years, Baitoushan volcano on what would be the Chinese-Korean border, erupts with a force of 6.5, the fourth largest Holocene blast.
- 1001, Mahmud of Ghazni, Muslim leader of Ghazni, begins a series of raids into Northern India; he finishes in 1027 with the destruction of Somnath.
- c. 1001, Vikings, led by Leif Eriksson, establish small settlements in and around Vinland in North America
- 1003, Robert II of France invades the Duchy of Burgundy, then ruled by Otto-William, Duke of Burgundy; the initial invasion is unsuccessful, but Robert II eventually gained the acceptance of the Church in 1016 and annexed Burgundy into his realm.
- 1004, the library and university Dar Al-Hekma is founded in Egypt under the Fatimids.
- 1005, the Treaty of Shanyuan was signed between the Chinese Song Dynasty and the Khitan Liao Dynasty.
- 1008, the Fatimid Egyptian sea captain Domiyat travels to the Buddhist pilgrimage site in Shandong, China, to seek out the Chinese Emperor Zhenzong of Song with gifts from his ruling Imam Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, successfully reopening diplomatic relations between Egypt and China that had been lost since the collapse of the Tang Dynasty.
- 1009, Lý Thái Tô overthrew the Anterior Lê Dynasty of Vietnam, establishing the Lý Dynasty.
  
- 1009– 1010, the Lombard known as Melus of Bari led an insurrection against the Byzantine Catepan of Italy, John Curcuas, as the latter was killed in battle and replaced by Basil Mesardonites, who brought Byzantine reinforcements.
- 1010, with the aid of scholars such as Song Zhun, Lu Duosun compiles a massive work of cartography in 1566 chapters, including the mapped topography of each provincial region in China down to the minute level of small towns and villages; this was an imperial compendium first issued by Emperor Taizu of Song in 971 AD.
- 1010– 1011, the Second Goryeo-Khitan War; the Korean king was forced to flee the capital temporarily, but unable to establish a foothold and fearing a counterattack, the Khitan forces withdrew.
- 1011- 1021, Ibn al-Haytham (Alhacen), a famous Iraqi scientist working in Egypt, feigned madness in fear of angering the Egyptian caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, and was kept under house arrest from 1011 to 1021. During this time, he wrote his influential *Book of Optics*.
- 1014, the Byzantine armies of Basil II are victorious over Samuil of Bulgaria in the Battle of Kleidion.
- 1015, in the Battle of Nesjar in Oslofjord, Norway, the forces of Olav Haraldsson fought the forces of Sveinn Hákonarson, with a victory of Olav.
- 1018, the First Bulgarian Empire is conquered by the Byzantine Empire
- 1018, the Byzantine armies of Basil Boioannes are victorious at the Battle of Cannae against the Lombards under Melus of Bari.
- 1018, the Third Goryeo-Khitan War; the Korean General Gang Gam-chan inflicted heavy losses to Khitan forces at the Battle of Kwiju. The Khitan withdrew and both sides signed a peace treaty.
- 1014- 1020 The Book of Healing, a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopaedia, is written by Avicenna, Persian Muslim scholar.



The Bayeux Tapestry depicting events leading to the Battle of Hastings in 1066



An 11th century rock crystal ewer of Fatimid Egypt.





- 1020s, The Canon of Medicine, a medical encyclopedia, is written by Avicenna, Persian Muslim scholar.
- 1021, the ruling Fatimid Caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah disappears suddenly, possibly assassinated by his own sister Sitt al-Mulk, which leads to the open persecution of the Druze by Ismaili Shia; the Druze proclaimed that Al-Hakim went into hiding (ghayba), whereupon he would return as the Mahdi savior.
- 1025, the Chola Dynasty of India uses its naval powers to conquer the South East Asian kingdom of Srivijaya, turning it into a vassal.
- 1025, ruler Rajendra Chola I moves the capital city of the empire from Thanjavur to Gangaikonda Cholapuram
- 1028, the King of Srivijaya appeals to the Song Dynasty Chinese, sending a diplomatic mission to their capital at Kaifeng.
- 1030, the Battle of Stiklestad (Norway): Olav Haraldsson loses to his pagan vassals and is killed in the battle. He is later canonized and becomes the patron saint of Norway and Rex perpetuum Norvegiae ('the eternal king of Norway').
- 1035, Canute the Great dies, and his kingdom of present-day Norway, England, and Denmark was split amongst three rivals to his throne.
- 1035, William Iron Arm ventures to the Mezzogiorno
- 1037, Ferdinand I of León conquered the Kingdom of Galicia.
- 1040, Duncan I of Scotland slain in battle. Macbeth succeeds him.
  
- 1041, Samuel Aba became King of Hungary.
- 1042, the Normans establish Melfi as the capital of southern Italy.
- 1042, Bhoja, the Indian ruler, philosopher, and polymath of Malwa, completes the reconstruction of the temple of Somnath after its destruction by Mahmud of Ghazni.
- 1041– 1048, Chinese artisan Bi Sheng invents ceramic movable type printing
- 1043, the Byzantine Empire and Kievan Rus engage in a naval confrontation, although a later treaty is signed between two parties that included the marriage alliance of Vsevolod I of Kiev to a princess daughter of Constantine IX Monomachos.
- 1043, the Byzantine General George Maniaces, who had served in Sicily back in 1038, was proclaimed emperor by his troops while he was catepan of Italy; he led an unsuccessful rebellion against Constantine IX Monomachos and was killed in battle in Macedonia during his march towards Constantinople.
- 1043, the Song Dynasty Chancellor of China, Fan Zhongyan, and prominent official and historian Ouyang Xiu introduce the Qingli Reforms, which would be rescinded by the court in 1045 due to partisan resistance to reforms.
- 1044, the Chinese *Wujing Zongyao*, written by Zeng Gongliang and Yang Weide, is the first book to describe gunpowder formulas; it also described their use in warfare, such as blackpowder-impregnated fuses for flamethrowers. It also described an early form of the compass, a thermoremanence compass.
- 1044, Henry III of the Holy Roman Empire defeats the Kingdom of Hungary in the Battle of Ménfő; Peter Urseolo captured Samuel Aba after the battle, executing him, and restoring his claim to the throne; the Kingdom of Hungary then briefly becomes a vassal to the Holy Roman Empire.
- 1045, the Zirids, a Berber dynasty of North Africa, break their allegiance with the Fatimid court of Egypt and



Defeat of the Bulgarians by the Byzantines depicted in the *Madrid Skylitzes*.

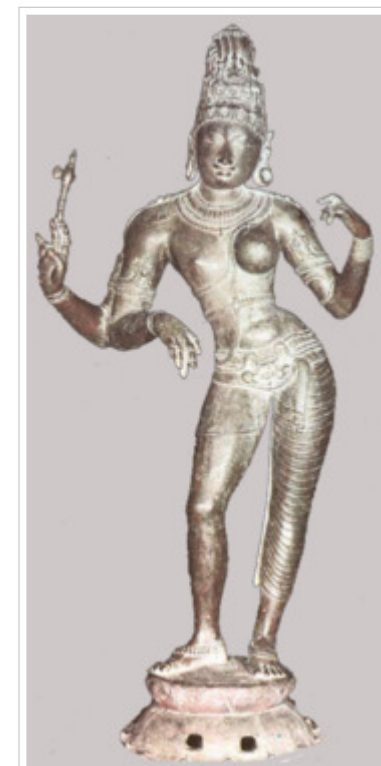


Celadon statue of an imperial guardian lion of the Chinese Song Dynasty, 11th or 12th century.



recognize the Abbasids of Baghdad as the true caliphs.

- 1052, Fujiwara no Yorimichi converts the rural villa at Byōdō-in into a famous Japanese Buddhist temple.
  - 1053, the Norman commander Humphrey of Hauteville is victorious in the Battle of Civitate against the Lombards and the papal coalition led by Rudolf of Benevento; Pope Leo IX himself is captured by the Normans.
  - 1054, the Great Schism, in which the Western (Roman Catholic) and Eastern Orthodox churches separated from each other. Similar schisms in the past had been later repaired, but this one continues after nearly 1000 years.
  - 1054, a large supernova is observed by astronomers, the remnants of which would form the Crab Nebula.
  - 1054, the Battle of Atapuerca is fought between García V of Navarre and Ferdinand I of León
  - 1055, the Seljuk Turks capture Baghdad, taking the Buyid Emir Al-Malik al-Rahim prisoner.
  - 1056, Ferdinand I of León, King of Castile and King of León, is crowned Imperator totius Hispaniae (Emperor of All Hispania).
  - 1057, Anawrahta, ruler of the Pagan Kingdom, defeated the Mon city of Thaton, thus unifying all of Myanmar.
- 
- 1061– 1091, Norman conquest of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea
  - 1065, independence of the Kingdom of Galicia and Portugal under the rule of Garcia
  - 1066, in the Battle of Stamford Bridge, the last Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson defeated his brother Tostig Godwinson and Harald III of Norway.
  - 1066, Edward the Confessor dies; Harold Godwinson is killed in the Battle of Hastings, while the Norman conqueror is crowned William I of England.
  - 1066, the Jewish vizier Joseph ibn Naghrela and many others are killed in the 1066 Granada massacre.
  - 1068– 1073, the reign of Japanese Emperor Go-Sanjō brings about a brief period where central power is taken out of the hands of the Fujiwara clan.
  - 1068, beginning in this year, Virarajendra Chola sends military raids into Malaysia and Indonesia.
  - 1069– 1076, with the support of Emperor Shenzong of Song, Chancellor Wang Anshi of the Chinese Song Dynasty introduces the 'New Policies', including the Baojia system of societal organization and militias, low-cost loans for farmers, taxes instead of corvée labor, government monopolies on tea, salt, and wine, reforming the land survey system, and eliminating the poetry requirement in the imperial examination system to gain bureaucrats of a more practical bent.
  - 1070, the death of Athirajendra Chola and the ascension of Kulothunga Chola I marks the transition between the Medieval Cholas and the Chalukya Cholas.
  - 1071, Defeat of the Byzantine Empire at the Battle of Manzikert by the Seljuk army of Alp Arslan, ending 3 centuries of a Byzantine military and economic Golden Age.
  - 1072, the Battle of Golpejera is fought between Sancho II of Castile and Alfonso VI of Castile
  - 1073, the Seljuk Turks capture Ankara from the Byzantines.
  - 1075, Henry IV suppresses the rebellion of Saxony in the First Battle of Langensalza.
  - 1075, the Investiture Controversy is sparked when Pope Gregory VII asserted in the *Dictatus papae* extended rights granted to the pope (disturbing the balance of power) and new interpretation of God's role in founding the Church itself.
  - 1075, Chinese official and diplomat Shen Kuo asserts the Song Dynasty's rightful border lines by using court archives against the bold bluff of Emperor Daozong of Liao, who had asserted that Liao Dynasty territory exceeded its earlier-



An 11th century Chola Dynasty bronze figurine of Arthanariswara.



accepted bounds.

- 1075– 1076, a civil war in the Western Chalukya Empire of India; the Western Chalukya monarch Somesvara II plans to defeat his own ambitious brother Vikramaditya VI by allying with a traditional enemy, Kulothunga Chola I of the Chola Empire; Somesvara's forces suffered heavy defeat, and was eventually captured and imprisoned by Vikramaditya, who proclaimed himself king.
- 1076, the Ghana Empire is attacked by the Almoravids, who sack the capital of Koumbi Saleh, ending the rule of king Tunka Manin
- 1076, the Chinese Song Dynasty places strict government monopolies over the production and distribution of sulfur and saltpetre, in order to curb the possibility of merchants selling gunpowder formula components to enemies such as the Tanguts and Khitans.
- 1076, the Song Chinese allied with southern Vietnamese Champa and Cambodian Chenla to conquer the Lý Dynasty, which was an unsuccessful campaign.
- 1077, the Walk to Canossa by Henry IV of the Holy Roman Empire.
- 1077, Chinese official Su Song is sent on a diplomatic mission to the Liao Dynasty and discovers that the Khitan calendar is more mathematically accurate than the Song calendar; Emperor Zhezong later sponsors Su Song's astronomical clock tower in order to compete with Liao astronomers.
- 1078, Oleg I of Chernigov is defeated in battle by his brother Vsevolod I of Kiev; Oleg escaped to Tmutarakan, but was imprisoned by the Khazars, sent to Constantinople as a prisoner, and then exiled to Rhodes.
- 1078, the revolt of Nikephoros III against Byzantine ruler Michael VII
- 1079, Malik Shah I reforms the Iranian Calendar



A flat casket of carved of ivory from Al-Andalus (Islamic Spain), c. 1050



- 1080– 1081, the Chinese statesman and scientist Shen Kuo is put in command of the campaign against the Western Xia, and although he successfully halts their invasion route to Yanzhou (modern Yan'an), another officer disobeys imperial orders and the campaign is ultimately a failure because of it.
- 1084, the enormous Chinese historical work of the *Zizhi Tongjian* is compiled by scholars under Chancellor Sima Guang, completed in 294 volumes and included 3 million written Chinese characters
- 1085, Alfonso VI of Castile captures the Moorish Muslim city of Toledo, Spain.
- 1085, the Katedralskolan, Lund school of Sweden is established by Canute IV of Denmark
- 1086, compilation of the Domesday Book by order of William I of England; it was similar to a modern day government census, as it was used by William to thoroughly document all the landholdings within the kingdom that could be properly taxed.
- 1086, the Battle of az-Zallaqah between the Almoravids and Castilians
- 1087, a new office at the Chinese international seaport of Quanzhou is established to handle and regulate taxes and tariffs on all mercantile transactions of foreign goods coming from Africa, Arabia, India, Sri Lanka, Persia, and South East Asia.
- 1087, the Italian cities of Genoa and Pisa engage in the African Mahdia campaign
  
- 1088, the renowned polymath Chinese scientist and official Shen Kuo made the world's first reference to the magnetic compass in his book *Dream Pool Essays*, along with encyclopedic documentation and inquiry into scientific discoveries.
- 1088, The University of Bologna is established.
- 1088, Rebellion of 1088 against William II of England lead by Odo of Bayeux.
- 1091, the Byzantine Empire under Alexios I Komnenos and his Cuman allies defeat Pechenegs at the Battle of Levounion
- 1093, Vikramaditya VI, ruler of the Western Chalukya Empire, defeats the army of Kulothunga Chola I in the Battle of Vengi.
- 1093, when the Chinese Empress Dowager Gao dies, the conservative faction that had followed Sima Guang is ousted from court, the liberal reforms of Wang Anshi reinstated, and Emperor Zhezong of Song halted all negotiations with the Tanguts of the Western Xia, resuming in armed conflict with them.
- 1093, the Kypchaks defeat princes of Kievan Rus at the Battle of the Stugna River
- 1093, Battle of Alnwick: Malcolm III of Scotland is killed by the forces of William II of England.
- 1094, the astronomical clock tower of Kaifeng, China—engineered by the official Su Song—is completed.
- 1094, El Cid, the great Spanish hero, conquers the Muslim city of Valencia
- 1094, a succession crisis following the reign of the Fatimid Caliph Ma'ad al-Mustansir Billah sparks a rebellion which leads to the split of Ismaili Shia into the new Nizari religious branch.



A page of the Domesday Book of England.



Siege of Jerusalem (1099).



- ca. 1095– 1099, earliest extant manuscript of the *Song of Roland*
- 1096, the Knights Templar are formed during the early First Crusade in order to protect European Christian pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem.
- 1096, University of Oxford in England holds its first lectures
- 1097, the Siege of Nicaea during the First Crusade
- 1097, Diego Rodriguez, a son of El Cid, dies in the Battle of Consuegra, an Almoravid victory
- 1098, the Siege of Antioch during the First Crusade
- 1098, Pope Urban II makes an appearance at the Siege of Capua
- 1098, the Dongpo Academy of Hainan, China is built in honour of the Song Dynasty Chinese official and poet Su Shi, who was exiled there for criticizing reforms of the New Policies Group.
- 1098, the birth of Hildegard of Bingen, polymath
- 1099, the Siege of Jerusalem by European Crusaders.
- 1099, after the Kingdom of Jerusalem was established, the Al-Aqsa Mosque was made into the residential palace for the kings of Jerusalem.
- 1099, after building considerable strength, David IV of Georgia discontinues tribute payments to the Seljuk Turks.
- King Anawrahta of Myanmar made a pilgrimage to Ceylon, returning to convert his country to Theravada Buddhism.
- The Tuareg migrate to the Aïr region.
- Kanem-Bornu expands southward into modern Nigeria.
- The first of seven Hausa city-states are founded in Nigeria.
- The Hodh region of Mauritania becomes desert.

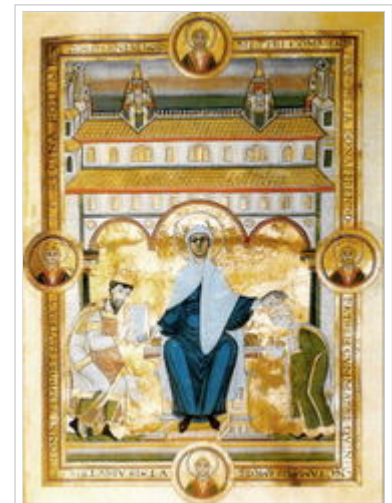


An 11th century reliquary of gold and cloisonné over wood, from the Duchy of Brabant, Maastricht Cathedral, now housed in the Louvre.

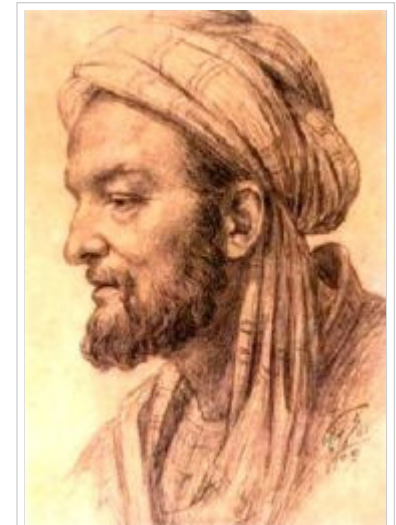
## Significant people



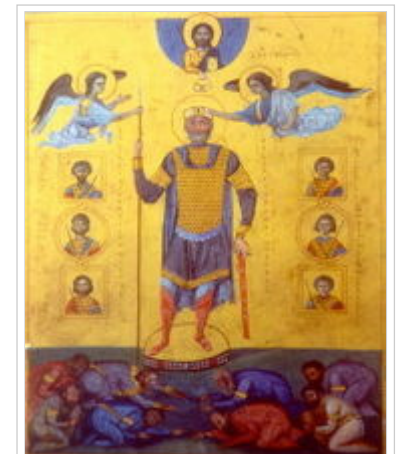
Ibn al-Haytham (Alhacen) of Basra, Iraq.



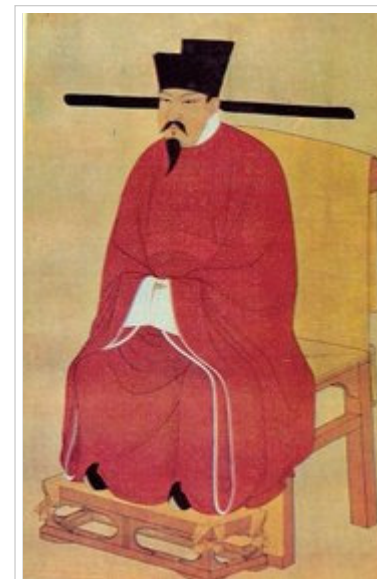
Empress Agnes, German Queen who became regent of the Holy Roman Empire



Avicenna of Persia.



Basil II of the Byzantine Empire.



Emperor Shenzong of Song China.



Matilda of Tuscany military leader from Italy





The *Atlantes* – columns in the form of Toltec warriors in Tula.



Pope Urban II of Rome



Fujiwara Michinaga of Japan,  
by Kikuchi Yōsai



Lady Sei Shōnagon, wrote her  
*Pillow Book* about life in the  
Japanese court



Statue of Lady Li Qingzhao in the Grand Hall of Poets in Du Fu Cao Tang, China



11th century mosaic of Constantine IX Monomachos, Empress Zoe, and Jesus Christ in the Hagia Sophia.



Alfonso VI of Castile



Chinese Empress Cao, wife of Emperor Renzong of Song.



- Abhinavagupta, Indian philosopher, logician, musician, poet, and dramatist from the Kashmir region
- Abraham bar Hiyya, Jewish philosopher, astronomer, and mathematician from Catalonia
- Abu al-Hasan 'Ali abi Sa'id 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Ahmad ibn Yunus al-Sadafi al-Misri, Egyptian mathematician and astronomer
- Abū 'Alī al-Ḥaṣan ibn al-Haytham (Alhacen), optical researcher]
- Abū 'Alī al-Husayn ibn Sīnā (Avicenna), Persian physician, philosopher, and scientist
- Abu al-Qasim (Abulcasis), Andalusian-Arab physician, fsurgeon
- Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm al-Zarqālī, Arab mathematician and astronomer from Al-Andalus
- Abu Nasr Mansur, Iraqi mathematician
- Abū Rayhān al-Bīrūnī, researched in anthropology and geodesy,
- Adalbold II of Utrecht, Dutch Bishop of Utrecht and mathematician
- Adémar de Chabannes, French monk, writer, historian, and musical composer
- Agnes, Empress, regent of the Holy Roman Empire
- Anawrahta, ruler of the Pagan Kingdom
- Anselm of Laon, French theologian
- Al-Ghazali, celebrated Muslim scholar
- Al-Karaji, Persian mathematician and engineer
- Al-Muqtadi, Abbasid Caliph
- Al-Qadir, Abbasid Caliph
- Al-Qa'im, Abbasid Caliph
- Al-Sijzi, Persian mathematician and astronomer
- Alexander II, Pope
- Alexios I Komnenos, Byzantine Emperor
- Alfonso VI of Castile, ruler of Leon and Castile
- Alī ibn Ahmad al-Nasawī, Persian mathematician who commented on Greek works by Archimedes
- Alp Arslan, Seljuk ruler
- Anno II, Archbishop of Cologne
- Saint Anselm, reputed founder of scholasticism and creator of the ontological argument
- Atisha, influential Buddhist teacher to Tibet
- Bao Zheng, Chinese judge and mayor of Kaifeng
- Basil II, Byzantine Emperor
- Benedict VIII, Pope
- Benedict IX, Pope
- Berengar of Tours, French theologian
- Bernard II Tumapaler of Gascony, Duke of Gascony
- Bhoja, a philosopher king and polymath of Malwa in India
- Bilhana, a Kashmiri language poet from India



Statue of William the Conqueror, holding *Domesday Book* on the West Front of Lichfield Cathedral.



Yaroslav I the Wise of Kievan Rus by Ivan Bilibin



- Bohemond I of Antioch, Crusader commander from Calabria
- Burchard II, Bishop of Halberstadt
- Byrhtferth, English monk and philosopher
- Cai Jing, Chinese chancellor of the Song Dynasty
- Cai Xiang, Chinese poet, scholar, calligrapher, structural engineer, and official
- Canute the Great, ruler of England, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden
- Clement II, Pope
- Clement III, Antipope
- Constantine VIII, Byzantine Emperor
- Constantine X, Byzantine Emperor
- Constantine the African, Carthaginian Christian physician and translator of ancient Greek medicine
- Conrad II, of the Holy Roman Empire
- Constantine IX Monomachos, Byzantine Emperor
- Cheng Yi, Chinese philosopher
- Chongzong Emperor, ruler of Northwest China ( Western Xia)
- Damasus II, Pope
- Daozong Emperor, ruler of Northeast China ( Liao Dynasty)
- Deokjong of Goryeo, king of Korea
- Edith of Wessex, Queen of Wessex
- Eight Deer Jaguar Claw, ruler of the Mixtecs in Mesoamerica
- Eilmer of Malmesbury, a Benedictine monk who attempted flight with mechanical wings
- El Cid (Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar), Castilian nobleman
- Ephraim of Pereyaslav, Eastern Orthodox saint and bishop of Pereyaslav
- Ethelred the Unready, king of England
- Fan Kuan, Chinese landscape painter
- Fan Zhongyan, Song Chinese chancellor
- Ferdinand I of León, Emperor of All Hispania
- Fujiwara Michinaga, powerful regent of Japan
- Fujiwara no Yorimichi, Japanese court noble and regent
- Gang Gam-chan, Korean general
- George Maniaces, Greek Byzantine general
- Gilbert de la Porrée, French scholastic logician and theologian
- Go-Ichijō, Emperor of Japan
- Go-Reizei, Emperor of Japan
- Go-Sanjō, Emperor of Japan
- Go-Suzaku, Emperor of Japan
- Godfrey of Bouillon, Duke of Lower Lorraine and a Crusader



- Godfrey III, Duke of Lower Lorraine
- Godwin, Earl of Wessex
- Gregory VII, Pope (Hildebrand)
- Guido of Arezzo, Italian music theorist
- Guo Xi, a literati Chinese landscape painter
- Guy I of Ponthieu, Count of Ponthieu
- Gytha Thorkelsdóttir, wife of Godwin, Earl of Wessex
- Gytha of Wessex, wife of Vladimir II Monomakh
- Hamid al-Din al-Kirmani, a Persian missionary da'i to the Fatimid Caliphate
- Han Shizhong, Chinese military general
- Harold Godwinson, King of England
- Henry I of France, king
- Henry III, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire
- Henry IV, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire
- Hereward the Wake, English outlaw
- Heribert of Cologne, Archbishop of Cologne
- Hermann of Reichenau, German composer, music theorist, mathematician, and astronomer
- Hilarion of Kiev, first non-Greek Metropolitan bishop of Kiev
- Hisham II, Caliph of Cordoba
- Hisham III, Caliph of Cordoba
- Honorius II, Antipope
- Horikawa, Emperor of Japan
- Huang Tingjian, Chinese calligrapher and painter
- Hugh of Châteauneuf, French theologian, Bishop of Grenoble, and partisan of the Gregorian reform
- Hugh of St Victor, philosopher from Saxony
- Hugh of Vermandois, Count of Vermandois, Crusader
- Huizong Emperor, ruler of Northwest China ( Western Xia)
- Hyeonjong of Goryeo, king of Korea
- Ichijō, Emperor of Japan
- Isaac I Komnenos, Byzantine Emperor
- Isaac ibn Ghiyyat, Jewish rabbi from Spain
- Ísleifur Gissurarson, first Bishop of Iceland
- Jayasimha II, ruler of the Western Chalukya Empire
- Jeongjong II of Goryeo, king of Korea
- Jia Xian, Chinese mathematician
- Jingzong Emperor, ruler of Northwest China ( Western Xia)
- Jōchō, famous Japanese sculptor



- John Italus, Greek Byzantine philosopher
- John Skylitzes, Byzantine historian
- Joseph ibn Naghrela, Jewish vizier of Andalusia
- Kushyar ibn Labban, Persian mathematician, astronomer, and geographer
- Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury
- Leif Eriksson, first European explorer to land in North America
- Leo IX, Pope
- Li Jiqian, Chinese rebel-turned- jiedushi of the Song Dynasty
- Lady Li Qingzhao, revered Chinese poet and writer
- Ma'ad al-Mustansir Billah, Fatimid Caliph
- Macbeth, ruler of Scotland
- Malik Shah I, Seljuk ruler
- Mansur ibn Nasir, ruler of the Hammadid in Algeria
- Mariam of Vaspurakan, Queen dowager and regent of the Byzantine Empire
- Maslamah Ibn Ahmad al-Majriti, Arab astronomer, chemist, mathematician, and scholar
- Matilda of Tuscany, militant Italian noblewoman
- Mei Yaochen, Chinese poet and official
- Melus of Bari, Lombard nobleman
- Mi Fu, Chinese painter, poet, and calligrapher
- Michael I Cerularius, the Patriarch of Constantinople who was involved in the East-West Schism
- Michael IV, Byzantine Emperor
- Michael V, Byzantine Emperor
- Michael VI, Byzantine Emperor
- Michael VII, Byzantine Emperor
- Michael Psellos, Byzantine writer, philosopher, official, and historian
- Milarepa, Tibetan poet, yogi, and member of the Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism
- Minamoto no Yorimitsu, a governor and commander loyal to the Fujiwara clan
- Minamoto no Yoritomo, a samurai of the Minamoto clan
- Mokjong of Goryeo, king of Korea
- Moses ibn Ezra, Jewish philosopher, poet, and linguist from Spain
- Mu'ayyad f'l-Din al-Shirazi, Persian theologian serving the Fatimid court
- Muhammad Ibn Abbad Al Mutamid, last Abbadid ruler
- Munjong of Goryeo, king of Korea
- Murasaki Shikibu, female Japanese writer, *the first novelist*
- Nasir Khusraw, Persian poet, theologian, philosopher, and traveler
- Nicholas II, Pope
- Nikephoros III, Byzantine Emperor





- Notker Labeo, mathematician, first medieval commentator on Aristotle, and Benedictine monk from St. Gallen, Switzerland
- Odo of Bayeux, Norman English bishop and earl
- Olaf II, King of Norway
- Omar Khayyám, Persian poet, mathematician, philosopher and astronomer
- Otrok, khan of the Kipchaks
- Ouyang Xiu, Chinese statesman, historian, essayist, and poet
- Paschal II, Pope
- Peter Abelard, French philosopher and logician
- Peter Damian, cardinal and Doctor of the Church
- Peter the Hermit, Crusader
- Peter Urseolo, king of Hungary
- Philip I of France
- Rajaraja Chola I, ruler of Tamil Nadu (southern India) and Sri Lanka
- Rajendra Chola I, ruler of Tamil Nadu (southern India) and Sri Lanka
- Rajadhiraja Chola, ruler of the Cholas
- Rajendra Chola II, ruler of the Cholas
- Ramanuja, Chola Indian theologian, philosopher, and spiritual leader
- Raymond IV of Toulouse, Duke of Narbonne and a Crusader
- Renzong Emperor, ruler of China
- Richard II, Duke of Normandy
- Rober, Saint, founder of the Cistercians
- Robert II, Count of Flanders, Crusader
- Robert II of France, king
- Robert of Jumièges, Archbishop of Canterbury
- Robert Guiscard, Norman conqueror of Southern Italy and Sicily
- Romanos III, Byzantine Emperor
- Romanos IV, Byzantine Emperor
- Samuel Aba, king of Hungary
- Sancho III, king of Navarre
- Sanjō, Emperor of Japan
- Sei Shōnagon, writer, a Japanese lady of the royal court
- Seonjong of Goryeo, king of Korea
- Shao Yong, Chinese historian, poet, and philosopher
- Shen Kuo, Chinese official, geologist, astronomer, encyclopedist, zoologist, botanist, hydraulic engineer, cartographer, general, diplomat, archaeologist, musician, poet, etc.
- Shenzong Emperor, ruler of Northeast China ( Liao Dynasty)
- Shenzong Emperor, ruler of China



- Shirakawa, Emperor of Japan
- Samuel ibn Naghrela, Jewish scholar
- Sigrid the Haughty, wife of Sweyn I of Denmark
- Sima Guang, Song Chinese chancellor
- Solomon ibn Gabirol, Jewish philosopher and poet from Spanish Al-Andalus
- Somesvara I, ruler of the Western Chalukya Empire
- Somesvara II, ruler of the Western Chalukya Empire
- Sripati, Indian mathematician and astronomer
- Stephen I, king of Hungary
- Stephen IX, Pope
- Su Shi, famous Chinese poet, calligrapher, painter, travel writer, pharmacologist, and statesman
- Su Song, Chinese astronomer, horologist, mechanical engineer, zoologist, botanist, mineralogist, diplomat, cartographer, etc.
- Sukjong of Goryeo, king of Korea
- Suleiman II, Caliph of Cordoba,
- Sveinn Hákonarson, King of Norway
- Sweyn I of Denmark, king of Denmark, Norway, and England
- Sylvester II, Pope, a French astronomer, mathematician, orator, musician, and philosopher.
- Tāriqū l-Ḥakīm bi Amr al-Lāh, Sixth Fātimid Caliph
- Empress Theodora, Byzantine Empress
- Tostig Godwinson, earl of Northumbria
- Tunka Manin ruler of the Ghana Empire
- Urban II, Pope
- Victor II, Pope
- Victor III, Pope
- Vikramaditya VI, ruler of the Western Chalukya Empire
- Virarajendra Chola, ruler of the Cholas
- Vladimir I of Kiev, ruler of Kievan Rus
- Vladimir II Monomakh, ruler of Kievan Rus
- Vsevolod I of Kiev, ruler of Kievan Rus
- Wang Anshi, Song Chinese chancellor
- Wei Pu, Chinese astronomer and mathematician
- Wen Tong, Chinese painter
- William of Champeaux, French philosopher and theologian
- William the Conqueror, ruler of Normandy and England
- William Iron Arm, prominent member of the Norman Hauteville family
- Wulfstan II, Archbishop of York
- Xingzong Emperor, ruler of Northeast China ( Liao Dynasty)



- Xu Daoning, Chinese landscape painter
- Yaroslav I the Wise, ruler of Kievan Rus
- Yingzong Emperor, ruler of China
- Yizong Emperor, ruler of Northwest China ( Western Xia)
- Yusuf ibn Tashfin, Berber Almoravid ruler
- Yusuf Balasaghuni, an Uyghur Turkish scribe
- Zhezong Emperor, ruler of China
- Zhenzong Emperor, ruler of China
- Zaynab an-Nafzawiyat, wife of Almoravid ruler Abu-Bakr Ibn-Umar
- Zeng Gong, Chinese historian, travel writer, and poet
- Zhang Zeduan, Chinese landscape painter
- Zhou Dunyi, Chinese philosopher
- Zoe, Empress, Byzantine Empress

## Architecture



- The St Albans Cathedral of Norman-era England is completed in 1089 AD.
- The Al-Hakim Mosque of Fatimid Egypt is completed in 1013 AD.
- The Iron Pagoda of Kaifeng, China is built in 1049 AD.
- The Phoenix Hall of Byōdō-in, Japan, is completed in 1053 AD.
- The Brihadeeswarar Temple of India is completed in 1010 AD during the reign of Rajaraja Chola I.
- The Fruttuaria of San Benigno Canavese, Italy is completed in 1007.
- The Kedareshwara Temple of Balligavi, India, is built in 1060 by the Western Chalukyas.
- Construction work begins in 1059 AD on the Parma Cathedral of Italy.
- The Martin-du-Canigou monastery is built by 1009 AD, in present day southern France.
- The Saint Sophia Cathedral in Novgorod is completed in 1052, the oldest existent church in Russia.
- Construction begins on the Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kiev, Russia, in 1037.
- The Byzantine Greek Hosios Loukas monastery sees the completion of its *Katholikon* (main church), the earliest extant domed- octagon church from 1011- 1012 AD.
- The Lingxiao Pagoda of Zhengding, Hebei province, China, is built in 1045 AD.
- The Pagoda of Fogong Temple of Shanxi province, China, is completed under the Liao Dynasty in 1056.
- The Nikortsminda Cathedral of Georgia is completed in 1014.
- The Speyer Cathedral in Speyer, Germany is completed in 1061.
- The Chinese official Cai Xiang oversaw the construction of the Wanan Bridge in Fujian, and may have been the leading member of an engineering school due to many other bridges of similar construction built in Fujian.
- The Imam Ali Mosque in Iraq is rebuilt by Malik Shah I in 1086 after it was destroyed by fire.
- The Pizhi Pagoda of Lingyan Temple, Shandong, China is completed in 1063.
- Reconstruction of the San Liberatore a Maiella in Italy begins in 1080.
- The Westminster Abbey of London, England is completed in 1065.
- The Ananda Temple of the Myanmar ruler King Kyanzittha is completed in 1091.
- The Văn Miếu, or Temple of Literature, in Vietnam is established in 1070.
- Construction of Richmond Castle in England begins in 1071.
- The tallest pagoda tower in China's pre-modern history, the Liaodi Pagoda, is completed in 1055, standing at a height of 84 m (275 ft).
- The Tower of Gonbad-e Qabus in Iran is built in 1006.
- Construction begins on the Sassovivo Abbey of Foligno, Italy, in 1070.
- The Palace of Aljafería is built in Zaragoza, Spain, during the Al-Andalus period.
- The Rotonda di San Lorenzo is built in Mantua, Lombardy, Italy, during the late 11th century.
- Construction of the Ponte della Maddalena bridge in the Province of Lucca, Italy begins in 1080.
- The domes of the Jamé Mosque of Isfahan, Iran are built in 1086 to 1087.
- The Chester Castle in England was built in 1069.
- Construction begins on the Bagrati Cathedral in Georgia in 1003.
- The St. Michael's Church, Hildesheim in Germany is completed in 1031.



