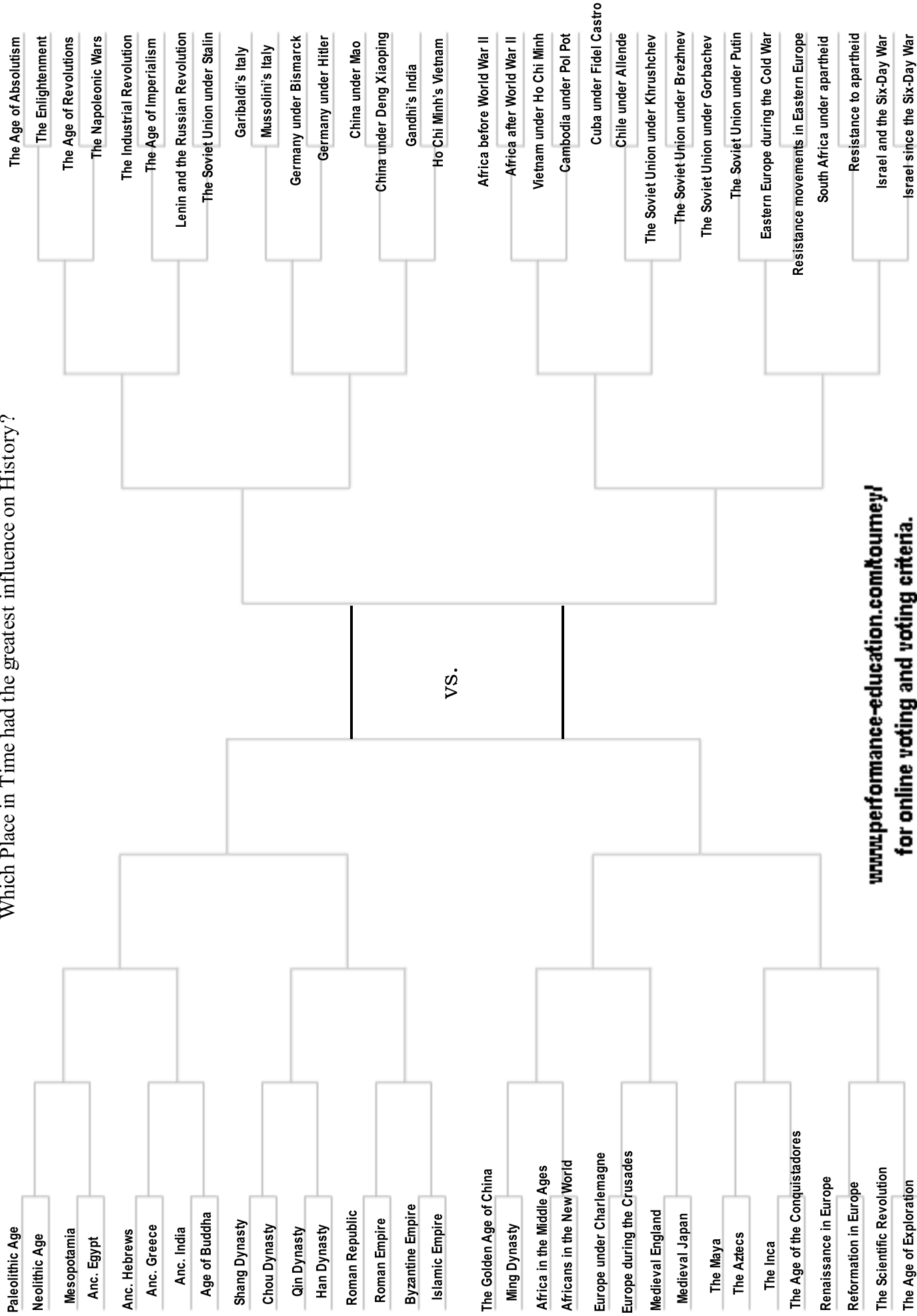


Which Place in Time had the greatest influence on History?



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World History Tournament of Champions

What was the greatest era in World History?

1. The Paleolithic Age

Before 6000 B.C.

Invented fire

This was the Stone Age. In Africa and Asia, people lived in caves, created stone tools (spear, bow and arrow), survived by hunting and gathering, and invented fire. They were nomadic, moving from place to place, following the game. What they hunted (wooly mammoth, bison, rhinoceros) depended on the region. People ate meat, fish, leafy vegetables, fruits and nuts. During this era, people created the cave paintings at Lescaux, France.

2. The Neolithic Age

After 6000 B.C.

The dawn of farming

When the Ice Age ended, the Earth's climate became warmer. In the Fertile Crescent, people were sedentary - that is, they settled down in farm villages, began farming (wheat), created farm implements out of metals (the hoe), domesticated animals (dog, sheep, goat), created pottery, and invented the wheel. The wheat was ground into flour to make bread. Walled farming villages were built (Jericho), as well as religious sites (Stonehenge). From the Middle East, the concept of farming spread to the Mediterranean, the Indus Valley, China, and Southeast Asia.

3. Mesopotamia

3500 B.C.: The rise of cities

The world's first cities and the world's first form of writing

In the Fertile Crescent, in the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, farmers invented irrigation. The resulting food surplus allowed them to build the world's first cities. Followers of polytheism, they built temples (ziggurats) in the cities of Nineveh and Babylon. Each city-state had its own special deity, like Ishtar, the goddess of love. Babylon was famous for its Hanging Gardens. Hammurabi's Code was the world's first system of written laws. The Sumerians created *cuneiform*, the world's first form of writing. Their most famous literary work was the *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

4. Ancient Egypt

3000 B.C.: Upper and Lower Egypt were united

The world's first central government.

Thanks to the predictable flooding of the Nile River, farmers turned the desert into irrigated farmland. The food surplus allowed them to build great cities like Memphis and Thebes. Outstanding in geometry and engineering, they used quarries and massive forced labor to build colossal monuments like the pyramids, temples and the Sphinx. The pharaoh was an absolute monarch who presided over a strong central government. Compared to other ancient civilizations, women enjoyed a high social status. Hatshepsut, a woman, even rose to become pharaoh. Using papyrus, they created paper, and thanks to the Rosetta Stone, we are able to read Egyptian hieroglyphs. As followers of polytheism, there were many gods and goddesses, like Osiris and Isis, who inspired the practice of mummification. Thanks to the divine right of kings, people worshiped the Pharaoh. Ramses the Great may have been the pharaoh who enslaved the ancient Hebrews.

5. The Ancient Hebrews

1500 B.C.: The Exodus

A set of moral laws for humanity

Judaism was the first religion based on monotheism, the worship of one God. The history of the Jewish people is told in the Torah, the Hebrew Bible. When they were enslaved in Egypt, Moses told pharaoh: "Let my people go." Pharaoh refused, so nine plagues befell Egypt, destroying the crops. The tenth killed all the first-born sons of Egypt. Because the Jewish children were spared, this gave rise to Passover, one of the most important Jewish holidays. During the Exodus, Moses led the Jewish people out of Egypt. On Mount Sinai, he received the Ten Commandments, a set of moral laws for humanity. The first four

commandments explain how people should relate to God. The last six describe how people should relate to one another: Honor your parents. Do not kill, commit adultery, steal, lie, or covet another person's property. The Torah also provides the Golden Rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

6. Ancient Greece

400 B.C.: The Golden Age of Greece

The world's first democracy

On the highest hill above the Aegean Sea, the Greeks built the *acropolis*, a fortress city. In Athens, on the *Acropolis*, they built the Parthenon. Thanks to its rocky, hilly soil, the Greeks took to the sea and became fabulous traders. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle the Greeks invented philosophy. Plato's Academy became the world's first university. Herodotus was the "Father of History" and Hippocrates was the "Father of Medicine." Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides created the world's first drama. Pythagoras, Euclid, and Archimedes were outstanding mathematicians. Greek literature includes Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, *Aesop's Fables*, as well as Greek mythology about gods like Zeus and Athena. The Greeks invented the Olympics. In Athens 40% of the population were slaves. During the Peloponnesian Wars Athens was defeated by Sparta, a military society based entirely on slavery. Throughout the Mediterranean Sea, Alexander the Great spread Greek culture which provided the foundation of Western civilization. During the Renaissance, European artists revived Greek sculpture and architecture.

