**HISTORY ABOUT EUROPE**

**European Renaissance** The Renaissance was a widespread cultural movement that most historians agree started in Florence, Italy, in the 14th century. Florence became the epicenter for the [Italian Renaissance](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=7571205&summary=43738380&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D) with its thriving **mercantile** center and merchant class that helped drive the economy.

**European Wars**

**The Holy Roman Empire:** An Empire of the European middle ages that consisted of a loose confederation of German, Italian, and French kingdoms. Spanning much of the region of present-day east France and Germany, the Holy Roman Empire was an entity from 800 CE to 1806 CE.

**Age of Exploration**

Europe's Age of Exploration started in the fifteenth century under Portuguese leader **Henry the Navigator.**Going further than any prior European exploration, the Portuguese sailed around the coast of Africa. Economic and religious motives drove many European nations to explore and set up **colonies**.

**Henry the Navigator**

A Portuguese prince who voyaged in the hopes of acquiring colonies

**Colony**

A country or region under the total or partial political control of another country, usually controlled from a distance and occupied by settlers from the controlling country; colonies are typically established for political power and economic gains

**Why Did Europeans Explore and Settle Overseas Territories**

1. **To sread Christianity**
2. **To find sea routes and harbours**
3. **Spirit of explore**
4. **To acquire new colonies**
5. **Surpus their surplus population**

**Silk Road**

An ancient trade route that linked China with the West, silk went to the West while wool, gold, and silver went east

**What is Mercantilism?**

Mercantilism is an economic system in which a nation or government accumulates wealth through:

* direct control of raw materials
* the transport and trade of those materials
* production of resources from the raw materials
* trade of finished goods.

England's mercantile system of the late 1600s and early 1700s is a good example.

* England would import raw materials from its colonies in America, produce finished goods, and trade them to other European nations, Africa, and even back to the American colonies.
* England's protectionist policies included only allowing English goods to be transported on English ships.
* These policies brought enormous wealth to the island nation, expanding its power.

**Overseas Empires**

**Exchange of Ideas and the Expansion of the Slave Trade**

Throughout Europe's [Age of Exploration](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=7571217&summary=43738393&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D) (15th-17th century), contact between the Old World (Europe, Africa, and Asia) and the New World (the Americas) provided completely new goods and opportunities for wealth for European nations. This process of trading was called the **Columbian Exchange.**

**History of Europe and religion**

The Protestant and Catholic reformations began in Europe in the 16th century and critically altered the public's attitude towards wealth, culture, theology, and religious organization **Protestant Reformation**

In 1517, a German priest named Martin Luther nailed a list of**95 theses**to the door of a church in Wittenberg detailing issues he had with the Catholic Church and propositions for debate - mostly around **indulgences.**For most, this is the symbolic beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

This period saw a split from the Roman Catholic Church and the development of Protestantism which denounced the authority of the Pope, and developed ideas based on **Christian Humanism.**This meant it focused on religious teachings of individual faith and freedom, the importance of happiness, fulfilment, and dignity, instead of devoutness to the institution of the church.

So, what issues did Martin Luther and his followers have with the Catholic Church?

* Many of the Church's practices began to erode the moral foundations of Catholic teachings, putting the authority of the Church into question.
* For example, the Catholic Church used the practice of **indulgences**- payments made to the Church to ensure one's salvation.
* Martin Luther saw this practice as corrupt, and that only one's own divinity and happiness could ensure one's salvation.

**Catholic and Counter-Reformation**

In response to the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Church began a counter-reformation in 1545. Pope Paul III attempted to fix some of the problems with the Catholic Church, but the changes came too slow, and members continued to leave. As a result, new religious orders like the Jesuits (Society of Jesus) came to reform the Catholic Church. The Jesuits, along with the Council of Trent, succeeded in reviving the Church but cemented the deepening divide amongst Christianity **Conflicts Amongst Religious Groups**

The Reformation resulted in a deep divide within Christianity that led to numerous religious conflicts. Wars of religion spread across France and Spain that overlapped the state's political and economic motives. The [French Wars of Religion](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=7571247&summary=43738429&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D) resulted in a feudal rebellion that placed the nobility in direct confrontation with the king. The French War lasted for forty years and led to the **Edict of Nantes in 1598,** which gave Protestants certain rights.