St Albans Cathedral of England, completed in 1089.

Image:Qabus tower002.jpg  
The Gonbad-e Qabus Tower, built in 1006 during the Ziyarid Dynasty of Iran.



Pagoda of Fogong Temple, built in 1056 in Shanxi, China by the Khitan Liao Dynasty in 1056.



- The Basilica of Sant'Abbondio of Lombardy, Italy is completed in 1095.
- Construction begins on the Great Zimbabwe National Monument, sometime in the century.
- Construction begins on the San Pietro in Vinculis in Pisa, Italy, in 1072.
- The Tower of London in England is founded in 1078.
- The St. Grigor's Church of Kecharis Monastery in Armenia is built in 1003.
- The Martin-du-Canigou monastery on Mount Canigou in southern France is built in 1009.
- The St. Mary's Cathedral, Hildesheim in Germany is completed in 1020.
- The One Pillar Pagoda in Hanoi, Vietnam, is constructed in 1049.
- The St Michael at the Northgate, Oxford's oldest building, is built in Saxon England in 1040.
- The Oxford Castle in England is built in 1071.
- The Florence Baptistry in Florence, Italy is founded in 1059.
- The Kandariya Mahadeva temple in India is built in 1050.
- The St Mark's Basilica in Venice, Italy is rebuilt in 1063.
- The Canterbury Cathedral in Canterbury, England is completed by 1077.
- Construction begins on the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain in 1075.

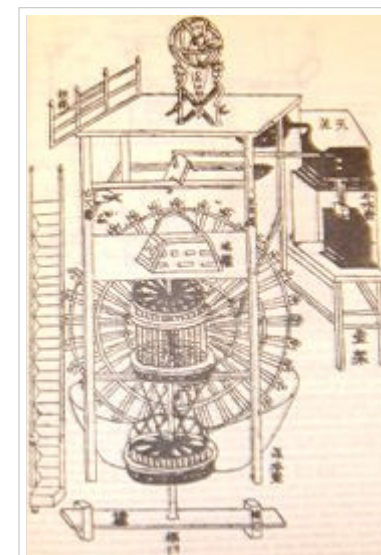
## **Inventions, discoveries, introductions**



Latin copy of Ibn al-Haytham's *Book of Optics* (1021).



Constantine the African examines patients' urine; he taught ancient Greek medicine at the Schola Medica Salernitana.



The original diagram of Su Song's book *Xin Yi Xiang Fa Yao* (published 1092) showing the clepsydra tank, waterwheel, escapement mechanism, chain drive, striking clock jacks, and armillary sphere of his clock tower.

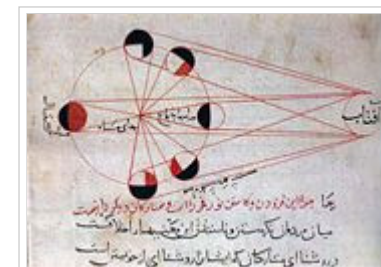


Diagram from al-Bīrūnī's book *Kitab al-tafhim* showing lunar phases and lunar eclipse.



## Science and technology

- 1001- 1100 - the demands of the Chinese iron industry for charcoal led to huge amounts of deforestation, which was curbed when the Chinese discovered how to use bituminous coal in smelting cast iron and steel, thus sparing thousands of acres of prime timberland.
- c. 1000 - Abulcasis of al-Andalus publishes his influential 30-volume medical encyclopedia, the *Kitab al-Tasrif*, which remains a standard textbook in the Islamic world and medieval Europe for centuries.
- c. 1000 - Ibn Yunus of Egypt publishes his astronomical treatise *Al-Zij al-Hakimi al-Kabir*, and invents the pendulum.
- c. 1000 - Persian Muslim physicist and mathematician, Abu Sahl al-Quhi (Kuhi), discovers that the heaviness of bodies vary with their distance from the centre of the Earth, and solves equations higher than the second degree.
- c. 1000 - Persian Muslim astronomer and mathematician, Abu-Mahmud al-Khujandi, invents the astronomical sextant and first states a special case of Fermat's last theorem.
- c. 1000 - Law of sines is discovered by Muslim mathematicians, but it is uncertain who discovers it first between Abu-Mahmud al-Khujandi, Abu Nasr Mansur, and Abu al-Wafa.
- 1000- 1037 - Avicenna of Persia publishes *The Book of Healing*, a scientific encyclopedia that discusses many different topics.
- 1000- 1048 - Abū Rayhān al-Bīrūnī of Persia writes more than a hundred books on many different topics. He theorizes that India was once covered by the Indian Ocean; he also observes in his astronomy book *Kitab al-qanun al-Mas'udi* ( 1031) that the planets revolves in elliptical orbits rather than circular orbits as theorized by the ancient Greeks, and rejects theories which cannot be verified through experimentation.
- 1003 - Pope Sylvester II, born Gerbert d'Aurillac, dies; however, his teaching continued to influence those of the 11th century; his works included a book on arithmetic, a study of the Hindu-Arabic numeral system, a hydraulic-powered organ, the reintroduction of the abacus to Europe, and a possible treatise on the astrolabe that was edited by Hermann of Reichenau five decades later. The contemporary monk Richer from Rheims described Gerbert's contributions in reintroducing the armillary sphere that was lost to European science after the Greco-Roman era; from Richer's description, Gerbert's placement of the tropics was nearly exact and his placement of the equator was exact. He reintroduced the liberal arts education system of trivium and quadrivium, which he had borrowed from the educational institution of Islamic Cordoba. Gerbert also studied and taught Islamic medicine.
- 1013 - One of the *Four Great Books of Song*, the *Prime Tortoise of the Record Bureau* compiled by 1013 AD was the largest of the Song Chinese encyclopedias. Divided into 1000 volumes, it consisted of 9.4 million written Chinese characters.
- 1020 - Avicenna of Persia publishes his influential treatise, *The Canon of Medicine*. It introduces experimentation and quantification into the study of physiology, first describes contagious diseases, and maintains that medicine should be known through either experimentation or reasoning. It remains the most influential medical text in both Islamic and Christian lands for over six centuries.
- 1021 - Ibn al-Haytham (Alhacen) of Basra, Iraq writes his influential *Book of Optics* from 1011 to 1021 (while he was under house arrest in Egypt), which drastically transforms the understanding of light, optics, vision, psychology, and science in general. He is also credited with the discovery of the camera obscura and pinhole camera. His book was later translated from Arabic into Latin.
- 1024 - The world's first paper-printed money can be traced back to the year 1024, in Sichuan province of Song Dynasty China. The Chinese government would step in and overtake this trend, issuing the central government's official banknote in the 1120s.
- 1027 - The Chinese engineer Yan Su recreates the mechanical compass-vehicle of the South Pointing Chariot, first invented by Ma Jun in the 3rd century.
- 1031- 1095 - Chinese scientist Shen Kuo creates a theory for land formation, or geomorphology, theorized that climate change occurred over time,



The spherical astrolabe, long employed in medieval Islamic astronomy, was introduced to Europe by Gerbert d'Aurillac, later Pope Sylvester II.





discovers the concept of true north, improves the design of the astronomical sighting tube to view the polestar indefinitely, hypothesizes the retrogradation theory of planetary motion, and by observing lunar eclipse and solar eclipse he hypothesized that the sun and moon were spherical. Shen Kuo also experimented with camera obscura just decades after Ibn al-Haitham, although Shen was the first to treat it with quantitative attributes. He also took an interdisciplinary approach to studies in archaeology.

- 1041- 1048 - Artisan Bi Sheng of Song Dynasty China invents movable type printing using individual ceramic characters.
- 1068 - First known use of the drydock in China.
- 1070 - With a team of scholars, the Chinese official Su Song also published the *Ben Cao Tu Jing* in 1070, a treatise on pharmacology, botany, zoology, metallurgy, and mineralogy. Some of the drug concoctions in Su's book included ephedrine, mica minerals, and linaceae.
- 1075 - the Song Chinese innovate a partial decarbonization method of repeated forging of cast iron under a cold blast that Hartwell and Needham consider to be a predecessor to the 18th century Bessemer process.
- 1077 - Constantine the African introduces ancient Greek medicine to the Schola Medica Salernitana in Salerno, Italy.
- c. 1080 - the *Liber pantegni*, a compendium of Hellenistic and Islamic medicine, is written in Italy by the Carthaginian Christian Constantine the African, paraphrasing translated passages from the *Kitab al-malaki* of Ali ibn Abbas al-Majusi as well as other Arab texts.
- 1088 - As written by Shen Kuo in his *Dream Pool Essays*, the earlier 10th century invention of the pound lock in China allows large ships to travel along canals without laborious hauling, thus allowing smooth travel of government ships holding cargo of up to 700 *tan* (49½ tons) and large privately owned-ships holding cargo of up to 1600 *tan* (113 tons).
- 1090 - Chinese author Qin Guan wrote the *Can Shu* (Book of Sericulture) in 1090 AD, which described a silk-reeling machine that employed the first known use of a mechanical belt drive.
- 1094 - The Chinese mechanical engineer and astronomer Su Song incorporates an escapement mechanism and the world's first known chain drive to operate the armillary sphere, the astronomical clock, and the striking clock jacks of his clock tower in Kaifeng.
- In Europe, the introduction of the horizontal loom operated by foot-treadles makes weaving faster and more efficient.
- The tittle was created.
- Troubadours appear in what is now southern France.

## Literature



Bronze statue of Lady Murasaki, a Japanese writer of the first novel, at Ishiyama-dera



The *Ostromir Gospels* of Novgorod, 1057.



- 1000 - *The Remaining Signs of Past Centuries* is written by Abū Rayhān al-Bīrūnī.
- c. 1001, the *Al-Tasrif* is written by the physician and scientist Abu al-Qasim
- 1008 - The *Leningrad Codex*, one of the oldest full manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible, is completed.
- c. 1010 - The oldest known copy of the epic poem *Beowulf* was written around this year.
- 1013 - The *Prime Tortoise of the Record Bureau*, a Chinese encyclopedia, is completed by a team of scholars including Wang Qinruo.
- 1020 - The *Bamberg Apocalypse* commissioned by Otto III is completed.
- 1021 - Lady Murasaki Shikibu writes her Japanese novel, *The Tale of Genji*, which is regarded as the first full-length novel.
- 1025 - *The Canon of Medicine* by Avicenna is completed.
- 1027 - *The Book of Healing* is published by Avicenna.
- 1037 - The *Jiyun*, a Chinese rime dictionary, is published by Ding Du and expanded by later scholars.
- 1037 - Birth of the Chinese poet Su Shi, one of the renowned poets of the Song Dynasty, who also penned works of travel literature.
- 1044 - The *Wujing Zongyao* military manuscript is completed by Chinese scholars Zeng Gongliang, Ding Du, and Yang Weide.
- 1049 - *The Record of Tea* is written by Chinese official Cai Xiang
- 1052 - The *Uji Dainagon Monogatari*, a collection of stories allegedly penned by Minamoto-no-Takakuni, is written sometime between now and 1077.
- 1053 - The *New History of the Five Dynasties* by Chinese official Ouyang Xiu is completed.
- 1054 - Russian legal code of the *Russkaya Pravda* is created during the reign of Yaroslav I the Wise.
- 1057 - The *Ostromir Gospels* of Novgorod are written.
- 1060 - compilation of the *New Book of Tang*, edited by Chinese official Ouyang Xiu, is complete.
- 1060 - the *Mugni Gospels* of Armenia are written in illuminated manuscript form.
- 1068 - The *Book of Roads and Kingdoms* is written by Abū 'Ubayd 'Abd Allāh al-Bakrī.
- 1070 - William I of England commissioned the Norman monk William of Jumièges to extend the *Gesta Normannorum Ducum* chronicle.
- 1078 - The *Proslogion* is written by Anselm of Canterbury.
- 1080 - The Chinese poet Su Shi is exiled from court for writing poems criticizing the various reforms of the New Policies Group.
- c. 1080 - the *Liber pantegni* is written by Constantine the African.
- 1084 - The *Zizhi Tongjian* history is completed by Chinese official Sima Guang.
- 1086 - The *Domesday Book* is initiated by William I of England.
- 1088 - The *Dream Pool Essays* is completed by Shen Kuo of Song China.
- The roots of European Scholasticism are found in this period, as the renewed spark of interest in literature and Classicism in Europe would bring about the Renaissance. In the 11th century, there were early Scholastic figures such as Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Abelard, Solomon ibn Gabirol, Peter Lombard, and Gilbert de la Porrée.
- The works of Aristotle and early Muslim scientists are translated into Latin from Arabic.
- The *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam is written sometime after 1048.



*A Scholar in a Meadow*,  
Chinese Song Dynasty, 11th  
century.



## Decades and years

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# 12th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **12th century** is the period from 1101 to 1200 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era. In the history of European culture, this period is considered part of the High Middle Ages and is sometimes called the **Age of the Cistercians**. In Song Dynasty China an invasion by Jurchens causes a political schism of north and south. The Khmer Empire of Cambodia flourished during this century, while the Fatimids of Egypt were overtaken by the Ayyubid dynasty.

See also: Renaissance of the 12th century

## Events

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	11th century · <b>12th century</b> · 13th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1100s 1110s 1120s 1130s 1140s 1150s 1160s 1170s 1180s 1190s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Eastern Hemisphere in at the beginning of the 12th century.



- 1102, King Coloman unites Hungary and Croatia under the Hungarian Crown
- 1111. On January 11, 1111: At 11:11:11, the date will read 1111-01-11:11:11:11. This will not happen again until 2222.
- c. 1119, Foundation of the Knights Templar
- c. 1121, Battle of Didgori, the greatest military victory of Georgia. King David the Builder with 40,000 Georgians, 15,000 Kipchak auxiliaries, 500 Alan mercenaries and 300 French Crusaders defeated Seljuk led muslim coalition army of 400 000.
- 1122, Battle of Beroia results in the disappearance of the Pechenegs as an independent force.
- 1125, Battle of Azaz between the Crusader States and the Seljuk Turks.
- 1127, The Northern Song dynasty loses power over Northern China to the Jurchens of Manchuria.
- 1128, Portugal gains independence from the kingdom of León (recognised by León in 1143).
- 1130– 1180, Fifty-year drought in the American Southwest.
- 1132, The Southern Song Dynasty establishes China's first permanent standing navy, although China had a long naval history prior. The main admiral's office was stationed at the port of Dinghai.
- 1132– 1183, the Chinese navy increases from a mere 3000 marine soldiers to 52,000 marine soldiers stationed in 20 different squadrons. Between this time, hundreds of treadmill-operated paddle wheel craft are assembled for the navy, in order to combat the Jurchen's Jin Dynasty in the north.
- 1135– 1154, The Anarchy is a period of civil war in England.
- 1136, Suger begins rebuilding abbey church at St Denis north of Paris, which is regarded as the first major Gothic building.
- 1139, Battle of Ourique against the Almoravides led by Ali ibn Yusuf. After this battle on July 26 the Independence of Portugal is declared: Prince Afonso Henriques becomes Afonso I, King of Portugal.
- 1140– 1150, Collapse of the Ancestral Puebloan culture at Chaco Canyon
- 1145– 1148, The Second Crusade is launched in response to the fall of the County of Edessa.
- 1147, A new Berber dynasty, the Almohads, led by Emir Abd al-Mu'min, takes North Africa from the Almoravides and soon invades the Iberian Peninsula. The Almohads began as a religious movement to rid Islam of impurities.
- 1147, The Wendish Crusade against the Polabian Slavs (or " Wends") of what is now northern and eastern Germany.
- 1154, the Moroccan-born Muslim geographer Muhammad al-Idrisi publishes his *Geography*.
- 1161, the Song Dynasty Chinese navy, employing gunpowder bombs launched from trebuchets, defeat the enormous Jin Dynasty navy on the Yangtze River, in the Battle of Tangdao and the Battle of Caishi.



The temple complex of Angkor Wat, built during the reign of Suryavarman II in Khmer era Cambodia.



- 1162, Genghis Khan, founder of the Mongol Empire, born as Temüjin.
- 1168, King Valdemar I of Denmark conquers Arkona on the Island of Rügen, the strongest pagan fortress and temple in Northern Europe.
- 1169, start of the conquest of Ireland. Richard fitzGilbert de Clare ('Strongbow') makes an alliance with the exiled Irish chief, Dermot MacMurrough, to help him recover his kingdom of Leinster.
- 1170, Thomas Becket is murdered.
- 1171, Saladin deposes the last Fatimid Caliph Al-'Āḍid, initiating the Ayyubid dynasty.
- 1178, Chinese writer Zhou Qufei, a Guangzhou customs officer, wrote of an island far west in the Indian Ocean (possibly Madagascar), from where people with skin "as black as lacquer" and with frizzy hair were captured and purchased as slaves by Arab merchants.
- 1180- 1185, the Genpei War in Japan
- 1185, Founding of the cathedral school (Katedralskolan) in Lund, Sweden. The school is the oldest in northern Europe, and one of the oldest in Europe as a whole.
- 1185, beginning in this year the Kamakura Shogunate deprives the Emperor of Japan of political power.
  
- 1187, Battle of Hattin: Saladin defeats the king of Jerusalem.
- 1189– 1192, The Third crusade was an attempt by European leaders to reconquer the Holy Land from Saladin.
- 1192, Battle of Jaffa, King Richard the Lionheart defeats Saladin.
- 1193, Nalanda, the great Indian Buddhist educational centre, is destroyed.
- 1199 — Pope Innocent III writes to Kaloyan, inviting him to unite the Bulgarian Church with the Roman Catholic Church.
- c. 1200, The Toltec Empire collapses.
- Renaissance of the 12th century in Europe.
- Gothic Architecture begins in France
- Conflict between the Khmer Empire and Champa. Angkor Wat is built under the Hindu king Suryavarman II. At the end of the century the Buddhist Jayavarman VII becomes ruler.
- Pope Adrian IV grants over lordship of Ireland to Henry II of England.
- The medieval Serbian state formed by Stefan Nemanja and continued by the Nemanjić dynasty.
- Pierre Abelard teaches.
- Expansion of the Tu'i Tonga Empire



Richard I of England, or Richard the Lionheart.



Eastern Hemisphere at the end of the 12th century.

## Significant people



A 15th century depiction of Saladin





- Baldwin IV of Jerusalem, whose death brought about the war upon his country.
- Adrian IV, cathedral\* Alexander III, Pope
- Saint Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux
- David the Builder, King of Georgia
- Tamar of Georgia, Queen of Georgia
- Francis of Assisi, Christian saint
- Genghis Khan, *Great Khan* of the Mongol Empire
- Bhaskara, towering figure in several disparate fields of mathematics
- Pierre Abailard, one of the first scholastic philosophers; author of "*Historia calamitatum mearum*", a confessional account of his life (including a description of his love affair with Héloïse)
- Bernard of Clairvaux, French abbot influential in church politics
- William Marshal, knight and statesman
- Manuel I Comnenus, Byzantine Emperor who allied with the Crusaders
- Saladin, ruler of Egypt and Syria who resisted the Crusaders
- Philip Augustus, French king
- Friedrich Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor
- Emperor Huizong of Song, China
- Richard of St. Victor, theologian
- Alfonso I Henriques, first king of Portugal
- Maimonides, leading Jewish philosopher
- Muhammad of Ghor, Afghan ghorid dynasty ruler
- Yue Fei, famous Chinese general
- Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury
- Minamoto no Yoritomo, shogun of Japan, founder Kamakura Shogunate
- Lin Tinggui, Chinese painter of Buddhist themes
- Zhou Jichang, Chinese painter of Buddhist themes
- Zhang Zeduan, Chinese painter of the panoramic painting *Along the River During Qingming Festival*
- Omar Khayyám, Persian poet and astronomer
- Eleanor of Aquitaine, queen consort of France and later the Kingdom of England
- Hildegard of Bingen, polymath and first Western musical composer known by name
- Shao Yong, Chinese poet, historian, and philosopher
- Suryavarman II, Khmer king
- Jayavarman VII, Khmer king
- Ibn Rushd, philosopher
- Richard I of England, king of England who led the Third Crusade
- Prithviraj Chauhan, king of Ajmer in India
- William of Malmesbury, English historian



Illumination from the *Liber Scivias* showing Hildegard von Bingen receiving a vision and dictating to her scribe and secretary



- Zhu Xi, Neo-Confucian philosopher from China
- Zhu Yu, Chinese maritime author

## Inventions, discoveries and introductions

- Beginning of the Gothic architecture style in France.
- Building of Angkor Wat in Khmer empire.
- First European universities founded.
- Christian humanism becomes a self-conscious philosophical tendency in Europe.
- Earliest record of a miracle play, in Dunstable, England.
- Beginning of trouvère music and poetry in France.
- Beginning of the Ars antiqua period in the history of Western European music.
- The *Madrid Skylitzes* manuscript illustrates the *Synopsis of Histories* by John Skylitzes.
- Earliest Western account of a mariner's compass, by Alexander Neckam is "De utensilibus" (see Shen Kuo).
- Although known in China since the 5th century BC, the blast furnace for smelting cast iron first appears in Europe, in and around Lapphyttan, Sweden, as early as 1150 AD.
- First fire and plague insurance (in Iceland).
- First authenticated influenza epidemics.
- Invention of the Kente cloth.
- Start of Middle English.
- Hoysala architecture reaches a peak.
- Shahab al-Din Suhrawardi (1155–1191) founder of school of illumination (Ishraq).
- 1165 — The Liuhe Pagoda of Hangzhou, China, is built.
- 1111 — The Chinese Donglin Academy is founded
- 1107 — The Chinese engineer Wu Deren combines the mechanical compass vehicle of the South Pointing Chariot with the distance-measuring odometer device.
- The Durham Cathedral of England is completed.
- The kasbah of Marrakesh is built, city gate Bab Agnaou and the Koutoubia mosque.
- 1104 — The Venice Arsenal of Venice, Italy, is founded. It employed some 16000 people for the mass production of sailing ships in large assembly lines, hundreds of years before the Industrial Revolution.



The Liuhe Pagoda of Hangzhou, China, 1165 AD.

## Decades and years

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# 13th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **13th century** was that century which lasted from 1201 through 1300 in accordance with the Julian calendar in the Christian Era. . In the history of European culture, this period is considered part of the High Middle Ages, and after its conquests in Asia the Mongol Empire stretched from Korea to Eastern Europe.

## Events

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	12th century · <b>13th century</b> · 14th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1200s 1210s 1220s 1230s 1240s 1250s 1260s 1270s 1280s 1290s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



- 1204 — Fourth Crusade sacks Byzantine Constantinople and creates the Latin Empire.
- 1205 — Battle of Adrianople (1205): Tsar Kaloyan with his army crushed the (otherwise unbeaten) Fourth Crusade's knights and the soldiers of Emperor Baldwin I of Constantinople who was attacking Bulgarian lands with the goal to conquer them.
- 1206 — Mongols united under Temüjin, who is proclaimed "one Khan".
- 1212 — The Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa in Iberia sees the beginning of a rapid Christian reconquest of the southern half of the Iberian peninsula, with the defeat of Moorish forces.
- 1215 — King John of England forced to sign Magna Carta at Runnymede.
- 1222 — Andrew II of Hungary signs the Golden Bull which affirms the privileges of Hungarian nobility.
- 1227 — Genghis Khan dies during the prolonged siege of the Western Xia Dynasty capital (located in northwestern China), while the Tangut Western Xia Dynasty falls soon after.
- 1234 — the Jin Dynasty of northeastern China is conquered by the forces of the Mongol ruler Ögedei Khan.
- 1238 — The Thai Kingdom of Sukhothai is established, with Theravada Buddhism as the state religion. Later in the century it vassalises significant parts of modern Thailand, Laos, Burma, and Malaysia.
- 1249 — End of the Portuguese Reconquista against the Moors, when King Afonso III of Portugal reconquers the Algarve.
- 1250- 1275 — the Arab or Persian born Muslim Pu Shougeng was appointed by the Song Dynasty Chinese government as the Commissioner of Merchant Shipping for Quanzhou.
- 1258 — Baghdad (Iraq), seat of the Muslim Abbasid dynasty, is besieged and burnt to the ground by the forces of the Mongol commander Hulagu Khan. The last Abbasid ruler Al-Musta'sim is executed by means of trampling horses.
- 1259 — the Mongol ruler Möngke Khan is killed in battle by a Chinese cannon blast at Fishing Town, Chongqing, located in southwestern China.
- 1260 — the Mongols are defeated by the Egyptian Mamluks in the Battle of Ain Jalut.
- 1270 — Restoration of Solomonic dynasty in Ethiopia, deposing the Zagwe dynasty.



Map of Eurasia circa 1200 C.E.



The Mongols, under the leadership of Genghis Khan, overran most of Asia, thus creating the second largest empire to ever exist, surpassed only by the British Empire. They achieved this success in large part due to their amazing horse archers.



- 1279, the Battle of Yamen marks the fall of the Chinese Song Dynasty and the rise of the Mongol Yuan Dynasty led by Kublai Khan.
  - 1282 — Aragon acquires Sicily, after the Sicilian Vespers.
  - 1284 — Peterhouse, Cambridge founded by Hugo de Balsham, the Bishop of Ely.
  - 1291 — The Swiss Confederation is formed by Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden.
  - Bantu-speaking peoples arrive in modern Angola, partially displacing the original Khoisan inhabitants.
  - Battle of Bouvines
  - Persian historian Rashid al-Din records eleven Buddhist texts circulating in Arabic translation.
  - James I of Aragon takes control of Balearic Islands and Valencia.
  - Marco Polo and his family reach China.
  - Norway cedes the Isle of Man to Scotland, following the signing of the Treaty of Perth.
  - Ögedei Khan establishes a Mongolian dynasty in China. Some Mongol leaders convert from Tantric Buddhism to Islam.
  - Teutonic Knights begin activity in Eastern Europe.
  - Theravada overtakes Mahayana as the dominant form of Buddhism in Cambodia.
  - A period of civil unrest, . *Sturlungaöld*, leads to Iceland becoming part of the Kingdom of Norway.
- 
- End of Hohenstaufen dynasty at the Battle of Tagliacozzo. The Kingdom of Sicily goes to French Anjou house.
  - Fall of the Ghana Empire.
  - Fall of the Hohenstaufen dynasty of Holy Roman Emperors. Sicily and Naples are acquired by the French count Charles I of Naples.
  - Fifth through eighth crusades of western European kingdoms against Islam.
  - Finland gets its first city, Turku.
  - First European universities founded.
  - Most of Asia and Eastern Europe is conquered and incorporated into the Mongol Empire.
  - The Medieval Warm Period ends.
  - The Utiguri Bulgar state on the Volga vanishes from history.
  - Samoa gains its independence from the Tu'i Tonga Empire, and founds the Malietoa dynasty.



Portrait of the Chinese Zen Buddhist Wuzhun Shifan, painted in 1238 AD, Song Dynasty.

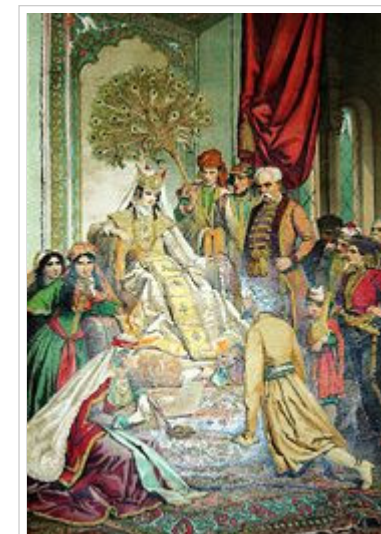
## Significant people



- Queen Tamara, ruler of Georgia
- Lasha Giorgi, King Giorgi IV of Georgia
- Queen Rusudan, Queen Regnant of Georgia
- Saint Thomas Aquinas

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

- List of 13th century inventions
- The motet form originates out of the Ars antiqua tradition of Western European music.
- Manuscript culture develops out of this time period in cities in Europe, which denotes a shift from monasteries to cities for books.
- *Pecia* system of copying books develops in Italian university-towns and was taken up by the University of Paris in the middle of the century.
- Wooden movable type printing invented by the Chinese governmental minister Wang Zhen (official) in 1298.
- The earliest known rockets, landmines, and handguns are made by the Chinese for use in warfare.
- The Chinese adopt the windmill from the Islamic world.



Queen Tamara

## Decades and years

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# 14th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **14th century** was that century which lasted from 1301 to 1400.

## Events

- The transition from the Medieval Warm Period to the Little Ice Age
- Beginning of the Ottoman Empire, early expansion into the early Balkans
- The Avignon papacy transfers the seat of the Popes from Italy to France
- The Great Famine of 1315-1317 kills millions of people in Europe
- Being forced out of previous locations, the Mexica found the city of Tenochtitlan in 1325
- Battle of Kosovo in 1389 between Serbs and Ottoman Turks, Prince Lazar, sultan Murat I and Miloš Obilić were killed
- The Vijayanagara Empire is founded in South India by Harihara in 1336
- The Hundred Years' War begins when Edward III of England lays claim to the French throne in 1337.
- Black Death kills almost half of the population of Europe. ( 1347 - 1351)
- The Battle of Lake Poyang, a naval conflict between Chinese rebel groups led by Chen Youliang and Zhu Yuanzhang, took place in August to October of 1363, and was one of the largest naval battles in history.
- The end of Mongol Yuan Dynasty in China and the beginning of the Ming Dynasty ( 1368)
- The heresy of Lollardy rises in England
- The Great Schism of the West begins in 1378, eventually leading to 3 simultaneous popes.
- An account of Buddha's life, translated earlier into Greek by St John of Damascus and widely circulated to Christians as the story of Barlaam and Josaphat, became so popular Buddha (under the name Josaphat) was made a Catholic saint.
- Singapore emerges for the first time as a fortified city and trading centre of some importance.
- Reunification of Poland under Ladislaus I of Poland
- Peasants' Revolt in England
- Islam reaches Terengganu, on the Malay Peninsula.
- The Hausa found several city-states in the south of modern Niger.
- The Mali Empire expands westward and conquers Tekrur.
- The poet Petrarch coins the term Dark Ages to describe the preceding 900 years in Europe, beginning with the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	13th century · <b>14th century</b> · 15th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1300s 1310s 1320s 1330s 1340s 1350s 1360s 1370s 1380s 1390s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



This 14th-century statue from south India depicts the gods Shiva (on the left) and Uma (on the right). It is housed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C..





through to the renewal embodied in the Renaissance.