7. Ancient India

1000 B.C.: The Rig Veda

Outstanding in math

Ancient India began with the Harappan civilization in the Indus River Valley and migrated to the Ganges River Valley. From the religion of Hinduism, arose reincarnation, karma, and the caste system. Reincarnation is the cycle of death and rebirth. Karma is the belief that good deeds in this life will shape your next life. Under the caste system, one's occupation determines one's status in society. The sacred texts are the *Rig Veda*, the *Ramayana*, and the *Mahabharata*. From the Golden Age of India during the Gupta Empire, we have inherited the numbering system, the decimal system, and the concept of zero.

8. The Age of Buddha

500 B.C.: Buddha

A moral code of behavior

Born in ancient India around 500 B.C., Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha, "the Enlightened One") was the founder of the religion of Buddhism. Like Hinduism, Buddha believed in reincarnation. Unlike Hinduism, he believed an individual could break out of the endless cycle of death and rebirth. To achieve nirvana, one must follow the Eightfold Path: Know the truth. Resist evil. Say nothing to hurt others. Do nothing to hurt others. Get a job that hurts no one. Free your mind of evil. Control your thoughts and feelings. Practice meditation. In India, Buddhism reached its zenith during the reign of Asoka the Great who abandoned warfare and became a pacifist. Today, Buddhism is the major religion of Asia.

9. The Shang dynasty

1500 B.C.: The Yellow River Valley

Created silk

On the North China Plain, Chinese civilization began in the Yellow River Valley. Thanks to *loess* (yellow silt, the world's best soil for farming), the Chinese became experts at agriculture. They invented the yoke, the harness, and the spoked wheel. They grew wheat and turned it into porridge, noodles, dumplings and pancakes. The Yellow River was nicknamed "China's Sorrow" because it flooded at unpredictable times, drowning people and destroying crops. Since North China is extremely dry and prone to droughts, farmers dug irrigation canals from the river to their farms. Since North China is cold in winter and hot in summer, Shang farmers built underground homes to keep warm in winter and cool in summer. The first dynasty created ancestor worship, calligraphy, and the use of bronze. Farmers grew silkworms on mulberry bushes, then unraveled the worm cocoons to make silk.

10. The Chou dynasty

500 B.C.: Confucius

Confucianism and the importance of education

During the Age of Warring States, feudal warlords made war on each other. Since warlords spent 100% of their time making war, they hired professional bureaucrats to run the government. Education became

paramount, for a commoner could become a government official. Confucius hated the chaos that had spread across China. Village life was falling apart, children disrespecting their parents, peasants slaughtering their landlords. Since Confucius could not reform China from the top down, he reformed it from the bottom up. Starting with the family, Confucius created standards of personal behavior. 1) *Respect social rank* and act properly toward your "betters" (people of higher rank). The wife must show respect to her husband, the youngest brother must show respect to the eldest brother, and the peasant must show respect to his landlord. 2) Everyone must practice the Golden Rule, regardless of rank. 3) Government officials must study Confucianism to develop good moral character in order to govern China. Four hundred years later, the Han dynasty set up the Imperial University so students could study Confucianism and take a civil service exam. Those with the highest scores were given top jobs in government.

11. The Qin dynasty **200 B.C.: The First Emperor**

Imperial China under a powerful centralized government

The First Emperor was an absolute ruler who united China, created a centralized government, and built the Great Wall. First, he crushed the warlords, ended feudalism, and turned the feudal states into provinces. Second, he created Imperial China and the central government set policy for all the provinces - one set of laws, writing, currency, weights and measures, and heavy taxes. Third, he persecuted Confucian scholars because he refused to share power with anyone, especially government bureaucrats. In the South, he expanded the empire to the Xi ("Pearl River"). In the North, he built the Great Wall to prevent barbarian invasions. It was built by forced labor. When thousands died from starvation and exhaustion, they were buried in the wall. For this reason, the Chinese say: "Every stone cost a human life." When the emperor died, his tomb was guarded by terracotta warriors.

12. The Han dynasty **100 B.C.: The Silk Road**

Trade with the Roman Empire along the Silk Road

Under the Han dynasty, Confucianism became the philosophical basis of government and law. Civil servants, trained in Confucianism, ran the government. Paper was invented and classical Chinese literature (especially Confucianism) was written on paper scrolls. When the Chinese empire expanded to Central Asia, Buddhism spread to China and became the major religion. (While Confucianism was a philosophy to guarantee social order, Buddhism was a religion that provided comfort to suffering peasants.) Along the Silk Road, China traded with the Roman Empire. Thanks to this land route, all of the Chinese inventions (silk, tea, porcelain, paper, water clocks, water mills, wheelbarrows) eventually reached Europe.

13. The Roman Republic **500 B.C.: The Roman Republic**

The world's first constitutional government

While Rome was not a democracy (women and slaves could not vote), it did have representative government. It was a *republic*, a government with no king, so citizens swore allegiance to the *nation*. The Romans created the world's first constitutional government: a written constitution, two branches of government, plus checks and balances. The Executive was run by two Consuls. The Legislature was the Roman Senate (wealthy landowners) and the Assembly (commoners). The Tribune was a man of the people. The Romans invented citizenship and civic duty. Every citizen had individual rights (participate in government, be treated equally under law) and duties (required to vote, sit on a jury, and serve in the Roman Army). Cincinnatus was a model of good citizenship. In the defense of Rome, he served as a general; when the Roman Senate asked him to become dictator, he refused and returned to being a civilian. Cicero was a great statesman. Best of all, the Romans followed the rule of law. No matter who was in power, the government had to follow Roman law.

