

# WORLD HISTORY

## Course Review

### Military Conflicts in History

Conflicts during the Age of Antiquity (500 BCE – 500 CE):

**Trojan War (circa 1200's B.C.E.)** – War between the Greek Mycenaean's and the City-State of Troy due to a Mycenaean Prince kidnapping Helen of Troy. This conflict is well known for inspiring Epic Poems by Homer (Iliad & Odyssey) and Virgil (Aeneid) and for the infamous Trojan Horse.

**Persian Wars (490-478 B.C.E.)** – Conflict between the Greek Colonies and their Persian Rulers resulting in several Famous battles (ie: Marathon in 490 B.C.E. & Thermopylae in 480 B.C.E.) and Ending with the defeat of the Persian King's Darius the Great and Xerxes.

**Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.E.)** – Conflict between the two Greek City-States of Sparta and Athens and their Allies who fought for control over the Ionian Peninsula, resulting in a Spartan victory over Athens.

**Campaigns of Alexander (336-323 B.C.E.)** – The Macedonian invasion of Persia and the known world of Antiquity by Alexander the Great in an effort to fulfill his father's dream. As a result, Alexander conquered Persia (at the Battles of Granicus and Gaugamela) and parts of India and Egypt, creating a new age of cultural blending called the Hellenistic Age.

**Punic Wars (264-146 B.C.E.)** – Conflict between Rome and Carthage over control of the Mediterranean Sea. known for the amazing military campaign of the Carthaginian General, Hannibal, who attempted to invade Rome by marching an army from North Africa, through Spain and France, and over the Alps.

**Roman Civil War (49-44 B.C.E.)** – Conflict between the three leaders of the First Triumvirate (Julius Caesar, Crassus and Pompey), which ended in a victory for Caesar & appointment as Emperor & Dictator for Life.

**Germanic Invasions (370-376 C.E.)** – Invasion of the weakening Roman Empire by Germanic Tribes (Vandals, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Franks, Burgundians, Lombards, etc) due to the migration and military conquests of the Eastern Huns under Attila the Hun

Conflicts during the Middle Ages or Medieval Period (500 – 1400 CE):

**Islamic Civil Wars (656-750 C.E.)** – Conflict between Sunni (followers of Muhammad's and his Teachings) and Shi'a (followers of Muhammad and Ali by blood right) over the right of true Leadership after the end of the "Four Rightly Guided Caliphs". Known for the rise and fall of the Umayyad (Sunni) and Abbasid (Shia) Dynasties.

**Invasion of the Moors (711-750 C.E.)** – Conflict that occurred when the North African Moors (Mixed Arab-African Tribal Nomads of the Islamic Faith) were asked to assist the Visigoth King in Spain in 711 C.E. Conflict continued until the Spanish Reconquista

**Viking Invasions (circa 800-1000 C.E.)** – Conflict that occurred due to the Viking Migrations and Raids into Central (Land of the Rus) and Western Europe (Brittany and Normandy) as a result of climate changes and disrupted trade with the west.

**Norman Conquest (1042-1066 C.E.)** – Conflict that occurred over control of the British isles, ending with the conquest and unification of England under William the Conqueror after his victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

**Crusades (1093-1291 C.E.)** – A Series of Christian Holy Wars to re-claim the Holy Lands from the Muslims, which occurred out of an effort to re-unite the Christian Church (Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox), Stop Muslim Invasions of Europe, and expand European Control over land and trade routes in the Middle East. Ultimately resulting in eight failed Crusades

**Mongol Invasions (circa 1220-1280 C.E.)** – Conflicts that occurred due to the Empire Building and military raids of the Eastern Mongols under Genghis Khan (and later his Grandsons Kublai, Hulagu, Bantu and Chagatai Khan), eventually creating four Great Khanates ranging from China to Russia & India to the Middle East.