- The Scots win the Scottish Wars of Independence.
- Union of Krewo between Poland and Lithuania.
- Work begins on the Great Enclosure at Great Zimbabwe, built of uncemented, dressed stone. The city's population is now between 10,000 and 40,000.
- Beginning of the Renaissance in Italy
- The English word "abacus" used to describe the calculating device from China.
- Wang Dayuan, the first Chinese to sail into the Mediterranean while visiting Egypt and North Africa from 1334- 1339.

## Significant people

- Dante Alighieri, Italian poet and writer ( 1265 - 1321).
- King Robert the Bruce of Scotland, victor of the First War of Scottish Independence against the invading Kingdom of England ( 1274 - 1329).
- Juan Manuel, Duke of Penafiel, Spanish author ( 1282 - 1349).
- William of Ockham, English Franciscan friar and philosopher (c. 1285 - 1347).
- Charles I of Hungary, military, diplomatic and financial reformer, restoring the Kingdom of Hungary to power ( 1288 - 1342).
- Chen Youliang, Chinese rebel leader and arch nemesis to Zhu Yuanzhang (aka Emperor Hongwu)
- Isabella of France, queen consort and regent of the Kingdom of England (c. 1295 - 1358).
- Guillaume de Machaut, French composer and poet (c. 1300 - 1377).
- Ibn Battuta, Arab Muslim traveler ( 1304 - 1368/ 1377).
- Jiao Yu, Chinese general and author of the *Huolongjing* military treatise
- Liu Ji, an Chinese general, court advisor, philosopher, and co-editor of the *Huolongjing*
- Francesco Petrarch, Italian poet and writer ( 1304 - 1374).
- Casimir III of Poland, expansionist and financial reformer ( 1310 - 1370).
- Hafez Persian poet (c. 1310 - 1379).
- Edward III, King of England. His claim to the throne of France resulted in the Hundred Years' War ( 1312 - 1377).
- Giovanni Boccaccio, Italian author ( 1313 - 1375).
- Timur, Central Asian warlord and founder of the Timurid Dynasty ( 1336 - 1405).
- Geoffrey Chaucer, English poet (c. 1343 - 1400).
- Mansa Musa (d. 1347), King of the Mali Empire while it was the source of almost half the world's gold.
- Christine de Pizan, French writer ( 1364 - 1430).
- Hongwu Emperor, founder of the Ming Dynasty in China ( 1328 - 1398)



Statue of Dante Alighieri at the Uffizi, Florence

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions



- music of the Ars nova
- The technique of knitting
- Foundation of the University of Cracow
- Chinese text the *Huolongjing* by Jiao Yu describes fire lances, fire arrows ( rockets), rocket launchers, land mines, naval mines, bombards, cannons, and hollow cast iron cannonballs filled with gunpowder, and their use to set ablaze enemy camps.

## Decades and years

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# 15th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **15th century** was the century which lasted from 1401 to 1500.

## Events

- 1403: The Settle of the Canary Islands signals the beginning of the Spanish Empire.
- 1402: Ottoman and Timurid Empires fight at the Battle of Ankara resulting in Timur's capture of Bayezid I.
- 1402: Sultanate of Malacca founded by Parameshwara.
- 1403: The Yongle Emperor moves the capital of China from Nanjing to Beijing.
- 1405– 33: Zheng He of China sails through the Indian Ocean to India, Arabia, and East Africa.
- 1410: The Battle of Grunwald was the decisive battle of the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War leading to the downfall of the Teutonic Knights.
- 1410– 13: Foundation of St Andrews University in Scotland
- 1415: Henry the Navigator leads the conquest of Ceuta from the Moors marking the beginning of the Portuguese Empire.
- 1415: Battle of Agincourt fought between the Kingdom of England and France
- 1415: Jan Hus is burned at the stake as a heretic at the Council of Constance.
- 1420: Construction of the Chinese Forbidden City is completed in Beijing.
- 1420– 34: Hussite Wars in Bohemia

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	14th century · <b>15th century</b> · 16th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1400s 1410s 1420s 1430s 1440s 1450s 1460s 1470s 1480s 1490s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



1492, Columbus opens the route to the New World for Spain. Beginning of the Modern Age.



- 1424: James I returns to Scotland after being held hostage under three Kings of England since 1406
- 1429: Joan of Arc ends the Siege of Orléans and turns the tide of the Hundred Years' War.
- 1438: Pachacuti founds the Inca Empire.
- 1440s: The Golden Horde breaks up into the Siberia Khanate, the Khanate of Kazan, the Astrakhan Khanate, the Crimean Khanate, and the Great Horde.
- 1440– 69: Under Moctezuma I, the Aztecs become the dominant power in Mesoamerica.
- 1441: Portuguese navigators cruise West Africa and reestablish the European slave trade with a shipment of African slaves sent directly from Africa to Portugal.
- 1441: Eton College founded by Henry IV.
- 1444: The Albanian league is established in Lezha, Skanderbeg is elected leader
- 1444: Ottoman Empire under Sultan Murad II defeats the Polish and Hungarian armies under Władysław III of Poland and János Hunyadi at the Battle of Varna.
- 1445: Kazan Khanate defeats Grand Duchy of Moscow at the Battle of Suzdal
- 1446: King Sejong the Great published a hangul, the native phonetic alphabet system for the Korean language.
- 1449: Esen Tayisi leads an Oirat Mongol invasion of China which culminate in the capture of the Zhengtong Emperor at Battle of Tumu Fortress.
- 1453: The Fall of Constantinople marks the end of the Byzantine Empire and the beginning of the Growth of the Ottoman Empire.
- 1453: The Battle of Castillon is the last engagement of the Hundred Years' War.
- 1454– 66: After defeating the Teutonic Knights in the Thirteen Years' War, Poland annexes Royal Prussia.
- 1455– 85: Wars of the Roses - English civil war between the House of York and the House of Lancaster.
- 1456: The Siege of Belgrade halts the Ottoman's advance into Europe.
- 1462: Sonni Ali Ber, the ruler of the Songhai (or Songhay) Empire, along the Niger River, conquered Mali in the central Sudan by defeating the Tuareg contingent at Tombouctou (or Timbuktu) and capturing the city. He developed both his own capital, Gao, and the main centres of Mali, Timbuktu and Djenné, into major cities. Ali Ber controlled trade along the Niger River with a navy of war vessels.
- 1462: Mehmed the Conqueror is driven back by Wallachian prince Vlad III Dracula at the Night Attack.
- 1467: Uzun Hasan defeats the Black Sheep Turkoman leader Jahān Shāh.
- 1467– 1615: The Sengoku period is one of civil war in Japan.



Joan of Arc, a French peasant girl, directly influenced the result of the Hundred Years' War.



- 1469: The marriage of Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella of Castile leads to the unification of Spain.
- 1469: Birth of Guru Nanak Dev. Beside followers of Sikhism, Guru Nanak is revered by Hindus and Muslim Sufis across the Indian subcontinent.
- 1471: The kingdom of Champa suffers a massive defeat by the Vietnamese king Lê Thánh Tông.
- 1474– 77: Burgundy Wars of France, Switzerland, Lorraine and Sigismund II of Habsburg against the Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy.
- 1478: Muscovy conquers Novgorod.
- 1480: After the Great standing on the Ugra river, Muscovy gained independence from the Great Horde.
- 1481: Spanish Inquisition begins in practise with the first auto de fe.
- 1485: Henry VII defeats Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth and becomes King of England
- 1492: The death of Sunni Ali Ber left a leadership void in the Songhai Empire, and his son was soon dethroned by Mamadou Toure who ascended the throne in 1492 under the name Askia (meaning "general") Muhammad. Askia Muhammad made Songhai the largest empire in the history of West Africa. The empire went into decline, however, after 1528, when the now-blind Askia Muhammad was dethroned by his son, Askia Musa.
- 1492: Boabdil's surrender of Granada marks the end of the Reconquista and Al-Andalus.
- 1492: Jews expelled from Spain.
- 1492: Christopher Columbus founds Spain's first New World colony on Hispaniola.
- 1494: Spain and Portugal sign the Treaty of Tordesillas and agree to divide the World outside of Europe between themselves.
- 1494– 1559: The Italian Wars lead to the downfall of the Italian city-states.
- 1497– 1499: Vasco da Gama's first voyage from Europe to India and back.
- 1499: Ottoman fleet defeats Venetians at the Battle of Zonchio.

## Significant people

- Abu Sa'id al-Afif, a Samaritan physician.



The 1480 Siege of Rhodes. Ships of the Hospitaliers in the forefront, and Turkish camp in the background.



- Christine de Pizan, French writer ( 1364– 1430).
- Jan Hus, Bohemian religious thinker and reformer (c. 1369– 1415).
- Zheng He, Chinese eunuch admiral and explorer ( 1371– 1433).
- Filippo Brunelleschi invents one-point perspective, leads innovation in Italian architecture ( 1377– 1446).
- Henry V of England, the English King who won the famous Battle of Agincourt in 1415 ( 1387– 1422).
- John Hunyadi, Regent of Kingdom of Hungary, won the Siege of Belgrade in 1456 ( 1387– 1456)
- Sejong the Great of Joseon, a Korean monarch who developed hangul, the native Korean alphabet ( 1397– 1450).
- Johannes Gutenberg, European inventor of printing with movable type (c. 1398– 1468)
- Stephen III of Moldavia, also known as Stephen the Great, ruler of Moldavia, national hero of Romanians for long resistance to the Ottomans ( 1437– 1504)
- Constantine XI, Last Byzantine Emperor ( 1404– 1453).
- Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh Religion ( 1469 ).
- Johannes Ockeghem, Flemish composer (ca. 1410– 1497).
- Joan of Arc, national heroine of France ( 1412– 1431).
- Louis XI, King of France ( 1423– 1483).
- Kazimierz IV Jagiellon King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania ( 1427– 1492).
- François Villon, French poet (c. 1431– 1474).
- Vlad III Dracula, Prince of Wallachia who led the defense of his territory against the expanding Ottoman Empire ( 1431– 1476).
- Mehmed II, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire and Conqueror of Constantinople ( 1432– 1481).
- Mir Chakar Khan Rind ( 1468– 1565)



Isabella of Castile helped unify Spain via a dynastic marriage with Ferdinand of Aragon in 1469.



- Marsilio Ficino, Significant translator of Plato's works ( 1433– 1481).
- Gjergj Kastrioti, Skenderbeg - Albanian Prince who resisted the Ottomans for almost 30 years in the name of the Albanian people and Catholic faith ( 1443– 1468).
- Matthias Corvinus of Hungary, Renaissance ruler ( 1443– 1490).
- Isabella of Castile, co-ruler of Ferdinand II of Aragon and responsible with him for the unification of Spain ( 1451– 1504).
- Christopher Columbus sails to the Americas for Spain (c. 1451– 1506).
- Richard III of England, last English King of the House of York, last of the House of Plantagenet ( 1452– 1485).
- Ferdinand II of Aragon, co-ruler of Isabella of Castile and responsible with her for the unification of Spain ( 1452– 1516).
- Leonardo da Vinci, inventor and painter ( 1452– 1519).
- Henry VII of England, English King and founder the Tudor dynasty ( 1457– 1509).
- Vasco da Gama reaches India for Portugal, creating the first maritime alternative for the Silk Road (c. 1469– 1524)

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

### List of 15th century inventions

- Renaissance affects philosophy, science and art.
- Age of Discovery begins.
- Rise of Modern English language from Middle English.
- Introduction of the noon bell in the Catholic world.
- Public banks
- Yongle Encyclopedia—over 22,000 volumes
- Hangul alphabet in Korea
- Scotch whisky
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Development of the woodcut for printing between 1400–1450
- Movable type first used by King Taejong of Joseon—1403 (Movable type, which allowed individual characters to be arranged to form words, was invented in China by Bi Sheng between 1041 to 1048.)
- Although pioneered earlier in Korea and by the Chinese official Wang Zhen (with tin), bronze metal movable type printing is created in China by Hua Sui in 1490.
- Johannes Gutenberg invents the printing press in Europe (c. 1455).
- Linear perspective drawing perfected by Filippo Brunelleschi 1410–1415
- Invention of the harpsichord c. 1450
- Colonization of America by Christopher Columbus 1492



An African giraffe being led into a Ming Dynasty zoo, a Chinese painting by She Du, 1414 AD, during the reign of the Yongle Emperor.



- First canal lock reportedly built in Vreeswijk, Netherlands in 1481

## Decades and years

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# 16th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **16th century** lasted from 1501 through 1600.

*See also:* 16th century in literature

## Events

### 1500s

- 1500s: Mississippian culture disappears.
- 1500: Portuguese navigator Pedro Álvares Cabral officially discovers Brazil.
- 1500: The Ottoman fleet of Kemal Reis defeats the Venetians at the Second Battle of Lepanto.
- 1501: Michelangelo returns to his native Florence to begin work on the statue *David*.
- 1501: Safavid dynasty rules Iran until 1736. Safavids adopt a Shia branch of Islam.
- 1503: Nostradamus was born on either December 14, or December 21.
- 1503: Leonardo da Vinci begins painting the *Mona Lisa* and completes it three or four years later.
- 1503: Spain defeats France at the Battle of Cerignola. Considered to be the first battle in history won by gunpowder small arms.
- 1504: A droughty period, with famine in all of Spain.
- 1506: At least two thousand converted Jews are massacred in a Lisbon riot.
- 1506: Christopher Columbus dies in Valladolid, Spain.
- 1506: Poland is invaded by Tatars from the Crimean Khanate.
- 1509: The Battle of Diu marks the beginning of Portuguese dominance of the Spice trade.

### 1510s

- 1511: Alfonso de Albuquerque of Portugal conquers Malacca, the capital of the Sultanate of Malacca.
- 1512: Copernicus writes *Commentariolus*, and moves the sun to the centre of the solar system.
- 1512: The southern part (historical core) of the Kingdom of Navarre is invaded by Castile and Aragon.
- 1513: Machiavelli writes *The Prince* a novel about political philosophy
- 1513: The Portuguese mariner Jorge Álvares lands at Macau, China, during the Ming Dynasty.

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	15th century · <b>16th century</b> · 17th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1500s 1510s 1520s 1530s 1540s 1550s 1560s 1570s 1580s 1590s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Martin Luther at age 46 (Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1529)



- 1513: Henry VIII crush French at the Battle of the Spurs.
- 1513: The Battle of Flodden Field in which invading Scots are defeated by Henry VIII's forces.
- 1513: Sultan Selim I ("The Grim") orders the massacre of Shia Muslims in Anatolia.
- 1514: The Battle of Orsha halts Muscovy's expansion into Eastern Europe.
- 1515: The Ottoman Empire wrests Eastern Anatolia from the Safavids after the Battle of Chaldiran.
- 1516- 17: The Ottomans defeat the Mamluks and gain control of Egypt, Arabia, and the Levant.
- 1517: The Protestant Reformation begins when Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses in Saxony.
- 1518: Mir Chakar Khan Rind leaves Baluchistan and settled in Punjab.
- 1519: Leonardo da Vinci dies of natural causes at May 2.
- 1519: Wang Yangming, the Chinese philosopher and governor of Jiangxi province, describes his intent to use the fire power of the *fo-lang-ji*, a breech-loading Portuguese culverin, in order to suppress the rebellion of Prince Zhu Chen-hao.
- 1519: Barbary pirates led by Hayreddin Barbarossa raid Provence and Toulon in southern France.
- 1519: Charles I of Spain becomes Emperor of Holy Roman Empire as Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (ruled until 1556).
- 1519- 22: Spanish expedition commanded by Magellan and Elcano first to circle Earth
- 1519- 21: Hernán Cortés leads the Spanish conquest of Mexico.

## 1520s

- 1520- 1566: The reign of Suleiman the Magnificent marks the zenith of the Ottoman Empire.
- 1521: Belgrade is captured by the Ottoman Empire.
- 1521: After building fortifications at Tuen Mun, the Portuguese attempt to invade Ming Dynasty China, but are expelled by Chinese naval forces.
- 1521: Philippines discovered by Ferdinand Magellan. He was later killed in battle in central Philippines in the same year.
- 1522: Rhodes falls to the Ottoman Turks of Suleiman the Magnificent.
- 1523: Sweden gains independence from the Kalmar Union.
- 1524- 25: Peasants' War in the Holy Roman Empire.
- 1524 - Giovanni da Verrazzano is the first European to explore the Atlantic coast of North America between South Carolina and Newfoundland.
- 1525: Spain and Germany defeat France at the Battle of Pavia, Francis I of France is captured.
- 1526: The Ottomans conquer the Kingdom of Hungary at the Battle of Mohács.
- 1526: Mughal Empire, founded by Babur, rules India until 1739 and hold titles until 1857.
- 1527: Sack of Rome is considered the end of the Italian Renaissance.
- 1527: Protestant Reformation begins in Sweden.
- 1529: The Siege of Vienna marks the Ottoman Empire's furthest advance into Europe.



Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain.

## 1530s



- 1531- 32: The Church of England breaks away from the Roman Catholic Church and recognizes King Henry VIII as the head of the Church.
- 1531: The Inca Civil War is fought between the two brothers, Atahualpa and Huáscar.
- 1532: Francisco Pizarro leads the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire.
- 1534: Jacques Cartier claims Quebec for France.
- 1534: The Ottomans capture Baghdad.
- 1534: Affair of the Placards - Francis becomes more active in repression of French Protestants.
- 1535: The Münster Rebellion, an attempt of radical, millennialist, Anabaptists to establish a theocracy ends in bloodshed.
- 1537: Portuguese establishes Recife in Pernambuco, north-east of Brazil.
- 1538: Spanish- Venetian fleet is defeated by the Ottoman Turks at the Battle of Preveza.
- 1539: Hernando de Soto explores inland North America.

## 1540s

- 1541: Pedro de Valdivia founds Santiago de Chile.
- 1541: An Algerian military campaign by Charles V of Spain ( Habsburg) is unsuccessful.
- 1541: Amazon River is discovered by Francisco de Orellana.
- 1541: Capture of Buda and the absorption of the major part of Hungary by the Ottoman Empire.
- 1541: Sahib I Giray of Crimea invade Russia.
- 1542: War resumes between Francis I of France and Emperor Charles V. This time Henry VIII is allied to the Emperor, while James V of Scotland and Sultan Suleiman I are allied to the French.
- 1543: Ethiopian/Portuguese troops decisively defeat the Muslim army at the Battle of Wayna Daga; Imam Ahmad Gragh killed.
- 1543: The Nanban trade period begins after Portuguese traders make contact with Japan.
- 1544: The French defeat an Imperial-Spanish army at the Battle of Ceresole.
- 1544: Battle of the Shirts in Scotland. The Frasers and Macdonalds of Clan Ranald fight over a disputed chiefship; reportedly, 5 Frasers and 8 Macdonalds survive.
- 1546: Michelangelo Buonarroti is made chief architect of St. Peter's Basilica.
- 1547: Emperor Charles V decisively dismantles the Schmalkaldic League at the Battle of Mühlberg.
- 1548: Battle of Uedahara: Firearms are used for the first time on the battlefield in Japan, and Takeda Shingen is defeated by Murakami Yoshikiyo.
- 1548: The Ming Dynasty government of China issues a decree banning all foreign trade and closes down all seaports along the coast; these Hai jin laws came during the Wokou wars with Japanese pirates.
- 1549: Tomé de Souza establishes Salvador in Bahia, north-east of Brazil .



**Henry VIII**  
King of England and Ireland  
by Hans Holbein the Younger.

## 1550s



- 1550: Mongols led by Altan Khan invade China and besiege Beijing.
- 1550- 1551: Valladolid debate concerning the existence of souls in Amerindians
- 1551: Fifth outbreak of sweating sickness in England. John Caius of Shrewsbury writes the first full contemporary account of the symptoms of the disease.
- 1551: North African pirates enslave the entire population of the Maltese island Gozo, between 5,000 and 6,000, sending them to Libya.
- 1552: Russia conquers the Khanate of Kazan.
- 1553: Portuguese found a settlement at Macau.
- 1555: The Muscovy Company is the first major English joint stock trading company.
- 1556: Publication in Venice of *Delle Navigazioni et Viaggi* (terzo volume) by Giovanni Battista Ramusio, secretary of Council of Ten, with plan La Terra de Hochelaga, an illustration of Indian village Hochelaga. See
- 1556: The Shaanxi Earthquake in China is history's deadliest known earthquake.
- 1556: Georgius Agricola, the "Father of Mineralogy", publishes his *De re metallica*.
- 1556: Akbar the Great defeats the Sultan of Bengal at the Second battle of Panipat
- 1556: Russia conquers the Astrakhan Khanate.
- 1556- 1605: During his reign, Akbar expands the Mughal Empire in a series of conquests.
- 1556: Mir Chakar Khan Rind captured Delhi with Emperor Humayun.
- 1556: Pomponio Algerio, radical theologian, is executed by boiling in oil as part of the Roman inquisition.
- 1557: The Portuguese settle in Macau.
- 1557: Spain became the first sovereign nation in history to declare bankruptcy. Philip II of Spain had to declare four state bankruptcies in 1557, 1560, 1575 and 1596.
- 1558- 1603: The Elizabethan era is considered the height of the English Renaissance.
- 1558- 83: Livonian War between Poland, Grand Principality of Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark and Russia.
- 1558: After 200 years, the Kingdom of England loses Calais to France.
- 1559: With the Peace of Cateau Cambrésis, the Italian Wars conclude.



## 1560s

- 1560: Ottoman navy defeats the Spanish fleet at the Battle of Djerba.
- 1560: Erzsebet Bathory is born in Nyirbator, Hungary.
- 1561: Guido de Bres draws up the Belgic Confession of Protestant faith.
- 1562: Mughal leader Akbar reconciles the Muslim and Hindu factions by marrying into the powerful Rajput Hindu caste.
- 1562- 98: French Wars of Religion between Catholics and Huguenots.
- 1562: Massacre of Wassy and Battle of Dreux in the French Wars of Religion.
- 1563: Plague outbreak claimed 80,000 people in Elizabethan England. In London alone, over 20,000 people died of the disease.
- 1564: William Shakespeare baptized 26 April
- 1565: Battle of Talikota fought between the Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar and the Deccan sultanates.
- 1565: Mir Chakar Khan Rind died age of 97.
- 1565: Estácio de Sá establishes Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.
- 1565: Siege of Malta by Ottoman Turkish forces.
- 1566- 1648: Eighty Years' War between Spain and the Netherlands.
- 1567: Rising of the North in England.
- 1568- 1571: Morisco Revolt in Spain.
- 1568- 1600: The Azuchi-Momoyama period in Japan.
- 1569: The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is created with the Union of Lublin which lasts until 1795.



Suleiman the Magnificent.

## 1570s

- 1570: Ivan the Terrible orders to massacre inhabitants of Novgorod.
- 1571: Pope Pius V completes the Holy League as a united front against the Ottoman Turks.
- 1571: The Holy League defeats a force of Ottoman galleys in the Battle of Lepanto.
- 1571: Crimean Tatars attack and sack Moscow, burning everything but the Kremlin.
- 1571: Spanish missionaries are murdered by Indians at the later Jamestown Settlement, Virginia.
- 1572: Brielle is taken from Habsburg Spain by Protestant Watergeuzen in the Capture of Brielle, in the Eighty Years' War.
- 1572: Spanish conquistadores apprehend the last Inca leader Tupak Amaru at Vilcabamba, Peru, and execute him in Cuzco.
- 1572: Catherine de' Medici instigates the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre which takes the lives of Protestant leader Gaspard de Coligny and thousands of Huguenots. The violence spreads from Paris to other cities and the countryside.
- 1573: After heavy losses on both sides the Siege of Haarlem ends in a Spanish victory.
- 1574: in the Eighty Years' War the capital of Zeeland, Middelburg declares for the Protestants.
- 1574: After a siege of 4 months the Siege of Leiden ends in a comprehensive Dutch victory.
- 1575: Oda Nobunaga finally captures Nagashima fortress.



- 1576: Sack of Antwerp by badly paid Spanish soldiers.
- 1577- 80: Francis Drake circles the World.
- 1578: King Sebastian of Portugal is killed at the Battle of Alcazarquivir.
- 1579: The Union of Utrecht unifies the northern Netherlands, a foundation for the later Dutch Republic.
- 1579: The Union of Arras unifies the southern Netherlands, a foundation for the later states of the Spanish Netherlands, the Austrian Netherlands and Belgium
- 1580: Drake's royal reception after his attacks on Spanish possessions, influences Philip II of Spain to build up the Spanish Armada. English ships in Spanish harbours are impounded.
- 1580: Spain unifies with Portugal under Philip II. The struggle for the throne of Portugal ends the Portuguese Empire. The Spanish and Portuguese crowns are united for 60 years, i.e. until 1640.

## 1580s

- 1582: Pope Gregory XIII issues the Gregorian calendar.
- 1582: Yermak Timofeyevich conquers the Siberia Khanate on behalf of the Stroganovs.
- 1584- 85: After the Siege of Antwerp, many of its merchants flee to Amsterdam.
- 1585- 1604: The Anglo-Spanish War is fought on both sides of the Atlantic.
- 1588: England repulses the Spanish Armada.
- 1589: Spain repulses the English Armada.

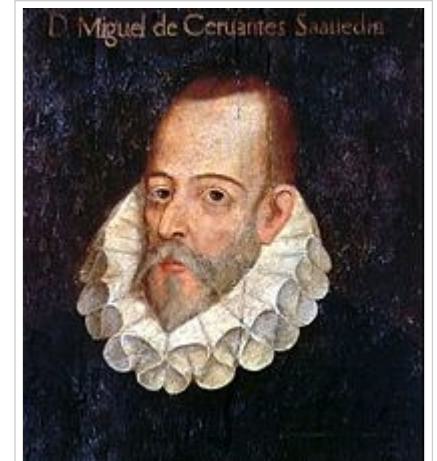


Oda Nobunaga.

## 1590s

- 1591: Gazi Giray leads a huge Tatar expedition against Moscow.
- 1591: In Mali, Moroccan forces of the Sultan Ahmad al-Mansur led by Judar Pasha defeat the Songhai Empire at the Battle of Tondibi.
- 1592- 1593: John Stow reports 10,675 plague deaths in London, a city of approximately 200,000 people.
- 1592- 98: Korea, with the help of Ming Dynasty China, repels two Japanese invasions.
- 1593- 1606: The Long War between the Habsburg monarchy and the Ottoman Turks.
- 1598: The Edict of Nantes ends the French Wars of Religion.
- 1598- 1613: Russia descends into anarchy during the Time of Troubles.
- 1600: Giordano Bruno is burned at the stake for heresy in Rome.
- 1600: Battle of Sekigahara in Japan. End of the Warring States period and beginning of the Edo period.

## Significant people



Juan Martínez de Jáuregui y  
Aguilar, *Miguel de Cervantes*,  
c.1610



Raphael, *Baldassare Castiglione*,  
c.1519



- Henry VII of England, founder of the Tudor dynasty. Introduced ruthlessly efficient mechanisms of taxation which restored the kingdom after a state of virtual bankruptcy due to the effects of the Wars of the Roses ( 1457 - 1509).
- Pedro Álvares Cabral, first European to arrive in Brazil in 22 April 1500 (c. 1467 - 1520).
- Zygmunt I the Old, King of Poland, established a conscription army and the bureaucracy needed to finance it ( 1467 - 1548).
- Vasco da Gama, Portuguese navigator, first one to sail around the Cape of Good Hope (c. 1469 - 1524).
- György Dózsa, leader of the peasants' revolt in Hungary ( 1470 - 1514)
- Nicolaus Copernicus, developed the heliocentric (Sun-centered) theory using scientific methods ( 1473 - 1543).
- Ferdinand Magellan Portuguese navigator who sailed around the world ( 1480 - 1521).
- Martin Luther, German religious reformer ( 1483 - 1546).
- Hernán Cortés, Spanish Conquistador ( 1485 - 1547).
- King Henry VIII of England, founder of Anglicanism ( 1491 - 1547).
- Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus ( 1491 - 1556).
- King Francis I of France, considered the first Renaissance monarch of his Kingdom ( 1494 - 1547).
- Suleiman the Magnificent, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Conqueror and legal reformer ( 1494 - 1566).
- King Gustav I of Sweden, restored Swedish sovereignty and introduced Protestantism in Sweden ( 1496- 1560).
- Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and the first to reign as King of Spain. Involved in almost constant conflict with France and the Ottoman Empire while promoting the Spanish colonization of the Americas ( 1500 - 1558).
- Cuauhtémoc, the last Tlatoani of the Aztec, led the native resistance against the Conquistadores ( 1502 - 1525).
- Michel Nostradamus, French astrologer and doctor, author of Les Propheties, a book of world prophecies ( 1503 - 1566).
- Qiu Ying, Chinese painter who belonged to the Wu School and used gongbi brush style ( 1494 - 1552)
- Ahmad ibn Ibrihim al-Ghazi, Somali Imam and general ( 1507 - 1543).
- John Calvin, theologian, and reformer. Founder of Calvinism ( 1509 - 1564).

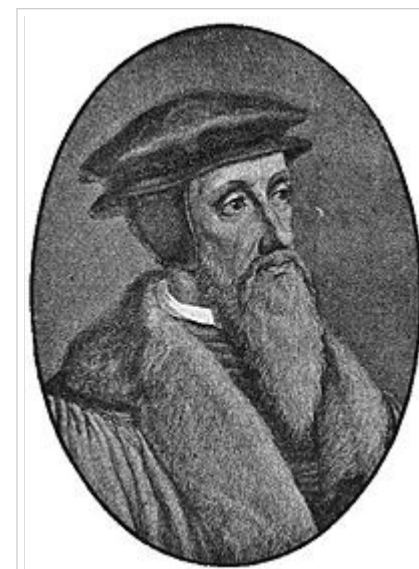


Hans Holbein the Younger,  
*Portrait of Sir Thomas More*,  
1527, oil on wood, 74.2 x 59 cm,  
The Frick Collection, New York





- Mary I of England. Attempted to counter the Protestant Reformation in her domains. Nick-named Bloody Mary for her Religious persecution ( 1516 - 1558).
- Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Italian Composer ( 1525 - 1594)
- King Philip II of Spain, self-proclaimed leader of Counter-Reformation ( 1527 - 1598).
- Ivan IV of Russia, first Russian tsar ( 1533- 1584).
- William the Silent, William I of Orange-Nassau, main leader of the Dutch revolt against the Spanish ( 1533- 1584).
- Wanli Emperor, Emperor of China during the Ming Dynasty, aided Korea in the Imjin War, ( 1563 - 1620)
- Elizabeth I of England, central figure of the Elizabethan era ( 1533 - 1603). She was the granddaughter of the aforementioned Henry VII, daughter of Henry VIII and parental half-sister of Mary I. Though some within her court thought of her merely as a bastard, due to the fact that her father executed her supposedly criminal mother Anne Boleyn, her reign is still considered one of the greatest ever in England's history.
- Oda Nobunaga , daimyo of the Sengoku period of Japanese civil war. First ruler of the Azuchi-Momoyama period ( 1534 - 1582).
- Toyotomi Hideyoshi , daimyo of the Sengoku period of Japanese civil war. Second ruler of the Azuchi-Momoyama period ( 1536 - 1598).
- Edward VI of England, notable for further differentiating Anglicanism from the practices of the Roman Catholic Church ( 1537 - 1553).
- Lady Jane Grey, Queen regnant of England and Ireland. Notably deposed by popular revolt ( 1537 - 1554).
- Mary I of Scotland, First female head of the House of Stuart ( 1542 - 1587).
- Johan van Oldenbarnevelt, Dutch politician and Grand Pensionary, played a pivotal role in organizing the Dutch revolt against Spain ( 1542 - 1619).
- Admiral Yi Sun-sin , Korean admiral, respected as one of the greatest admirals in world history. ( 1545 - 1598).
- Giordano Bruno, Italian philosopher and astronomer/astrologer ( 1548 - 1600).
- King Henry IV of France and Navarre, ended the French Wars of Religion and reunited the kingdom under his command ( 1553 - 1610).
- Michael the Brave, ruler of Walachia, national symbol of Romanians for uniting the three provinces under his rule in 1600 ( 1558 - 1601)
- Giovanni Battista Ramusio, diplomat and secretary of council of Ten of Venice Italy, author of Delle Navigazioni et Viaggi. Third volume (terzo volume) containing plan La Terra de Hochelaga showing village of Hochelaga ( 1585 - 1657). See
- Matteo Ricci, Italian Jesuit who traveled to Macau, China in 1582, and died in Beijing, ( 1552 - 1610)
- Andrea Amati, (ca. 1520 – ca. 1578) was the earliest maker of violins whose instruments still survive today.