14. The Roman Empire **100 B.C.: Julius Caesar**

The spread of Christianity

Julius Caesar, the great Roman general, conquered Gaul (France). When the Roman Senate heard of his victory, they sent an order: "Do not return to Rome." Caesar ignored them, crossed the Rubicon River, entered Italy, and declared war on the Roman Senate. Caesar then killed the republic and became dictator. The Senate killed Caesar, and Augustus became the first emperor. The Romans were great engineers; they

invented concrete and built roads, tunnels, bridges to connect the empire. The Romans conquered the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea and each province specialized in producing one product. While slaves and loot from conquered lands flooded into Rome, the landless citizens of Rome were unemployed and bought off with bread and circuses. The Romans persecuted anyone who did not follow the state religion – that is, the worship of emperors. In Palestine, the Romans evicted the Jews from Jerusalem and launched the Diaspora. The Roman governor Pontius Pilate crucified Jesus of Nazareth, the founder of Christianity. Paul the Apostle, the world's first Christian missionary, spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

15. The Byzantine Empire

400 A.D.: The Roman Empire fell

Preserved classical learning from ancient Greece and Rome

The Roman Empire was divided into two parts. The Western empire (based in Rome) fell apart. The Eastern Empire survived the fall of the Rome. Emperor Constantine moved the capital to Constantinople (in today's Turkey). The night before a major battle, he had a revelation – his soldiers should carry the Christian cross on their shields. When he won that battle, he converted to Christianity. As the first Christian emperor of the Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Milan which ended the persecution of Christians. When Rome fell, Constantinople became the center of the Byzantine Empire. The Christian Church split in two: the Roman Catholic Church was based in Rome and the Eastern Orthodox Church was based in Constantinople. The Byzantine Empire preserved classical learning from ancient Greece and Rome – especially the art, literature, philosophy, rhetoric, science, and medicine.

16. The Islamic Empire

600 A.D.: Muhammad

Transmitted classical learning to Europe

On the Arabian Peninsula, the Bedouin were nomads in the desert. They were migratory, living in tents, herding livestock (camels, sheep, goats), and moving from one oasis to another. Muhammad, the founder of the religion of Islam, provided a center to unify the scattered tribes. Every day, five times a day, the Muslims faced Mecca and recited verses from the sacred book, the Koran. Once in his lifetime, the Muslim made a religious pilgrimage to Mecca. Along the caravan routes, Muslim merchants spread the Arabic language and Muslim religion to North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. While Europe was in the Dark Ages, the Islamic Empire developed magnificent cities; in Spain, the city of Cordoba became the cultural center of Europe. There, Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived in harmony. During the Golden Age of Islam, Muslim scholarship was astounding. Omar Khayyam made advances in algebra and wrote poetry in *The Rubaiyat*. Avicenna turned medicine into a science; his *Canon of Medicine* was the standard medical textbook in Europe for 600 years. Muslim geographers invented the astrolabe to determine latitude, an advance that made possible the Age of Exploration. By translating and copying all of the classical literature from ancient Greece and Rome, Muslim scholars made possible the Renaissance in Europe. It was the Muslim scholar Averroes who introduced Aristotle to Europe.

17. The Golden Age of China

600 A.D.: The Tang dynasty

Five Chinese inventions changed the history of Europe

During the Tang dynasty, the Chinese Empire reached its greatest size, stretching from the Pacific to Persia. When China expanded to Korea, both Korea and Japan adopted Chinese culture. The Tang built the 1,000-mile long Grand Canal, uniting the Yellow and the Yangtze rivers. With such a large empire, China needed more government officials than ever. Under the merit system, government officials were chosen by ability, not birth. Trade along the Silk Road financed the Golden Age of China. The Chinese created five inventions - tea, paper, woodblock printing, the compass, and gunpowder – that had a major impact on Europe. Thanks to gunpowder, cannon could destroy castles, so the Middle Ages came to an end in Europe. Thanks to the magnetic compass, the Age of Exploration began in Europe, led by Columbus, da Gama, and Magellan. Thanks to paper and woodblock printing (and Gutenberg's printing press), the Reformation began in Europe.

18. The Ming dynasty

1400 A.D.: Admiral Zheng He

China launched its own Age of Exploration

The Ming lived at the same time as the Renaissance in Europe. From 1405 to 1433, the Ming emperor sponsored overseas expeditions and China became the world's No. 1 sea power. Using the magnetic compass, Admiral Zheng He and the Imperial Fleet sailed west, visiting five regions: Southeast Asia (including Indonesia, the Spice Islands), India, Persia, Arabia, and East Africa. While Zheng He lived at the same time as Prince Henry the Navigator, he was sixty years ahead of the European Age of Exploration. In 1492 Columbus thought he was sailing to India, in 1497 Vasco da Gama did reach India, and in 1521 Magellan sailed around the world, ending up in Indonesia. In 1433, the Chinese Age of Exploration came to a halt when Zheng He died. Confucian scholars convinced the Ming emperor to end the maritime voyages. Because of their experience with the Mongols, the Ming looked down on all foreigners, became isolationist, and wanted nothing to do with the outside world. From then on, the Ming dynasty built the Imperial Palace in the Forbidden City and looked inward.

19. Africa in the Middle Ages

1300 A.D.: Mansa Musa

Inspired the Age of Exploration

In West Africa, the Niger River Valley was the land where the “camel met the canoe.” From North Africa, Muslim merchants in camel caravans laden with salt crossed the Sahara Desert, heading south. From the rainforests of West Africa, Africans in canoes laden with gold sailed north on the river. They met on the savanna grasslands at Timbuktu. As a result, black kingdoms arose in Niger River Valley. Sundiata, the “Lion King,” ruled the Empire of Ghana and, oral historians (*griots*) sang his praises. Meanwhile the When Muslim merchants spread the Arabic language and the Muslim religion, Mansa Musa became the ideal Muslim king in the Empire of Mali. In 1324, he made a fabulous pilgrimage to Mecca with an entourage of 60,000 including 500 men who each carried a four-pound bar of gold. On his return, he turned his capital city of Timbuktu into a center for Islamic learning.

20. Africans in the New World

1500: The New World

Skilled labor built the New World

When the Europeans learned of West Africa's wealth in gold, this unleashed a series of tragic events. 1) West African gold became the foundation of Europe's economy; every gold coin in Europe was mined in the West African rainforest. 2) Inspired by gold, Prince Henry the Navigator began exploring the coast of West Africa. 3) This launched the Age of Exploration, and Columbus sailed to the Americas, two continents previously unknown to Europeans. 4) In the Americas, the Europeans had no skills and no intention of doing work; meanwhile Native Americans were dying of European diseases like smallpox. 5) West Africa, however, was an agricultural society with a highly developed division of labor. Whole families were trained as livestock herders, fishermen, cloth makers, leather makers, woodcarvers, masons and metalworkers (blacksmiths, coppersmiths, and goldsmiths). The highest skilled were the blacksmiths who turned iron into farm tools and weapons. As a result, the West Africans built a society - from the ground up - in the New World.

21. Europe under Charlemagne

800 A.D.: Charlemagne

Feudalism was a political system

Charlemagne invented *feudalism*, a political system based on land. A warlord distributed land to his vassals; in return, the vassal protected the warlord, his land, and the serfs attached to the land. The warlord held court and administered justice. Before making laws or going to war, the warlord consulted his vassals. Over time, the warlords became the nobility – barons, dukes, counts, and knights. *Manorialism* was the economic system. The lord lived on a manor and his serfs were attached to the land. Each manor was economically self-sufficient. The farmland, which was worked by serfs, provided food. The forests provided game for hunting and wood for building and cooking. The river provided fishing. The village provided services (miller, blacksmith, mason) and produced crafts (weaver, shoemaker). Under feudalism, everyone lived in the countryside and there was no trade.