**Edict of Nantes**

An edict (official order) granted by Henry IV of France that gave Protestants religious freedoms and ended the French Wars

**Revolution and its central role in European History**

**The Glorious Revolution**

In 1660, the English Parliament restored the monarchy by inviting Charles II to the throne. The English Civil War had removed the monarch from the English throne with the execution of King Charles I. His son, Charles II, lived in exile until a convention of Parliament placed him on the throne. When James II followed Charles II in 1685, he came into conflict with Parliament and attempted to dissolve it to consolidate his power.

The existing Parliament sent a letter of support to the king's son-in-law, William of Orange, who was already planning to invade England from the Netherlands. After many of his armies turned against him, James II fled to France for his safety. Parliament declared that James II had abandoned his country and instated William and his wife Mary as rulers when they agreed to a Bill of Rights protecting free speech and election in Parliament.

**The French Revolution**

The French Revolution was a strong contrast to the Glorious Revolution. Instead of a bloodless transition to a constrained monarchy, the king and queen were beheaded by guillotine. The revolution lasted from 1789 to 1799, fueled at first by a poor economy and lack of representation under the monarchy, before turning to paranoia with the **Reign of Terror**. Eventually, Napoleon seized control of the country in 1799 and ended the revolutionary era.

**Reign of Terror:** [The Reign of Terror](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=4144898&summary=27811253&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D) was a period of political violence in France that lasted for almost a year between 1793 and 1794. Tens of thousands were executed by the French government as enemies of the Revolution. The Reign of Terror ended when its leader, Maximilian Robespierre, was arrested and executed due to fears of his continued **Age of Enlightenment** A common theme of this revolutionary period was law. It was thought that people should no longer be governed solely by religion or the will of a single individual but by reason and ideas developed through debate.

Thinkers of this time period developed radical new ideas on human relations, government, science, math, etc. They developed laws for humans and discovered laws of nature. Their thinking inspired political revolutions of the time in America and Europe.

**The**[**Enlightenment**](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=4144891&summary=27811215&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D)**:** A philosophical movement in the late 1600s and early 1700s that focused on reason, individualism, and natural rights rather than tradition and authority

Famous thinkers of the [Enlightenment](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=4144891&summary=27811215&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D) include [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=7571287&summary=43738472&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D), [Voltaire](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=7571286&summary=43738471&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D), and Isaac Newton.

**Industrial Revolution**

From the middle of the eighteenth to the middle of the nineteenth century, it wasn't only political life that was changing.

Industrialization had its roots in agricultural improvements, preindustrial societies and economics, and the growth of technology.

* The Agricultural Revolution: The Industrial Revolution first has its roots in the agricultural improvements of the early 1700s. Crop rotation and the invention of the seed drill result in increased productivity and, thus, more revenue and more food for a growing population. These demographic changes created a labor force for factories and a market for manufactured goods.
* Preindustrial Societies: As agricultural products became more available, it strained the preindustrial economy and society. Cottage industry practices could not keep up with the gross production of wool, cotton, and flax, creating a need for the development of machinery to produce more textiles more efficiently.
* Growth of Technology: By the mid-1700s, ingenuity and technology began to match agricultural output. The invention of the spinning jenny, water frame, interchangeable parts, the cotton gin, and the organization of factories created an environment for rapid industrial growth.
* France: Delayed by the French Revolution, subsequent wars, and sparse urban centers conducive to a large factory labor force, the industrial revolution took root as the attention and capital of the French elite recovered from these factors.
* Germany: The unification of Germany in 1871 brought the industrial revolution to the now powerful nation. The political fragmentation before this time made connectivity of labor, natural resources, and transportation of goods much more difficult.
* Russia: The delay in the industrialization of Russia was primarily due to the vast size of the country itself and the creation of a transportation network to get the raw materials to the urban cities of the nation.

**The Revolutions of 1848**

1848 saw a wave of revolution sweep across Europe - revolutions occurred in:

* France
* Germany
* Poland
* Italy
* Netherlands
* Denmark
* Austrian Empire

Peasants were angry over a lack of political say, personal freedoms, and failing economies overseen by indifferent monarchs. Despite the strength of the revolutionary tide in Europe, the revolutions largely failed by 1849. **Revolution** **and** **unification** **spread** **worldwide**.