John Calvin.

## Visual artists

- Michelangelo Buonarroti, Italian painter and sculptor ( 1475 - 1564).
- Caravaggio, Italian artist ( 1571 - 1610).
- Albrecht Dürer, German artist, ( 1471 - 1528)
- Hans Holbein the Younger, German artist, ( 1497 - 1543)
- Raphael, Italian painter, ( 1483 - 1520)
- Titian, Italian painter, ( 1485 - 1576)



- Leonardo da Vinci famous artist and inventor and scientist ( 1452 – 1519).

## Literature

- Juan Martínez de Jáuregui y Aguilar, Spanish poet and painter, ( 1483 - 1541)
- Luís de Camões, Portuguese poet (c. 1524 – 1580).
- Baldassare Castiglione, Italian author ( 1478 - 1529)
- Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish author ( 1547 - 1616).
- John Donne, English metaphysical poet ( 1572 - 1631)
- John Ford, English dramatist ( 1586 - c. 1640).
- Thomas Heywood, English dramatist (c, early 1570s - 1641)
- Ben Jonson, English dramatist c. 1572 - 1637)
- Thomas Kyd, English dramatist ( 1558 – 1594)
- Thomas Lodge, English dramatist ( 1558 - 1625)
- Niccolò Machiavelli, Italian author ( 1469 - 1527)
- Christopher Marlowe, English poet and dramatist ( 1564 – 1593).
- Michel de Montaigne, French essayist ( 1533 – 1592).
- Thomas More, English politician and author ( 1478 - 1535).
- Miyamoto Musashi, famous warrior in Japan, author of The Book of Five Rings, a treaty on strategy and martial combat. ( 1584 - 1645)
- François Rabelais, French author (c. 1493 - 1553).
- Mikolaj Rej, Polish writer ( 1505 - 1569).
- Pierre de Ronsard, French poet. Called the 'Prince of poets' of his generation. ( 1524 – 1585).
- William Shakespeare, English author ( 1564 - 1616).
- Edmund Spenser, English poet (c. 1552 - 1599)
- Lope de Vega, Spanish dramatist ( 1562 – 1635).

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

*Related article: List of 16th century inventions.*

- The Columbian Exchange introduces many plants, animals and diseases to the Old and New Worlds.
- Introduction of the spinning wheel revolutionizes textile production in Europe.
- Modern square root symbol ( $\sqrt{\quad}$ )
- The letter J is introduced into the English alphabet.
- Copernicus publishes his theory that the Earth and the other planets revolve around the Sun ( 1543)
- Gregorian Calendar adopted by Catholic countries ( 1582)



- 1513: Juan Ponce de León sights Florida and Vasco Núñez de Balboa sights the eastern edge of the Pacific Ocean.
- 1519- 22: Ferdinand Magellan and Juan Sebastián Elcano lead the first circumnavigation of the World.
- 1519- 1540: In America, Hernando de Soto expeditions map the Gulf of Mexico coastline and bays.
- 1540: Francisco Vázquez de Coronado sights the Grand Canyon.
- 1541- 42: Francisco de Orellana sails the length of the Amazon River.
- 1559- 1562: Spanish settlements in Alabama/Florida and Georgia confirm dangers of hurricanes and local native warring tribes.
- 1565: Spanish settlers outside New Spain (Mexico) colonize Florida's coastline at St. Augustine.
- 1597: Opera in Florence by Jacopo Peri.
- 1500: First portable watch is created by Peter Henlein of Germany.
- 1545: Theory of complex numbers is first developed by Gerolamo Cardano of Italy.
- 1558: Camera obscura is first used in Europe by Giambattista della Porta of Italy.
- 1565: Invention of the graphite pencil (in a wooden holder) by Conrad Gesner. Modernized in 1812.
- 1568: Gerardus Mercator creates the first European Mercator Projection map, after Su Song in 11th century China.
- 1572: Supernova SN 1572 is observed by Tycho Brahe in the Milky Way.
- 1582: Gregorian calendar is introduced in Europe by Pope Gregory XIII.
- c. 1583: Galileo Galilei of Pisa, Italy identifies the constant swing of a pendulum, leading to development of reliable timekeepers.
- 1585: earliest known reference to the ' sailing carriage' in China.
- 1589: William Lee invents the stocking frame.
- 1591: First flush toilet is introduced by Sir John Harrington of England, the design published under the title 'The Metamorphosis of Ajax'.
- 1593 - Galileo Galilei invents a thermometer.
- 1596: William Barents discovers Spitsbergen.

## Decades and years

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# 17th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

As a means of recording the passage of time, the **17th Century** was that century which lasted from 1601- 1700 in the Gregorian calendar.

The 17th Century falls into the Early Modern period of Europe and was characterized by the Baroque cultural movement, the French *Grand Siècle* dominated by Louis XIV, and the beginning of modern science and philosophy, including the contributions of Galileo Galilei, René Descartes, Blaise Pascal, Isaac Newton; Europe was torn by warfare throughout the century, by the Thirty Years' War, the Great Turkish War, the end of the Dutch Revolt and the English Civil War among others, while European colonization of the Americas began in earnest.

In the east, the 17th Century saw the flowering of the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal empires, the beginning of the Edo period in feudal Japan, and the violent transition from the Ming to the Qing Dynasty in China.

## Events

### 1600s

- 1600: Charles I of England born to James VI of Scotland and Anne of Denmark.

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	16th century · <b>17th century</b> · 18th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1600s 1610s 1620s 1630s 1640s 1650s 1660s 1670s 1680s 1690s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu is the founder of Japan's last shogunate, which lasted well into the 19th century.



- 1601: Battle of Kinsale, one of the most important battles in Irish history, fought.
- 1602: Dutch East India Company founded. Its success contributes to the Dutch Golden Age.
- 1603: Elizabeth I of England dies and is succeeded by her cousin King James VI of Scotland, uniting the crowns of Scotland and England.
- 1603: Tokugawa Ieyasu seizes control of Japan and establishes the Tokugawa Shogunate which rules the country until 1868.
- 1603- 23: After modernizing his army, Abbas I expands the Safavid Empire by capturing territory from the Ottomans and the Portuguese.
- 1605: Gunpowder Plot failed in England.
- 1606: The Long War between the Ottoman Empire and Austria is ended with the Peace of Zsitvatorok.
- 1606: Captain Willem Janszoon and his crew aboard the Dutch East India Company ship Duyfken becomes the first recorded Europeans to sight and make landfall in Australia.
- 1607: Jamestown, Virginia, is settled as what would become the first permanent English colony in North America.
- 1608: Quebec City founded by Samuel de Champlain in New France (present-day Canada).
- 1609: The Netherlands and Spain agree to a Twelve Years' Truce in the Eighty Years' War.
- 1609: Pedro de Peralta, a later governor of New Mexico, establishes the settlement of Santa Fe.
- 1609: Maximilian of Bavaria establishes the Catholic League.



Catholic general Albrecht von Wallenstein.

## 1610s

- 1613: The Time of Troubles in Russia ends with the establishment of the House of Romanov which rules until 1917.
- 1618: The Bohemian Revolt precipitates the Thirty Years' War which devastates Europe in the years 1618- 48.
- 1618: The Manchus start invading China. Their conquest eventually topples the Ming Dynasty.

## 1620s



- 1620: Emperor Ferdinand II defeats the Bohemian rebels in the Battle of White Mountain.
- 1620: The Puritan Pilgrims arrive in the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, Cape Cod.
- 1624- 42: As chief minister, Cardinal Richelieu centralizes power in France.
- 1625: New Amsterdam founded by the Dutch West India Company in North America.
- 1626: St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican completed.
- 1627: Cardinal Richelieu lays siege to Protestant La Rochelle which eventually capitulates.
- 1629: Cardinal Richelieu allies with Swedish Protestant forces in the Thirty Years' War to counter Ferdinand II's expansion.

## 1630s

- 1632: Battle of Lützen, death of king of Sweden Gustav II Adolf.
- 1633: Galileo Galilei arrives in Rome for his trial before the Inquisition.
- 1634: Battle of Nördlingen results in Catholic victory.
- 1636: Harvard University is founded in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 1639: Naval Battle of the Downs - Republic of the United Provinces fleet decisively defeats a Spanish fleet in English waters.
- 1639- 51: Wars of the Three Kingdoms, civil wars throughout Scotland, Ireland, and England.

## 1640s



*The Night Watch or The Militia Company of Captain Frans Banning Cocq, 1642. Oil on canvas; on display at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.*



- 1640: King Charles was compelled to summon Parliament due to the revolt of the Scots.
- 1640- 68: The Portuguese Restoration War led to the end of the Iberian Union.
- 1640: Torture is outlawed in England.
- 1641: The Tokugawa Shogunate institutes Sakoku- foreigners are expelled and no one is allowed to enter or leave Japan.
- 1641: The Irish Rebellion.
- 1642: Dutch explorer Abel Janszoon Tasman achieves the first recorded European sighting of New Zealand.
- 1642- 49: Civil War in England; Charles I is beheaded by Cromwell
- 1644: The Manchu conquer China ending the Ming Dynasty. The subsequent Qing Dynasty rules until 1912.
- 1644- 1674: The Mauritanian Thirty-Year War.
- 1645: The death of Miyamoto Musashi, legendary Japanese Samurai warrior of natural causes.
- 1647- 1652: The Great Plague of Seville.
  
- 1648: The Peace of Westphalia ends the Thirty Years' War and the Eighty Years' War and marks the ends of Spain and the Holy Roman Empire as major European powers.
- 1648- 53: Fronde civil war in France.
- 1648- 67: The Deluge wars leave Poland in ruins.
- 1648- 69: The Ottomans capture Crete from the Venetians after the Siege of Candia.
- 1649- 1653: The Cromwellian conquest of Ireland.



Utagawa Kuniyoshi, Miyamoto Musashi having his fortune told. Print c.1847-1853

## 1650s

- 1652: Cape Town founded by the Dutch East India Company in South Africa.
- 1652: Anglo-Dutch Wars begin.
- 1655- 61: The Northern Wars cement Sweden's rise as a Great Power.
- 1648: After his father Shah Jahan completes the Taj Mahal, his son Aurangzeb deposes him as ruler of the Mughal Empire.

## 1660s

- 1660: The Commonwealth of England ends and the monarchy is brought back during the English Restoration.
- 1660: Royal Society of London for the Improvement of Natural Knowledge founded.
- 1661: The reign of the Kangxi Emperor of China begins.



Map of Europe in 1648 at the end of the Thirty Years' War.



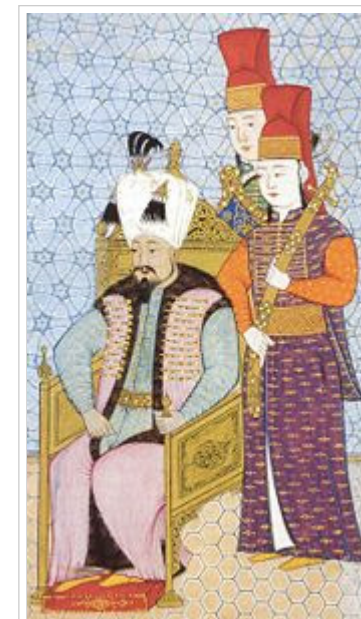
- 1662: Koxinga captures Taiwan from the Dutch and founds the Kingdom of Tungning which rules until 1683.
- 1662: Jacques Aymar-Vernay, who later reintroduced Dowsing into popular use in Europe, is born.
- 1663: France takes full political and military control over its colonial possessions in New France. Hooke's microscope discovers cells
- 1664: British troops capture New Amsterdam and rename it New York.
- 1665: The Great Plague of London.
- 1665: Portugal defeats the Kongo Empire.
- 1666: The Great Fire of London.
- 1667- 99: The Great Turkish War halts the Ottoman Empire's expansion into Europe.
- 1668- Peace Treaty of Lisbon between Spain and Portugal recognizes Portugal as independent country.

## 1670s

- 1670: The Hudson's Bay Company is founded in Canada.
- 1672- 1676: Polish-Ottoman War
- 1672: Rampjaar in the Netherlands - Combined attack by France, England and two German states on the Republic of the United Provinces
- 1672: Lynching of Johan de Witt and his brother Cornelis de Witt in the Hague - William III of Orange takes power.
- 1672- 78: Franco-Dutch War
- 1674: Maratha Empire founded in India by Shivaji.
- 1676: Russia and the Ottoman Empire commence the Russo-Turkish Wars.

## 1680s

- 1680: The Pueblo Revolt drives the Spanish out of New Mexico until 1692.
- 1682: Peter the Great becomes joint ruler of Russia (sole tsar in 1696).
- 1682: La Salle explores the length of the Mississippi River and claims Louisiana for France.
- 1683: China conquers the Kingdom of Tungning and annexes Taiwan.



Sultan Mehmed IV





- 1683: The Battle of Vienna finishes the Ottoman Empire's hegemony in south-eastern Europe.
- 1685: Edict of Fontainebleau outlaws Protestantism in France. King Charles II dies
- 1687: Isaac Newton publishes *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*.
- 1688- 89: After the Glorious Revolution, England becomes a constitutional monarchy and the Dutch Republic goes into decline.
- 1688- 97: The Grand Alliance sought to stop French expansion during the Nine Years War.
- 1689: The Treaty of Nerchinsk established a border between Russia and China.
- 1689: The Battle of Killiecrankie is fought between Jacobite and Williamite forces in Highland Perthshire

## 1690s

- 1692: Salem witch trials in Massachusetts.
- 1693- 1694: Famine in France kills 2 million.
- 1696- 1697: Famine in Finland wipes out almost a third of the population.

## Significant people

- Anne of Austria, Queen consort and regent of France ( 1601 - 1666)
- Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden ( 1594- 1632)
- Françoise-Athénaïs, marquise de Montespan, lover of Louis XIV ( 1641 - 1707)
- Françoise d'Aubigné, Marquise de Maintenon, second wife of Louis XIV ( 1635 - 1719)



Crimean Tatar soldier fighting with the soldier of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Europe's steppe frontier was in a state of semi-permanent warfare until the 18th century.



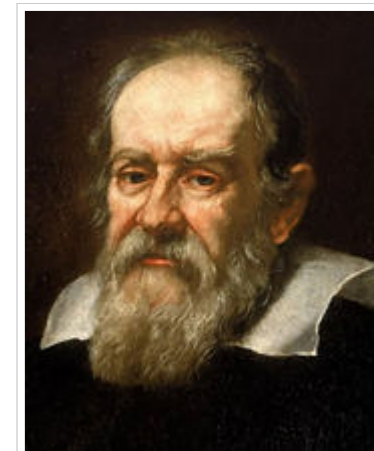
Peter Paul Rubens, *Anne of Austria, Queen of France, mother of King Louis XIV, 1622-1625*



- Guru Teg Bahadur, 9th Sikh Guru ( 1621 - 1675)
- Gabriel Bethlen, Hungarian prince of Transylvania ( 1580- 1629)
- Shivaji Bhonsle, Hindu king, 1st Maratha ruler, established Hindavi Swaraj ( 1630- 1680)
- Queen Christina of Sweden, high profile Catholic convert, matron of arts ( 1626 - 1689)
- Charles I of England ( 1600 - 1649)
- Charles II of England ( 1630 - 1685)
- Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland ( 1599 - 1658)
- Richard Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland ( 1626 - 1712)
- Elizabeth I of England ( 1533 - 1603)
  
- Tokugawa Ieyasu, The founder and first shogun of the Tokugawa shogunate of Japan, ( 1543 - 1616)
- James I of England ( 1566 - 1625)
- James II of England ( 1633 - 1701)



Elias Gottlieb Haussmann,  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*, 1748



Galileo Galilei is often referred  
to as the Father of Modern  
Astronomy.



- Leopold I, Holy Roman Emperor ( 1640 - 1705)
- Louis XIV, King of France ( 1638 - 1715)
- Mary II of England ( 1662 - 1694)
- Cardinal Mazarin, French cardinal and politician of Italian origin ( 1602 - 1661)



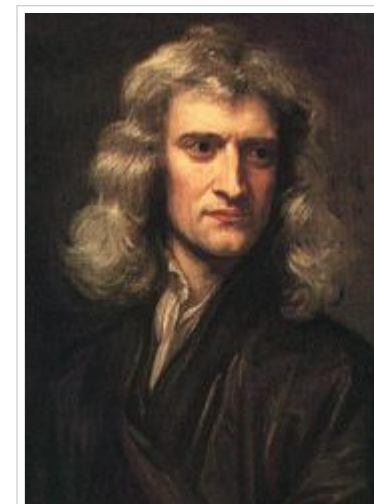
Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, the first person to use a microscope to view bacteria



Miyamoto Musashi,  
*Self-portrait*, Samurai, writer  
and artist, c. 1640



- André Le Nôtre, French landscape architect ( 1613 - 1700)
- Peter the Great, Russian tsar ( 1672 - 1725)
- Philip IV of Spain, Spanish king ( 1605 - 1665)
- Popé, Tewa religious leader, led the Pueblo Revolt (ca. 1630 - ca. 1688)
- Samarth Ramdas, Hindu saint ( 1608 - 1681)
- Cardinal Richelieu, French cardinal, duke, and politician ( 1585 - 1642)
  
- Michiel de Ruyter, Dutch admiral ( 1607 - 1676)
- Jan III Sobieski, King of Poland ( 1629 - 1696)
- Tessouat, Chief of the Algonquin
- Imre Thököly, prince of Transylvania, leader of the anti-Habsburg uprising in Hungary ( 1657 - 1705)
- Sant Tukaram, Hindu saint ( 1600 - 1650)
- Albrecht von Wallenstein, Catholic German general in the Thirty Years' War ( 1583 - 1634)
- William III of England ( 1650 - 1702), Stadtholder of the main provinces of the Republic of the United Provinces and King of England
- Johan de Witt, Grand Pensionary of the Republic of the United Provinces - 1625 - 1672



Sir Isaac Newton at 46 in Godfrey Kneller's 1689 portrait.



Self portrait by Rembrandt, c. 1655.



## Musicians and Composers

- Johann Christoph Bach, Composer and great-uncle of the genius, ( 1642– 1703)
- Johann Sebastian Bach, German composer of genius( 1685-1750)
- Georg Friedrich Handel, German Composer ( 1685-1759)
- Jean-Baptiste Lully, Italian-born French composer ( 1632 - 1687)
- Claudio Monteverdi, Italian composer of Renaissance and Baroque music, and possibly the first opera ever ( 1567 - 1643)
- Johann Pachelbel ( 1653– 1706), German composer
- Henry Purcell, English composer ( 1659 - 1695)
- Monsieur de Sainte-Colombe, French composer and the subject of a 1991 film *Tous les matins du monde* (c. 1640 - 1700)
- Antonio Vivaldi Italian composer (four seasons concerti) ( 1678- 1741)

## Visual artists

- Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Italian sculptor, architect ( 1598 - 1680)
- Francesco Borromini, Italian sculptor, architect ( 1599- 1667)
- Frans Hals ( 1580- 1666)
- Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, Spanish painter ( 1617 - 1682)
- José de Ribera, *Lo Spagnoletto* (1591 - 1652)
- Rembrandt van Rijn, Dutch painter ( 1606 - 1669)
- Peter Paul Rubens, Flemish painter, 1577 – 1640
- Jan Steen ( 1626- 1679)
- Ruisdael ( 1628- 1682)
- Jiang Tingxi, Chinese painter, calligrapher, encyclopedist, foreign delegate to Japan ( 1669 - 1732)
- Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez, Spanish painter ( 1599- 1660)
- Johannes Vermeer, Dutch Painter ( 1632 - 1675)
- Francisco Zurbarán, Spanish Painter (1598 - 1664)

## Literature

- Pedro Calderón de la Barca, Spanish dramatist ( 1600 - 1681)
- Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Spanish author ( 1574 - 1616)
- Pierre Corneille, French dramatist ( 1606 - 1684)
- Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux, French poet and critic ( 1636 - 1711)



Probable self-portrait of Francisco Zurbarán as Saint Luke, c. 1635-1640.



- Daniel Defoe, English writer, novelist ( 1659 or 1661 - 1731)
- John Donne, English metaphysical poet ( 1572 - 1631)
- John Dryden, English poet, literary critic, translator, and playwright ( 1631 - 1700)
- Jean de La Fontaine, French poet ( 1621 - 1695)
- Andreas Gryphius, German poet and dramatist ( 1616 - 1664)
- John Milton, English author and poet ( 1608 - 1674)
- Molière, French dramatist, actor, director ( 1622 - 1673)
- Miyamoto Musashi, famous Samurai warrior in Japan, author of ' The Book of Five Rings,' a treatise on strategy and martial combat, poet, painter, ( 1584 - 1645)
- Samuel Pepys, English civil servant and diarist ( 1633 - 1703)
- Francisco de Quevedo, Spanish writer ( 1580 - 1645)
- Jean Racine, French dramatist ( 1639 - 1699)
- William Shakespeare, English author and poet ( 1564 - 1616)
- Félix Lope de Vega, Spanish playwright and poet ( 1562 - 1635)
- John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, English poet ( 1647 - 1680)

## Educators

- Seathrún Céitinn, Irish historian (ca. 1569 - ca. 1644)
- Dubhaltach MacFhirbhisigh, Irish historian and genealogist (d. 1671)
- Xu Xiake, Chinese geographer ( 1587- 1641)
- Song Yingxing, Chinese encyclopedist ( 1587- 1666)

## Exploration

- Samuel De Champlain, French Explorer
- Evliya Çelebi, Ottoman Explorer
- Henry Hudson, ( 1570? – 1611) was an English sea explorer and navigator in the early 17th century.
- Abel Janszoon Tasman, Dutch seafarer and explorer ( 1603 - 1659)
- Luis Váez de Torres, (c.1565-1607), Portuguese or Spanish Explorer. 16th-17th century exploration of the Pacific for Spain.

## Science and Philosophy

- Francis Bacon, English philosopher and politician ( 1561- 1626)
- Sir Thomas Browne, English author, philosopher and scientist ( 1605- 1682)
- Abraham Darby I, English Ironmaster, Introduced the first coke-consuming blast furnace ( 1678 – 1717)



- René Descartes, French philosopher and mathematician ( 1596 - 1650)
- Pierre de Fermat, French lawyer and mathematician 1601 – 1665
- Galileo Galilei, Italian natural philosopher ( 1564 - 1642)
- William Harvey, medical doctor ( 1578 – 1657)
- Thomas Hobbes, English philosopher and mathematician ( 1588 - 1679)
- Christiaan Huygens, Dutch mathematician, physicist and astronomer ( 1629 - 1695)
- Johannes Kepler, German astronomer ( 1571 - 1630)
- Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, the first person to use a microscope to view bacteria ( 1632 - 1723)
- Gottfried Leibniz, German philosopher and mathematician ( 1646 - 1716)
- John Locke, English philosopher ( 1632 - 1704)
- Isaac Newton, English physicist and mathematician ( 1642 - 1727)
- Blaise Pascal, French theologian, mathematician and physicist ( 1623 - 1662]]
- Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher ( 1632 - 1677)

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions

List of 17th century inventions

Major changes in philosophy and science take place, often characterized as the Scientific revolution.

- Banknotes reintroduced in Europe.





- Ice cream
- Tea and coffee become popular in Europe.
- Central Banking in France and modern Finance by Scottish economist John Law
- 1604: Supernova SN 1604 is observed in the Milky Way
- 1605: Johannes Kepler starts investigating elliptical orbits of planets
- 1608: Hans Lippershey constructs a refracting telescope, the first for which sufficient evidence exists
- 1609: Johann Carolas of Germany publishes the 'Relation', the first newspaper
- 1610: The Orion Nebula is identified by Nicolas de Peiresc of France
- 1610: Galileo Galilei and Simon Marius observe Jupiter's Galilean moons
- 1611: King James Bible or 'Authorized Version' first published
- c. 1612: The first flintlock musket likely created for Louis XIII of France by gunsmith Marin de Bourgeoys
- 1614: John Napier introduces the logarithm to simplify calculations
- 1620: Cornelius Drebbel, funded by James I of England, builds the first 'submarine' made of wood and greased leather
- 1623: The first English dictionary, 'English Dictionarie' is published by Henry Cockeram, listing difficult words with definitions
- 1628: William Harvey publishes and elucidates his earlier discovery of the circulatory system
- 1637: Dutch Bible published
- 1637: Teatro San Cassiano, the first public opera house, opened in Venice
- 1637: Pierre de Fermat formulates his so-called Last Theorem, unsolved until 1995
- 1637: Although Chinese naval mines were earlier described in the 14th century *Huolongjing*, the *Tian Gong Kai Wu* book of Ming Dynasty scholar Song Yingxing describes naval mines wrapped in a lacquer bag and ignited by an ambusher pulling a rip cord on the nearby shore that triggers a steel-wheel flint mechanism.
- 1642: Blaise Pascal builds an early mechanical calculator for addition and subtraction
- 1642: Mezzotint engraving introduces grey tones to printed images
- 1643: Evangelista Torricelli of Italy invents the mercury barometer
- 1645: Giacomo Torelli of Venice, Italy invents the first rotating stage
- 1651: Giovanni Riccioli renames the Lunar mare
- 1656: Christiaan Huygens describes the true shape of the rings of Saturn
- 1657: Christiaan Huygens develops the first functional pendulum clock based on the learnings of Galileo Galilei
- 1659: Christiaan Huygens first to observe surface details of Mars
- 1663: The first reflecting telescope is built by James Gregory based on suggestions of Italian astronomer Niccolo Zucchi
- c. 1670: Monk Dom Perignon discovers Champagne in France
- 1676: Antoni van Leeuwenhoek discovers Bacteria
- 1676: First measurement of the speed of light
- 1679: Binary system developed by Gottfried Leibnitz
- 1684: Calculus independently developed by both Gottfried Leibnitz and Sir Issac Newton and used to formulate classical mechanics



Denis Papin, best known for his pioneering invention of the steam digester, the forerunner of the steam engine.



## Decades and years

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# 18th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **18th century** lasted from 1701 to 1800 in the Gregorian calendar, in accordance with the Anno Domini era numbering system.

Historians sometimes specifically define the 18th century otherwise for the purposes of their work. For example the "short" 18th century may be defined as 1715-1789, denoting the period of time between the death of Louis XIV of France and the start of the French Revolution, while the "long" 18th century may run from the Glorious Revolution of 1688 to the battle of Waterloo in 1815 or even later.

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	17th century · <b>18th century</b> · 19th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1700s 1710s 1720s 1730s 1740s 1750s 1760s 1770s 1780s 1790s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



## Events

1700s



Emanuel Leutze's stylized depiction of *Washington Crossing the Delaware* (1851) is an iconic image of heroic action by Washington.



The storming of the Bastille, July 14, 1789, an iconic event of the French Revolution.



- 1712- 21: Russia supplants Sweden as the dominant Baltic power after the Great Northern War.
- 1701- 1714: War of the Spanish Succession was a conflict which involved most of Europe.
- 1702- 1715: Camisard Rebellion in France.
- 1703: Saint Petersburg founded by Peter the Great. Russian capital until 1918.
- 1703- 1711: The Rákóczi Uprising against the Habsburg Monarchy.
- 1707: Act of Union passed merging the Scottish and the English Parliaments, thus establishing The Kingdom of Great Britain.
- 1707: After Aurangzeb's death, the Mughal Empire enters a long decline.
- 1708- 1709: Famine killed one-third of East Prussia's population.

## 1710s

- 1715: First Jacobite Rebellion breaks out
- 1715: Louis XIV died leaving France deep in debt.
- 1718: City of New Orleans founded by the French in North America
- 1718: Blackbeard is killed by Robert Maynard in a North Carolina inlet on the inner side of Ocracoke Island

## 1720s

- 1720: The South Sea Bubble
- 1720- 1721: The Great Plague of Marseille
- 1721: Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister of Great Britain ( de facto).
- 1721: Treaty of Nystad signed, ending the Great Northern War.
- 1722- 23: Russo-Persian War
- 1722: Afghans conquered Iran, ending the Safavid dynasty.
- 1722: Kangxi Emperor of China died.
- 1722: Bartholomew Roberts is killed in a sea battle off the African coast.
- 1723: Slavery abolished in Russia. Peter the Great converted the household slaves into house serfs.
- 1723- 1730: The "Great Disaster" - an invasion of Kazakh territories by the Dzungars.
- 1725: The Fulani nomads took complete control of Fuuta Jallon and set up the first of many Fulani jihad states to come.
- 1726: The enormous Chinese encyclopedia *Gujin Tushu Jicheng* of over 100 million written Chinese characters in over 800,000 pages is printed in 60 different copies using copper-based Chinese movable type printing.

## 1730s



John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, English general



- 1732- 1734: Crimean Tatar raids into Russia.
- 1733- 38: War of the Polish Succession.
- 1735- 39: Russo-Turkish War.
- 1735-99: The Qianlong Emperor of China oversaw a huge expansion in territory.
- 1736: Nadir Shah assumed title of Shah of Persia and founded the Afsharid dynasty. Ruled until his death in 1747.
- 1736: Qing Dynasty Chinese court painters recreate Zhang Zeduan's classic panoramic painting, *Along the River During Qingming Festival*.
- 1738-1756: Famine across the Sahel, half the population of Timbuktu died.
- 1739: Nadir Shah defeated the Mughals and sacked Delhi.

## 1740s

- 1740: Frederick the Great comes to power in Prussia.
- 1740- 1741: Famine in Ireland killed ten per cent of the population.
- 1740- 48: War of the Austrian Succession
- 1741: Russians began settling the Aleutian Islands.
- 1744: The First Saudi State is founded by Mohammed Ibn Saud.
- 1745: Second Jacobite Rebellion began in Scotland.
- 1747: Ahmed Shah Durrani founded the Durrani Empire in modern day Afghanistan.

## 1750s

- 1750: Peak of the Little Ice Age
- 1754–1763, The French and Indian War, Fought in the U.S. and Canada mostly between the French and French allies and the English and English allies. The North American chapter of the Seven Years' War.
- 1755: The Lisbon earthquake
- 1756-63: Seven Years' War fought among European powers in various theaters around the world.
- 1757: Battle of Plassey signaled the beginning of British rule in India.



Qianlong Emperor



## 1760s

- 1760: George III became King of Britain.
- 1762-96: Reign of Catherine the Great of Russia.
- 1766-99: Anglo-Mysore Wars
- 1767: Burmese conquered the Ayutthaya kingdom.
- 1768: Gurkhas conquered Nepal.
- 1768-1774: Russo-Turkish War
- 1769: Spanish missionaries established the first of 21 missions in California.
- 1769-73: The Bengal famine of 1770 killed one third of the Bengal population.

## 1770s

- 1770-1771: Famine in Czech lands killed hundreds of thousands.
- 1771: The Plague Riot in Moscow.
- 1772-1795: The Partitions of Poland ended the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and erased Poland from the map for 123 years.
- 1772: Gustav III of Sweden stages a coup d'état and takes big political power, becoming almost an absolute monarch.
- 1773-1775: The Pugachev's Rebellion was the largest peasant revolt in Russia's history.
- 1775 John Harrison H4 and Larcum Kendall K1 Marine chronometers are used to measure longitude by James Cook on his Second voyage (1772-1775)
- 1775-1782: First Anglo-Maratha War
- 1775-1783: American Revolutionary War
- 1779-1879: Xhosa Wars between British and Boer settlers and the Xhosas in South African Republic



Frederick II the Great, King of Prussia.

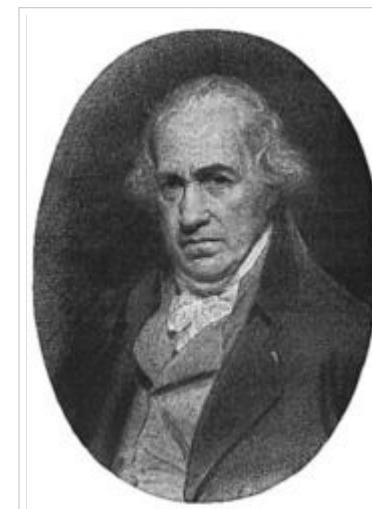


## 1780s

- 1781: Spanish settlers founded Los Angeles.
- 1781-1785: Serfdom abolished in the Austrian monarchy (first step; second step in 1848)
- 1783: Famine in Iceland caused by Laki (volcano) eruption.
- 1783: Russian Empire annexed the Crimean Khanate.
- 1785-1791: Imam Sheikh Mansur, a Chechen warrior and Muslim mystic, led a coalition of Muslim Caucasian tribes from throughout the Caucasus in a holy war against the Russian invaders.
- 1785-95: Northwest Indian War between the United States and Native Americans
- 1787: Freed slaves from London founded Freetown in present-day Sierra Leone.
- 1787-1792: Russo-Turkish War
- 1788: First European settlement established in Australia at Sydney.
- 1789: George Washington elected President of the United States. Served until 1797.
- 1789-99: The French Revolution

## 1790s

- 1791-1804: The Haitian Revolution
- 1792-1815: The Great French War started as the French Revolutionary Wars which lead into the Napoleonic Wars.
- 1792: New York Stock & Exchange Board founded.
- 1793: Upper Canada bans slavery.
- 1793: The largest yellow fever epidemic in American history killed as many as 5,000 people in Philadelphia—roughly 10% of the population.
- 1793-1796: Revolt in the Vendée against the French Republic at the time of the Revolution.
- 1794: Polish revolt
- 1795: Pinckney's Treaty between the United States and Spain granted the Mississippi Territory to the US.
- 1795: The Marseillaise officially adopted as the French national anthem.
- 1795: Kamehameha I of the Island of Hawaii defeats the Oahuans at the Battle of Nu'uauu.