22. Europe during the Crusades

1100: The Crusades began

The Crusades launched trade and the rise of cities in Europe

In 1095, Pope Urban II launched the Crusades, a series of Christian military expeditions against the Muslims to recapture Jerusalem. There were six major results. 1) Feudalism was weakened because the knights were defeated. 2) Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire fell to the Muslims. 3) The Pope lost prestige. 4) Muslims no longer trusted Europeans. 5) The Europeans began victimizing the Jews, a practice that continued up to the 20th century. 6) The Crusades launched trade and the rise of cities in Europe. Contact with the Middle East ended the isolation of Europeans. They were exposed to cultures (Islam, China) that were more advanced. Shipping expanded on the Mediterranean Sea, creating seaports and a merchant class in Venice (Marco Polo), Florence (birthplace of the Renaissance), and Genoa (birthplace of Columbus). Beginning in the 1100s, cities arose in Northern Europe. London, Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Berlin, and Hamburg began trading with one another.

23. Medieval England

1066: William the Conqueror

The modern world's first constitutional government

Since England was an island with centuries of isolation, it was the perfect place to run a political experiment. In 1066, William the Conqueror conquered England and spread feudalism, the political system based on land. Before making laws, the king always consulted his barons. In 1215, Bad King John broke this tradition. When his barons made war on him, they forced him to sign the Magna Carta, reminding him that he must share power with the barons. From this, arose Parliament, the first representative government in the modern world. From medieval England, we have inherited our political traditions: constitutional government (the rule of law, limited government, three branches of government), representative government (Parliament), and the English legal system (an independent judiciary, due process, habeas corpus, common law, and trial by jury).

24. Medieval Japan

1200: Yoritomo

Very similar to medieval England

Prince Shotoku was the first ruler to make “cultural borrowing” the official policy of the government. From China, the Japanese adopted the religion (Buddhism), writing (calligraphy), art, literature, philosophy, technology and government. During the Golden Age of Literature, women of the Imperial Court created literature, and Lady Murasaki wrote the world's first novel, *Tale of Genji*, which described the ideal man. Under feudalism, medieval Japan was similar to medieval England. Like William the Conqueror, Yoritomo became the first military conqueror (*shogun*). The barons (*daimyo*) lived in castles and made war on each other. The samurai were knights who followed the code of *bushido* (chivalry). The samurai impact on culture was great, from the haiku and Zen gardens to the martial arts and Noh drama. Like medieval England, there were castle towns. Edo (Tokyo) was much like the city of London. Like London, Japanese cities were run by wealthy merchants. While Shakespeare's plays were wowing merchants in London, Kabuki theater was performed for merchants in Edo.

25. The Maya

250 A.D.: The Classic Period

The first civilization in the Americas

In the rainforests of Central America, the Maya used slash-and-burn farming to raise maize (corn). The resulting food surplus allowed them to build cities like Tikal, Palenque, Bonampak, and Chichen Itza on the Yucatan Peninsula. The Maya made great strides in math (they invented the zero) and astronomy (they knew that the earth revolves around the sun). Their 365-day calendar was more accurate than any in Europe. In architecture, they built great pyramids. In art, they painted murals. Using hieroglyphs, they were the first in the Americas to develop a system of writing. Using tree bark, they made paper and wrote books. The *Popol Vuh* was the sacred book of the Maya; it contained ancient myths about the creation of the universe.

26. The Aztecs

1300: Tenochtitlan

A magnificent city built on a lake

On the Plateau of Mexico, 8,000 feet above sea level, the Aztecs built the city of Tenochtitlan. In the middle of Lake Texcoco, the city was an island connected by causeways and canals. The major buildings were pyramids. In the lake were floating gardens, blooming with fruits and vegetables. With a population

of 100,000, Tenochtitlan was as large as any city in Europe. The Aztecs had a 365-day calendar and a system of writing (pictographs). Using irrigation, farmers grew cotton, maize (corn was turned into tacos and tortillas), and vegetables, especially the avocado and tomato. The Aztecs introduced chocolate to the world. A warlike society, the Aztecs conquered all of central Mexico. The defeated were enslaved and used as human sacrifice.

27. The Inca

1400: The Inca Empire

The largest empire on the face of the Earth

In the Andes Mountains of South America, the Inca created an empire that stretched for 3,000 miles through Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. The capital of Cuzco was 11,000 feet above sea level. The Inca were great engineers, building roads and suspension bridges to unite the empire, as well as the religious site at Machu Picchu. The Inca ruler was an all-powerful ruler who presided over a strong central government, a highly structured society, and a tightly organized agricultural system. On mountain slopes, using terrace farming, they created so much food that the government could feed everyone. Most of all, the Inca were wealthy in silver and gold. But it was the humble potato that ended starvation in Europe.

28. The Age of the Conquistadores

1500: Cortez & Pizarro

Guns, germs and steel

Thanks to guns, germs, and steel, a handful of Spanish conquistadors were able to conquer both the Aztec and Inca empires. Without iron mail and steel swords, the Aztecs and Inca had no weapons to compete with those of the Europeans. Without domesticated animals (pigs and cows), they had no immunity to smallpox, transmitted by the Europeans. In Mexico, Cortez (the Spanish conquistador) conquered Montezuma (the Aztec emperor). In Peru, Pizarro (the Spanish conquistador) kidnapped and killed Atahualpa (the Inca emperor). The Inca Empire was so highly centralized that it could not run without an emperor.

29. The Renaissance in Europe

1350: Florence, Italy

A cultural flowering of art and literature

The Renaissance was the “rebirth” of classical culture in Western Europe. Leonardo da Vinci became a “Renaissance man.” He painted the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper. He studied the sciences - human anatomy, astronomy, botany, geology, and engineering – and even drew designs for a flying machine (helicopter). Michelangelo painted scenes from the Bible on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican in Rome. His statue of David is the symbol of the city of Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance. As an architect, he created St. Peter’s Church in Rome. The Renaissance was a Golden Age for both art and literature: In *The Divine Comedy*, Dante created the concept of Hell. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli described the ideal politician as being ruthless. In England, Shakespeare became a world-famous playwright. The Renaissance was financed by merchants, bankers, and the Catholic Church. Most of all, the Renaissance focused on the individual.

30. The Reformation in Europe

1519: Martin Luther

The importance of the individual

During the Middle Ages, people did not read the Bible. There were few Bibles and even fewer people who knew how to read. The Bible was written in Latin, which only a handful of church scholars could read. In 1450, Gutenberg invented the printing press and suddenly a series of things happened. 1) People translated the Bible in the local language. Martin Luther translated it into German; John Wycliffe translated it into English. 2) Massive quantities of the Bible were printed. 3) Individuals learned to read just so they could read the Bible. 4) As a Catholic priest, Martin Luther was disturbed that the Catholic Church followed practices that appeared nowhere in the Bible. 5) As the world’s first Protestant, Martin Luther urged individuals to form churches that adhered to the Bible. As a result, Europe split in two: Northern Europe (England and Scandinavia) broke away from the Catholic Church and formed Protestant churches. Southern Europe (Italy, France, Spain) remained Catholic.

31. The Scientific Revolution **1550: Copernicus**

Using the scientific method, men discovered the laws of nature

The Scientific Revolution was the beginning of modern science. At the time, scientists said: *We challenge all accepted knowledge. We believe something only if it can be tested and proven by experiments and observation. We conduct systematic experiments to reveal the laws of nature.* There were four great scientists. Copernicus argued that the earth revolves around the sun. Using a telescope, Galileo proved that Copernicus was right. Using math calculations, Kepler proved that Copernicus was right. Newton explained gravity – it is why objects fall to the ground and why planets stay in their orbits. Francis Bacon conducted laboratory experiments and became the “Father of the Scientific Method.” Descartes argued that scientists must be like mathematicians. (A mathematician follows the numbers and is never influenced by prejudice.) There were four great inventions: the telescope (astronomy), microscope (medicine), thermometer (temperature), and barometer (weather).

