

# IMPORTANT EVENTS & THEIR DATES IN MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century dates must be memorized by the first day of class*

## *14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Century*

1348-1351 Black Death

1415-1417 Council of Constance burns Hus and ends Great Schism

1453 Fall of the Byzantine Empire to Muslim forces; end of Hundred Years' War

1454 Gutenberg's Printing Press

1455-1485 Wars of the Roses

1492 Columbus encounters the Americas (“God, Glory, and Gold”); Reconquista of Grenada by Ferdinand and Isabella

## *16<sup>th</sup> Century*

1508-1512 Michelangelo paints the Sistine Chapel

1513 Machiavelli's *The Prince*

1517 \*\*\* Martin Luther's posting of the *95 Theses*

1519 Cortez conquers Aztecs

1519-1556 Reign of Charles V HRE

1524-1525 The Peasants' Revolt takes place in Germany

1534 Act of Supremacy passed in England – Henry VIII becomes head of the Anglican Church

1536 Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

1540 Loyola founds the Jesuits

1543 Copernicus' *On the Revolution of the Heavenly Orbs*

1545 Council of Trent begins – The Counter Reformation

1555 \*\*\* Peace of Augsburg (“*cuius regio, eius religio*” – whose region, his religion)

1556-1598 Reign of Philip II of Spain

1558-1603 Reign of Elizabeth I of England

1566-1648 Eighty Years' War between Spain and the Netherlands

1564-1616 William Shakespeare

1572 St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre

1585-1589 War of the Three Henrys in France ends Wars of Religion in France

1588 Spanish Armada destroyed by the English and “The Protestant Wind”

1598 Edict of Nantes ends Religious Wars in France

## ***17<sup>th</sup> Century***

1600-1602 British and Dutch East India Companies

1603 Tudor Dynasty Ends (Elizabeth I) and the Stuart Dynasty Begins (James I)

1609 Bank of Amsterdam Established

1618-1648 \*\*\* The Thirty Years' War (Peace of Westphalia)

1642-1646 English Civil War (Roundheads vs. the Cavaliers)

1643-1715 \*\*\* Reign of Louis XIV of France– The Sun King (l'état c'est moi)

1649 Charles I is executed – Oliver Cromwell begins his rule as Lord Protector

1651 Navigation Act; Hobbes' *Leviathan*

1660 Stuart Restoration in England through Charles II

1687 Newton's *Principia Mathematica*

1689 Locke's *Two Treatises on Government*

1688 \*\*\* Glorious Revolution in England – William and Mary of Orange replace James II

1689 English Bill of Rights

1682-1725 Reign of Peter the Great in Russia

## ***18<sup>th</sup> Century***

1713-1715 Peace of Utrecht

1720 South Seas and Mississippi Bubbles burst

1721-42 Robert Walpole P.M. of England

1740-1780 Reign of Maria Theresa of Austria (Begins with War of Austrian Succession)

1740-1786 Reign of Frederick the Great Prussia

1756-1763 Diplomatic Revolution; The Seven Years War

1762-1796 Reign of Catherine the Great of Russia

1763 Treaty of Paris ends Seven Years' War

1772 Diderot's *Encyclopedia*; First Partition of Poland

1776 \*\*\* Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*; American Revolution

1789-1799 \*\*\* Era of the French Revolution (Radical Stage –late 1792-1795); Napoleon comes to power in 1799

1792 Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*

## *19<sup>th</sup> Century*

1805-1815 Napoleonic Wars

1814-1815 \*\*\* The Congress of Vienna meets (Main principles: Legitimacy, Conservatism, Compensation & Balance of Power)

1814-1848 \*\*\* Age of Metternich/Concert of Europe

1830-1848 Reign of Louis Philippe of France (July Monarchy); Belgian and Greek Independence

1832 Reform Bill in England Passed

1848 Marx's Communist Manifesto; Revolutions break out across Western Europe (France, Austria, Italy and Germany)

1857 British establish Direct Rule in India

1859 Darwin's *Origin of Species*

1861 Serfs "emancipated" in Russia under Alexander II

1870-1871 German and Italian Unification

1884-1885 Berlin Conference is held ("Scramble for Africa")

1894 Tsar Nicholas II comes to power in Russia – the last of the Romanovs

## *20<sup>th</sup> Century*

1900 Freud publishes *Interpretation of Dreams*

1905 Bloody Sunday Revolution in Russia – “The Dress Rehearsal;” Einstein’s relativity theory

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); WWI ends

1919 \*\*\* Treaty of Versailles is signed

1922 Mussolini comes to power in Italy and establishes the 1st Fascist government; 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; Occupation of the Ruhr

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

1936 Keynes' *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money*

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); UN holds first session

1945-1989 Cold War (U.S. vs. S.U. -begins and begins to end in Poland)

1946 Decolonization – European colonies become independent

1948-1949 Winston Churchill gives the “Iron Curtain” speech; Berlin Airlift; NATO formed

1953 Stalin dies and is succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev – “destalinization” begins

1957 Hungarian revolt against the Soviet Union – it is crushed by the Soviets

1957 Rome Treaty is signed – The European Economic Community (EEC) is created; Sputnik launches

1961 Berlin Wall built; Fifth Republic in France under Charles de Gaulle

1962 Vatican II begins

1963 Cuban Missile Crisis

1968 “Prague Spring” in Czechoslovakia crushed by the Soviets; Student Revolts worldwide

1975 Helsinki Accords – height of detente

1978 Pole Karol Wojtyla elected Pope John Paul II; Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female Prime Minister of England

1986 Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader (implements policies of perestroika and glasnost)

1989 \*\*\* Berlin Wall comes down; The “Velvet Revolution” occurs in Czechoslovakia – Vaclav Havel becomes President; The Soviet Union withdraws its forces from Afghanistan

1990 East Germany and West Germany reunify into one Germany

1991 End of the U.S.S.R.; Boris Yeltsin becomes President of Russia – former 15 republics of the Soviet Union form the Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.)

1992 Maastricht Treaty signed

1999 Euro Currency introduced

2001 Terrorist Attacks on the United States

*Dates marked with stars \*\*\* will count double on your chronology quiz*

## Maps You Absolutely Need to Know

1. Lands controlled by Charles V and the Holy Roman Empire
2. Map of Europe at the Peace of Westphalia
3. Lands contested and conquered by Louis XIV
4. Partitions of Poland
5. Expansion of Russia, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries
6. France and Europe under Napoleon
7. Europe after the Congress of Vienna
8. Unifications of Germany and Italy
9. British and French empires, post-1871–1945
10. Africa, 1885–1914
11. Europe after World War I
12. Europe after World War II
13. Europe after the fall of Communism