Scottish engineer and inventor  
James Watt.





- 1796: Edward Jenner administers the first smallpox vaccination. Smallpox killed an estimated 400,000 Europeans each year during the 18th century (including five reigning monarchs).
- 1796: Battle of Montenotte. Engagement in the War of the First Coalition. Napoleon Bonaparte's first victory as an army commander.
- 1796: British ejected Dutch from Ceylon.
- 1796: Mungo Park, backed by the African Association, is the first European to set eyes on the Niger River in Africa.
- 1796-1804: The White Lotus Rebellion against the Manchu Dynasty in China.
- 1797: Napoleon's invasion and partition of the Republic of Venice ended over 1,000 years of independence for the Serene Republic.
- 1798: The Irish Rebellion failed to overthrow British rule in Ireland.
- 1798-1800: Quasi-War between the United States and France.
- 1799: Napoleon staged a coup d'état and became dictator of France.
- 1799: Dutch East India Company is dissolved.
- 1799: The assassination of the 14th Tu'i Kanokupolu, Tuku'aho, plunges Tonga into half a century of civil war.



The Battle of New Ross took place in Ireland, during the Irish Rebellion of 1798.

## Significant people

- Ahmad Shah Abdali, Afghan King
- John Adams, American statesman
- Samuel Adams American statesman
- Ethan Allen, American Revolutionary Army
- Queen Anne, British monarch
- Aurangzeb, Mughal Emperor
- Catherine the Great, Russian Tsaritsa
- Charles III of Spain, Spanish monarch
- James Cook, British navigator
- Charlotte Corday, killed Jean-Paul Marat
- Georges Danton, French revolutionary leader
- Benjamin Franklin, American leader, scientist and statesman



- Frederick the Great, Prussian monarch
- King George III, British monarch
- Alexander Hamilton, American statesman
- Patrick Henry, American statesman
- Thomas Jefferson, American statesman
- John Paul Jones, American naval commander
- Joseph II, Austrian Emperor
- Kangxi Emperor, China



Benjamin Franklin



- Marquis de Lafayette, Continental Army officer
- Alphonsus Liguori, Italian bishop, founder of Redemptorists, Saint
- Louis XV of France, French monarch
- Louis XVI of France, French monarch
- James Madison, American statesman
- Alessandro Malaspina, Spanish explorer
- Jean-Paul Marat, Influential French journalist
- Maria Theresa of Austria, Austrian Empress
- Marie Antoinette, Austrian-born Queen of France
- Michikinikwa, Miami tribe chief and war leader
- Charles de Secondat, baron de Montesquieu, French thinker
- José Moñino y Redondo, Count of Floridablanca, Spanish statesman
- Nadir Shah, Persian King
- Thomas Paine, British intellectual
- Peter I of Russia (*Peter the Great*), Russian Tsar
- Philip V of Spain, Spanish monarch
- Pius VI, Roman Pope
- Marquis of Pombal, Portuguese Prime Minister
- Chief Pontiac, Ottawa warrior
- Qianlong Emperor, China
- Francis II Rákóczi, prince of Hungary and Transylvania, Revolutionary leader
- Bartolomeo Rastrelli, Italian-born Russian architect
- Paul Revere, American patriot, silversmith
- Maximilien Robespierre, French revolutionary leader
- Betsy Ross, American flag maker
- John Small, English cricketer
- Edward "Lumpy" Stevens, English cricketer
- Alexander Suvorov, Russian military leader
- Toussaint L'Ouverture, Haitian revolutionary leader



Peter the Great



Paul Revere by John Singleton Copley



- Túpac Amaru II, Peruvian revolutionary
- Muhammad ibn Abd al Wahhab, Arab Islamic theologian and founder of Wahhabism
- Robert Walpole, British Prime Minister
- George Washington, American general and first President of The United States
- John Wesley, British churchman, founder of Methodism
- Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, German religious writer and bishop

### Show business and Theatre

- Barton Booth, actor
- Colley Cibber, actor, poet, playwright
- Thomas Doggett, actor
- David Garrick, actor
- Charles Johnson
- Charles Macklin, actor
- Anne Oldfield, actress
- Hester Santlow, actress, ballerina, dancer
- Richard Brinsley Sheridan, playwright
- Robert Wilks, actor

### Musicians, composers



George Washington



Johann Sebastian Bach



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



- Tomaso Albinoni, Italian composer
- Johann Sebastian Bach, German composer
- François Couperin, French composer
- Christoph Willibald Gluck, German composer
- Francesco Geminiani, Italian violinist, composer, and music theorist.
- George Frideric Handel, German-English composer
- Joseph Haydn, Austrian composer
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Austrian composer
- Johann Pachelbel, German composer, teacher
- François-André Danican Philidor, French composer and chess master
- Jean-Philippe Rameau, French composer
- Domenico Scarlatti, Italian composer.
- Antonio Stradivari, Italian violin maker
- Antonio Vivaldi, Italian composer



Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin

### Visual artists, painters, sculptors, printmakers

- William Blake, English artist and poet
- Edmé Bouchardon, French sculptor
- François Boucher, French painter
- Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin, French painter
- John Singleton Copley, American painter
- Jacques-Louis David, French painter
- Étienne Maurice Falconet, French sculptor
- Jean-Honoré Fragonard, French painter
- Thomas Gainsborough, English painter
- Francisco de Goya, Spanish painter
- Jean-Baptiste Greuze, French painter
- William Hogarth, English painter and engraver
- Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, French sculptor, student of his father
- Jean-Louis Lemoyne, French sculptor
- Robert Le Lorrain, French sculptor
- Sir Joshua Reynolds, British painter
- Gilbert Stuart, American painter
- Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, Venetian painter
- Jiang Tingxi, Chinese artist and scholar
- Kitagawa Utamaro, Japanese printmaker and painter



- Antoine Watteau, French painter

## Writers, poets

- Ueda Akinari, Japanese writer
- Pierre Beaumarchais, French writer
- Robert Burns, Scottish poet
- Giacomo Casanova, Venetian adventurer, writer and womanizer
- Denis Diderot, French writer and philosopher
- Henry Fielding British novelist
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German writer
- Eliza Haywood, English writer
- Samuel Johnson, British writer and literary critic
- Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos, Spanish writer
- Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, French writer
- Yuan Mei, Chinese poet, scholar and artist
- Honoré Mirabeau French writer and politician
- Alexander Pope, British poet
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, French writer and philosopher
- Marquis de Sade, French writer and philosopher
- Friedrich Schiller, German writer
- Charlotte Turner Smith, English writer
- Laurence Sterne, British writer
- Jonathan Swift, Anglo-Irish satirist
- Voltaire, French writer and philosopher
- Mary Wollstonecraft, British writer and feminist
- Cao Xueqin, Chinese writer



Samuel Johnson

## Scientists and philosophers

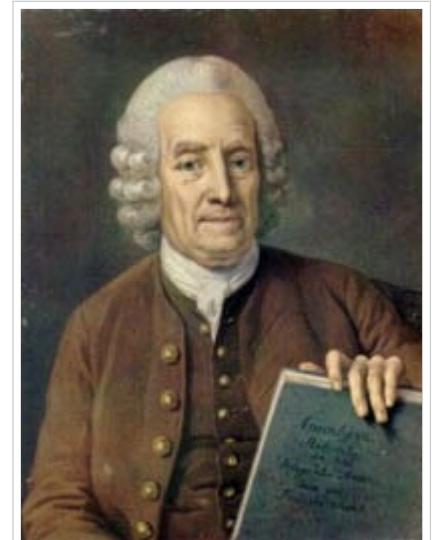


- Maria Gaetana Agnesi, Italian mathematician
- Jean le Rond d'Alembert, French mathematician, physicist and encyclopedist
- Laura Bassi, Italian scientist, the first European female college teacher
- George Berkeley, Irish empiricist philosopher
- Jeremy Bentham, English philosopher and reformer
- Daniel Bernoulli, Swiss mathematician and physicist
- Edmund Burke, British statesman and philosopher
- Alexis Clairault, French mathematician
- Eugenio Espejo, Ecuadorian scientist
- Leonhard Euler, Swiss mathematician
- David Hume, Scottish philosopher
- Edward Jenner, English inventor of vaccination
- Carl Friedrich Gauss, German mathematician, physicist and astronomer
- Immanuel Kant, German philosopher
  
- Joseph Louis Lagrange, Italian-French mathematician and physicist
- Pierre Simon Laplace, French physicist and mathematician
- John Law, Scottish economist
- Mikhail Lomonosov, Russian scientist
- Antoine Lavoisier, French chemist
- Adrien-Marie Legendre, French mathematician
- Carolus Linnaeus (*Carl von Linné*), Swedish biologist
- Adam Smith, Scottish economist and philosopher
- Emanuel Swedenborg, Swedish scientist, thinker and mystic
- Antonio de Ulloa, Spanish scientist and explorer
- James Watt, Scottish scientist and inventor

## Inventions, discoveries, introductions



Edward Jenner



Emanuel Swedenborg





- 1709: The first piano was built by Bartolomeo Cristofori
- 1712: Steam Engine invented by Thomas Newcomen.
- 1717: The diving bell was successfully tested by Edmond Halley, sustainable to a depth of 55 ft.
- c. 1730: The octant navigational tool was developed by John Hadley in England, and Thomas Godfrey in America
- 1736: Europeans discovered rubber - the discovery was made by Charles-Marie de la Condamine while on expedition in South America. It was named in 1770 by Joseph Priestly
- c. 1740: Modern steel was developed by Benjamin Huntsman
- 1741: Vitus Bering discovered Alaska
- 1745: The Leyden jar invented by Ewald von Kleist was the first electrical capacitor
- 1751 - 1785: The French Encyclopédie
- 1755: The English Dictionary by Samuel Johnson
- 1755: The tallest *wooden* Bodhisattva statue in the world is erected at Puning Temple, Chengde, China.
- 1764: The Spinning Jenny created by James Hargreaves brought on the Industrial Revolution
- 1765: James Watt enhances Newcomen's steam engine, allowing new steel technologies
- 1761: The problem of Longitude was finally resolved by the fourth chronometer of John Harrison
- 1768–1779: James Cook mapped the boundaries of the Pacific Ocean and discovered many Pacific Islands
- 1771: The enormous Putuo Zongcheng Temple complex of Chengde, China is completed
- 1773–1782: The Qing Dynasty huge literary compilation Siku Quanshu
- 1776: The Wealth of Nations, foundation of the modern theory of economy, was published by Adam Smith
- 1779: Photosynthesis was first discovered by Jan Ingenhousz of the Netherlands
- 1798: Edward Jenner publishes a treatise about smallpox vaccination
- 1799: Rosetta stone discovered by Napoleon's troops



The Spinning Jenny

## Decades and years

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# 19th century

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The **19th century** of the Common Era began on January 1, 1801 and ended on December 31, 1900, according to the Gregorian calendar.

During the 19th century, the Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Ottoman empires began to crumble and the Holy Roman and Mughal empires ceased.

Following the Napoleonic Wars, the British Empire became the world's leading power, controlling one quarter of the world's population and one third of the land area. It enforced a Pax Britannica, encouraged trade, and battled rampant piracy. During this time the 19th century was an era of widespread invention and discovery, with significant developments in the understanding or manipulation of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, electricity, and metallurgy largely setting the groundworks for the comparably overwhelming and very rapid technological innovations which would take place the following century. Modest advances in medicine and the understanding of human anatomy and disease prevention were also applicable to the 1800s, and were partly responsible for rapidly accelerating population growth in the western world. The introduction of Railroads provided the first major advancement in land transportation for centuries, and their placement and application radically altered the ways people could live and rapidly and reliably obtain necessary commodities, fueling major urbanization movements in countries across the globe. Numerous cities worldwide surpassed populations of 1,000,000 or more during this century, the first time which cities surpassed the peak population of ancient Rome. The last remaining undiscovered landmasses of Earth, largely pacific island chains and atolls, were discovered during this century, and with the exception of the extreme zones of the Arctic and Antarctic, accurate and detailed maps of the globe were available by the 1890s.

Slavery was greatly reduced around the world. Following a successful slave revolt in Haiti, Britain forced the Barbary pirates to halt their practice of kidnapping and enslaving Europeans, banned slavery throughout its domain, and charged its navy with ending the global slave trade. Britain abolished slavery in 1834, America's 13th Amendment following their Civil War abolished slavery there in 1865, and in Brazil slavery was abolished in 1888 (see Abolitionism). Similarly, serfdom was abolished in Russia.

The 19th century was remarkable in the widespread formation of new settlement foundations which were particularly prevalent across North America and Australasia, with a significant proportion of the two continents' largest cities being founded at some point in the century.

## Eras

- Industrial revolution
- British Regency, Victorian era (UK, British Empire)

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	18th century · <b>19th century</b> · 20th century
<b>Decades:</b>	1800s 1810s 1820s 1830s 1840s 1850s 1860s 1870s 1880s 1890s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



- Bourbon Restoration, July Monarchy, French Second Republic, Second French Empire, French Third Republic ( France)
- Edo period, Meiji period (Japan)
- Qing Dynasty (China)
- Tanzimat, First Constitutional Era ( Ottoman Empire)
- Russian Empire
- American Manifest Destiny

## Events

### 1800s

- 1800: The Company of Surgeons are awarded their Royal Charter and become The Royal College of Surgeons of England.
- 1800: The inception of the Second Great Awakening for the United States.
- 1801: The Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland merge to form the United Kingdom.
- 1801: Ranjit Singh crowned as King of Punjab.
- 1801–15: Barbary War between the United States and the Barbary States of North Africa
- 1803: The United States buys out France's territorial claims in North America via the Louisiana Purchase. This begins the U.S.'s westward expansion to the Pacific referred to as its Manifest Destiny which involves annexing and conquering land from Mexico, Britain, and Native Americans.
- 1803: Saudi Wahhabists conquered Mecca and destroyed various shrines.
- 1804: Haiti gains independence from France and becomes the first black republic.
- 1804: Austrian Empire founded by Francis I.
- 1804–10: Fulani Jihad in Nigeria.
- 1804–13: The First Serbian Uprising against Ottoman rule.
- 1805–48: Muhammad Ali modernizes Egypt.
- 1806: Holy Roman Empire dissolved as a consequence of the Treaty of Lunéville.
- 1807: Kingdom of Great Britain declares the Slave Trade illegal.
- 1808–09: Russia conquers Finland from Sweden in the Finnish War.
- 1808–14: Spanish guerrillas fight in the Peninsular War.
- 1809: Napoleon strips the Teutonic Knights of their last holdings in Bad Mergentheim.



Map of the world from 1897. The British Empire (marked in pink) was the superpower of the 19th century.

### 1810s



- 1810: The University of Berlin, the world's first research university, is founded. Among its students and faculty are Hegel, Marx, and Bismarck. The German university reform proves to be so successful that its model is copied around the world (see History of European research universities).
- 1810s–20s: Most of the Latin American colonies free themselves from the Spanish and Portuguese Empires after the Mexican War of Independence and the South American Wars of Independence.
- 1812: The French invasion of Russia is a turning point in the Napoleonic Wars.
- 1812–15: War of 1812 between the United States and the United Kingdom
- 1813–1907: The contest between the British Empire and Imperial Russia for control of Central Asia is referred to as the Great Game.
- 1815: The Congress of Vienna redraws the European map. The Concert of Europe attempts to preserve this settlement, but it fails to stem the tide of liberalism and nationalism that sweeps over the continent.
- 1815: Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo brings a conclusion to the Napoleonic Wars and marks the beginning of a Pax Britannica which lasts until 1870.
- 1816: Year Without a Summer: Unusually cold conditions wreak havoc throughout the Northern Hemisphere, likely caused by the 1815 explosion of Mount Tambora.
- 1816–28: Shaka's Zulu kingdom becomes the largest in Southern Africa.
- 1819: The modern city of Singapore is established by the British East India Company.



1816: Shaka rises to power over the Zulu kingdom

## 1820s

- 1820: Liberia founded by the American Colonization Society for freed American slaves.
- 1821–27: Greece becomes the first country to break away from the Ottoman Empire after the Greek War of Independence.
- 1823–87: The British Empire annexed Burma (now called Myanmar) after three Anglo-Burmese Wars.
- 1825: Erie Canal opened connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 1826–28: After the final Russo-Persian War, the Persian Empire took back territory lost to Russia from the previous war.
- 1825–28: The Argentina-Brazil War results in the independence of Uruguay.

## 1830s

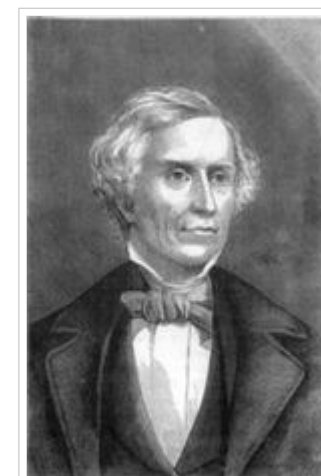
- 1830: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is established on April 6, 1830.
- 1830: The Belgian Revolution in the United Kingdom of the Netherlands led to the creation of Belgium.
- 1830: Greater Colombia dissolved and the nations of Colombia (including modern-day Panama), Ecuador, and Venezuela took its place.
- 1831: France invades and occupies Algeria.
- 1833: Slavery Abolition Act bans slavery throughout the British Empire.
- 1833–76: Carlist Wars in Spain.
- 1834: Spanish Inquisition officially ends.



- 1834–59: Imam Shamil's rebellion in Russian-occupied Caucasus.
- 1835–36: The Texas Revolution in Mexico resulted in the short-lived Republic of Texas.
- 1837–1838: Rebellions of 1837 in Canada.
- 1837–1901: Queen Victoria's reign is considered the apex of the British Empire and is referred to as the Victorian era.
- 1838–40: Civil war in the Federal Republic of Central America led to the foundings of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.
- 1839–51: Uruguayan Civil War
- 1839– 60: After two Opium Wars, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia gained many concessions from China resulting in the decline of the Qing Dynasty.

## 1840s

- 1840: New Zealand is founded, as the Treaty of Waitangi is signed by the Maori and British.
- 1844: First publicly funded telegraph line in the world - between Baltimore and Washington - sends demonstration message on May 24, ushering in the age of the telegraph.
- 1844: Millerite movement awaits the Second Advent of Jesus Christ on October 22. Christ's non-appearance becomes known as the Great Disappointment.
- 1844: Persian Prophet the Báb announces his revelation, founding Bábism. He announced to the world of the coming of " He whom God shall make manifest." He is considered the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
- 1844: Dominican War of Independence from Haiti.
- 1845: Unification of the Kingdom of Tonga under Tāufa‘āhau (King George Tupou I)
- 1845–49: The Irish Potato Famine led to the Irish diaspora.
- 1846–48: The Mexican-American War leads to Mexico's cession of much of the modern-day Southwestern United States.
- 1846–47: Mormon migration to Utah.
- 1847–1901: The Caste War of Yucatán.
- 1848: *The Communist Manifesto* published.
- 1848: Revolutions of 1848 in Europe
- 1848–58: California Gold Rush



Samuel Morse

## 1850s



- 1850: The Little Ice Age ends around this time.
- 1851: The Great Exhibition in London was the world's first international Expo or World's Fair.
- 1851– 60s: Victorian gold rush in Australia
- 1851–64: The Taiping Rebellion in China is the bloodiest conflict of the century.
- 1854: The Convention of Kanagawa formally ends Japan's policy of isolation.
- 1854–56: Crimean War between France, the United Kingdom, the Ottoman Empire and Russia
- 1855: Bessemer process enables steel to be mass produced.
- 1856: World's first oil refinery in Romania
- 1857–58: Indian Rebellion of 1857
- 1859: The Origin of Species published.

## 1860s

- 1861–65: American Civil War between the Union and seceding Confederacy
- 1861: Russia abolishes serfdom.
- 1861–67: French intervention in Mexico
- 1862–1877: Muslim Rebellion in northwest China.
- 1863: Formation of the International Red Cross is followed by the adoption of the First Geneva Convention in 1864.
- 1863–1865: Polish uprising against the Russian Empire.
- 1864-66: The Chincha Islands War was an attempt by Spain to regain its South American colonies.
- 1864-70: The War of the Triple Alliance ends Paraguayan ambitions for expansion and destroys much of the Paraguayan population.
- 1865-77: Reconstruction in the United States; Slavery is banned in the United States by the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 1866: Successful transatlantic telegraph cable follows an earlier attempt in 1858.
- 1866: Austro-Prussian War results in the dissolution of the German Confederation and the creation of the North German Confederation and the Austrian-Hungarian Dual Monarchy.
- 1866-1868: Famine in Finland.
- 1866-69: After the Meiji Restoration, Japan embarks on a program of rapid modernization.
- 1867: The United States purchased Alaska from Russia.
- 1867: Canadian Confederation formed.
- 1869: First Transcontinental Railroad completed in United States.
- 1869: The Suez Canal opens linking the Mediterranean to the Red Sea.



The Charge of the Light  
Brigade during the Crimean  
War



The first vessels sail through  
the Suez Canal

## 1870s



- 1870-71: The Franco-Prussian War results in the unifications of Germany and Italy, the collapse of the Second French Empire, the breakdown of Pax Britannica, and the emergence of a New Imperialism.
- 1871-1872: Famine in Persia is believed to have caused the death of 2 million.
- 1871-1914: Second Industrial Revolution
- 1870s- 90s: Long Depression in Western Europe and North America
- 1872: Yellowstone National Park is created.
- 1873: Maxwell's *A Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism* published.
- 1874: The British East India Company is dissolved.
- 1874-1875: First Republic in Spain.
- 1875-1900: 26 million Indians perished in India due to famine.
- 1876: The Bulgarian revolt against Ottoman rule.
- 1876-1879: 13 million Chinese died of famine in northern China.
- 1876-1914: The massive expansion in population, territory, industry and wealth in the United States is referred to as the Gilded Age.
- 1877: Great Railroad Strike in the United States may have been the world's first nationwide labor strike.
- 1877-78: The Balkans are freed from the Ottoman Empire after another Russo-Turkish War in the Treaty of Berlin.
- 1878: First commercial telephone exchange in New Haven, Connecticut.
- 1879: Anglo-Zulu War in South Africa.
  
- 1879-83: Chile battles with Peru and Bolivia over Andean territory in the War of the Pacific.

## 1880s

- 1880-1881: the First Boer War.
- 1881: First electrical power plant and grid in Godalming, Britain.
- 1881-1899: The Mahdist War in Sudan.
- 1883: Krakatoa volcano explosion.
- 1884-85: The Berlin Conference signals the start of the European "scramble for Africa". Attending nations also agree to ban trade in slaves.
- 1884-85: The Sino-French War led to the formation of French Indochina.
- 1885 : "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson is published.
- 1886: Russian-Circassian War ended with the defeat and the exile of many Circassians. Imam Shamil defeated.
- 1888: Jack the Ripper began murdering.
- 1888: Slavery banned in Brazil.
- 1889: Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad establishes the Ahmadi Muslim Community.
- 1889: End of the Brazilian Empire and the beginning of the Brazilian Republic

## 1890s

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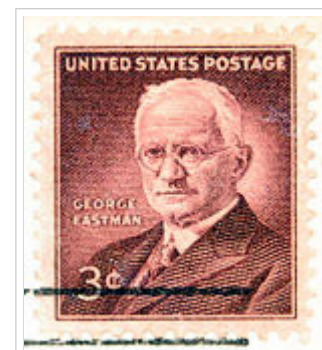
Alexander Graham Bell speaking into prototype model of the telephone



Thomas Edison in 1878



- 1890: The Wounded Knee Massacre was the last battle in the American Indian Wars. This event represents the end of the American Old West.
- 1894-95: After the First Sino-Japanese War, China cedes Taiwan to Japan and grants Japan a free hand in Korea.
- 1895-1896: Ethiopia defeats Italy in the First Italo–Ethiopian War.
- 1896: Olympic games revived in Athens.
- 1896: Klondike Gold Rush in Canada.
- 1897: Gojong, or Emperor Gwangmu, proclaims the short-lived Korean Empire: lasts until 1910.
- 1898: The United States gains control of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines after the Spanish-American War.
- 1898-1900: The Boxer Rebellion in China is suppressed by an Eight-Nation Alliance.
- 1898-1902: The One Thousand Days war in Colombia breaks out between the "Liberales" and "Conservadores," culminating with the loss of Panama in 1903.
- 1899: Second Boer War begins (-1902); Philippine-American War begins (-1913).



A 1954 U.S. stamp featuring George Eastman.

## Significant people

- Clara Barton, nurse, pioneer of the American Red Cross
- Sitting Bull, a leader of the Lakota
- Davy Crockett, *King of the wild frontier*, folk hero, frontiersman, soldier and politician
- Jefferson Davis, Confederate States President
- William Gilbert Grace, English cricketer
- Baron Haussmann, civic planner
- Franz Joseph I of Austria, Emperor of Austria
- Chief Joseph, a leader of the Nez Percé
- Ned Kelly, Australian folk hero, and outlaw
- Elizabeth Kenny, Australian Nurse and found an Innovative Treatment of Polio
- Sándor Kőrösi Csoma, explorer of the Tibetan culture
- Abraham Lincoln, United States President
- Fitz Hugh Ludlow, writer and explorer
- Florence Nightingale, nursing pioneer
- Napoleon I, First Consul and Emperor of the French
- Commodore Perry, U.S. Naval commander, opened the door to Japan
- Sacagawea, Important aide to Lewis&Clark
- Ignaz Semmelweis, proponent of hygienic practices
- Dr. John Snow, the founder of epidemiology
- F R Spofforth, Australian cricketer



*Sitting Bull*, 1885





- Queen Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom
- William Wilberforce, Abolitionist, Philanthropist
- Hong Xiuquan inspired China's Taiping Rebellion, perhaps the bloodiest civil war in human history

## Show business and Theatre

- Sarah Bernhardt, actress
- Edwin Booth, actor
- Anton Chekhov, playwright
- Buffalo Bill Cody, Wild West legend, and showman
- Eleonora Duse, actress
- Henrik Ibsen, playwright
- Edmund Kean, actor
- Charles Kean, actor
- Jenny Lind, opera singer called the *Swedish Nightingale*
- Céleste Mogador, dancer
- Lola Montez, exotic dancer
- Annie Oakley, Wild West, sharp-shooter
- Ellen Terry, actress

## Athletics

- Cap Anson, baseball player
- Gentleman Jim Corbett, heavyweight boxer
- Big Ed Delahanty, baseball player
- Bob Fitzsimmons, heavyweight boxer
- Pud Galvin, baseball player
- Olympic Games, 1894 the IOC is formed, and the first Summer Olympics games are held in Athens, Greece in 1896
- Old Hoss Radbourn, baseball player
- John L. Sullivan, heavyweight boxer

## Business

- Andrew Carnegie, Industrialist, philanthropist
- Henry Clay Frick, Industrialist, art collector
- Jay Gould, Railroad developer



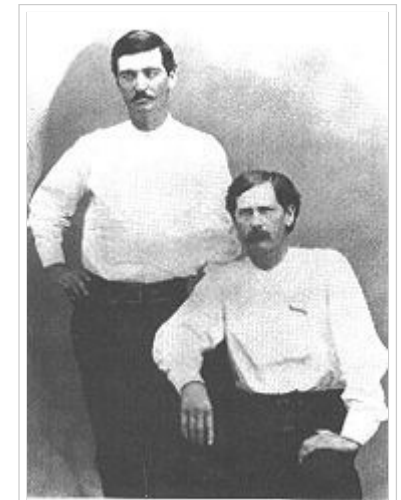
Franz Boas one of  
the pioneers of  
modern  
anthropology



- Andrew W. Mellon, Industrialist, philanthropist, art collector
- J.P. Morgan, banker, art collector
- John D. Rockefeller, Business tycoon, philanthropist
- Levi Strauss, clothing manufacturer

## Famous and infamous personalities

- William Bonney aka Billy the kid, Wild West, outlaw
- James Bowie, Soldier, Texan who died at the Alamo, invented the Bowie knife
- Jim Bridger, Wild West, Mountain man
- John Brown, a fanatical abolitionist who led an armed insurrection at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in 1859.
- Kit Carson, Wild West, frontiersman
- Cochise, Chiricahua Apache leader
- George Armstrong Custer, soldier, whose last stand was in the Wild West
- Wyatt Earp, Wild West, lawman
- Pat Garrett, Wild West, lawman
- Geronimo, Chiricahua Apache leader
- Wild Bill Hickock, Legendary Wild West, lawman
- Doc Holliday, Legendary Wild West, gambler, gunfighter
- Crazy Horse, War leader of the Lakota
- Frank James, Wild West, outlaw, older brother of Jesse
- Jesse James, Legendary Wild West, outlaw
- Calamity Jane, Frontierswoman
- Bat Masterson, Wild West, lawman, gambler, newspaperman
- William Poole aka *Bill the Butcher*, member of the New York City gang, the Bowery Boys, a bare-knuckle boxer, and a leader of the Know Nothing political movement.
- Belle Starr Legendary Wild West, female outlaw
- Nat Turner, led a slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia during August 1831.



Deputies Bat Masterson and  
Wyatt Earp in Dodge City,  
1876

## Anthropology

- Franz Boas
- Nicholai Miklukho-Maklai
- Lewis H. Morgan
- Edward Burnett Tylor
- Karl Verner



## Journalists, missionaries, explorers

- Roald Amundsen, explorer
- Samuel Baker, explorer
- Richard Francis Burton, explorer
- The Lewis&Clark expedition, exploration
- Horace Greeley, journalist
- David Livingstone, missionary
- Thomas Nast, journalist, caricaturist and editorial cartoonist
- Robert Peary, explorer
- John Hanning Speke, explorer
- Henry M. Stanley, journalist
- John L. O'Sullivan, journalist who coined *Manifest Destiny*

## Visual artists, painters, sculptors



The Realism and Romanticism of the early 19th century gave way to Impressionism and Post-Impressionism in the later half of the century, with Paris being the dominant art capital of the world. In the United States the Hudson River School was prominent. 19th century painters included:

- Albert Bierstadt
- William Blake
- Mary Cassatt
- Paul Cezanne
- Frederic Edwin Church
- Thomas Cole
- John Constable
- Camille Corot
- Gustave Courbet
- Honoré Daumier
- Edgar Degas
- Eugène Delacroix
- Thomas Eakins
- Caspar David Friedrich
- Paul Gauguin
- Théodore Géricault
- Vincent van Gogh
- Ando Hiroshige
- Hokusai
- Winslow Homer
- Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres
- Édouard Manet
- Claude Monet
- Berthe Morisot
- Edvard Munch
- Eadweard Muybridge, pioneer photographer
- Camille Pissarro
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir
- Auguste Rodin
- Albert Pinkham Ryder
- John Singer Sargent
- Georges Seurat
- Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec



*Liberty Leading the People*  
(1830, Louvre)



Monet's *Impression, Sunrise*,  
which gave the name to  
Impressionism



- Joseph Mallord William Turner
- James McNeil Whistler
- Tsukioka Yoshitoshi

## Music

Sonata form matured during the Classical era to become the primary form of instrumental compositions throughout the 19th century. Much of the music from the nineteenth century was referred to as being in the Romantic style. Many great composers lived through this era such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Liszt, Frédéric Chopin, Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Richard Wagner. Others included:

- Franz Schubert
- Robert Schumann
- Frédéric Chopin
- Hector Berlioz
- Felix Mendelssohn
- Giuseppe Verdi
- Anton Bruckner
- Johannes Brahms
- Gustav Mahler
- Antonín Dvořák
- Gilbert and Sullivan
- Camille Saint-Saëns
- Edvard Grieg
- Georges Bizet
- Alexander Borodin
- Modest Mussorgsky
- Niccolò Paganini
- Claude Debussy
- Jacques Offenbach
- Arnold Bocklin

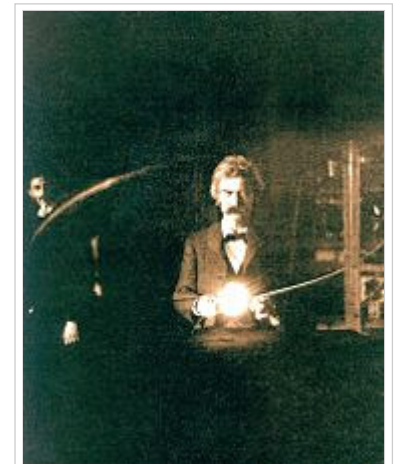
## Literature



Ludwig van Beethoven



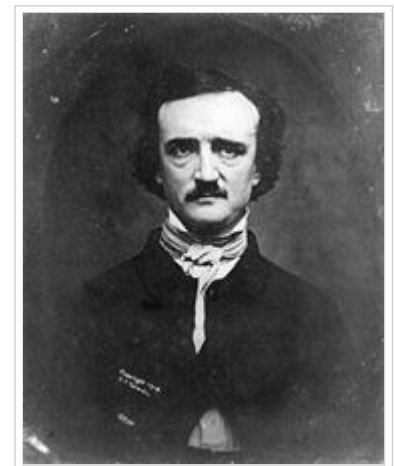
Charles Dickens



Mark Twain in 1894



Jane Austen



Daguerreotype of Edgar Allan Poe



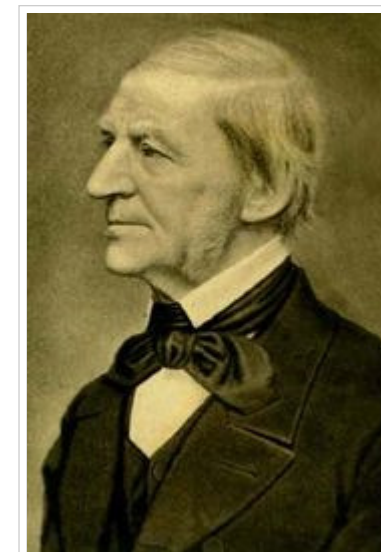
On the literary front the new century opens with Romanticism, a movement that spread throughout Europe in reaction to 18th-century rationalism, and it develops more or less along the lines of the Industrial Revolution, with a design to react against the dramatic changes wrought on nature by the steam engine and the railway. William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge are considered the initiators of the new school in England, while in the continent the German *Sturm und Drang* spreads its influence as far as Italy and Spain.