**Hundred Years War (1337-1453 C.E.)** – Conflict that erupted between two cousins over control of the French Throne and evolved into a war over Nationalism (Loyalty and Pride in one's country) between the French and English. Resulted in military developments like Professional Standing Armies and the Longbow, and serves as the historical end to the Middle Ages.

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Conflicts during the Early Modern Age (1500 – 1800 CE):

**Reconquista (1400-1492 C.E.)** – Conflict in Spain between Catholics and Muslims over control of the Iberian Peninsula. This was a continuation of several earlier efforts to push the Muslims out of Spain and led to efforts like the Spanish Inquisition, to get rid of all non-Christian influences in Spain.

**Spanish Conquest of America (circa 1500-1600 C.E.)** – During the Age of Exploration and global expansion the Spanish sent military soldiers known as Conquistadores to the Americas to conquer the native Indian empires. As a result, military campaigns against the Aztecs and Incas were led by Hernando Cortez and Francisco Pizarro.

**Dutch Revolt (1566-1579 C.E.)** – Due to the Spanish Reconquista and military campaigns in Europe and America, the Spanish King imposed heavy taxes on the people of their Dutch territory in the Spanish Netherlands. Due to the high taxes and poor treatment of the Dutch Protestants by their Catholic rulers, the Dutch rebelled and eventually won their independence from Spain.

**Thirty Years War (1618-1648 C.E.)** – A War that was actually caused by multiple conflicts between several European Nations. Initially started between the Catholic Hapsburg's (who ruled Austria and Spain) and Protestant German Provinces who opposed their Catholic rulers. By 1635, France (which was dominantly Catholic) joined the Protestants against their Hapsburg enemies.

**Treaty of Westphalia (1648 C.E.)** – This is one of the most important treaties in history due to several key results:

1. It weakened the power of the Hapsburgs in Europe
2. It strengthened France's Military and Political power
3. It gave the German States their independence
4. It ended Religious Wars in Europe
5. It created a new method for making peace treaties (where All participants have a right to be present at the Peace Negotiations)

**Glorious Revolution (1688 C.E.)** – Due to King James violating the rights of England's Parliament under English Law (based on the Magna Carta, Habeas Corpus and the Petition of Rights), Parliament secretly supported an Invasion of England by William and Mary (Duke & Duchess of Orange in the Netherlands) to overthrow King James II. King James fled the country and William & Mary were crowned King & Queen.

**War of Spanish Succession (1701-1714 C.E.)** – Conflict erupted over the rule of Spain by France when King Louis XIV's grandson became King of Spain. As a result of King Louis' hatred for the Hapsburg Dynasty and attempt to control Spain thru his grandson, war broke out between France and its enemies in Spain, Austria, Portugal, the Netherlands and England.

**War of Austrian Succession (1740-1748 C.E.)** – Conflict between Frederick of Prussia (allied with France) & Maria Theresa of Austria (allied with Britain) over a woman's legitimacy to rule over a sovereign nation. Frederick the Great's desire to control mineral rich regions of Austria caused him to underestimate Marie's strength as a ruler and caused Prussia to lose the war against Austria and its allies.

Conflicts during the Modern Age (1750 – 1900's):

**French and Indian War (1754-1763 C.E.)** – Conflict between the French controlled Colonies along the Mississippi and Ohio River Valley's and the British Controlled New England, Virginia and Carolina Frontiers over trading rights and continued expansion. The conflict also included the Civilized Indian Tribes that allied themselves with either the French or British hoping to gain expanded hunting lands and trading rights for themselves.

**Seven Years War (1756-1763 C.E.)** – Conflict that erupted over continued aggression and changing alliances between Frederick the Great of Prussia (now allied with Britain) and Maria Theresa of Austria (now allied with France and Russia). When Frederick attacked Saxony, an Austrian Ally, a great war evolved that brought the two alliances against each other in Europe, India and the Americas.