32. The Age of Exploration **1500: Columbus & Magellan**

Every continent was transformed

From Europe, Columbus sailed west and landed on two continents previously unknown to the Europeans. Magellan was the first to circumnavigate the globe. Each continent was transformed. EUROPE: Europe focused on trade across the Atlantic, Spain controlled the Atlantic Ocean, and mapmakers made new maps. THE AMERICAS: The Columbian Exchange launched trade between Europe and the Americas, Native peoples died of European diseases, and Spain imposed its language, religion, culture, politics, (and forced labor) on its subjects. AFRICA: The Portuguese launched the slave trade, the Europeans enslaved Africans to work in the Americas, and the majority of slaves were sent to work on sugar plantations in Brazil and the Caribbean. ASIA: The Portuguese set up trading posts, the British took over India, and the French and Dutch took over Southeast Asia. THE WORLD: The Age of Imperialism began when the European powers carved up Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Under colonialism, the each colony adopted the culture of the mother country. The Commercial Revolution began when the Europeans invented the economy system known as mercantilism.

33. The Age of Absolutism **1600 - 1789**

The King was accountable to no one

During the Age of Absolutism, Europe had absolute monarchs that refused to share power with Parliament. Absolutism was one-man rule, and only the King could make law, raise taxes, and launch wars. The cause was the “divine right of kings”; the king was crowned by God, above the law, and accountable to no one. The result was unlimited government and no individual rights. In France, Louis XIV built the Palace of Versailles, but dissolved Parliament for over a century. In Germany, Frederick the Great expanded the empire, but ruled with an iron fist. In Russia, Ivan the Terrible expanded the empire, but terrorized the Russian people. Peter the Great modernized Russia, but never democratized it. In Russia, Catherine the Great admired France, but feared the French Revolution.

34. The Enlightenment **1688 - 1789**

The King had to share power with Parliament

During the Age of Reason, European philosophers criticized absolute monarchy and the divine right of kings. Instead, they wanted a constitutional government. In England, John Locke believed in the “natural rights” of each individual and the “social contract” in which the main job of government was to protect the rights of the individual. If government violated individual rights, the people had the right to overthrow the government. In France, Montesquieu created the idea of three branches of government – 100% of political power would be shared by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. In France, Rousseau argued that the main purpose of government is to follow the “will of the people.” Voltaire opposed censorship and defended civil liberties, especially freedom of religion. The Enlightenment inspired democratic revolutions in England, France, the U.S. and Latin America. Enlightenment thinking gave rise to the English Bill of Rights (1689), the Declaration of Independence (1776), the U.S. Constitution (1787), and the U.S. Bill of Rights (1791).

34. The Age of Revolutions 1688 - 1789

The Glorious Revolution 1688

In England, the revolution established a constitutional monarchy and representative government. Parliament overthrew the King and installed William & Mary as co-regents. From then on, only Parliament had the power to make law, raise taxes, and launch wars. Recognizing the rights of individuals, the British monarchy signed the English Bill of Rights. In 1791, this inspired the U.S. Bill of Rights.

The American Revolution 1775

After twelve years of grievances in which the British government trampled upon the rights of individuals, the Thirteen Colonies rose in rebellion against Mother England. In 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. For seven years the Americans fought for independence during the Revolutionary War. In 1787, the Founding Fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution and added the Bill of Rights in 1791. As the modern world's first experiment in representative democracy, it inspired revolutions in France and Latin America.

The French Revolution 1789

After centuries of absolute monarchy, France was ripe for a revolution. The rising middle class was frustrated by having great wealth, but no political power. When Parliament met for the first time in a century, expectations were exceedingly high. When the King refused to share power with Parliament, the French rose in revolt and the Parisian crowd stormed the Bastille. During the first stage, the Center (led by Lafayette) established a constitutional monarchy. During the second stage, the Left (led by Robespierre) launched a Reign of Terror. During the third stage, the Right (led by Napoleon) established a dictatorship.

35. The Napoleonic Wars 1800

Liberalism and national swept across Europe

When the French Revolution began, the major powers of Europe tried to invade France and crush the revolution. Napoleon defended France, conquered Europe, and established the French Empire. Eventually Napoleon was defeated and the Congress of Vienna tried to smother democratic revolutions. But there was no turning back. Feudalism was dead, the middle class emerged as the dominant class in Europe, and the democratic ideals of the French Revolution swept across the continent. Absolute monarchy had to be replaced by constitutional monarchy. Kings had to share power with Parliament, the representatives of the people. Governments existed for the benefit of the people, not for the privileged few. Liberalism (universal suffrage, representative government, separation of church and state, freedom of the press) and nationalism (the right of a nation to declare its independence from the empire) swept across Europe.

37. The Industrial Revolution

1775: John Watt invented the steam engine

Capitalism became the dominant economic system

Thanks to inventors (Watts and his steam engine) and natural resources (coal for steam power), England was the first country to industrialize. The world's first factories were textile mills and the world's first industrial workers were women and children. From England, the Industrial Revolution spread to Western Europe and the U.S. Thanks to urbanization and degradation of the environment, William Blake wrote "These dark satanic mills." Thanks to child labor, Charles Dickens wrote his novels ("Hard Times," "Oliver Twist," "David Copperfield") about children. Thanks to wage labor, Karl Marx wrote the *Communist Manifesto* in 1848. The Industrial Revolution completely transformed the industrializing countries. Urbanization transformed towns into industrial cities. The middle class grew larger and the working class was born. With the rise of capitalism came the rise of the labor movement.

38. The Age of Imperialism

The 19th century

Western Europe became exceedingly wealthy

The major countries of Western Europe developed empires. They achieved this by carving up Asia and Africa into colonies. The largest empires were the British Empire and the French Empire. During the Victorian Age, the sun never set on the British Empire. The "Mother Country" received raw materials from the colonies, turned them into manufactured goods, and sold those goods to their colonies. For example, the British owned India; from India, cotton was sent to British textile mills and turned into cloth, and then the cloth was sold to people in India. Europe became "developed" (had factories) and the Third World became

“underdeveloped” (had no factories). As a result of imperialism, the colonies of Africa and Asia were economically exploited, politically oppressed, and their cultures distorted. Among the European powers there developed a rivalry for economic and political power. Imperialism was a major cause of World War I. During the 20th century, independence movements arose in Asia and Africa.

39. Lenin and the Russian Revolution **1917**

The world’s first communist revolution

In the middle of World War I, the Russian Revolution began. For three centuries Russia had experienced absolute monarchy, no Parliament, and no representative government. In February 1917, the Russian middle class led a democratic revolution to overthrow the Tsar, established a constitutional government, and created a Parliament for representative government. However, this was not enough for the Russian people. They were losing World War I, soldiers were dying, the cities were starving, and the peasants were landless. In October 1917, however, Lenin and the Bolsheviks led a communist revolution. Promising “Peace, Bread and Land,” Lenin and the Bolsheviks took over the government. They withdrew Russia from the war, gave bread to the starving cities, and distributed free land to the peasants. There was no political freedom; this was a one-party system. There was no economic freedom; after abolishing private property, the government took over all of the major industries in Russia. Anyone who disagreed was sent to a labor camp in Siberia.