French arts had been hampered by the Napoleonic Wars but subsequently developed rapidly. Modernism began.

The Goncourts and Emile Zola in France and Giovanni Verga in Italy produce some of the finest naturalist novels. Italian naturalist novels are especially important in that they give a social map of the new unified Italy to a people that until then had been scarcely aware of its ethnic and cultural diversity. On February 21, 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published the Communist Manifesto.

There was a huge literary output during the 19th century. Some of the most famous writers included the Russians Leo Tolstoy, Anton Chekov and Fyodor Dostoevsky; the English Charles Dickens, John Keats, and Jane Austen; the Scottish Sir Walter Scott; the Irish Oscar Wilde; the Americans Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Mark Twain; and the French Victor Hugo, Honoré de Balzac, Jules Verne and Charles Baudelaire. Some other important writers of note included:

- Leopoldo Alas
- Hans Christian Andersen
- Machado de Assis
- Jane Austen
- Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda
- Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer
- Elizabeth Barret Browning
- Anne Brontë
- Charlotte Brontë
- Emily Brontë
- Lord Byron
- Georg Büchner
- Rosalía de Castro
- François-René de Chateaubriand
- Kate Chopin
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- James Fenimore Cooper
- Stephen Crane
- Eduard Douwes Dekker



Ralph Waldo Emerson





- Emily Dickinson
- Arthur Conan Doyle
- Alexandre Dumas, père (1802-1870)
- George Eliot
- Gustave Flaubert
- Margaret Fuller
- Elizabeth Gaskell
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- Nikolai Gogol
- Juana Manuela Gorriti
- Brothers Grimm
- Henry Rider Haggard
- Thomas Hardy
- Francis Bret Harte
- Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Friedrich Hölderlin
- Heinrich Heine
- Henrik Ibsen
- Washington Irving
- Henry James
- John Keats
- Caroline Kirkland
- Jules Laforgue
- Giacomo Leopardi
- Alessandro Manzoni
- Stéphane Mallarmé
- José Martí
- Clorinda Matto de Turner
- Herman Melville
- Friedrich Nietzsche
- Manuel González Prada
- Aleksandr Pushkin
- Arthur Rimbaud
- John Ruskin
- George Sand (Amandine-Aurore-Lucile Dupin)
- Percy Shelley
- Mary Shelley

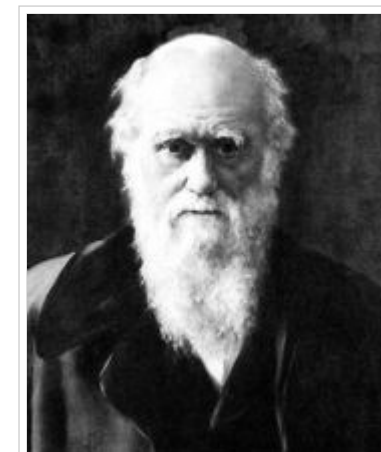


- Stendhal (Marie-Henri Beyle)
- Robert Louis Stevenson
- Bram Stoker
- Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson
- Henry David Thoreau
- Mark Twain
- Paul Verlaine
- Jules Verne
- HG Wells
- Walt Whitman
- William Wordsworth
- Émile Zola
- José Zorrilla

## Science

The 19th century saw the birth of science as a profession; the term **scientist** was coined in 1833 by William Whewell. Among the most influential ideas of the 19th century were those of Charles Darwin, who in 1859 published the book *The Origin of Species*, which introduced the idea of evolution by natural selection. Louis Pasteur made the first vaccine against rabies, and also made many discoveries in the field of chemistry, including the asymmetry of crystals. Thomas Alva Edison gave the world light with his invention of the lightbulb. Karl Weierstrass and other mathematicians also carried out the arithmetization of analysis. But the most important step in science at this time was the ideas formulated by Michael Faraday and James Clerk Maxwell. Their work changed the face of physics and made possible for new technology to come about. Other important 19th century scientists included:

- Amedeo Avogadro, physicist
- Johann Jakob Balmer, mathematician, physicist
- Henri Becquerel, physicist
- Alexander Graham Bell, inventor
- Ludwig Boltzmann, physicist
- János Bolyai, mathematician
- Louis Braille, inventor of braille
- Robert Bunsen, chemist
- Marie Curie, physicist, chemist
- Pierre Curie, physicist
- Louis Daguerre, chemist

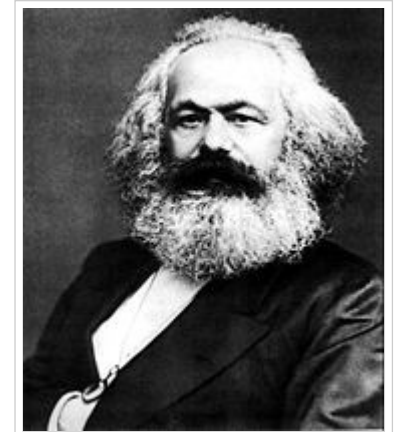


Charles Darwin

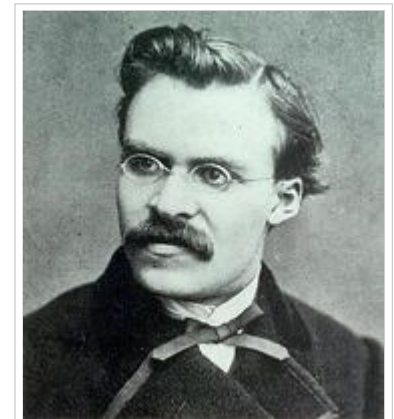


- Gottlieb Daimler, engineer, industrial designer and industrialist
- Christian Doppler, physicist, mathematician
- Thomas Edison, inventor
- Michael Faraday, scientist
- Léon Foucault, physicist
- Gottlob Frege, mathematician, logician and philosopher
- Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis
- Carl Friedrich Gauss, mathematician, physicist, astronomer
- Josiah Willard Gibbs, physicist
- Ernst Haeckel, biologist
- Heinrich Hertz, physicist
- Alexander von Humboldt, naturalist, explorer
- Nikolai Lobachevsky, mathematician
- William Thomson, Lord Kelvin, physicist
- Robert Koch, physician, bacteriologist
- Justus von Liebig, chemist
- Auguste and Louis Lumière, inventors
- Wilhelm Maybach, car-engine and automobile designer and industrialist.
- James Clerk Maxwell, physicist
- Gregor Mendel, biologist
- Dmitri Mendeleev, chemist
- Samuel Morey, inventor
- Nicéphore Niépce, inventor
- Alfred Nobel, chemist, engineer, inventor
- Louis Pasteur, microbiologist and chemist
- Bernhard Riemann, mathematician
- Santiago Ramón y Cajal, biologist
- Nikola Tesla, inventor

## Philosophy and religion



Karl Marx



Friedrich Nietzsche



Otto Von Bismarck, the Iron  
Chancellor



The 19th century was host to a variety of religious and philosophical thinkers, including:

- Bahá'u'lláh founded the Bahá'í Faith in Persia
- Mikhail Bakunin, anarchist
- William Booth, social reformer, founder of the Salvation Army
- Auguste Comte, philosopher
- Mary Baker Eddy, religious leader, founder of Christian Science
- Friedrich Engels, political philosopher
- Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, philosopher
- Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher
- Karl Marx, political philosopher
- John Stuart Mill, philosopher
- William Morris, social reformer
- Friedrich Nietzsche, philosopher
- Nikolai of Japan, religious leader, introduced Eastern Orthodoxy into Japan.
- Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Hindu mystic
- Claude Henri de Rouvroy, Comte de Saint-Simon, founder of French socialism
- Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher
- Joseph Smith, Jr. and Brigham Young, founders of Mormonism
- Ellen White religious author and co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## Politics and the Military

- Susan B. Anthony, U.S. women's rights advocate
- Otto von Bismarck, German chancellor
- John C. Calhoun, U.S. senator
- Henry Clay, U.S. statesman, "The Great Compromiser"
- Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America just before and during the American Civil War.
- Benjamin Disraeli, novelist and politician
- Frederick Douglass, U.S. abolitionist spokesman
- Ferdinand VII of Spain
- Joseph Fouché, French politician
- John C. Frémont, Explorer, Governor of California
- Giuseppe Garibaldi, unifier of Italy and Piedmontese soldier
- Isabella II of Spain
- Gojong of Joseon, Korean emperor
- William Lloyd Garrison, U.S. abolitionist leader



The last shogun **Tokugawa Yoshinobu** in French military uniform



One of the first photographs, produced in 1826 by Nicéphore Niépce



- William Ewart Gladstone, British prime minister
- Ulysses S. Grant, U.S. general and president
- George Hearst, U.S. Senator and father of William Randolph Hearst
- Theodor Herzl, founder of modern political Zionism
- Andrew Jackson, U.S. general and president
- Thomas Jefferson, American statesman, philosopher, and president
- Lajos Kossuth, Hungarian governor; leader of the war of independence
- Libertadores, Latin American liberators
- Robert E. Lee, Confederate general
- Abraham Lincoln, U.S. president; led the nation during the American Civil War
- Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada, first Prime Minister of Canada
- Mutsuhito, Japanese emperor
- Klemens von Metternich, Austrian Chancellor
- Napoleon Bonaparte, French general, first consul and emperor
- Napoleon III
- Cecil Rhodes
- William Tecumseh Sherman, Union general during the American Civil War
- Leland Stanford, Governor of California, U.S. Senator, entrepreneur
- István Széchenyi, aristocrat, leader of the Hungarian reform movement
- Charles Maurice de Talleyrand, French politician
- Harriet Tubman, African-American abolitionist, humanitarian, played a part in the Underground Railroad
- William M. Tweed, aka *Boss Tweed*, influential New York City politician, head of Tammany Hall
- Queen Victoria, British monarch
- Hong Xiuquan, revolutionary, self-proclaimed Son of God
- Tokugawa Yoshinobu, Japanese Shogun (The Last Shogun)

## Eras, Epochs, Decades and years

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# 20th century

2008/9 Schools Wikipedia Selection. Related subjects: General history

The **twentieth century** of the Common Era began on January 1, 1901 and ended on December 31, 2000, according to the Gregorian calendar. The century saw a remarkable shift in the way that vast numbers of people lived, as a result of technological, medical, social, ideological, and political innovation. Arguably more technological advances occurred in any ten-year period following World War I than the sum total of new technological development in any century before the industrial revolution. Terms like ideology, world war, genocide, and nuclear war entered common usage.

The period witnessed radical changes in many areas of human endeavors. Scientific discoveries, such as the theory of relativity and quantum physics, drastically changed the world-view of scientists, causing them to realize that the universe was much more complex than previously believed, and dashing the hopes at the end of the 19th century that the last few details of scientific knowledge were about to be filled in. Accelerating scientific understanding, more efficient communications, and faster transportation transformed the world in those hundred years more rapidly and widely than at any time in the past. It was a century that started with steam-powered ships and ended with the space shuttle. Horses and other pack animals, Western society's basic form of personal transportation for thousands of years, were replaced by automobiles within the span of a few decades. These developments were made possible by the large-scale exploitation of petroleum resources, which offered great amounts of energy in an easily portable and storable liquid form, but also caused widespread concerns about pollution and our long-term impact on the environment. Humanity explored outer space for the first time, even taking their first footsteps on the Moon.

Mass media, telecommunications, and information technology (especially the Internet) put the world's knowledge at the disposal of nearly anyone in most industrialized societies. Many peoples's view of the world changed significantly as they became much more aware of the suffering and struggles of others and, as such, became increasingly concerned with human rights. In the latter half of the century especially, mankind became aware of the vast scale on which it had affected the planet, and took steps to minimize its damage of the planet's fragile ecosystems. Advancements in medical technology also improved the welfare of many people on the planet; life expectancy increased dramatically from the mid-30s to the mid-60s worldwide during the century. The healthiest countries had life expectancies of over 80 years by the turn of the millennium. Rapid technological advancements, however, also allowed warfare to reach an unprecedented scale; World War II alone killed over 60 million people, while nuclear weaponry gave mankind the means to destroy itself in a very short amount of time. The world also became more culturally homogenized than ever with developments in transportation and communications technology, popular music and other influences of Western culture, international corporations, and what was arguably a true global economy by the end of the century.

<b>Millennium:</b>	2nd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	19th century · <b>20th century</b> · 21st century
<b>Decades:</b>	1900s 1910s 1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments



The Earth seen from Apollo 17. The second half of the 20th century saw an increase of interest in both space exploration and the environmental movement.





## Summary

The massive arms race of the 19th century culminated in a war which involved many powerful nations: World War I (1914–1918). This war drastically changed the way war was fought, as new inventions such as machine guns, tanks, chemical weapons, and grenades created stalemates on the battlefield and millions of troops were killed with little progress made on either side. After more than four years of trench warfare in western Europe, and 20 million dead, those powers who had formed the Triple Entente (France, Britain, and Russia, later replaced by the United States and joined by Italy) emerged victorious over the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire). In addition to annexing much of the colonial possessions of the vanquished states, the Triple Entente exacted punitive restitution payments from their former foes, plunging Germany in particular into economic depression. The Russian Empire was plunged into revolution during the conflict and transitioned into the first ever communist state, and the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires were dismantled at the war's conclusion. World War I brought about the end of the royal and imperial ages of Europe (although some portion of the British Empire remained until the 1997 handover of Hong Kong to China) and established the United States as a major world military power.

At the start of the period, Britain was arguably the world's most powerful nation. However, its economy was ruined by World War I, and its empire began to shrink, producing a growing power vacuum in Europe. Fascism, a movement which grew out of post-war angst and accelerated by the Great Depression of the 1930s, gained momentum in Italy, Germany and Spain in the 1920s and 1930s, culminating in World War II (1939–1945), sparked off by Nazi Germany's aggressive expansion at the expense of its neighbours. Meanwhile, Japan had rapidly industrialized and transformed itself into a technologically-advanced industrial power. Its military expansion into eastern Asia and the Pacific Ocean helped to bring the United States into World War II. Germany was defeated by the Soviet Union in the east and by the D-Day invasion of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Free France from the west. The war ended with the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japan. Japan later became a U.S. ally with a powerful economy based on consumer goods and trade. Germany was divided between the western powers and the Soviet Union; all areas recaptured by the Soviet Union ( East Germany and eastward) were essentially transitioned into Soviet puppet states under communist rule. Meanwhile, western Europe was influenced by the American Marshall Plan and made a quick economic recovery, becoming major allies of the United States under capitalist economies and relatively democratic governments.

World War II left about 60 million people dead. When the conflict ended in 1945, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as very powerful nations. Allies during the war, they soon became hostile to one other as the competing ideologies of capitalism and communism occupied Europe, divided by the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall. The military alliances headed by these nations (NATO in North America and western Europe; the Warsaw Pact in eastern Europe) were prepared to wage total war with each other throughout the Cold War (1947–1991). The period was marked by a new arms race, and nuclear weapons, the most devastating ones yet to have been developed, were produced in the tens of thousands, sufficient to end most life on the planet had they ever been used. This is believed by some historians to have staved off an inevitable war between the two, as neither could win if their full nuclear arsenals were unleashed upon each other. This was known as mutually assured destruction (MAD). Although the Soviet Union and the United States never directly entered conflict with each other, several proxy wars, such as the Korean War (1950–1953) and the Vietnam War (1957–1975), were waged to contain the spread of communism.

After World War II, most of the European-colonized world in Africa and Asia gained independence in a process of decolonization. This, and the drain of the two world wars, caused Europe to lose much of its long-held power. Meanwhile, the wars helped the United States to exert a strong influence over many world affairs. American culture spread around the world with the advent of Hollywood, Broadway, rock and roll, pop music, fast food, big-box stores, and the hip-hop lifestyle. After the Soviet Union collapsed under internal pressure in 1991, a ripple effect led to the dismantling of communist states across eastern Europe and



their rocky transitions into market economies.

After World War II, the United Nations was established as an international forum in which the world's nations could get together and discuss issues diplomatically. It has enacted laws on conducting warfare, environmental protection, international sovereignty, and human rights, among other things. Peacekeeping forces consisting of troops provided by various countries, in concert with various United Nations and other aid agencies, has helped to relieve famine, disease, and poverty, and to contain local wars and conflicts. Europe slowly united, politically and economically, into what eventually became the European Union, which consisted of 15 European countries by the end of the century.

Perhaps the first major policy of the United Nations was the creation of Israel, a country created as a homeland for the Jewish population. This infuriated some Muslims who had inhabited the area for over a thousand years. Some surrounding Arab countries quickly declared war on Israel, sparking a conflict which became one of the most volatile global conflicts of the latter half of the century. Behind nearly unilateral support from the United States and other Western nations, Israel waged several wars with its Arab neighbors in 1948, 1958, 1967, 1973, and 1982. Anger over the Israeli capture of Palestinian lands during the Six-Day War of 1967 led to a wave of attacks by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), during the 1970s. Negotiations during the late 1980s and 1990s led to the PLO transitioning officially to a political organization; however, other Palestinian groups continued attacks against Israel. A derailing of the peace process during the late 1990s led to a resumption of attacks around the turn of the millennium. The political situation in the Middle East was further complicated as questions arose over the influence of Islam on the governments of many Middle Eastern countries; perceived human rights violations by many of these countries; the possession of vast petroleum and natural gas reserves in the Persian Gulf region; and the Soviet war in Afghanistan that fueled such rogue Islamic groups as Al-Qaeda that would change the political landscape in the following century.

In approximately the last third of the century, concern about humankind's impact on the Earth's environment caused environmentalism to become a major citizen movement. In many countries, especially in Europe, the movement was channeled into politics partly through Green parties, though awareness of the problem permeated societies. By the end of the century, some progress had been made in cleaning up the environment in first-world countries, though pollution continued apace, and environmental problems in newly industrializing countries, such as India and China, had grown rapidly. Increasing awareness and pessimism over global warming began in the 1980s, sparking one of the most heated social and political debates by the turn of the century.

Medical science and the Green Revolution in agriculture enabled the world's population to grow from about 1.65 billion to about 6 billion. This rapid population increase quickly became a major concern and directly caused or contributed to several global issues, including pressure on finite natural resources, conflict, poverty, major environmental issues, and severe overcrowding in some areas.

## **The nature of change**

Due to continuing industrialization and expanding trade, many significant changes of the 20th century were, directly or indirectly, economic and technological in nature. Inventions such as the light bulb, the automobile, and the telephone in the late 1800s, followed by supertankers, airliners, motorways, radio, television, antibiotics, frozen food, computers and microcomputers, the internet, and mobile telephones affected the quality of life for great numbers. Economic development was the force behind vast changes in everyday life, to a degree which was unprecedented in human history. Still, the gulf between the world's rich and poor grew much wider than it had ever been in the past. While increasing industrialization and world trade had helped great numbers out of at least abject poverty by the century's end, the poorer half of the world population — three billion people — lived on the purchasing power of two U.S. dollars or less per day.

<http://cd3wd.com> [wikipedia-for-schools](http://wikipedia-for-schools) <http://gutenberg.org> page no: 162 of 194



## Developments in brief

### Wars and politics

- After decades of struggle by the women's suffrage movement, all western countries gave women the right to vote.
- Rising nationalism and increasing national awareness were among the many causes of World War I (1914–1918), the first of two wars to involve many major world powers including Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Russia/USSR, the United States and the British Empire. World War I led to the creation of many new countries, especially in Eastern Europe. At the time it was said by many to be the "war to end all wars".



- A violent civil war broke out in Spain in 1936 when General Francisco Franco rebelled against the Second Spanish Republic. Many consider this war as a testing battleground for World War II as the fascist armies bombed some Spanish territories.
- The economic and political aftermath of World War I and the Great Depression in the 1930s led to the rise of fascism and nazism in Europe, and subsequently to World War II (1939–1945). This war also involved Asia and the Pacific, in the form of Japanese aggression against China and the United States. Civilians also suffered greatly in World War II, due to the aerial bombing of cities on both sides, and the German genocide of the Jews and others, known as the Holocaust. In 1945, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed with nuclear weapons.
- During World War I, in Russia the Bolshevik putsch took over the Russian Revolution of 1917, precipitating the founding of the Soviet Union and the rise of communism. After the Soviet Union's involvement in World War II, communism became a major force in global politics, notably in Eastern Europe, China, Indochina and Cuba, where communist parties gained near-absolute power. This led to the Cold War and proxy wars with the West, including wars in Korea (1950–1953) and Vietnam (1957–1975).
- The Soviet authorities caused the deaths of millions of their own citizens in order to eliminate domestic opposition. More than 18 million people passed through the Gulag, with a further 6 million being exiled to remote areas of the Soviet Union.
- The civil rights movement in the United States and the movement against apartheid in South Africa challenged racial segregation in those countries.
- The two world wars led to efforts to increase international cooperation, notably through the founding of the League of Nations after World War I, and its successor, the United Nations, after World War II.
- The creation of Israel, a Jewish state in the Middle East, by the British Mandate of Palestine fueled many regional conflicts. These were also influenced by the vast oil fields in many of the other countries of the mostly Arab region.
- The end of colonialism led to the independence of many African and Asian countries. During the Cold War, many of these aligned with the United States, the USSR, or China for defense.
- The Great Chinese Famine was a direct cause of the death of tens of millions of Chinese peasants between 1959 and 1962. It is thought to be the largest famine in human history.
- The revolutions of 1989 released Eastern and Central Europe from Soviet supremacy. Soon thereafter, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia dissolved, the latter violently over several years, into successor states, many rife with ethnic nationalism.
- After a long period of civil wars and conflicts with European powers, China's last imperial dynasty ended in 1912. The resulting republic was replaced, after yet another civil war, by a communist People's Republic in 1949. At the end of the century, though still ruled by a communist party, China's economic system had transformed almost completely to capitalism.
- European integration began in earnest in the 1950s, and eventually led to the European Union, a political and economic union that comprised 15 countries at the end of the century.



#### **Warfare in the early 20th Century (1914–1918)**

*Clockwise from top:* front line Trenches, a British Mark I Tank crossing a trench, the Royal Navy battleship HMS Irresistible sinking after striking a mine at the battle of the Dardanelles, a Vickers machine gun crew with gas masks, and German Albatros D.III biplanes.



## Culture and entertainment

- As the century began, Paris was the artistic capital of the world, where both French and foreign writers, composers and visual artists gathered. By the end of the century, the focal point of culture had moved to the United States, especially New York City and Los Angeles.
- Movies, music and the media had a major influence on fashion and trends in all aspects of life. As many movies and music originate from the United States, American culture spread rapidly over the world.
- After gaining political rights in the United States and much of Europe in the first part of the century, and with the advent of new birth control techniques women became more independent throughout the century.
- In classical music, composition branched out into many completely new domains, including dodecaphony, aleatoric and chance music, and minimalism. Electronic musical instruments were developed as well, vastly broadening the scope of sounds available to composers and performers.
- The jazz and rock and roll genres developed in the United States, and quickly became the dominant forms of popular music. Many other genres of pop music were born in the latter half of the century, such as heavy metal, punk, alternative, house, dance, reggae, soul, rap and hip-hop.
- The art world experienced the development of new styles and explorations such as expressionism, Dadaism, cubism, de stijl, abstract expressionism and surrealism.
- The modern art movement revolutionized art culture and set the stage for contemporary postmodern art practices.fjgfhggd
- In Europe, modern architecture departed radically from the excess decoration of the Victorian era. Streamlined forms inspired by machines became more commonplace, enabled by developments in building materials and technologies. Before World War II, many European architects moved to the United States, where modern architecture continued to develop.
- The automobile vastly increased the mobility of people in the Western countries in the early to mid-century, and in many other places by the end of the century. City design throughout most of the West became focused on transport via car.
- The popularity of sport increased considerably — both as an activity for all, not just the elite, and as entertainment, particularly on television.



*I and the Village* by Marc Chagall, a modern painter.

## Medicine

- Placebo- controlled, randomized, blinded clinical trials became a powerful tool for testing new medicines.
- Antibiotics drastically reduced mortality from bacterial diseases and their prevalence.
- A vaccine was developed for polio, ending a worldwide epidemic. Effective vaccines were also developed for a number of other serious infectious diseases, including diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), chickenpox, influenza, hepatitis A, and hepatitis B.
- A successful application of epidemiology and vaccination led to the eradication of the smallpox virus in humans.
- X-rays became powerful diagnostic tool for wide spectrum of diseases, from bone fractures to cancer. In the 1960s, computerized tomography was invented. Other important diagnostic tools developed were sonography and magnetic resonance imaging.
- Development of vitamins virtually eliminated scurvy and other vitamin-deficiency diseases from industrialized societies.
- New psychiatric drugs were developed. These include antipsychotics for treating hallucinations and delusions, and antidepressants for treating depression.
- The role of tobacco smoking in the causation of cancer and other diseases was proven during the 1950s (see British Doctors Study).



- New methods for cancer treatment, including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy, were developed. As a result, cancer could often be cured or placed in remission.
- The development of blood typing and blood banking made blood transfusion safe and widely available.
- The invention and development of immunosuppressive drugs and tissue typing made organ and tissue transplantation a clinical reality.
- Research on sleep and circadian rhythms led to the discovery of sleep disorders.
- New methods for heart surgery were developed.
- Cocaine and heroin were found to be dangerous addictive drugs, and their wide usage had been outlawed, and mind-altering drugs such as LSD and MDMA were discovered.
- Contraceptive drugs were developed, which reduced population growth rates.
- The development of medical insulin during the 1920s helped raise the life expectancy of diabetics to three times of what it had been earlier.
- The elucidation of the structure and function of DNA initiated the development of genetic engineering and the mapping of the human genome.

## Notable diseases

- An influenza pandemic, the Spanish Flu, killed anywhere from 20 to 100 million people between 1918 and 1919.
- A new viral disease, AIDS, arose in Africa and subsequently killed millions of people throughout the world. AIDS treatments remained inaccessible to many people living with AIDS in developing countries, and a cure has yet to be discovered.
- Because of increased life spans, the prevalence of cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other diseases of old age increased.
- Sedentary lifestyles, due to labor-saving devices and technology, contributed to an "epidemic" of obesity, at first in the rich countries, but by the end of the century, increasingly in the developing world, too.

## Science and technology

- The first airplane was flown in 1903. With the engineering of the faster jet engine in the 1940s, mass air travel became commercially viable.
- The assembly line made mass production of the automobile viable. By the end of the century, billions of people had automobiles for personal transportation. The combination of the automobile and air travel allowed for unprecedented personal mobility.
- The integrated circuit revolutionized computers, leading to the proliferation of the personal computer in the 1980s and the public-use Internet in the 1990s.
- The Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union gave a peaceful outlet to the political and military tensions of the Cold War, leading to man's first landing on another world--the Moon--with America's Apollo 11 mission in 1969. As the century ended, a permanent manned presence in space was being founded with the construction of the International Space Station.

## Major events

### The world at the beginning of the century

In Europe, the British Empire achieved the height of its power. Germany and Italy, which came into existence as unified nations at the end of the 19th century,



grew in power, challenging the traditional hegemony of Britain and France. With nationalism in full force at this time, the European powers competed with each other for land, military strength and economic power.

Asia and Africa were for the most part still under control of their European colonizers. The major exceptions were China and Japan. The Russo-Japanese War in 1905 was the first major instance of a European power being defeated by a so-called inferior nation. The war itself strengthened Japanese militarism and enhanced Japan's rise to the status of a world power. Tsarist Russia, on the other hand, did not handle the defeat well. The war exposed the country's military weakness and increasing economic backwardness, and contributed to the Russian Revolution of 1905, the dress rehearsal for the conclusive one in 1917.

Already in the 19th century, the United States had become an influential actor in world politics. It had made its presence known on the world stage by challenging Spain in the Spanish-American War, gaining the colonies of Cuba and the Philippines as protectorates. Now, with growth in immigration and a resolution of the national unity issue through the bloody American Civil War, America was emerging as an industrial power as well, rivaling Britain, Germany, and France.

With increasing rivalry among the European powers, and the rise of Japan and the United States, the stage was set for a major upheaval in world affairs.

### **"The war to end all wars": World War I (1914–1918)**

The First World War, termed "The Great War" by contemporaries, started in 1914 and ended in 1918. It was ignited by the Assassination in Sarajevo of the Austro-Hungarian Empire's heir to the throne, Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand, by Gavrilo Princip of the Serbian nationalist organization "Black Hand". Bound by Slavic nationalism to help the small Serbian state, the Russians came to the aid of the Serbs when they were attacked. Interwoven alliances, an increasing arms race, and old hatreds dragged Europe into war. The Allies, known initially as "The Triple Entente", comprised the British Empire, Russia and France, as well as Italy and the United States later in the war. On the other side, Germany, along with Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and later the Ottoman Empire, were known as "The Central Powers".

In 1917, Russia ended hostile actions against the Central Powers after the fall of the Tsar. The Bolsheviks negotiated the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany, although it was at huge cost to Russia. Although Germany shifted huge forces from the eastern to the western front after signing the treaty, it couldn't stop the Allied advance, especially with the entrance of American troops in 1918.

The war itself was also a chance for the combatant nations to show off their military strength and technological ingenuity. The Germans introduced the machine gun and deadly gases. The British first used the tank. Both sides had a chance to test out their new aircraft to see if they could be used in warfare. It was widely believed that the war would be short. Unfortunately, since trench warfare was the best form of defense, advances on both sides were very slow, and came at a terrible cost in lives.

When the war was finally over in 1918, the results would set the stage for the next twenty years. First and foremost, the Germans were forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles, forcing them to make exorbitant payments to repair damages caused during the War. Many Germans felt these reparations were unfair because they did not actually "lose" the war nor did they feel they caused the war (see Stab-in-the-back legend). Germany was never occupied by Allied troops, yet it had to accept a liberal democratic government imposed on it by the victors after the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm.



Much of the map of Europe was redrawn by the victors based upon the theory that future wars could be prevented if all ethnic groups had their own "homeland". New states like Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia were created out of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire to accommodate the nationalist aspirations of these groups. An international body called the League of Nations was formed to mediate disputes and prevent future wars, although its effectiveness was severely limited by, among other things, its reluctance and inability to act.

## **The Russian Revolution and communism**

The Russian Revolution of 1917 sparked a wave of communist revolutions across Europe, prompting many to believe that a socialist world revolution could be realized in the near future. However, the European revolutions were defeated, Lenin died in 1924, and within a few years Joseph Stalin displaced Leon Trotsky as the *de facto* leader of the Soviet Union. The idea of worldwide revolution was no longer in the forefront, as Stalin concentrated on "socialism in one country" and embarked on a bold plan of collectivization and industrialization. The majority of socialists and even many communists became disillusioned with Stalin's autocratic rule, his purges and the assassination of his "enemies", as well as the news of famines he imposed on his own people.

Communism was strengthened as a force in Western democracies when the global economy crashed in 1929 in what became known as the Great Depression. Many people saw this as the first stage of the end of the capitalist system and were attracted to Communism as a solution to the economic crisis, especially as the Soviet Union's economic development in the 1930s was strong, unaffected by the capitalist world's crisis.

## **Between the wars**

### **Economic depression**

After World War I, the global economy remained strong through the 1920s. The war had provided a stimulus for industry and for economic activity in general. There were many warning signs foretelling the collapse of the global economic system in 1929 that were generally not understood by the political leadership of the time. The responses to the crisis often made the situation worse, as millions of people watched their savings become next to worthless and the idea of a steady job with a reasonable income fading away.

Many sought answers in alternative ideologies such as communism and fascism. They believed that the capitalist economic system was collapsing, and that new ideas were required to meet the crisis. The early responses to the crisis were based upon the assumption that the free market would correct itself. This, however, did very little to correct the crisis or to alleviate the suffering of many ordinary people. Thus, the idea that the existing system could be reformed by government intervention in the economy rather than by continuing the *laissez-faire* approach became prominent as a solution to the crisis. Democratic governments assumed the responsibility to provide needed services in society and alleviate poverty. Thus was born the welfare state. These two politico-economic principles, the belief in government intervention and the welfare state, as opposed to the belief in the free market and private institutions, would define many political battles for the rest of the century.

