

WORLD HISTORY

Course Review

Important Periods in History

Paleolithic Age (2.5 mil – 8000 BCE) A prehistoric period during which early humans made use of crude stone tools and weapons (also known as the Old Stone Age).

Neolithic Age (8000 – 3000 BCE) A prehistoric period during which early humans learned to polish stone tools, make pottery, grow crops and domesticate animals (also called the New Stone Age).

Neolithic Revolution The period of major change in human life between the Neolithic and Bronze Ages when people shifted from being nomadic hunter-gatherers to settled farmers.

Bronze Age (3000 BCE – 600 BCE) A period in human history when people mixed copper and tin to create a new metal strong enough to make tools and weapons to replace the traditional polished stone tools of the Neolithic Age.

Iron Age (1300 BCE – 500 CE) A period in human history that varies from region to region as people discovered the greater strength and durability of iron tools and weapons.

Dynastic Age in China (1700 BCE – 256 BCE) A period in Chinese history between the Shang and Zhou Dynasties during which the ideas of the Mandate of Heaven gave Emperors & their families the authority and justification to rule over and expand the boundaries of China.

Feudal Period in China (475 BCE – 221 BCE) or the Period of Warring States A period in Chinese history between the Zhou and the Qing Dynasties when the economic and political systems were based on reciprocal ideals of land, loyalty and service between the ruling noble warlords and their vassals.

Antiquity (500 BCE – 500 CE) A period in human history from the beginning of recorded history in the old world to the start of the Middle Ages.

Dark Ages (400 – 900 CE) A period in human history of cultural and economic deterioration. (ie: In European History when Germanic Tribes invaded the Western Roman Empire causing the decline of classical knowledge, downfall of cities, disruption of trade and the Fall of the Roman Empire.)

Middle Ages (500 – 1400 CE) or Medieval Period A period in European history between the Fall of Rome and the Renaissance dominated by the influences of the Catholic Church, Growing Feudalistic Nation-States, and Gothic art & architecture.

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Viking Age (800 – 1100 CE) A period in European history when Scandinavian Vikings explored the regions from Northern and Central Europe to the Mediterranean Sea and British Islands and settled in the areas of Brittany, Normandy, and the land of the Rus (Russia).

Feudal Period in Europe (1000 – 1300 CE) A period in European history during the Middle Ages when the economic and political systems were dominated by the reciprocal ideals of land, labor and service between the Noble Aristocracy and their vassals.

Renaissance (1300 – 1600 CE) A period in European history during which renewed interests in classical culture led to far-reaching changes in arts, learning, and worldly views.

Early Modern Age (1500 – 1800 CE) Period in world history when European expansion and rebirth of knowledge cause the development of new colonies, strong centralized governments, and the early formation of nation-states.

Age of Discovery (1418 – 1778 CE) or Age of Exploration A period in world history when Europeans engaged in extensive exploration, improvements in navigation, and direct contacts with people in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Oceania, resulting in the establishment of colonial settlements and alternate trade routes around the globe.

Commercial Revolution (1520 – 1820 CE) Period in European History when the expansion of trade caused a growth in towns, business & banking that transformed the world and developed the ideologies of mercantilism and capitalism between European markets and the New World.

Reformation (1530 – 1700 CE) A period in European History when secular views and dissatisfaction with the practice of the Catholic Church (ie: Simony and Indulgences) promoted the establishment of new Christian Churches that rejected Papal Authority in Europe.

Elizabethan Age (1558 – 1603 CE) A period considered the Golden Age of English History when the height of the English Renaissance promoted literature, poetry, the arts, theater, and the protestant reformation in England. Also marked by the great struggle Anglo-Spanish war between England and Spain.

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- Scientific Revolution (1520 – 1720 CE)** A period in European history when new ideas in physics, astronomy, biology, human anatomy, chemistry, and other sciences led to a rejection of doctrines that had prevailed since Antiquity and continuing through the Middle Ages, which laid the foundations for Modern Science.
- Age of Enlightenment (1637 – 1805 CE)** A period in Western philosophy when intellectual, scientific, and cultural life was centered on the ideas of reason as the primary source for legitimacy and authority in all things. Developing simultaneously in Western Europe and the Americas & responsible for fueling the fires of revolution in British Colonies (North America), France and the Spanish Colonies (South America) between 1770 - 1824.
- Feudal Period in Japan (1573 – 1868 CE)** A period in Japanese history between the “Warring States” period and the Edo period when the economic and political systems were dominated by the reciprocal ideals of land, labor and service between the Noble Aristocracy of the Tokugawa clan and their vassals.
- Modern Age (1750 – 1950’s)** A period in World History when great developments in Science, Politics, Technology and Warfare have occurred (between the Age of Discovery to the Era of Globalization).
- Industrial Revolution (1750 – 1890’s)** A period in World History when there was a major shift from hand-made goods to machine-made goods, which originated in England and spread to most of Western Europe and the United States by the 1870’s.
- Napoleonic Period (1792 – 1815)** The period in the history of France and Europe begins roughly with Napoleon Bonaparte's rise to popularity toward the end of the French and ending with his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo and his loss of power resulting from the Congress of Vienna.
- Victorian Age (1837 – 1901)** The period of Queen Victoria's reign in Great Britain characterized by a long period of peace, growth of industrialism, increased imperialism and the growth of Britain’s population.
- Meiji Era (Japan) (1868 – 1912)** The period of Japanese history following the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate when the Meiji Restoration reinstated the power of the Emperor, established a new form of legislative government, increased the power of the military and promoted industrial expansion.

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Period of World Wars (1914 – 1945) Period in World History when the great world powers assembled in two key alliances, resulting in global conflict and increased developments in Military Technology, which devastated the Europe (WWI & WWII) and the Pacific (WWII), leaving the world with economic difficulties and both political and social restructuring.

Cold War (1945 – 1989) The period in World History when the state of diplomatic hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union brought global alliances (NATO & The Warsaw Pact) to the brink of Nuclear War

Space Age (1955 – Present) A contemporary period in World History starting with the development of the Soviet and U.S. Space programs and encompassing the activities related to the Space Race, Space Exploration, Space Technology, and the cultural developments influenced by these events (from the flight of Sputnik in 1957 till the current maintenance of the International Space Station).

Information Age (1971 – Present) The period in world history characterized by the shift from traditional industrial technology to a world influenced by increased information manipulation through the use of Computers and Digital Technology.

Period of Globalization (1980's –Present) Current period in World History in which regional economies, societies, and cultures have become integrated through a global network of communication, transportation and trade, encompassing the transnational circulation of ideas, languages, or popular culture through acculturation.