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Conflicts during the Modern Age (1750 – 1900's):

**American Revolution (1775-1781 C.E.)** – Conflict between the British American Colonies and Britain's King and Parliament over excessive "Taxation without Representation" and the violation of Colonial Rights under traditional British Law. Events like the Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, and the Declaration of Independence led to war between Colonial Rebels and Loyalists that resulted in six years of war and the creation of a new Nation known as the United States of America.

**French Revolution (1789-1795 C.E.)** – Conflict between the French People and their Absolute Monarchy (King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette) over excessive taxes, extreme debt, crop failures, starvation, and unfair laws. Rivalry between the King and political activists in the Estates General increased, while the people became more and more aggravated by debt, taxes, starvation and cruel treatment. Events like the Great Fear (increased use of the Guillotine to execute revolutionaries), Reign of Terror, and Invasion by Prussia and Austria, caused the revolution to last six years until the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.

**Napoleonic Wars (1795-1815 C.E.)** – Conflicts that occurred under the reign of Napoleon Bonaparte (including the invasions of Italy, Egypt, Spain and Russia) as he attempted to gain control of the European Continent resulting in the great battles of Trafalgar (French Navy defeated by the British) and Waterloo (French Army defeated by British and their allies) & the exile of Napoleon to the Islands of Elba & St. Helena.

**Congress of Vienna (1814-1815 C.E.)** – Treaty after the defeat of Napoleon, which resulted in the following:

1. Creation of the independent Kingdom of the Netherlands
2. Creation of the German Confederation of Independent German States
3. Establishment of Switzerland
4. Establishment of a Balance of Power in Europe
5. Reinforcement of the Treaty of Westphalia
6. Creation of the Holy Alliance and the Concert of Europe

**Latin American Revolutions (1808-1824 C.E.)** – Conflicts throughout Latin America that occurred as a result of the following influences: Enlightened thinking, Successful revolutions in North America and France, and Napoleon's Invasion of Spain & Portugal. Key events included the revolutions in Venezuela (under Simon Bolivar), Argentina (under Jose de San Martin), Haiti (under Toussaint L'Ouverture), and Mexico (under Padres Miguel Hidalgo and Jose Maria Morelos).

**Opium War (1839 C.E.)** – Conflict erupted between China and Britain & France over the illegal imports of Opium into China from India and South-East Asia through British & French supported Black Market operations. Due to the policy of Isolationism adopted by China during the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the British used Opium as a way to force China to open its ports up to trade with the west. The conflict resulted in Britain gaining control of Hong Kong for 155 years.

**Taiping Rebellion (1838-1853 C.E.)** – Internal Revolt in China that was an effort to create a "Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace" returning China to its honorable traditions and creating a society where all Chinese people shared in the wealth of the kingdom. Ironically, this movement caused the Chinese Emperor to ask for assistance from the British and French and cost China at least 20 million lives to put down the rebellion.

**War with Mexico (1846-1848 C.E.)** – Conflict that erupted over control of Texas and the rights of its settlers. Due to Mexico's efforts to regulate the lands, taxes, and religious practices of the Texans, Anglo's under Stephen Austin and Sam Houston rebelled against Mexico and asked the United States for assistance. Eventually the United States Annexed Texas, which caused conflict between the U.S. and Mexico.

**Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848 C.E.)** – Treaty signed by the U.S. and Mexico after the War with Mexico that granted the United States all the lands currently in California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

**Europe's Nationalist Revolutions (1848-1871 C.E.)** – A Series of conflicts that erupted across Europe in 1848 due to the rapid spread of patriotism, loyalty and national pride among people of common descent and history in France, the Independent German States, and along the Italian Peninsula. Rallying under important key leaders like Louis-Napoleon (France), Camillo di Cavour & Giuseppe Garibaldi (Italy), and Otto Von Bismark and Kaiser Wilhelm (Germany), the people were able to establish strong unified nations in Europe

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**Crimean War (1853-1854 C.E.)** - Conflict between Russia and the Ottoman Empire over control of the Eastern European regions that had been under Ottoman control since the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent. Poor Russian Industrial and Transportation systems made it impossible for Russia to defeat the Ottomans and their allies (France & Britain).