### **The rise of dictatorship**





Fascism first appeared in Italy with the rise to power of Benito Mussolini in 1922. The ideology was supported by a large proportion of the upper classes as a strong challenge to the threat of communism.

When Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933, a new variant of fascism called Nazism took over Germany and ended the German experiment with democracy. The National Socialist party in Germany was dedicated to the restoration of German honour and prestige, the unification of German-speaking peoples, and the annexation of Central and Eastern Europe as vassal states, with the Slavic population to act as slave labor to serve German economic interests. There was also a strong appeal to a mythical racial purity (the idea that Germans were the *Herrenvolk* or the "master race"), and a vicious anti-semitism which promoted the idea of Jews as subhuman (*Untermensch*) and worthy only of extermination.

Many people in Western Europe and the United States greeted the rise of Hitler with relief or indifference. They could see nothing wrong with a strong Germany ready to take on the communist menace to the east. Anti-semitism during the Great Depression was widespread as many were content to blame the Jews for causing the economic downturn.

Hitler began to put his plan in motion, annexing Austria in the *Anschluss*, or reunification of Austria to Germany, in 1938. He then negotiated the annexation of the Sudetenland, a German speaking mountainous area of Czechoslovakia, in the Munich Conference. The British were eager to avoid war and believed Hitler's assurance to protect the security of the Czech state. Hitler annexed the rest of the Czech state shortly afterwards. It could no longer be argued that Hitler was solely interested in unifying the German people.

Fascism was not the only form of dictatorship to rise in the post-war period. Almost all of the new democracies in the nations of Eastern Europe collapsed and were replaced by authoritarian regimes. Spain also became a dictatorship under the leadership of General Francisco Franco after the Spanish Civil War. Totalitarian states attempted to achieve total control over their subjects as well as their total loyalty. They held the state above the individual, and were often responsible for some of the worst acts in history, such as the Holocaust Adolf Hitler perpetrated on Ashkenazi Jews, or the Great Purge Stalin perpetrated on the Russians later in the century.

## **Global war: World War II (1939–1945)**

### **The war in Europe**



Soon after the events in Czechoslovakia, Britain and France issued assurances of protection to Poland, which seemed to be next on Hitler's list. World War II officially began on 1 September 1939. On that date, Hitler unleashed his Blitzkrieg, or lightning war, against Poland. Britain and France, much to Hitler's surprise, immediately declared war upon Germany, but the help they could afford Poland was negligible. After only a few weeks, the Polish forces were overwhelmed, and its government fled to exile in London (see Polish government in Exile).

In starting World War II, the Germans had unleashed a new type of warfare, characterized by highly mobile forces and the use of massed aircraft. The German strategy concentrated upon the devotion of the *Wehrmacht*, or German army, to the use of tank groups, called panzer divisions, and groups of mobile infantry, in concert with relentless attacks from the air. Encirclement was also a major part of the strategy. This change smashed any expectations that the Second World War would be fought in the trenches like the first.

As Hitler's forces conquered Poland, the Soviet Union, under General Secretary Joseph Stalin, was acting out guarantees of territory under a secret part of a nonaggression pact between the USSR and Germany known as the Nazi-Soviet Pact. This treaty gave Stalin free rein to take the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, as well as Eastern Poland, all of which would remain in Soviet possession after the war. Stalin also launched an attack on Finland, which he hoped to reduce to little more than a Soviet puppet state, but the Red Army met staunch Finnish resistance in what became known as the Winter War, and succeeded in gaining only limited territory from the Finns. This action would later cause the Finns to ally with Germany when its attack on the Soviet Union came in 1941.

After the defeat of Poland, a period known as the Phony War ensued during the winter of 1939–1940. All of this changed on 10 May 1940, when the Germans launched a massive attack on the Low Countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg), most probably to surmount the Maginot Line of defenses on the Franco-German border. This witnessed the incredible fall of Eben Emael, a Belgian fort considered impregnable and guarded by 600 Belgians, to a force of only 88 German paratroopers. The worst of this was that King Léopold III of Belgium surrendered to the Germans on 28 May without warning his allies, exposing the entire flank of the Allied forces to German panzer groups. Following the conquest of the Low Countries, Hitler occupied Denmark and Norway, beginning on 9 April 1940. Norway was strategically important because of its sea routes which supplied crucial Swedish ore to the Nazi war machine. Norway held on for a few crucial weeks, but Denmark surrendered after only four days.

With the disaster in the Low Countries, France, considered at the time to have had the finest army in world, lasted only four weeks, with Paris being occupied on 14 June. Three days later, Marshal Philippe Pétain surrendered to the Germans. The debacle in France also led to one of the war's greatest mysteries, and Hitler's first great blunder, Dunkirk, where a third of a million trapped British and French soldiers were evacuated by not only British war boats, but every boat the army could find, including fishing rafts. Hitler refused to "risk" his panzers on action at Dunkirk, listening to the advice of Air Minister Hermann Göring and allowing the *Luftwaffe*, or German Air Force, to handle the job. The irony of this was that the escaped men would form the core of the army that was to invade the beaches of Normandy in 1944. Hitler did not occupy all of France, but about three-quarters, including all of the Atlantic coast, allowing Marshal Pétain to remain as dictator of an area known as Vichy France. However, members of the escaped French Army formed around General Charles de Gaulle to create the Free French forces, which would continue to battle Hitler in the stead of an independent France. At this moment, Mussolini declared war on the Allies on 10 June, thinking that the war was almost over, but he managed only to occupy a few hundred yards of French territory. Throughout the war, the Italians would be more



Nazi massacre in Kerch, 1942. The Soviet Union lost around 27 million people during the war, about half of all World War II casualties.



of a burden to the Nazis than a boon, and would later cost them precious time in Greece.

Hitler now turned his eyes on Great Britain, which stood alone against him. He ordered his generals to draw up plans for an invasion, code named Operation Sea Lion, and ordered the Luftwaffe to launch a massive air war against the British isles, which would come to be known as the Battle of Britain. The British at first suffered steady losses, but eventually managed to turn the air war against Germany, taking down 2,698 German planes throughout the summer of 1940 to only 915 Royal Air Force (RAF) losses. The key turning point came when the Germans discontinued successful attacks against British airplane factories and radar command and coordination stations and turned to civilian bombing known as terror bombing using the distinctive "bomb" sound created by the German dive-bomber, the Stuka. The switch came after a small British bombing force had attacked Berlin. Hitler was infuriated. However, his decision to switch the attacks' focus allowed the British to rebuild the RAF and eventually force the Germans to indefinitely postpone Sea Lion.

The importance of the Battle of Britain is that it marked the beginning of Hitler's defeat. Secondly, it marked the advent of radar as a major weapon in modern air war. With radar, squadrons of fighters could be quickly assembled to respond to incoming bombers attempting to bomb civilian targets. It also allowed the identification of the type and a guess at the number of incoming enemy aircraft, as well as tracking of friendly airplanes.

Hitler, taken aback by his defeat over the skies of Britain, now turned his gaze eastward to the Soviet Union. Despite having signed the non-aggression pact with Stalin, Hitler despised communism and wished to destroy it in the land of its birth. He originally planned to launch the attack in early spring of 1941 to avoid the disastrous Russian winter. However, a pro-allied coup in Yugoslavia and Mussolini's almost utter defeat in his invasion of Greece from occupied Albania prompted Hitler to launch a personal campaign of revenge in Yugoslavia and to occupy Greece at the same time. The Greeks would have a bitter revenge of sorts; the attack caused a delay of several crucial weeks of the invasion of Russia.

On 22 June 1941, Hitler attacked Stalin with the largest army the world has ever seen. Over three million men and their weapons were put into service against the Soviet Union. Stalin had been warned about the attack, both by other countries and by his own intelligence network, but he had refused to believe it. Therefore, the Russian army was largely unprepared and suffered incredible setbacks in the early part of the war, despite Stalin's orders to counterattack the Germans. Throughout 1941, German forces, divided into 3 army groups (Army Group A, Army Group B, and Army Group C), occupied the Eastern Europe states of Ukraine and Belarus, laid siege to Leningrad (present day Saint Petersburg), and advanced to within 15 miles of Moscow. At this critical moment, the Russian winter, which began early that year, stalled the German *Wehrmacht* to a halt at the gates of Moscow. Stalin had planned to evacuate the city, and had already moved important government functions, but decided to stay and rally the city. Recently arrived troops from the east under the command of military genius Marshal Georgi Zhukov counterattacked the Germans and drove them from Moscow. The German army then dug in for the winter.

Here marks the third great blunder of Hitler's. He could have won the war in the USSR except for a few reasons. One, he started the war too late to avoid the Russian winter. Second, he tried to capture too much too fast; he wanted the German army to advance all the way to the Urals, which amounted to one million square miles (2,600,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of territory, when he probably should have concentrated on taking Moscow and thereby driving a wedge into heart of the Soviet Union. Third, he ignored the similar experiences of Napoleon Bonaparte nearly one hundred and fifty years earlier in his attempt to conquer Russia. Despite this, Stalin was not in a good position. Roughly two-fifths of the USSR's industrial might was in German hands. Also, the Germans were at first seen by many as liberators fighting the communists. Stalin was also not a very able general, and like Hitler, at first tried to fight the war as a military strategist. However, Hitler managed to turn all of his advantages against himself, and lost the only remaining hope for Germany: seizing the Caucasus and taking control of North Africa and the oil-rich Middle East.



Mussolini had launched an offensive in North Africa from Italian-controlled Libya into British-controlled Egypt. However, the British smashed the Italians and were on the verge of taking Libya. Hitler decided to help by sending in a few thousand troops, a *Luftwaffe* division, and the first-rate general Erwin Rommel. Rommel managed to use his small force to repeatedly smash massively superior British forces and to recapture the port city of Tobruk and advance into Egypt. However, Hitler, embroiled in his invasion of the Soviet Union, refused to send Rommel any more troops. If he had, Rommel might have been able to seize the Middle East, where Axis-friendly regimes had taken root in Iraq and Persia (present-day Iran). Here, Rommel could have cut the major supply route of the Soviets through Persia, and helped take the Caucasus, virtually neutralizing Britain's effectiveness in the war and potentially sealing the fate of the USSR. However, Hitler blundered again, throwing away the last vestiges of the German advantage on his coming offensive in 1942.

After the winter, Hitler launched a fresh offensive in the spring of 1942, with the aim of capturing the oil-rich Caucasus and the city of Stalingrad. However, he repeatedly switched his troops to where they were not needed. The offensive bogged down, and the entire 6th Army, considered the best of German troops, was trapped in Stalingrad. Hitler now refused to let 6th Army break out. He insisted that the German army would force its way in. Hermann Goering also assured Hitler that the *Luftwaffe* could supply the 6th Army adequately, when it could in reality only supply a minute fraction of the needed ammunition and rations. Eventually, the starved 6th Army surrendered, dealing a severe blow to the Germans. In the end, the defeat at Stalingrad was the turning point for the war in the east.

Meanwhile, the Japanese had attacked the United States at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii on 7 December 1941. This disastrous attack forced the Americans into the war. Hitler need not have declared war on the United States, and kept its continued neutrality in Europe, but he did not. Both he and Mussolini declared war only a few days after the attack. At the time, most German generals, preoccupied with war in Russia, did not even notice America's entrance. It was to be a crucial blunder.

Throughout the rest of 1942 and 1943, the Soviets began to gain ground against the Germans. The tank battle of Kursk is one example. However, by this time, Rommel had been forced to abandon North Africa after a defeat by Montgomery at El Alamein, and the *Wehrmacht* had encountered serious casualties that it could not replace. Hitler also insisted on a "hold at all costs" policy which forbade relinquishing any ground. He followed a "fight to the last man" policy that was completely ineffective. By the beginning of 1944, Hitler had lost all initiative in Russia, and was struggling even to hold back the tide turning against him.

From 1942 to 1944, the United States and Britain acted in only a limited manner in the European theatre, much to the chagrin of Stalin. They drove out the Germans in Africa, invading Morocco and Algeria on 8 November 1942. Then, on 10 July 1943, the Allies invaded Sicily, in preparation for an advance through Italy, the "soft underbelly" of the Axis, as Winston Churchill called it. On 9 September, the invasion of Italy began. By the winter of 1943, the southern half of Italy was in Allied hands. The Italians, most of whom did not really support the war, had already turned against Mussolini. In July, he had been stripped of power and taken prisoner, though the Italians feigned continued support of the Axis. On 8 September, the Italians formally surrendered, but most of Italy not in Allied hands was controlled by German troops and those loyal to Mussolini's (Mussolini had been freed by German paratroopers) new Italian Social Republic, which in reality consisted of the shrinking zone of German control. The Germans offered staunch resistance, but by 4 June 1944, Rome had fallen.

The Second Battle of the Atlantic took place from 1942 to 1944. The Germans hoped to sever the vital supply lines between Britain and America, sinking many tons of shipping with U-boats, German submarines. However, the development of the destroyer and aircraft with a longer patrol range were effective at countering the U-boat threat. By 1944, the Germans had lost the battle.



On 6 June 1944, the Western Allies finally launched the long awaited assault on "Fortress Europe" so wanted by Stalin. The offensive, codenamed Operation Overlord, began the early morning hours of 6 June. The day, known as D-day, was marked by foul weather. Rommel, who was now in charge of defending France against possible Allied attack, thought the Allies would not attack during the stormy weather, and was on holiday in Germany. Besides this, the Germans were expecting an attack, but at the natural harbour of Calais and not the beaches of Normandy; a blunder that sealed the operation's success. They did not know about the Allies' artificial harbours, and clues planted by the Allies suggested Calais as the landing site.

By this time, the war was looking ever darker for Germany. On 20 July 1944, a group of conspiring German officers attempted to assassinate Hitler. The bomb they used did injure him, but the second was not used, and a table shielded Hitler in a stroke of luck. The plotters still could have launched a coup, but only the head of occupied Paris acted, arresting SS and Gestapo forces in the city. The German propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, rallied the Nazis, and saved the day for Hitler.

In France, the Allies took Normandy and finally Paris on 25 August. In the east, the Russians had advanced almost to the former Polish-Russian border. At this time, Hitler introduced the V-weapons, the V-1 and, later, the V-2, the first rockets used in modern warfare. The V-1 was often intercepted by air pilots, but the V-2 was extremely fast and carried a large payload. However, this advance came too late in the war to have any real effect. The Germans were also on the verge on introducing a number of terrifying new weapons, including advanced jet aircraft, which were too fast for ordinary propeller aircraft, and submarine improvements which would allow the Germans to again fight effectively in the Atlantic. All this came too late to save Hitler. Although a September invasion of The Netherlands failed, the Allies made steady advances. In the winter of 1944, Hitler put everything into one last desperate gamble in the West, known as the Battle of the Bulge, which, despite an initial advance, was a failure, because the introduction of new Allied tanks and low troop numbers among the Germans prevented any real action being taken.

In early February 1945, the three Allied leaders, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin, met at newly liberated Yalta in the Crimea in the Soviet Union in the Yalta Conference. Here, they agreed upon a plan to divide post-war Europe. Most of the east went to Stalin, who agreed to allow free elections in Eastern Europe, which he never did. The west went to Britain, France, and the U.S. Post-war Germany would be split between the four, as would Berlin. Here the territory of the Cold War was set. The boundaries of a new Europe, stripped of some of its oldest ruling families, were drawn up by the three men at Yalta.

At the beginning of 1945, Hitler was on his last strings. The Russians launched a devastating attack from Poland, where they had liberated Warsaw, into Germany and Eastern Europe, intending to take Berlin. The Germans collapsed in the West, allowing the Allies to fan out across Germany. However, the Supreme Allied Commander, American general Dwight D. Eisenhower, refused to strike for Berlin, and instead became obsessed with reports of possible guerrilla activity in southern Germany, which in reality existed only in the propaganda of Joseph Goebbels. By 25 April, the Russians had besieged Berlin. Hitler remained in the city in a bunker under the Chancellery garden. On 30 April, he committed suicide, after a ritual wedding with his long time mistress Eva Braun. The Germans held out another 7 days under Admiral Doenitz, their new leader, but the Germans surrendered unconditionally on 7 May 1945, ending the war in Europe (see V-E Day).

Rivalries that had begun during the war, combined with the sense of strength in the victorious powers, laid the foundations of the Iron Curtain and of the Cold War.

### **The war in the Pacific**

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## The Holocaust

The Holocaust (which roughly means "great fire") was the deliberate, systematic, and horrific murder of millions of Jews and other minorities during World War II by the Nazi regime in Germany. Several differing views exist regarding whether it was intended to occur from the war's beginning, or if the plans for it came about later. Regardless, persecution of Jews extended well before the war even started, such as in the *Kristallnacht* (Night of Broken Glass). The Nazis used propaganda to great effect to stir up anti-Semitic feelings within ordinary Germans.

After the conquest of Poland, the Third Reich, which had previously deported Jews and other "undesirables", suddenly had within its borders the largest concentration of Jews in the world. The solution was to round up Jews and place them in concentration camps or in ghettos, cordoned off sections of cities where Jews were forced to live in deplorable conditions, often with tens of thousands starving to death, and the bodies decaying in the streets. As appalling as this sounds, they were the lucky ones. After the invasion of the Soviet Union, armed killing squads of SS men known as *Einsatzgruppen* systematically rounded up Jews and murdered an estimated one million Jews within the country. As barbaric and inhuman as this seems, it was too slow and inefficient by Nazi standards.

In 1942, the top leadership met in Wannsee, a suburb of Berlin, and began to plan a more efficient way to slaughter the Jews. The Nazis created a system of extermination camps throughout Poland, and began rounding up Jews from the Soviet Union, and from the Ghettos. Not only were Jews shot or gassed to death en masse, but they were forced to provide slave labor and they were used in horrific medical experiments (see Human experimentation in Nazi Germany). Out of the widespread condemnation of the Nazis' medical experiments, the Nuremberg Code of medical ethics was devised.



Slave laborers at the Buchenwald concentration camp.

The Nazis took a sadistic pleasure in the death camps; the entrance to the worst camp, Auschwitz, stated *Arbeit Macht Frei* — "Work Makes Free". In the end, seven million Jews, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies and political prisoners were killed by various means, mainly in the death camps. An additional seven million Soviet and other Allied prisoners of war died in camps and holding areas.

There is some controversy over whether ordinary Germans knew about the Holocaust. It appears that many Germans knew about the concentration camps; such things were prominently displayed in magazines and newspapers. In many places, Jews had to walk past towns and villages on their way to work as slaves in German industry. In any case, Allied soldiers reported that the smell of the camps carried for miles. A very small number of people deny the Holocaust occurred entirely, though these claims have been routinely discredited by mainstream historians.

### The Nuclear Age begins



During the 1930s, innovations in physics made it apparent that it could be possible to develop nuclear weapons of incredible power using nuclear reactions. When World War II broke out, scientists and advisors among the Allies feared that Nazi Germany may have been trying to develop its own atomic weapons, and the United States and the United Kingdom pooled their efforts in what became known as the Manhattan Project to beat them to it. At the secret Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico, scientist Robert Oppenheimer led a team of the world's top scientists to develop the first nuclear weapons, the first of which was tested at the Trinity site in July 1945. However, Germany had surrendered in May 1945, and it had been discovered that the German atomic bomb program had not been very close to success.

The Allied team produced two nuclear weapons for use in the war, one powered by uranium-235 and the other by plutonium as fissionable material, named "Little Boy" and "Fat Man". These were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. This, in combination with the Soviet entrance in the war, convinced the Japanese to surrender unconditionally. These two weapons remain the only two nuclear weapons ever used against other countries in war.

Nuclear weapons brought an entirely new and terrifying possibility to warfare: a nuclear holocaust. While at first the United States held a monopoly on the production of nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union, with some assistance from espionage, managed to detonate its first weapon (dubbed "Joe-1" by the West) in August 1949. The post-war relations between the two, which had already been deteriorating, began to rapidly disintegrate. Soon the two were locked in a massive stockpiling of nuclear weapons. The United States began a crash-program to develop the first hydrogen bomb in 1950, and detonated its first thermonuclear weapon in 1952. This new weapon was alone over 400 times as powerful as the weapons used against Japan. The Soviet Union detonated a primitive thermonuclear weapon in 1953 and a full-fledged one in 1955.



Nuclear missiles and computerized launch systems increased the range and scope of possible nuclear war.

The conflict continued to escalate, with the major superpowers developing long-range missiles (such as the ICBM) and a nuclear strategy which guaranteed that any use of the nuclear weapons would be suicide for the attacking nation (Mutually Assured Destruction). The creation of early warning systems put the control of these weapons into the hands of newly created computers, and they served as a tense backdrop throughout the Cold War.

Since the 1940s there were concerns about the rising proliferation of nuclear weapons to new countries, which was seen as being destabilizing to international relations, spurring regional arms races, and generally increasing the likelihood of some form of nuclear war. Eventually, seven nations would overtly develop nuclear weapons, and still maintain stockpiles today: the United States, the Soviet Union (and later Russia would inherit these), the United Kingdom, France, China, India, and Pakistan. South Africa developed six crude weapons in the 1980s (which it later dismantled), and Israel almost certainly developed nuclear weapons though it never confirmed nor denied it. The creation of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in 1968 was an attempt to curtail such proliferation, but a number of countries developed nuclear weapons since it was signed (and many did not sign it), and a number of other countries, including Libya, Iran, and North Korea, were suspected of having clandestine nuclear weapons programs.



The first nuclear explosion, named "Trinity", was detonated July 16, 1945.

## The post-war world



Following World War II, the majority of the industrialized world lay in ruins as a result of aerial bombings, naval bombardment, and protracted land campaigns. The United States was a notable exception to this; barring Pearl Harbour and some minor incidents, the U.S. had suffered no attacks upon its territory. The United States and the Soviet Union, which, despite the devastation of its most populated areas, rebuilt quickly, found themselves the world's two dominant superpowers.

Much of Western Europe was rebuilt after the war with assistance from the Marshall Plan. Germany, chief instigator of the war, was placed under joint military occupation by the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. Berlin, although in Soviet-controlled territory, was also divided between the four powers. Occupation of Berlin would continue until 1990. Japan was also placed under U.S. occupation, that would last five years, until 1949. Oddly, these two Axis powers, despite military occupation, soon rose to become the second (Japan) and third (West Germany) most powerful economies in the world.

Following the end of the war, the Allies famously prosecuted numerous German officials for war crimes and other offenses in the Nuremberg Trials. Although Adolf Hitler had committed suicide, many of his cronies, including Hermann Göring, were convicted. Less well-known trials of other Axis officials also occurred, including the Tokyo War Crime Trial.

The failure of the League of Nations to prevent World War II essentially discredited the organization, and it was dissolved. A new attempt at world peace was begun with the founding of the United Nations on 24 October 1945 in San Francisco. Today, nearly all countries are members, but despite its many successes, the organization's success at achieving its goal of world peace is dubious. The organization was never given enough power to overcome the conflicting interests and priorities of its member nations.

### **The end of empires: decolonization**

Almost all of the major nations that were involved in World War II began shedding their overseas colonies soon after the conflict. In Africa, nationalists such as Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana led their respective nations to independence from foreign rule. The tactics employed by the revolutionaries ranged from non-violent forms of protest to armed rebellions, depending on the nation involved. The United States granted independence to the Philippines, its major Pacific possession. European powers also began withdrawing from their possessions in Africa and Asia. France was forced out of both Indochina and, later, Algeria.

### **Mutually assured destruction: the Cold War (1947–1991)**

**This section should be added, and the following (War by proxy) merged into it.**

### **War by proxy**

Two wars and a near-war in the 1950s became the foci for capitalist versus communist struggle. The first war was the Korean War, fought between People's Republic of China-backed North Korea and mainly United States-backed South Korea. North Korea's invasion of South Korea led to United Nations intervention. General Douglas MacArthur led troops from the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, and other countries in repulsing the Northern invasion. However, the war reached a stalemate after Chinese intervention pushed U.N. forces back, and a cease-fire ended hostilities, leaving the two Koreas divided and tense for





the rest of the century.

The second war, the Vietnam War, was perhaps the second most visible war of the 20th century, after World War II. After the French withdrawal from its former colony, Vietnam became partitioned into two halves, much like Korea. Fighting between North and South eventually escalated into a regional war. The United States provided aid to South Vietnam, but was not directly involved until the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, passed in reaction to a supposed North Vietnamese attack upon American destroyers, brought the U.S. into the war as a belligerent. The war was initially viewed as a fight to contain communism (see containment, Truman Doctrine, and Domino Theory), but, as more Americans were drafted and news of events such as the Tet Offensive and My Lai massacre leaked out, American sentiment turned against the war. U.S. President Richard Nixon was elected partially on claims of a "secret plan" to stop the war. This Nixon Doctrine involved a gradual pullout of American forces; South Vietnamese units were supposed to replace them, backed up by American air power. Unfortunately, the plan went awry, and the war spilled into neighboring Cambodia while South Vietnamese forces were pushed further back. Eventually, the U.S. and North Vietnam signed the Paris Peace Accords, ending U.S. involvement in the war. With the threat of U.S. retaliation gone, the North proceeded to violate the ceasefire and invaded the South with full military force. Saigon was captured on 30 April 1975, and Vietnam was unified under Communist rule a year later, effectively bringing an end to one of the most unpopular wars of all time.

The Cuban Missile Crisis illustrates just how close to the brink of nuclear war the world came during the Cold War. Cuba, under Fidel Castro's socialist government, had formed close ties with the Soviet Union. This was obviously disquieting to the United States, given Cuba's proximity. When Lockheed U-2 spy plane flights over the island revealed that Soviet missile launchers were being installed, U.S. President John F. Kennedy instituted a naval blockade and publicly confronted the Soviet Union. After a tense week, the Soviet Union backed down and ordered the launchers removed, not wanting to risk igniting a new world war.

### The space race



In 1969, humans first set foot on the Moon.

With Cold War tensions running high, the Soviet Union and United States took their rivalry to the stars in 1957 with the Soviet launch of Sputnik. A "space race" between the two powers followed. Although the USSR reached several important milestones, such as the first craft on the Moon ( Luna 2) and the first human in space (Yuri Gagarin), the U.S. eventually pulled ahead with its Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs, which culminated in Apollo 11's manned landing on the moon. Five more manned landings followed ( Apollo 13 was forced to abort its mission). In addition, both countries launched numerous probes into space, such as the Venera 7 and Voyager 2.

In later decades, space became a somewhat friendlier place. Regular manned space flights were made possible with the American space shuttle, which was the first reusable spacecraft to be successfully used. Mir and Skylab enabled prolonged human habitation in space. In the 1990s, work on the International Space Station began, and by the end of the century, while still incomplete, it was in continual use by astronauts from the United States, Europe, Russia, Japan, and Canada.

### The end of the Cold War



By the 1980s, the Soviet Union was weakening. The Sino-Soviet split had removed the USSR's most powerful ally, the People's Republic of China. Its arms race with the U.S. was draining the country of funds, and further weakened by internal pressures, ethnic and political. Mikhail Gorbachev, its last leader, attempted to reform the country with *glasnost* and *perestroika*, but the formation of Solidarity, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the breaking-off of several Soviet republics, such as Lithuania, started a slippery slope of events that culminated in a coup to overthrow Gorbachev, organized by Communist Party hard-liners. Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, organized mass opposition, and the coup failed. On 26 December 1991, the Soviet Union was officially disbanded into its constituent republics, thus putting a final line under the already exhausted Cold War.

### Information and communications technology

The creation of the transistor revolutionized the development of the computer. The first computers, room-sized electro-mechanical devices built to break cryptographical codes during World War II, quickly became at least 20 times smaller using transistors. Computers became reprogrammable rather than fixed-purpose devices. The invention of programming languages meant computer operators could concentrate on problem solving at a high-level, without having to think in terms of the individual instructions to the computer itself. The creation of operating systems also vastly improved programming productivity. Building on this, computer pioneers could now realize what they had envisioned. The graphical user interface, piloted by a computer mouse made it simple to harness the power of the computer. Storage for computer programs progressed from punch cards and paper tape to magnetic tape, floppy disks and hard disks. Core memory and bubble memory fell to random access memory.

The invention of the word processor, spreadsheet and database greatly improved office productivity over the old paper, typewriter and filing cabinet methods. The economic advantage given to businesses led to economic efficiencies in computers themselves. Cost-effective CPUs led to thousands of industrial and home-brew computer designs, many of which became successful; a home-computer boom was led by the Apple II, the ZX80 and the Commodore PET.



In 1989, the Berlin Wall separating West and East Berlin fell.



The first model of the IBM PC, the personal computer whose successors and clones would fill the world.

IBM, seeking to embrace the microcomputer revolution, devised its IBM Personal Computer (PC). Crucially, IBM developed the PC from third-party components that were available on the open market. The only impediment to another company duplicating the system's architecture was the proprietary BIOS software. Other companies, starting with Compaq, reverse engineered the BIOS and released PC compatible computers that soon became the dominant architecture. Microsoft, which produced the PC's operating system, rode this wave of popularity to become the world's leading software company.

The 1980s heralded the Information Age. The rise of computer applications and data processing made ethereal "information" as valuable as physical commodities. This brought about new concerns surrounding intellectual property issues. The U.S. Government made algorithms patentable, forming the basis of software patents. The controversy over these and proprietary software led Richard Stallman to create the Free Software Foundation and begin the GNU Project.

Computers also became a usable platform for entertainment. Computer games were first developed by software programmers exercising their creativity on large systems at universities, but these efforts became commercially

successful in arcade games such as *Pong* and *Space Invaders*. Once the home computer market was established, young programmers in their bedrooms became the core of a youthful games industry. In order to take advantage of advancing technology, games consoles were created. Like arcade systems, these machines had custom hardware designed to do game-oriented operations (such as sprites and parallax scrolling) in preference to general purpose computing tasks.

Computer networks appeared in two main styles; the local area network, linking computers in an office or school to each other, and the wide area network, linking the local area networks together. Initially, computers depended on the telephone networks to link to each other, spawning the Bulletin Board sub-culture. However, a DARPA project to create bomb-proof computer networks led to the creation of the Internet, a network of networks. The core of this network was the robust TCP/IP network protocol. Thanks to efforts from Al Gore, the Internet grew beyond its military role when universities and commercial businesses were permitted to connect their networks to it. The main impetus for this was electronic mail, a far faster and convenient form of communication than conventional letter and memo distribution, and the File Transfer Protocol (FTP). However, the Internet remained largely unknown to the general public, who were used to Bulletin Boards and services like CompuServe and America Online. This changed when Tim Berners-Lee devised a simpler form of Vannevar Bush's hypertext, which he dubbed the World Wide Web. "The Web" suddenly changed the Internet into a printing press beyond the geographic boundaries of physical countries; it was termed "cyberspace". Anyone with a computer and an Internet connection could write pages in the simple HTML format and publish their thoughts to the world.

The Web's immense success also fueled the commercial use of the Internet. Convenient home shopping had been an element of "visions of the future" since the development of the telephone, but now the race was on to provide convenient, interactive consumerism. Companies trading through web sites became known as "dot coms", due to the ".com" suffix of commercial Internet addresses.

## European Union



## The world at the end of the century

By the end of the century, more technological advances had been made than in all of preceding history. Communications and information technology, transportation technology, and medical advances had radically altered daily lives. Europe appeared to be at a sustainable peace for the first time in recorded history. The people of the Indian subcontinent, a sixth of the world population at the end of the century, had attained an indigenous independence for the first time in centuries. China, an ancient nation comprising a fifth of the world population, was finally open to the world in a new and powerful synthesis of west and east, creating a new state after the near-complete destruction of the old cultural order. With the end of colonialism and the Cold War, nearly a billion people in Africa were left with truly independent new nation states, some cut from whole cloth, standing up after centuries of foreign domination.

The world was undergoing its second major period of globalization; the first, which started in the 18th century, having been terminated by World War I. Since the US was on in a position of almost unchallenged domination, a major part of the process was Americanization. This led to anti-Western and anti-American feelings in parts of the world, especially the Middle East. The influence of China and India was also rising, as the world's largest populations, long marginalized by the West and by their own rulers, were rapidly integrating with the world economy.

However, several problems faced the world. First of all, the gap between rich and poor nations continued to widen. Some said that this problem could not be fixed, that there was a set amount of wealth and it could only be shared by so many. Others said that the powerful nations with large economies were not doing enough to help improve the rapidly evolving economies of the Third World. However, developing countries faced many challenges, including the scale of the task to be surmounted, rapidly growing populations, and the need to protect the environment, and the cost that goes along with it.

Secondly, disease threatened to destabilize many regions of the world. New viruses such as SARS and West Nile continued to spread. In poor nations, malaria and other diseases affected the majority of the population. Millions were infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS. The virus was becoming an epidemic in southern Africa.



Terrorism, dictatorship, and the spread of nuclear weapons were other issues requiring attention. The world was still blighted by small-scale wars and other violent conflicts, fueled by competition over resources and by ethnic conflicts. Despots such as Kim Jong-il of North Korea continued to lead their nations toward the development of nuclear weapons.

