



## Early Civilizations & Empires

### Mesopotamia (c. 3500-539 BCE)

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

### Ancient Egypt (c. 3100-30 BCE)

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

### Ancient Greece (c. 800 BCE - 600 CE)

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

## Medieval Period (c. 500-1500 CE)

### Europe in the Middle Ages

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

### Islamic Civilizations

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

### East Asia

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

## The Early Modern Period (c. 1450-1750)

### Renaissance and Reformation

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

### Age of Exploration

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

### Absolutism and Enlightenment

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

## Modern History (c. 1750-Present)

### Revolutions

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

### Industrial Revolution

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

20th Century Conflicts & Globalization

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