* American Revolution (the 1760s to 1783)
* French Revolution (1789 to 1799)
* Serbian Revolution (1804 to 1835)
* Latin American Wars of Independence (1808 to 1833)
* Greek War of Independence (1821 to 1832)
* [Unification of Italy](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=7571315&summary=43738504&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D) (1861)
* Unification of Germany (1871)

**European History: Political Developments in Europe**

From around the start of the 19th century to 1815, a series of conflicts known as the **Napoleonic Wars** saw France take over much of Europe. Several coalitions were formed to oppose France's expansion, but it would not be until the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 that **Napoleon** was finally stopped. Areas that had been under French control got a taste of life without a monarchy. Although kings were returned to power, new political ideas rose in their lands.

**Realpolitik**

A new political idea arose in the late nineteenth century: Realpolitik. Realpolitik emphasized that morals and ideology were unimportant; all that mattered was practical success. By this philosophy, states did not have to worry about whether actions aligned with their values, but only if political goals were accomplished.

**New Political Theories**

The second half of the nineteenth century was a breeding ground for new political ideas. More people than ever were engaged or sought to be involved with the political process. Thinkers focused on exploring personal freedoms, meeting the basic needs of the ordinary people, or emphasizing a shared heritage and culture.

**Popular Political and Social Theories of the Late Nineteenth Century**

* Anarchism
* Nationalism
* Communism
* Socialism
* Social [Darwinism](https://app.studysmarter.de/link-to?studyset=7571324&summary=43738514&language=en&amp_device_id=BCa_hIpDF_ccJoA8RhZb_D)
* Feminism  **20th-century global conflict in Europe**

**World War I**

In 1914, Serbian Nationalists assassinated Arch Franz Ferdinand of Austria. This set off a chain of events that caused the web of alliances in Europe to become activated and converge into two sides of the First World War - the Central and Allied Powers.

From 1914 to 1918, around 16 million people died due to brutal new weapons such as poison gas and tanks and the rat and lice-infested conditions of trench warfare.

Combat ended with an **armistice** in 1918, before the **Treaty of Versailles** officially ended the war. Although some called it "the war to end all wars," the blame, reparations, and lack of international diplomatic power Germany was forced to accept under the Treaty of Versailles would lead to the next conflict.

**Armistice**

An agreement made by participants in a conflict to cease fighting for a period

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The Central Powers** | **The Allied Powers** |
| Germany  Austria-Hungary  Bulgaria  The Ottoman Empire | Great Britain  France  Russia  Italy  Romania  Canada  Japan  The United States |

**World War II**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Causes and Effects of World War II** | |
| **Causes** | **Effects** |
| * **Rise of Nazism in Germany:** After WWI, the monarchy of Germany was replaced with the Weimar Republic, which struggled due to economic issues. Adolf Hitler emerged as the leader of the Nazi party. * **The Axis Powers:** Hitler created alliances with other Fascist-leaning nations. In 1936 the Rome-Berlin Axis was created between Germany and Italy, and an alliance with Japan soon followed. * **Appeasement:** Many of the European nations were still recovering from the aftermath of World War I so attempted to avoid military intervention - making compromises to **appease** Hitler. * **Conflict over Poland:** The policy of appeasement ended as Hitler turned to invade Poland. As preparations for invasion were being made, Britain and France declared their defense of Poland. | * World War II was the most devastating war in human history. * The war changed people's thoughts about racism, imperialism, and international relations. * With the use of Atomic weapons by the United States on Japan in 1945, the world entered the age of nuclear weapons which profoundly changed international politics, military strategy, and domestic politics. * The United States came out of the war as a global superpower, changing the geopolitical landscape for the 20th century. * The end of the war set up the ideological battle between the United States and the Soviet Union that would shape global affairs for the next fifty years. |

**The Cold War**

At the Potsdam Conference in 1945, the United States, the USSR, and Britain divided up the post-war world. Europe had paid a high cost for WWII, and actors who had dominated the continent, such as Germany, France, and Britain, found themselves caught in the struggle between two superpowers.

The United States to the West and the USSR to the East now vied for influence over the continent. The two sides were divided up yet again into two alliances: NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) **Globalism**  After WWII, the world was more integrated than ever as the two international economic systems of Capitalism and Communism defined international relations. European leaders quickly realized that political, economic, and military integration as one block was necessary.

**European Union**

The first moves toward union began in the 1950s with trade agreements between individual countries. In the 1960s, economic and political cooperation increased as the European Economic Community (EEC) was formed. The European Union would be the ultimate expression of this movement toward integration.

The EU was created in 1992 as a bloc with a single currency. Throughout the 1990s, former Soviet Bloc countries joined the EU and modernized their economies. Struggles came with this, however, as resentment toward integration between economically stronger and weaker nations increased nationalist criticism of European integraton