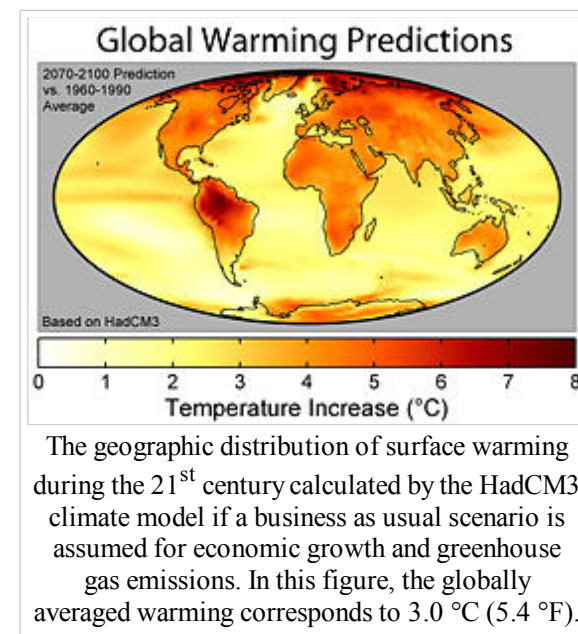
Perhaps most importantly, it was recognized that in the long term, environmental problems threatened the planet's liveability. The most serious was global warming due to human-caused emission of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide produced by the burning of fossil fuels. This prompted many nations to negotiate and sign the Kyoto treaty, which set mandatory limits on carbon dioxide emissions.

A significant driver of many of many of these problems was overpopulation. At the century's end, the global population was six and a half billion and rising. There was some hope on this score, because the number of children per woman had been decreasing throughout the world, not only in the rich countries. In the long term, it was predicted that the population would probably reach a plateau of nine billion. However, it remained doubtful whether the planet had the long-term capacity to sustain such numbers.

## Decades and years

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# 21st century

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The **21st century** is the current century of the Common Era in accordance with the Gregorian calendar. It began on January 1, 2001 and will end December 31, 2100.

Technologically, the major differences to date from the 20th century are the changes brought about by the digital revolution of the 1980s and 1990s, and particularly the Internet. While the 20th century was marked by the rapid development of travel fueled mostly by petroleum, the 21st century is marked by concern over how to cope with consequences of pollution and resource depletion.

<b>Millennium:</b>	3rd millennium
<b>Centuries:</b>	20th century · <b>21st century</b> · 22nd century
<b>Decades:</b>	2000s 2010s 2020s 2030s 2040s 2050s 2060s 2070s 2080s 2090s
<b>Categories:</b>	Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments

## Pronunciation

Regarding pronunciation of 21st century years, academics suggest that since former years such as 1805 and 1905 were commonly pronounced as "eighteen oh" or "nineteen oh" five, the year 2005 should naturally have been pronounced as "twenty oh-five". A less common variation would have been "twenty nought-five". Many experts agree that majority usage of "two thousand (and) **X**" is a result of influences from the Y2K hype, as well as the way "2001" was pronounced in the influential 1968 film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Many people, ranging from linguistic and academic experts to Internet bloggers, predict that the "twenty **X**" pronunciation method will eventually prevail, but a timeframe as to when this change will occur often differs. The year 2010 is suggested by many, and the Vancouver Olympics, taking place in 2010, is being officially referred to by *Vancouver 2010* as "the twenty-ten olympics", while 2011 and 2013 are popular as well. The latest timeframes for change are usually placed at 2020.

## Important developments, events, achievements

### Politics

- 2001 - The September 11, 2001 attacks precede the War on Terrorism. On October 7, 2001 a US-led coalition invades Afghanistan.
- 2002 - East Timor gains independence from Indonesia.
- 2003 - International Criminal Court opens. On March 20, 2003 the United States and a "Coalition of the Willing" invade Iraq, beginning Operation Iraqi Freedom, or the Iraq War.
- 2003 - 2005 A series of nonviolent revolutions known as the colour revolutions overthrow governments in Georgia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon.



- 2004 - EU Enlargement: 10 countries join, 8 of which are former Communist nations.
- 2005 - UN Security Council decides that war criminals in Darfur will be tried by the International Criminal Court
- 2006 - Montenegro gains independence and becomes the 192nd member of the UN.
- 2006 - North Korea conducts its first nuclear test.
- 2006 - Saddam Hussein, former president of Iraq, is executed in Baghdad.
- 2007 - EU Enlargement: Romania and Bulgaria join the EU.
- 2008 - Kosovo declares independence from Serbia, but remains unrecognized by many countries.
- 2008 - Barack Obama becomes the presumptive nominee of the United States Democratic Party in the 2008 presidential election. He is the first African American to win enough support for the nomination of any major U.S. political party.

## Science and technology

### Space exploration

- 2001 - Dennis Tito becomes the first space tourist by paying \$20 million to board the International Space Station.
- 2002 - *Mars Odyssey* arrives in orbit around Mars.
- 2003 - Space Shuttle *Columbia* disaster February 1.
- 2003 - The Chinese space program launches its first manned space flight, *Shenzhou 5* on October 15.
- 2004 - Mars Exploration Rovers land on Mars; *Opportunity* discovers evidence that that area of Mars was once covered in water.
- 2004 - The *Cassini-Huygens* probe arrives at Saturn.
- 2004 - *SpaceShipOne* makes the first privately-funded human spaceflight, June 21
- 2005 - The *Huygens* probe lands on Titan, the largest of Saturn's moons, January 14.
- 2005 - The *Deep Impact* probe impacts Comet Tempel 1, July 4.
- 2006 - *New Horizons* is launched on a 9 year voyage to Pluto, January 19.
- 2006 - The *Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter* arrives at Mars.
- 2006 - Pluto is reclassified from a planet to a dwarf planet, leaving the solar system with eight planets.
- 2008 - NASA's MESSENGER flies by Mercury, becoming the first spacecraft to do so in 33 years.

### Medicine

- 2003 - Dolly the cloned sheep dies prematurely February 14.
- 2003 - Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) spreads around the globe.
- 2005 - The first successful partial face transplant is performed in France.
- 2006 - Australian of the Year Dr Ian Frazer develops a vaccine for cervical cancer.

### Personal technology



- Mobile phone usage approaches 100% in Europe.

## Other

- 2003 Discovery of an old dwarf human species, *Homo floresiensis* by modern humans (published in October, 2004).
- Discovery of four chemical elements, of atomic number 113, 115, 116 and 118.

## Conflicts and civil unrest

- Colombian Armed Conflict (1964-present)
- Sri Lankan Civil War (1983-present)
- September 11, 2001 attacks on USA
- War in Afghanistan (2001–present)
- 12 October 2002 Bali bombing
- Moscow theatre hostage crisis October 2002
- Iraq War (20 March 2003-present)
- Darfur conflict (2003-present)
- 11 March 2004 Madrid train bombings
- September 2004 Beslan hostage crisis
- 7 July 2005 London bombings
- 2005 civil unrest in France
- 2006 East Timor crisis
- 11 July 2006 Mumbai train bombings
- 2006 Israel-Lebanon conflict
- War in Chad (2005-present)
- War in Somalia (2006–present)
- War on Terrorism (2001-present)
- 2006 Fijian coup d'état

## Worldwide deaths from war and terrorist attacks

- Second Congo War, approximately 1.8 million deaths (3.8 million since 1998)
- Iraq War, a wide variation in the number of casualties quoted, ranging from the tens of thousands, up to approximately 1 million deaths, Iraq Body Count, ORB survey of casualties of the Iraq War.
- Darfur conflict, approximately 400,000 deaths
- Civil War in Côte d'Ivoire, 3,000 deaths





- September 11, 2001 attacks, 2,997 deaths, Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre destroyed and The Pentagon damaged.
- December 13, 2001 attacks, Terrorist attack on Indian Parliament (2001), terrorists storm the Indian Parliament Building in New Delhi and kill six police officers.
- October 12, 2002 Bali terrorist bombings kill 202 people.
- March 11, 2004 terrorist attacks shake several train stations on Spain's capital Madrid, killing 191 people and injuring 1,247.
- July 7, 2005 suicide terrorist attacks shake London transport system killing 52 people and injuring 700.
- 29 October 2005 Delhi Bombings, terrorists attack various markets in New Delhi, killing 61 people and injuring 188 more, right before the start of the festival season in India.
- July 11, 2006 six bombs explode in train stations in Mumbai, killing 190.

## Natural disasters

- Up to 50,000 died in France, Italy, and other European countries in the summer of 2003 due to a prolonged heat wave coinciding with a shortage of medical and nursing staff.
- Earthquake in Bam, Iran on December 27, 2003 killed more than 26,000.
- 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake. On December 26 an undersea earthquake in the Indian Ocean created a large tsunami, which impacted land across the region and killed approximately 310,000 in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and other countries in the region.
- 2004 hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne batter Florida and the Caribbean in August and September, killing over 3,200, 3,000 of which resulted from Jeanne's torrential flooding rains in Haiti. The hurricanes caused a combined \$50 billion in damage in the United States.
- In 2005, Hurricane Katrina impacts the U.S. Gulf Coast as a strong Category 3 hurricane with top sustained winds before landfall near 125 mph, flooding New Orleans, and causing significant damage in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama. The hurricane killed 1,836 and surpassed Hurricane Andrew in cost of damage, approaching \$75 billion and becoming the costliest natural disaster in U.S history.
- Earthquake in Kashmir on October 8, 2005, which has so far killed at least 87,350 in India and Pakistan.
- Hurricane Stan hit Mexico along the Gulf of Campeche in October 2005 and moved into Guatemala. Hurricane Stan combined with powerful storms already occurring in the region and contributed to the deaths of 1,620.
- 2007 Peru earthquake. On August 15, an undersea earthquake in the peruvian coast killed more than 500 and destroyed the coastal cities of Pisco and Chincha.
- Cyclone Nargis strikes Myanmar from April 27 - May 3, 2008, killing more than 78,000, leaving 55,917 missing, and leaving 2.5 million homeless.
- 2008 China earthquake on May 12, 2008 kills over 50,000.

## Sports

- 2001- Tiger Woods, American golfer, completes the Tiger Slam, winning four golf majors in a row
- 2001- NASCAR (American stock car) driver Dale Earnhardt dies after hitting the wall on the last lap of the Daytona 500. Earnhardt's son, Dale Earnhardt Jr., claimed a tearful victory in the next race held at Daytona, less than four months later.
- 2001- Arizona Diamondbacks win the world series after beating the Yankees 4 games to 3 in a best of seven series.



- 2001- Rugby League Widnes Vikings gain their first entrance to the Super League.
- 2002- Phil Taylor becomes the first player to win the World Darts Championship 10 times [PDC], following a 7-0 whitewash of Peter Manley.
- 2002- In the 2002 FIFA World Cup held in South Korea and Japan, Brazil won the Football World Cup becoming the first team to win the trophy 5 times.
- 2002- Michael Schumacher wins his 5th Formula One World Drivers Championship, becoming only the second driver after Juan Manuel Fangio.
- 2002- 2002 Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States.
- 2002- NASCAR Tony Stewart wins his first of 2 NASCAR championships.
- 2003- New Jersey Devils win their third Stanley Cup in team history, defeating the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, 4 games to 3.
- 2003- Michael Schumacher wins his record-breaking sixth Formula One World Drivers Championship title.
- 2003- San Antonio Spurs win NBA championship over New Jersey Nets, 4 games to 2.
- 2003- Roy Jones Jr. becomes the first former World Middleweight Boxing Champion in 106 years to win a portion of the World Heavyweight title, following his twelve-round unanimous decision over then-WBA champion John Ruiz, March 1st.
- 2003- Australia win the 2003 Cricket World Cup
- 2003- Silver Ferns, New Zealand's national woman's netball team, wins the Netball World Championships, beating Australia in Jamaica
- 2003- England wins the 2003 Rugby World Cup, becoming the first team from the northern hemisphere to win the cup.
- 2003- NASCAR Matt Kenseth wins his first NASCAR Winston Cup Championship
- 2004- Arsenal win the English Premier League without losing a single game, having the longest unbeaten league run of 49 games from May 2003 to October 2004.
- 2004- Greece win the European Football Championship for the first time.
- 2004- 2004 Summer Olympics held in Athens, Greece.
- 2004- The Boston Red Sox defeat the Saint Louis Cardinals in the World Series, for their first win in 86 years. The Red Sox overcame a 3-0 deficit in the penultimate series against their rival, the New York Yankees.
- 2004- Michael Schumacher wins his 5th consecutive Formula One World Drivers Championship title, 7 in total.
- 2004- NASCAR Kurt Busch wins the first NASCAR Nextel Cup Series championship with the Chase points system.
- 2005- Liverpool FC win the European Cup for the fifth time in their history, enabling them to keep the trophy permanently. In a dramatic final, they came from 3-0 down at half time to win 3-2 on penalties against AC Milan.
- 2005- American cyclist Lance Armstrong wins his 7th consecutive Tour de France and retires.
- 2005- In cricket, England wins The Ashes defeating Australia 2-1. This win is the first for England in 18 years.
- 2005- San Antonio Spurs win NBA championship over Detroit Pistons, 4 games to 3.
- 2005- Chicago White Sox win the World Series (4-0) over the Houston Astros. It was their first World Series win in 88 years.
- 2005- NASCAR Tony Stewart wins his 2nd NASCAR championship.
- 2005- Fernando Alonso became the youngest Formula One champion ever, grabbing 133 points to clinch the title.
- 2006- Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Seattle Seahawks, 21-10, to win the teams fifth Super Bowl in six tries.
- 2006- NBA star Kobe Bryant scores 81 points in a Lakers game on January 22.
- 2006- 2006 Winter Olympics held in Torino, Italy.
- 2006- Italy win the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.
- 2006- Carolina Hurricanes win the Stanley Cup, defeating the Edmonton Oilers in game 7, winning the series 4-3.
- 2006- Miami Heat win the NBA Finals against Dallas Mavericks 4 games to 2; after losing the first two games, and winning the last four straight.



- 2006- Floyd Landis wins the Tour de France, but not without controversy.
- 2006- In cricket Australia regain The Ashes, whitewashing England 5-0. Shane Warne, the world's most prolific wicket-taker, retires after taking 708 test wickets.
- 2006- St. Louis Cardinals win their 10th World Series 4 games to 1 over the Detroit Tigers.
- 2006- NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson wins his first Nascar championship.
- 2006- Michael Schumacher retires from Formula One racing after a record-breaking career, in which he broke 31 records in any racing class, including the record for most wins at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- 2007- Indianapolis Colts defeat the Chicago Bears, 29-17, to claim the team's first Super Bowl in 36 years.
- 2007- Australia win the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007.
- 2007- Anaheim Ducks win the Stanley Cup, defeating the Ottawa Senators in 5 games, winning the series 4-1.
- 2007- San Antonio Spurs win NBA championship over Cleveland Cavaliers in 4 games, sweeping the championship series.
- 2007- The Rugby World Cup is held in France from September to October, and won by South Africa.
- 2007- Thierry Henry leaves Arsenal FC to join FC Barcelona and is greeted by a record 30,000 fans (10,000 more than Ronaldinho) at the Camp Nou
- 2007- Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants breaks the all time career home run record with 756 career HR, the previous was 755 career HR held by Hank Aaron. Later in the year, Bonds is indicted for alleged perjury, for lying about whether he had ever taken steroids.
- 2007- Boston Red Sox win the World Series sweeping the Colorado Rockies 4-0.
- 2007- George J. Mitchell issues a report detailing the usage of steroids in Major League Baseball, implicating several players, including Roger Clemens.
- 2007- The New England Patriots finish the NFL regular season 16-0, the first team to go undefeated in a sixteen-game season. The Patriots would go on to beat the Jaguars and Chargers in the playoffs. Despite being heavily favored to win the Super Bowl and complete a 19-0 Season, the Patriots would lose to the New York Giants, 17-14. Eli Manning threw a game winning touchdown to Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds left.
- 2007- India win the first ICC World Twenty20 by defeating Pakistan in the finals.
- 2008- The Kansas Jayhawks defeat the Memphis Tigers to win the 2008 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship.
- 2008- Manchester United win the English Premier League and the UEFA Champions League.

## Issues and concerns

*There are several points-of-view pertaining to the following items, all of which should be considered accordingly.*

Issues that have been frequently discussed and debated so far in this century include:

- **Globalization.** Advances in telecommunications and transportation, the expansion of capitalism and democracy, and free trade agreements have resulted in unprecedented global economic and cultural integration. This has caused (and is continuing to cause) economic and cultural shifts which have been the subject of considerable controversy.
- **Overpopulation.** The United Nations estimates that world population will reach 9.1 billion by mid-century. Such growth raises questions of ecological sustainability and creates many economic and political disruptions. In response, many countries have adopted policies which either force or encourage their citizens to have fewer children, and others have limited immigration. Considerable debate exists over what the ultimate carrying capacity of the



planet may be; whether or not population growth containment policies are necessary; to what degree growth can safely occur thanks to increased economic and ecological efficiency; and how markets should accommodate demographic shifts. Evidence suggests that developed countries (such as Japan) suffer population *implosion*, and the population debate is strongly tied with poverty.

- **Poverty.** Poverty remains the root cause of many of the world's other ills, including famine, disease, and insufficient education. Poverty contains many self-reinforcing elements (for instance, poverty can make education an unaffordable luxury, which tends to result in continuing poverty) that various aid groups hope to rectify in this century. Microcredit lending has also started to gain a profile as a useful anti-poverty tool.
- **Political issues,** such as media content, gay rights, and abortion continue from the 1990s.
- **Disease.** AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria each kill over a million people annually. HIV remains without a cure or vaccine, and is growing rapidly in India and much of the African continent. Antibiotic resistance is a growing concern for organisms such as tuberculosis. Other diseases, such as SARS, ebola, and flu variations, are also causes for concern. The World Health Organization has warned of a possible coming flu pandemic resulting from bird flu mutations.
- **War and terrorism.** Active conflicts continue around the world, including civil wars in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the largest war since World War II), Chechnya, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia, Senegal, Colombia, and Sudan (mainly in Darfur). The 9/11 terrorist attacks triggered invasions of Afghanistan and partially and controversially Iraq. The War on Terrorism has seen controversies over civil liberties, accusations of torture, continued terrorist attacks and ongoing instability, violence, and military occupation. Violence continues in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Considerable concern remains about nuclear proliferation, especially in Iran and North Korea, and the availability of weapons of mass destruction to rogue groups.
- **Global warming.** Most climate scientists concur that the earth is currently undergoing significant anthropogenic (human-induced) global warming. The resulting economic and ecological costs are hard to predict, and by the end of the 21st century could be quite severe. However, predictions have become more dramatic in recent years. Some scientists argue that human-induced global warming risks considerable losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services unless considerable sociopolitical changes are introduced, particularly in patterns of mass consumption. On the other hand, climate change has already begun to wreak havoc on entire communities on the fringes of the developing world.
- **Other environmental changes.** Trends such as increased pollution, deforestation and biodiversity loss occurring in the 20th century are likely to continue into the 21st century.
- **Global power.** Issues surrounding the cultural, economic, and military dominance of the United States and its role in the world community have become even more pointed given its recent military activities, problematic relations with the United Nations, disagreement over several international treaties, and its economic policies with regard to globalization. Integration of the European Union and the African Union have proceeded.
- **Intellectual property.** The increasing popularity of digital formats for entertainment media such as movies and music, and the ease of copying and distributing it via the Internet and peer-to-peer networks, has raised concerns in the media industry about copyright infringement. Much debate is proceeding about the proper bounds between protection of copyright, trademark and patent rights versus fair use and the public domain, where some argue that such laws have shifted greatly towards intellectual property owners and away from the interests of the general public in recent years, while others say that such legal change is needed to deal with the threat of new technologies against the rights of authors and artists (or, as others put it, against the outmoded business models of the current entertainment industry). Domain name "cybersquatting" and access to patented drugs to combat epidemics in third-world countries are other IP concerns.
- **Technology** developments show no sign of ending. Communications and control technology continues to augment the intelligence of individual humans, collections of humans, and machines. Cultures are forced into the position of sharply defining humanity and determining boundaries on desire, thought, communication, behaviour, and manufacturing. Some, notably Ray Kurzweil have predicted that by the middle of the century there will be a Technological Singularity if artificial intelligence that outsmart humans is created. If these AIs then create even smarter AI's technological change will



accelerate in ways that are impossible for us to foresee. (However, gradual and simultaneous use of AI technology to increase our own intelligence might prevent this from ever occurring.)

- **Fossil fuels** are becoming scarce and more expensive, due to the escalating demand for petroleum ("oil") and oil-based products such as gasoline and kerosene, unmatched by production. Discovery of new oil fields has not been sufficient to sustain current levels of production, and some fear that the earth may be running out of economically viable oil.

The United Nations lists global issues on its agenda and lists a set of Millennium Development Goals ( MDGs) to attempt to address some of these issues.

## Astronomical events

- Tuesday, June 8, 2004: First transit of Venus for 122 years.
- November 8, 2006: Transit of Mercury.
- December 23, 2007: grand conjunction a galactic conjunction which happens every 26000 years.
- 2009: Triple conjunction Jupiter-Neptune.
- 2010/2011: Triple conjunction Jupiter-Uranus.
- July 12, 2011: Neptune completes its first orbit since its discovery in 1846.
- Wednesday, June 6, 2012: Transit of Venus to occur a second time (and last time) this century.
- May 9, 2016: Transit of Mercury.
- Monday, August 21, 2017 : First total solar eclipse of the 21st century for the United States, and the first visible in the continental US since February 26, 1979 .
- November 11, 2019: Transit of Mercury.
- 2024 (plus or minus 5 years): Next predicted return of Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks.
- 2025/2026: Triple conjunction Saturn-Neptune.
- Friday, April 13, 2029: The asteroid 99942 Apophis (previously better known by its provisional designation 2004 MN<sub>4</sub>) will pass within 30,000 km (18,600 mi) of the Earth.
- November 13, 2032: Transit of Mercury.
- 2037/2038: Triple conjunction Jupiter-Uranus.
- November 7, 2039: Transit of Mercury.
- 2041/2042: Triple conjunction Mars-Uranus.
- October 1, 2044: Occultation of Regulus by Venus. The last was on July 7, 1959. After 2044 the next occultation of Regulus by Venus will occur on October 21, 3187, although some sources claim it will occur again on October 6, 2271.
- 2047/2048: Triple conjunction Jupiter-Neptune.
- May 7, 2049: Transit of Mercury.
- November 9, 2052: Transit of Mercury.
- July 2061: Next return of Halley's Comet.
- 2063: Triple conjunction Mars-Uranus.



- November 11, 2065: Transit of Mercury.
- November 22, 2065: At 12:45 UTC, Venus will occult Jupiter. This event will be the first occultation of a planet by another since January 3, 1818. This event will be very difficult to observe, because the elongation of Venus and Jupiter from the Sun on that date will be only 7 degrees.
- 2066: Triple conjunction Jupiter-Uranus.
- July 15, 2067: At 11:56 UTC, Mercury will occult Neptune. This rare event will be very difficult to observe, because of the constant low elongation of Mercury from the Sun, and the magnitude of Neptune always under the limit of visibility with the naked eye.
- 2071/2072: Triple conjunction Mars-Neptune.
- November 14, 2078: Transit of Mercury.
- 2079: Triple conjunction Saturn-Uranus.
- August 11, 2079: At 01:30 UTC, Mercury will occult Mars.
- Friday, November 10, 2084: Transit of Earth as seen from Mars, the first and the only one in this century.
- November 7, 2085: Transit of Mercury.
- 2085/2086: Triple conjunction Jupiter-Neptune.
- October 27, 2088: At 13:43 UTC, Mercury will occult Jupiter.
- 2088/2089: Triple conjunction Mars-Neptune.
- 2093: Triple conjunction Jupiter-Uranus.
- April 7, 2094: At 10:48 UTC, Mercury will occult Jupiter.
- May 8, 2095: Transit of Mercury.
- November 10, 2098: Transit of Mercury.

## Significant figures

- Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor of New York City during the September 11, 2001 attacks
- George W. Bush, President of the United States from 2001-2009
- Bill Gates, founder and former CEO of Microsoft, philanthropist
- Melinda Gates, philanthropist
- Vladimir Putin, President of Russia from 1999-2008
- Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1997-2007
- Gerhard Ertl, physical chemist
- Leonid Hurwicz, economist
- Eric S. Maskin, economist
- Roger B. Myerson, economist
- Doris Lessing, writer
- Mario R. Capecchi, molecular geneticist
- Martin J. Evans, geneticist



- Oliver Smithies, geneticist
- Albert Fert, physicist
- Ronald Collé, research radiochemist
- Peter Grünberg, physicist
- Cormac McCarthy, writer
- David Lindsay-Abaire, playwright
- Gene Roberts, historian
- Hank Klibanoff, historian
- Natasha Trethewey, poet
- Lawrence Wright, writer
- Ornette Coleman, musician
- Bono, musician, activist
- Al Gore, Vice President of the United States from 1993-2001, environmental activist
- Debby Applegate, biographer

## Popular culture in the remaining years of the 21st century

### Television and film

- The new series of Doctor Who which began in 2005 has events that take place (more or less) in the 21st century.
- *seaQuest DSV* takes place between the years 2018 and 2032.
- In the sequel to *2001: A Space Odyssey*, a joint American-Soviet space expedition is sent to Jupiter in *2010*.
- The popular adult swim series Sealab 2021 takes place in the year 2021.
- The events of *Stargate SG-1* continue into the early 21st century.
- *Stargate Atlantis* is set in the early 21st century.
- *The Transformers: The Movie*: is set in the year 2005. The subsequent third season of the Transformers series takes place after the events of the movie.
- The Japanese anime show *The Super Dimension Fortress Macross* spans the years 1999 to 2012 (its final episode takes place in January of 2012, and a direct to video epilogue featurette takes place in September 2012). Its prequel and sequels take place in 2008 (*Macross Zero*), 2040 (*Macross Plus*) and 2045- 2046 (*Macross 7*). A dramatized historical fiction movie about the First Space War, *The Super Dimension Fortress Macross: Do You Remember Love?*, premieres in 2031.
- The American cartoon show *Robotech*, composed from the footage of three unrelated anime series (including *Macross*, above) spans the years 1999 to 2015, 2030- 2031 and 2044- 2045.
- Part of the sequel *Back to the Future Part II* is set in 2015.
- The Japanese anime series *Neon Genesis Evangelion* is also set in 2015.
- The modern classic film *Blade Runner* takes place in November, 2019.
- The cult series *Dark Angel* is set in 2019.



- The film *The Running Man* starring Arnold Schwarzenegger is set in 2019.
- Both parts of the *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* episode "Past Tense" take place in 2024.
- The film *Children of Men* is set in 2027.
- The anime universe of *Ghost in the Shell*, its sequel *Ghost in the Shell: Innocence*, and anime television series based on the same premise (*Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex* and *Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex 2nd GiG*), are centered somewhere around 2029.
- *The Terminator* is set up during the early years of the 21st century in terms of the wars between humans & Skynet. Some of the intervening years are dealt with by the two sequels, *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* and *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*, with the whole franchise building to a conclusion of the War in 2029.
- The 2002 version of *The Time Machine* has scenes that take place in the 2030s.
- The Doctor Who story *The Enemy of the World* is set in Australia in 2030.
- The anime OAV series *Bubblegum Crisis* (2032-33), its sequel *Bubblegum Crash* (2034), and its TV-series re-imagining *Bubblegum Crisis 2040* (2040).
- *Demolition Man* is set in 2032.
- *I, Robot* was set in 2035.
- Deep space vessel *Event Horizon* was sent to test an artificial wormhole (black hole) in deep space in the year 2040. The lost ship is found 7 years later by a rescue team on board the ship *Lewis and Clark* on low orbit around the planet Neptune.
- *The Outward Urge* has a major nuclear war in 2044 and the first manned landing on Mars in 2094.
- *Minority Report* was set in 2054.
- World War III ends in 2056 according to *Star Trek: First Contact*, with 600,000,000 dead and most major cities destroyed.
- The 1998 remake of *Lost in Space* was set in 2058.
- Most of *Star Trek: First Contact* takes place in 2063. In Star Trek canon, the human Zefram Cochrane develops faster-than-light travel and makes first contact with an alien race during this year.
- *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within* is set in 2065.
- The Doctor Who story *The Moonbase* is set in 2070.
- The Japanese anime show *Cowboy Bebop* is set in 2071.
- The Nickelodeon cartoon *My Life as a Teenage Robot* is set in 2072.
- *Equilibrium* is set in 2072.
- The Doctor Who story *Day of the Daleks* is set in 2073, albeit in an alternative timeline.
- The film *Total Recall*, and the Doctor Who story *Warriors of the Deep* is set in 2084.
- In *Star Trek: Insurrection*, it is discovered that the Ba'ku moved to the Briar Patch at some point in this century.
- *The Jetsons* is supposed to take place in the late 21st century.
- *Zenon: Girl of the 21st Century* and its sequels takes place in the years 2049-2054.
- The final episode of *The X-Files* sets 2012 as the date for alien colonization.
- The CGI animated series *Cubix: Robots for Everyone* takes place in 2040.
- The Doctor Who story *The Seeds of Death* is set in 2090.
- The Doctor Who story *Nightmare of Eden* is set in 2096.
- The events of *Leprechaun 4: In Space*; takes place in 2096
- The 2008 Disney Channel movie *Minutemen* is based between the dates September 3rd 2005 and September 8th 2008.





- The tagline of Torchwood series one is: "The 21st century is when everything happens. And we have to be ready." In series two, the second sentence changes to: "And Torchwood is ready."

## Computer and video games

- The events of Metal Gear Solid take place in 2005, Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty takes places in the years 2007 (Tanker Chapter) and 2009 (Big Shell Chapter), and the events of Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots take place in 2014.
- *Duke Nukem 3D* is set in the early 21st century and contains evidence (such as calendars) that suggest it is more specifically set in October or December 2007
- *Uplink* is set on the internet of the year 2010.
- *Perfect Dark Zero* is set in 2020 and *Perfect Dark* is set in 2023.
- The races in *San Francisco Rush 2049* take place in 2049.
- The events of *Deus Ex* take place in 2052.
- The levels "Breaking and Entering" and "You Genius, U-Genix" in *TimeSplitters: Future Perfect* take place in 2052.
- *System Shock* is set in 2072.
- *Future Cop: LAPD* takes place in the year 2098.
- The discovery of the Zohar in *Xenosaga* takes place in 20XX.
- The Great War of the *Fallout* universe starts on October 23, 2077; nuclear bombs are launched, nobody knows who the aggressor was.
- The events of *Shin Megami Tensei: Nocturne* occur in 20XX.
- In *Mercenaries: Playground of Destruction*, the 2nd Korean War starts early in this century.
- *Mercenaries 2: World in Flames*, will take place sometime around between 2008 and 2010.
- The Mega Man Classic series takes place in the 21st century.
- The MegaMan Battle Network series takes place in 20XX.
- The arcade game *Robotron: 2084* takes place in the year 2084.
- *One Must Fall: 2097* takes place in 2097.
- The *Mr. Driller* series (and *Dig Dug: Digging Strike*, a game in its related timeline) takes place in 20XX.
- The events of Half-Life 2 and its expansion packs takes place around th early 2020s.
- The video game and cartoon 20X6 of Homestar Runner supposedly takes place in the seventh year of an unspecified decade in the 21st century.
- The nuclear holocaust of the *AquaNox* universe takes place in mid-21st century, followed by the massive exodus of survivors underwater.
- *Trauma Centre: Under the Knife* and *Trauma Centre: Second Opinion* take place in 2018, when AIDS and cancer supposedly have cures.
- The events of *Castlevania: Aria of Sorrow* takes place in this time; specifically 2035. The sequel, *Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow* takes place one year later, in 2036. These are the only two Castlevania titles to have taken place beyond the early to mid 20th century thus far.
- The events of *Tokyo Xtreme Racer Drift* and *Tokyo Xtreme Racer: Drift 2* take place during 20XX, when Japanese highways have supposedly been opened as racing circuits.
- The events of *Namco X Capcom* takes place during 20XX.
- In the Command & Conquer: Tiberian series, the 2nd Tiberium War between the Global Defense Initiative and the Brotherhood of Nod begins in 2030. The 3rd Tiberium War takes place 17 years later in 2047, which also sees the arrival of the Scrin to Earth.



- *Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Advanced Warfighter 2* (GRAW 2) takes place in 2014

## Novels

- Arthur C. Clarke's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *2010: Odyssey Two* and *2061: Odyssey Three*.
- Tad Williams' *Otherland* series is set at some undefined point in the 21st century
- Neal Stephenson's *The Diamond Age* is also set in the 21st century, after some disaster befell the centralized telephone network. This led people to build a decentralized network, which they used to transfer money, thus destroying normal methods of taxation and bringing down most large governments.
- *Red Mars* of Kim Stanley Robinson's Mars trilogy begins in 2027.
- Some books by Arkady and Boris Strugatsky are set in 21st century
- *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress* by Robert A. Heinlein takes place in 2075.
- *Turnabout* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, is set in 2005-06, 2057, and mainly 2085.

## Decades and years

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