**U.S. Civil War (1860-1865 C.E.)** – Internal Conflict in the United States that erupted over States Rights, Economic struggles between the Industrialized North and Agrarian South, and the issue of Slavery. This conflict was the first to use extensive transportation systems (railroads) and inspired the birth of the nursing corps within the military.

**Franco-Prussian War (1867-1871 C.E.)** – A Conflict manufactured by Otto Von Bismark to unify all the independent German States and finalize the unification of Germany. Due to Bismark's attempted political deception, France declared war on Prussia causing the rest of the independent German States to unify against France.

**Zulu War (1879 C.E.)** – Conflict between the African Zulu Tribe and the British & Dutch settlers in South Africa over the control of Zulu Lands (which were the location of recent Gold Discoveries) and the Zulu refusal to obey the British anti-slave laws.

**First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895 C.E.)** – Conflict between China and Japan over their mutual interests in Korea. Although both countries signed a "Hands-Off Agreement", Japan attacked China for violating the agreement when the Korean ruler asked for and received China's help in putting down internal rebellions.

**Spanish-American War (1898-1901 C.E.)** – Conflict between Spain and the United States occurred after the U.S. promised to assist Cuba during their fight for independence. Due to Propaganda called "Yellow Journalism" that was committed by newspapermen like William Randolph Hearst during the beginning of the conflict and the controversial "Sinking of the Maine," the United States declared war on Spain and eventually gained control of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Philippines from Spain.

**Boer Wars (1899-1910 C.E.)** – Conflict between the British and Boer's (Dutch Farmers) in South Africa over the British laws against slavery and the various land acts passed by the British to gain more and more control over the Dutch territories (that had rich Gold deposits). Eventually the conflict resulted in the joining of Dutch and British territories into the "Union of South Africa."

**Boxer Rebellion (1900-1901 C.E.)** – Conflict between the Chinese Peasant Workers and Foreign Investors in China caused riots, assaults, kidnappings, and murders against European and U.S. families in Chinese trade centers like Hong Kong and Shanghai, eventually causing a joint military force (under U.S. & British command) to invade mainland China and put down the rebellion.

**Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905 C.E.)** – Conflict between Russia and Japan over mineral rich resources in Manchuria (Northern China) that had been promised to Russia under a treaty with China, but came under control of Japan due to their victory during the Sino-Japanese War.

**Mexican Revolution (1910-1917 C.E.)** – Internal Conflict between several factions determined to gain control over Mexico's struggling government. Made popular by the actions of Benito Juarez (Mexico's first democratic President) during the *La Reforma* movement and peasant leaders like Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata who led the peasant revolt against corrupt leaders like Diaz and Huerta.

Conflicts during the Modern Global Age (1914 – Present):

**World War I (1914-1918 C.E.)** – Global Conflict that occurred due to five MAINE reasons: Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, Nationalism, and Empire Building. Initially caused by the assassination of the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand by a Serb, but it was actually due to strong political manipulations by Otto Von Bismark and his allies (Austria-Hungary & Italy) against the Allied Powers of Britain, France and Russia. This was the first Global War on a massive scale, introducing modern military technology (Submarine, Tank, Chemical Gas, Mines, Trench Warfare, Airplanes, etc.) and causing global destruction and eventual economic collapse in many nations.

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Conflicts during the Modern Global Age (1914 – Present):

**Treaty of Versaille (1918 C.E.)** – Often called the “Treaty built on Quicksand,” it sought to punish Germany and their allies more than create a lasting peace in Europe. As a result of the massive destruction experienced during the war, leaders in France and Britain were determined to make Germany pay for the human and material costs of the war in the amount of 6.6 Billion dollars through the “War Guilt Clause.” Due to this sentiment, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson’s “Fourteen Points” plan for a lasting peace was rejected, except for the creation of the “League of Nations.”