40. The Soviet Union under Stalin **1929-1953**

A totalitarian state – with no freedom for the individual

Under Stalin, the communist government took over the entire Russian economy. First, he began collectivization – that is, he forced peasants onto collective farms. Second, the government controlled industry, set Five Year Plans, and forced factories to meet production quotas. During the Great Purge, Stalin killed his political opponents. The individual had absolutely no rights. Thanks to the secret police, the government spied on citizens, and millions were sent to the Gulag - labor camps in Siberia. This was a totalitarian government in which the communist government took over every aspect of the individual’s life. To explain Stalin’s rule, George Orwell wrote two novels, *Animal Farm* and *1984*.

41. Garibaldi’s Italy **1860**

When nationalism is a positive force

During the 19th century, nationalism was the dominant political force in Europe. Italy and Germany became nation-states long after the rest of Europe. During the Napoleonic Wars, many countries occupied Italy, which enraged Italians and marked the rise of nationalism there. Garibaldi was a nationalist who wanted to unite Italy into one country. In 1860, he and his Red Shirts (one thousand men from northern Italy) overthrew the monarch in southern Italy and united the nation. Although he wanted a republic, he supported a constitutional monarchy. In 1861, Garibaldi made one of the most memorable gestures in world history. After surrendering command of his army, he shook hands with the new king, signifying the unity of the Italian nation. Today, he is a national hero in Italy.

42. Mussolini’s Italy **1922**

When extreme nationalism becomes fascism

After the Russian Revolution of 1917, governments in Europe were afraid of communism. In Italy, Benito Mussolini created the Fascist Party. As a fascist, Mussolini hated liberals, socialists, and communists; he loved war, militarism, and extreme nationalism. In 1922, he and his Black Shirts (a paramilitary group of World War I veterans) marched on Rome, intimidated the King of Italy, and took over the government. As dictator of Italy, Mussolini crushed his political opponents. He promised to solve Italy’s economic crisis by creating a war machine, invading other countries, and returning to the glory of the Roman Empire. During the Great Depression, Italy had full employment because its men were either in the army or working in wartime factories. Nicknamed, “Il Duce,” Mussolini served as a model for Hitler.

43. Germany under Bismarck

1870

The world's first Welfare State

Before 1870, there was no Germany, Instead, there were regions, like Prussia, where people spoke German. Otto von Bismarck was a German prince and the political leader of Prussia. Nicknamed the "Iron Chancellor, he united Germany into a modern country. To achieve this, he used nationalism and war. First, he built a powerful military. Second, he made war on his neighbors (Denmark, Austria) to expand the size of German territory. Third, he invaded France – crushing Germany's main rival psychologically united the German people. As a result, Germany became a major power in Europe. Bismarck was a follower of Machiavelli – that is, the end justifies the means. While Bismarck never believed in representative government, he was a realist who engaged in practical politics (*Realpolitik*). He made a pact with the German people. Instead of political freedom, he provided economic security. In return for drafting soldiers to fight in endless wars, he created the world's first Welfare State to provide jobs and take care of the economic needs of the German people. Ever since, the governments of Western Europe have provided a social safety net – unemployment insurance, disability insurance, health insurance – for its citizens.

44. Germany under Hitler

1933

A totalitarian state – with no freedom for the individual

During the Great Depression, the German people were looking for an economic "savior." In 1933, Adolf Hitler came to power. He created a national crisis (the Reichstag Fire), was given dictatorial powers, and crushed his political opponents. As a fascist, Hitler hated liberals, socialists, communists, and Jews; he loved war, militarism, and extreme nationalism. Hitler set up a totalitarian state and the government took over every aspect of the individual's life. His secret police (Gestapo), the government spied on citizens; anyone who stepped out of line was sent to a concentration camp. During the 1930s Hitler militarized Germany and began invading his neighbors (Austria, Czechoslovakia). When he invaded Poland in 1939, this launched World War II. After conquering Western Europe, Hitler invaded Russia. This was his biggest mistake. From then on, Hitler fought a two-front war. From the West, the U.S. fought Germany; from the East, the Russians fought Germany. Nazi Germany was defeated in 1945. From his first day in office in 1933, Hitler began building concentration camps for the Jews. In 1941 he decided upon the "Final Solution" – extermination of all the Jews in Europe. During the Holocaust, six million Jews were killed in the Nazi death camps.

45. China under Mao

1949

A totalitarian state – with no freedom for the individual

In 1921, Mao Tse-tung became a founder of the Communist Party of China. From 1927 onward, a civil war raged in China between communists and nationalists. Wherever Mao went, he won over the peasants by saying: "Join us! We will take land from the rich and give it to the poor." Mao's Red Army swelled to 100,000 men and women. In 1949, Mao won the war and set up a communist government. In 1957, he launched the Great Leap Forward. Overnight, 700 million stunned peasants were forced onto collectivized farms. Instead of increasing agricultural production, it fell, causing a famine in which 20 million died from starvation. As a result, Mao was removed from power. In 1965, Mao launched the Cultural Revolution just so he could return to power. Strangely enough, Mao used teenagers to wage war on his political rivals. First, he brainwashed them and persuaded 11 million to join the Red Guard. Second, he ordered the Red Guard to take over every local government and attack anyone who did not agree with Mao. From then on, gangs of young people roamed the streets, publicly humiliating every person in authority. When they caught the mayor of a town, they put a dunce cap on his head and pulled him through the streets. They physically attacked school teachers and school administrators, as well as artists, scholars, and intellectuals. In 1976, Mao died.

46. China under Deng Xiaoping

1976

Free enterprise capitalism, but no democracy

In 1980, Deng Xiaoping became the new leader of China. Step by step, he returned China to capitalism. First, he shut down the collective farms and allowed farm families to own their own land. Then he allowed Chinese companies and foreign corporations to operate in China. But Deng was not a political reformer. He did not want democracy, but the young people did. In 1989, college students held a giant demonstration in Tiananmen Square in the capital city of Beijing. They built a big statue (the goddess of democracy looked

very much like the Statue of Liberty) and asked for individual freedom and a representative government. Chinese students felt this was possible because Gorbachev was allowing more freedom in the Soviet Union, and in 1989 the Berlin Wall fell. Instead, Deng Xiaoping sent in the army to crush the demonstration. When tanks rolled through the Tiananmen Square, thousands of students were killed or wounded. In 2000, China joined the World Trade Organization. As a result, the majority of products sold in Wal-mart are manufactured in China. The Chinese government continues to imprison all political dissidents.

47. Gandhi's India

1947

Resistance to imperialism

From 1757 onward, India was a colony of the British Empire. Cotton was raised in India and sent to British textile mills; the cotton was turned into cloth and sold back to the people of India. From World War I to World War II, Gandhi led the independence movement in India. While his strategy was peaceful (civil disobedience), his tactics were economic. In 1921, he launched a boycott of British goods and the people of India stopped buying British textiles. In 1930, he led a march against the British tax on salt and the British government arrested 60,000. In 1939, Gandhi refused to support the British during World War II unless India was granted independence. Finally, the British government realized that it could not rule India without the cooperation of the people of India. In 1947, India won its independence. In the process, the British Empire fell apart.

