

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND THEIR DATES IN MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

1453	Constantinople is sacked by Muslim forces
1488	Bartholemew Diaz rounds the Cape of Good Hope
1492	Columbus encounters the Americas (“God, Glory and Gold”)
1517	Martin Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses
1520	Diet of Worms declares Martin Luther an outlaw
1524-1525	The Peasants’ Revolt takes place in Germany
1534	Act of Supremacy passed in England – Henry VIII becomes head of the Anglican Church
1545	Council of Trent begins – The Counter Reformation
1555	Peace of Augsburg (“ <i>cuius regio, eius religio</i> ” – whose region, his religion)
1585-1589	War of the Three Henries in France
1588	Spanish Armada destroyed by the English and “The Protestant Wind”
1603	Elizabeth I Dies - Tudor Dynasty Ends and the Stuart Dynasty Begins
1618-1648	The Thirty Years’ War (Treaty of Westphalia ends the war – 1648)
1642-1646	English Civil War (Roundheads vs. the Cavaliers)
1649	Charles I is executed – Oliver Cromwell begins his rule
1660	Stuart Restoration in England through Charles II
1688-1689	Glorious Revolution in England – William and Mary of Orange replace James II and sign the English Bill of Rights
1643-1715	Era of Louis XIV – The Sun King (<i>l’etat c’est moi</i>)
1689-1725	Reign of Peter the Great in Russia
1756-1763	The Seven Years War
1789-1799	Era of the French Revolution (Radical Stage –late 1792-1795)
1799	Napoleon comes to power
1805-1815	Napoleonic Wars are waged
1814-1815	The Congress of Vienna meets (Main principles: Legitimacy, Conservatism, Compensation & Balance of Power)
1819	Peterloo Massacre in England
1830	Belgian Independence
1832	Reform Bill in England Passed
1848	Revolutions break out across Western Europe (France, Austria, Italy and Germany)
1861	Serfs “emancipated” in Russia under Alexander II
1870-1871	Germany and Italy Unification
1884-1885	Berlin Conference is held (“Scramble for Africa”)
1894	Tsar Nicholas II comes to power in Russia – the last of the Romanovs
1905	Sunday Bloody Revolution in Russia – “The Dress Rehearsal”
1914	Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated – WWI starts
1917	March and November (Bolshevik) Revolutions in Russia
1918	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed (Russia withdraws from war)
1918	WWI ends
1919	Treaty of Versailles is signed
1918-1921	Russian Civil War (Reds vs. Whites)
1922	Mussolini comes to power in Italy and establishes the 1 st Fascist government
1922	Russia officially becomes known as the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) – The Soviet Union
1923	Adolf Hitler leads the Beer Hall Putsch in Germany
1924	Lenin dies
1928	Stalin is firmly entrenched as the leader of the Soviet Union – begins the first of several 5 year plans
1929	Stock Market Crash in the US – The Great Depression begins
1933	Hitler comes to power in Germany
1938	Munich Conference (“Peace in our time” – Neville Chamberlain)
1939	World War II starts with Germany’s invasion of Poland
1945	World War II ends (V-E Day – May 8, 1945 and V-J Day – August 15, 1945)
1945	First session of the United Nations is held
1945-1989	Cold War (U.S. vs. S.U. -begins and begins to end in Poland)

POST WW II	Decolonization – European colonies become independent
1946	Winston Churchill gives the “Iron Curtain” speech
1948-1949	“Operation Vittles” – the Berlin Airlift
1949	USSR successfully tests first atomic bomb
1951	European Coal and Steel Community formed (sounds like the Zollverein)
1953	Stalin dies and is succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev – “destalinization” begins
1954	French forces defeated in French-Indochina at Dien Bien Phu
1956	Hungarian revolt against the Soviet Union – it is crushed by the Soviets
1957	Rome Treaty is signed – The European Economic Community (EEC) is created (AKA-Common Market)
1957	Sputnik is launched by the Soviet Union – the first space satellite
1958	The fifth Republic is born in France and Charles de Gaulle becomes President
1961	Berlin Wall built – dividing East and West Berlin
1961	Soviet Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis – 90 miles off the coast of Florida
1963	Betty Friedan’s <i>The Feminine Mystique</i> is published
1964	Leonid Brezhnev becomes leader of the Soviet Union
1966	Under President Charles de Gaulle, France withdraws from the common NATO military command
1968	“Prague Spring” occurs in Czechoslovakia – it is crushed by the Soviets
1968	Student revolt in France (Paris)
1978	Pope Karol Wojtyla elected Pope – Pope John Paul II – 1st non-Italian in 455 years
1979	Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female Prime Minister of England (“The Iron Lady”)
1979	The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan (eventually becomes their own “little Vietnam”)
1980	1st independent labor union in the Soviet Bloc formed – Solidarity – led by Lech Walesa of Poland
1980	Ronald Reagan elected President of the US (calls the Soviet Union an “evil empire”)
1985	Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader (implements policies of <i>perestroika</i> and <i>glasnost</i>)
1986	Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident in the Soviet Union (specifically – the Ukraine)
1989	Berlin Wall comes down
1989	The “Velvet Revolution” occurs in Czechoslovakia – Vaclav Havel becomes President
1989	The Soviet Union withdraws its forces from Afghanistan
1989	Romanian leader Nicolai Ceausescu is overthrown and killed
1990	Lech Walesa becomes President of Poland
1990	East Germany and West Germany reunify into one Germany
1990	The first McDonalds opens in Russia
1991	Attempted coup attempt in the Soviet Union - The Soviet Union begins to disintegrate
1991	Boris Yeltsin becomes President of Russia – former 15 republics of the Soviet Union form the Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.)
1991	Yugoslavia begins to break apart
1992	Maastricht Treaty signed
1997	Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister of England – 1st Labor Party leader in 18 years
1999	Eurodollar becomes the single currency of the European Union (EU)