**Russian Revolution & Civil War (1917-1921)** – A Revolution by the Working Class Proletariat (“Have Not’s”) against the Wealthy Bourgeoisie (“Haves”) based on the ideologies of radical Socialism known as Marxism (Created by Karl Marx through his “Communist Manifesto”), which was promoted by the radical “Bolsheviks” under Vladimir Lenin and moderate “Mensheviks” under Leonard Trotsky. However, after the assassination of the Tsar and his family by the Bolsheviks, the revolution developed into a Civil War between opposing factions trying to gain control of Russia. Ultimately, the Bolsheviks would succeed in gaining power and eventually called themselves “Communists,” to signify their success in reaching Marx’s final stage of Total Socialism.

**Chinese Civil War (1927-1937 C.E.)** – A Revolution between the Nationalist “Kumintang” under their leaders Sun Yat-Sen (Sun Yixian) and Chaing kai-Shek (Jiang Jieshi) against the Communists under Mao Zedong erupted after the last Chinese Emperor chose to adopt a more democratic style of government. Upset by the results of the Treaty of Versailles, the “May Fourth Movement” increased the nationalist feelings of the Chinese working class who were split between the ideals of western democracy and soviet communism. These differences eventually caused the Nationalists to attack the Communists resulting in a civil war that lasted until the Japanese Invasion of the Chinese mainland.

**Second Sino-Japanese War (1931-1941 C.E.)** – A Conflict that erupted from the efforts of Imperial Japan to increase their empire through expansion into Korea, Manchuria, and eventually mainland China. Taking advantage of the Chinese Civil War, Japan invaded Industrial and mineral rich Manchuria in 1931, and mainland China in 1937, promoting a policy of Cultural and Ethnic Cleansing (Genocide), which caused the Chinese Nationalists and Communist to put aside their difference and unify in defense of China.

**World War II (1939-1945 C.E.)** – The Second Global Conflict erupted out of feelings of Bitterness and Betrayal by many countries over the results of the Treaty of Versailles after WWI. Continued Efforts at Empire Building, increased Militarism, and Totalitarian influences in Germany, Italy and Japan intensified the concerns by many countries that war was imminent. Invasions of Poland (1939) and Western Europe (1940) by the Germans, along with the invasions of Mainland China (1937) and the attack on Pearl Harbor & the Philippines (1941) by Japan thrust the world into global war. Far reaching development in Science and Military Technology (Aircraft Carriers, Improved Submarines and Tanks, Long Range Bombers, and the Atomic Bomb), as well as the cruel treatment of soldiers and civilians (Japanese POW Camps & Jewish Concentration and Extermination Camps) cause this war to surpass WWI in loss of human lives and mass destruction.

**Chinese Civil War Continues (1946-1949 C.E.)** – Conflict continued between Chinese Communist & Nationalists after the removal of Japan from mainland China, resulting in an eventual Communist Victory with the establishment of the People’s Republic of China (Communist China) and the Republic of China (Nationalist Taiwan).

**Arab-Israeli Wars (1948-1973 C.E.)** – A Series of Conflicts that erupted with the establishment of the Independent State of Israel in the region of Palestine. Controversies of Religious and Historical claims to the region caused the First Arab-Israeli War (1948), the Suez Crisis (1956), the Six-Day War (1967), and the Yom Kippur War (1973), until negotiations could bring a limited peace between Egypt, Palestine and Israel. Constant border clashes and fighting continued between Palestine and Israel into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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Conflicts during the Modern Global Age (1914 – Present):

**Cold War (1948-1989 C.E.)** – The Political struggle for world dominance between the two key Superpowers (U.S. and U.S.S.R.) and their alliances (N.A.T.O. and the Warsaw Pact) dedicated to limiting the spread of Communism or Democracy to recovering and newly developing nations. Called the “Cold War” because the two Superpowers never directly fought against each other, except through surrogate or U.N. sanctioned Conflicts (like the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts). The symbolic end to the Cold War was the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union by 1989.