48. Ho Chi Minh's Vietnam

1954

North Vietnam went communist

From 1887 onward, Vietnam was a colony of the French Empire. In 1919, Ho Chi Minh was working at menial jobs in Paris, France. There, he became a founding member of the Communist Party of Vietnam and spent the next 20 years in the Soviet Union and China. During World War II, when the Japanese occupied Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh killed off his political opponents. From 1945 to 1954, he and the Vietcong waged war against the French. In 1954, the Vietcong defeated the French at Dien Bien Phu. When the Vietcong surrounded 10,000 soldiers of the French Foreign Legion, the French surrendered and the French Empire began to fall apart. Ho Chi Minh could never have succeeded without massive aid from the Soviet Union.

49. Africa before World War II

Before 1945

Ruled by Europe

During the 1870s, the European powers discovered that Africa was a treasure chest of minerals. From 1874 to 1877, Henry Stanley explored the Congo River and reported on this vast mineral wealth. In 1878, King Leopold of Belgium grabbed the Congo and turned it into his own personal colony. In 1884, at the Berlin Conference, the European powers carved up Africa. During this "Scramble for Africa," the British, French, German, Belgian empires grabbed colonies in Africa. When the dust cleared, the French controlled most of West Africa and the British controlled everything from Cairo, Egypt to Cape Town, South Africa. There were only two independent countries in Africa: Ethiopia and Liberia, which the U.S. government had created for former slaves.

50. Africa after World War II

After 1945

Africa for Africans

In 1957, Ghana was the first country in Africa to achieve independence. Kwame Nkrumah was the leader of the independence movement, became the first President of Ghana, and is today one of the most respected leaders in African history. In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta became the leader of the independence movement when the British evicted the Kikuyu (the largest ethnic group) from their traditional lands. They formed a secret society known as the Mau Mau and launched a campaign of violence against Europeans from from 1951 to 1960, the Mau Mau launched a campaign of violence against the Europeans. Kenyatta was imprisoned for leading the Mau Mau Rebellion. In 1962 Ghana became independent and he was elected as its first Prime Minister.

51. Vietnam under Ho Chi Minh**1975**South Vietnam went communist

In 1954, Ho Chi Minh and the Vietcong defeated the French at Dien Bien Phu. When the French asked the U.S. for help, President Eisenhower refused, arguing: "We will not fight a land war in Asia." As a result, Vietnam was divided into two separate countries: North Vietnam, led by Ho Chi Minh, was communist; South Vietnam, led by President Diem, was free. But Ho Chi Minh was not satisfied with controlling North Vietnam. Using the Ho Chi Minh Trail, he sent the Vietcong to invade South Vietnam. Alarmed, President Johnson sent 500,000 troops to prevent South Vietnam from falling to the communists. In 1968, during the Tet Offensive, the Vietcong attacked the cities and the U.S. began to lose faith that it could win this war. By 1973, President Nixon had withdrawn all U.S. troops. In 1975, South Vietnam fell to the communists.

52. Cambodia under Pol Pot**1975**The Killing Fields

During the Vietnam War, Pol Pot became the leader of the Khmer Rouge, a peasant guerrilla army that hated cities and regarded city people as being "diseased." In 1975, aided by communist China, Pol Pot seized power, renamed the country "Kampuchea," and announced that it was "Year Zero." From then on, the Khmer Rouge forced everyone out of the cities and into the countryside. The capital city of Phnom Penh became a ghost town and its residents were marked for destruction. As slave laborers, they were forced to work on collective farms and rubber plantations. Their rations were reduced to two bowls of rice soup a day, so they began dying of starvation. Anyone with an education was singled out for torture. Hundreds of thousands were forced to dig their own graves and then executed. When two million died, the country lost 20% of its population. In 1978, communist Vietnam invaded Cambodia and overthrew Pol Pot.

53. Cuba under Fidel Castro**1959**A communist country 90 miles from the U.S.

In 1959, Fidel Castro led the Cuban Revolution. Although he appeared to be a nationalist, he turned out to be a communist. When Castro's government expropriated all private property, thousands fled Cuba and moved to Florida. When Castro confiscated and nationalized American property (sugar mills, oil refineries) worth millions, the U.S. government broke off diplomatic relations. The Soviet Union became Cuba's biggest customer, buying sugar and selling them oil and weapons. In 1961, President Kennedy authorized the operation known as the Bay of Pigs. Using the CIA, the U.S. government helped an army of Cuban refugees land in Cuba. They tried and failed to overthrow Fidel Castro. In response, the Soviet Union put nuclear missiles in Cuba aimed at the U.S. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U.S. came close to a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. President Kennedy persuaded the Soviets to remove the nuclear missiles. Eventually, one million Cuban citizens fled to the United States.

54. Chile under Allende**1972**Communism did not spread to the rest of Latin America

In 1970, Allende was elected President. He was a Socialist. Like Castro, he expropriated and nationalized American property (especially copper mines) worth millions. In 1973, the military overthrew the government and Allende was killed. General Pinochet rounded up all the socialists and put them in the national soccer stadium where they were tortured and executed. From 1973 to 1990, Chile was ruled by a military dictatorship. During the Cold War, most of Latin America was ruled by military dictatorships.

55. The Soviet Union under Khrushchev**1961: Built the Berlin Wall**The Berlin Wall

In 1953, Stalin died and Nikita Khrushchev became the communist leader of the Soviet Union. In his "Secret Speech," he criticized Stalin. As a reformer, he ended political terror, freed some of Stalin's "enemies" from the Gulag labor camps in Siberia, and allowed some cultural freedom. This policy emboldened those who wanted democracy in Eastern Europe. In 1956, the Hungarian people rose in revolt, but Khrushchev crushed it with Soviet tanks. Since Mao did not appreciate criticism of Stalin, China split with the Soviet Union. But most of all, the Soviet Union engaged in a rivalry with the U.S. As Khrushchev put it, "We will bury you" – meaning communism would outlast capitalism. In 1957, Khrushchev sent

Sputnik into outer space and launched the Space Race. He built nuclear missiles and launched the Arms Race. In 1960, he banged his shoe at the United Nations, protesting U.S. foreign policy in the Third World. In 1961, he built the Berlin Wall to stop the “brain drain” – thousands were fleeing communist East Germany to freedom in West Germany. In 1962, he created the Cuban Missile Crisis and brought the world close to a nuclear war. Thanks to this brinkmanship, he was removed from power in 1964.

56. The Soviet Union under Brezhnev

1968: The Vietnam War

Military spending bankrupted the Soviet Union

Leonid Brezhnev was a hard-liner who ousted Khrushchev, refused to make political and economic reforms, and used the KGB to spy on citizens. In 1968, he crushed “Prague Spring,” a democratic movement in Czechoslovakia that wanted to create “Socialism with a human face.” Most of all, Brezhnev did more than anyone else to cause the collapse of the Soviet Union. He increased the military budget to such an extent that it eventually drove the Soviet Union into bankruptcy. Brezhnev spent millions crushing freedom in Eastern Europe, financing the Vietnam War, waging an unwinnable war in Afghanistan, and waging the Arms Race, trying to keep up with the high-tech U.S. military. Meanwhile, the Russian people were extremely unhappy. When they went to the dentist, their teeth were pulled without novocaine – because the government did not care about their welfare. By 1980, the Soviet economy was in deep trouble. Demoralized factory workers stopped being productive. When farmers slowed down, the country could not feed itself.

57. The Soviet Union under Gorbachev

1986: The Chernobyl disaster

The collapse of the Soviet Union

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became the communist leader of the Soviet Union. In 1986, the Chernobyl disaster revealed everything that was wrong with the Soviet government. When the nuclear power plant melted down and exploded radiation into the atmosphere, the Soviet government tried to keep it quiet, but the nightmare was finally revealed. Thousands were going to die from radiation poisoning. For decades, the Soviet Union had been spending billions for defense, but little had been done to improve the lives of the people. Furious, the Russian people stopped working and the economy took a nosedive. Gorbachev made a number of reforms. GLASNOST: To get factory workers back to work, he allowed freedom of speech and press. (Workers could express their grievances and those grievances would be printed in the newspaper.) 2) PERESTROIKA: To get farmers back to work, he allowed private ownership of farms. PEACE: To prevent an economic collapse, he cut the military budget and ended the War in Afghanistan. Instead, he got a political collapse. In Eastern Europe, the movement for democracy caused the fall of the Berlin Wall. Within the Soviet Union, the republics began to declare their independence. Finally, in 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed.

58. The Soviet Union under Putin

2000

Ruled by KGB agents

During the 1990s, Russia returned to capitalism. Overnight, the Russian government sold the major industries (oil, steel, mining, auto, television) at bargain basement prices (a \$30 billion company was sold for only \$100 million) to private corporations. From then on, Russia has been governed by former KGB agents. In 2000, Vladimir Putin, a former KGB agent, was elected President. Thanks to high oil prices (Russia is a major oil producer), Russia’s economy has bounced back. It is now the world’s 10th largest economy. While wages have risen, the economy is riddled with massive corruption. On the one hand, private corporations robbed Russia of its mineral wealth. On the other, those corporations regularly bribe members of Congress (the Duma). While the government provides economic security, there is no political freedom. Under Putin, there is one-man rule and elections are rigged. There is no freedom of the press; reporters who investigate corporate crime are arrested or killed. There is no freedom of assembly; demonstrators are arrested. Trained as a KGB agent in the old Soviet Union, Putin is suspected of poisoning two of his political opponents, including the elected President of the Ukraine.

59. Eastern Europe during the Cold War 1945-1989

Behind the Iron Curtain

In 1945, when World War II ended, U.S. troops occupied Western Europe and Soviet troops occupied Eastern Europe. At the Yalta conference, the Allies agreed that the Soviet Union would rule Eastern Europe. From then on, an Iron Curtain descended over Eastern Europe; those who lived there were imprisoned by communism. Germany was divided; West Germany was free and East Germany was communist. The city of Berlin was also divided; West Berlin was free and East Berlin was communist. Berlin became the symbol of the Cold War. In 1961, the Soviet Union ordered the building of the Berlin Wall. From then on, people could not flee from communist East Germany. Because Eastern Europe had totalitarian governments, individuals had no rights.

60. Resistance movements in Eastern Europe 1989: The Berlin Wall fell

The Berlin Wall fell

From the very beginning, the people of Eastern Europe disliked communism. In 1956, there was the Hungarian Revolution: the people of Hungary rose in revolt against communism and were crushed by Soviet tanks. In 1968, there was “Prague Spring”: the people of Czechoslovakia wanted democratic reforms and asked for “Socialism with a human face.” In 1980, there was the “Solidarity” movement in Poland: led by Lech Walesa, workers went on strike to create democratic reforms. The new pope, John Paul II, was the first Polish pope in world history – and he supported freedom in Eastern Europe. Thanks to a decade of strikes and demonstrations for democracy, Poland held free elections in 1989. From then on, the rest of Eastern Europe demanded free elections and an end to communism. That year, the Berlin Wall fell, Germany was reunited, and communism ended in Eastern Europe.

61. South Africa under apartheid 1948

Complete separation of the races

In 1948, the Afrikaners were a tiny white minority who established *apartheid* as the official policy of the government. Although the blacks were 84% of the population, a black person was not a citizen. He had no political rights (vote), no civil rights (freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly), and no civil liberties (right to a trial). Instead, there was the complete separation of the races. THE CITIES: Only white people were allowed to live in the cities. THE TOWNSHIPS: Black people were forced to live on the outskirts of the cities. For example, Black families were evicted from the city of Johannesburg. They were forced into Soweto, an all-black township southwest of Johannesburg. Blacks continued to work in the white cities, but they had to be out of the city by dark. THE BANTU HOMELANDS: These were outdoor prisons for black dissidents. If you took action to oppose apartheid, the government sent you to live in a wasteland out in the boondocks.

62. Resistance to apartheid 1976

Majority rule

In 1923, the African National Congress was formed to fight for the rights of the Black majority. THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE: In 1960, the police fired into a peaceful demonstration of blacks protesting apartheid, killing 69 and wounding hundreds. As a result, the ANC formed a military wing known as the “Spear of the Nation.” In 1964, the government arrested and imprisoned Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress (ANC). Mandela remained in prison for the next 27 years. THE SOWETO UPRISING: In 1976, the government declared that black children in the public schools would be taught only one language – Afrikaans. From then on, black children would no longer be able to speak English and would never get English-speaking jobs. Instead, they would be enslaved (linguistically) to the tiny white minority who had invented apartheid. With a population of one million, Soweto was the largest black community in South Africa. There, middle and high school students held massive protests. The government sent in the police, turned Soweto into a war zone, and set off two years of violence in which 600 teenagers died and 10,000 were wounded. Finally, when U.S. and European investors stopped investing in South African corporations, the economy nearly collapsed and the government fell. In 1991, apartheid came to an end. In 1994, South Africa held its first free election and Nelson Mandela was elected President.

63. Israel and the Six-Day War

1967

Israel was on the defensive

In 1948, the United Nations created the new country of Israel. The Arab nations were clear: Israel did not have the right to exist. Immediately, the Arab neighbors (Egypt, Syria, and Jordan) made war on Israel. While Israel won the war, from then on a state of war existed between Israel and her Arab neighbors. In 1967, the same three Arab countries were ready for war. Egypt would invade from the south, Syria from the north, and Jordan from the east. In total, an Arab force 465,000 troops were ready to strike Israel from all sides. Despite the odds, this was Israel's greatest military triumph. To everyone's surprise, the Israelis did not wait to be invaded. Instead, they went on the offensive. On the first day, they completely destroyed the entire Egyptian Air Force. With air superiority, they sent their tanks rolling into Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In just six days the Israelis won the war. It was a stunning victory for Israel. It was a humiliation for the Arab world. Each of the Arab countries - Egypt, Jordan, and Syria - lost territory. The Arab World vowed revenge and a state of war existed between Israel and her neighbors. When Israel took over Gaza and the West Bank, 600,000 Arabs came under Israeli rule. Many young Arabs joined the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), a terrorist organization.

64. Israel since the Six-Day War

1993

The Palestinians are hoping for a Palestinian state

In revenge for the Six-Day War, Egypt and Syria made a surprise attack on Israel in 1973. When they invaded Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish religion, Israel beat back the attack. In 1973, the Arab nations decided to punish the U.S. for supporting Israel. OPEC is the coalition of oil-producing nations that sets the world price for oil and gasoline. Saudi Arabia, the leader of OPEC, caused a shortage of oil and gas. When the price rose, the U.S. economy took a nosedive. In 1977, Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty, but during the 1980s Palestinians living inside Israel staged a series of uprisings. In 1993, Israel and the PLO signed a peace treaty. Under the Camp David Accords, Palestinians were granted self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank. To this day, Palestinians are still hoping for an independent Palestinian state.