**Korean Conflict (1950-1953 C.E.)** – Conflict that erupted due to the division of the Korean Peninsula at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel after WWII and the efforts of the Communist North to re-unite the north and south by military force. Never officially declared a war, the event was actually the first attempt by the newly formed United Nations to regulate conflict between two separately recognized sovereign nations. After nearly three years of fighting, the conflict ended in a stalemate leaving North & South Korea divided at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel.

**Vietnam Conflict (1957-1973 C.E.)** – Conflict that erupted due to French efforts to re-establish their control over Indo-China after WWII. Due to internal revolutionary forces under Ho Chi Minh (Viet-Minh), the French would struggle to maintain control until the disastrous Battle of Dien Bien Phu. As a result of the French withdrawal and the establishment of a divided Vietnam at the 17<sup>th</sup> Parallel (created by the United Nations), the Communist North initiated a struggle to re-unite North and South Vietnam under Communist control. Assisted by the United States (under approval by the United Nations), the South tried to maintain its independence from the North until the withdrawal of U.S. Troops in 1973, at which time Vietnam came completely under Communist control.

**Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989 C.E.)** – Conflict between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan occurred due to several attempts by communist leaders to take over the country between 1973-1979. Due to conflicts with their Islamic beliefs, the Afghan organization known as the Mujahideen led a holy war against the Soviets. Secretly backed by the U.S., Afghan rebels waged a 10 year war of attrition against the Soviet military (which is often called the Soviet Union’s Vietnam) until the Soviet Union withdrew its troops. As a result, a conservative Islamic group known as the Taliban emerged as the leading force in Afghanistan.

**Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988 C.E.)** – Conflict between the two Muslim states of Iraq and Iran erupted when a religious leader known as the Ayatollah Khomeini called upon all Muslims to overthrow their traditional secular governments. Although the conflict centered around religious and political differences, there were additional economic and cultural influences that ignited this struggle. As the war raged on, the Soviet Union continued to provide aid to their Iraqi allies, while the United States provided aid to both sides. After over a million Arabs died, the United Nations negotiated a peace treaty in 1988.

**Persian Gulf War (1990-1991 C.E.)** – Conflict between Iraq and its Arab neighbors erupted when Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion of Kuwait (who he claimed to be a province of Iraq), the slaughter of many of its citizens, and the destruction of hundreds of Kuwaiti oil fields. Due to Saddam’s refusal to recognize or obey numerous U.N. Resolutions and Sanctions, a U.N. approved multi-national military force (Under the overall command of the United States) invaded and defeated the Iraqi military and freed Kuwait.

**War in Iraq (2003-2010 C.E.)** – The second U.N. approved conflict in Iraq occurred after Saddam Hussein delayed and refused to allow U.N. inspectors into suspected chemical and biological munitions plants and factories within Iraq. After years of failed U.N. resolutions and sanctions, suspected ties to terrorism, and the 9/11 attacks in the United States, a second multi-national military force (under overall U.S. military command) invaded Iraq and removed Saddam Hussein and his regime from power. Continual attacks and bombings delayed the withdrawal of U.S. military forces until the establishment of a new Iraqi government and military / police presence in 2010.

**War in Afghanistan (2001-Present)** – Another U.N. sanctioned conflict occurred in Afghanistan after numerous terrorist attacks on U.S. and other European targets (Embassy Bombings, USS Cole Bombing, and 9/11 Attacks) linked to Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaida. Dubbed the “War on Terror,” military operations and Intelligence efforts by the U.S. and British troops try to locate and eliminate Al-Qaida from the Pakistan to Iranian border.