

## IMPORTANT EVENTS SINCE NAPOLEON

Note to students: These important events of modern history are discussed here in only the briefest manner. To learn more about each of these items you would do well to look them up in Langer and read the more extensive summary provided there.

- 1814-1815. The Congress of Vienna ends the wars of the Napoleonic Era.
1815. The Holy Alliance is signed by all European rulers except the king of England, the Pope, and the sultan.
- 1837-1901. Reign of Victoria of England (1819-1901)—one of the longest reigns in European history! It is characterized by vast imperial expansion, marked by many colonial wars; economic and political reforms made necessary by the industrial revolution; and the recurrent question of Home Rule for Ireland. Coming to the throne at the age of 18, Victoria occasionally rebukes her ministers—chief among them are Viscount William Lamb Melbourne, Sir Robert Peel, Viscount Palmerstone, Benjamin Disraeli, and William Gladstone. Victoria, in general, respects their rights under the Parliamentary system. She dies (Jan. 22, 1901), before the end of the Boer War (1899-1902).
1842. Hong Kong is ceded to Great Britain by China at the end of the Opium War.
1846. Repeal of the Corn Laws by the British Parliament marks a victory for free-trade advocates despite the opposition of a group of Conservatives headed by Benjamin Disraeli.
1848. The March days. Prince Metternich flees from Vienna after a revolt (March 3) inspired by the February Revolution in Paris and by the Hungarian insurrection. Nearly all parts of the Austrian Empire succeed in freeing themselves from the Hapsburg rule!
- Note that in this period liberal revolts took place also in Prussia, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and many parts of Italy. Most of these revolts failed.
- 1848-1916. Reign of Francis Joseph I, emperor of Austria; king of Hungary. He subdues the revolutions of 1848 in his empire, but is not strong enough to prevent Prussian domination over Germany nor can he prevent the unification of Italy. In 1883 he joins Italy and Germany in the Triple Alliance, leading Austria into World War I.
- 1849-1871. The African expeditions of David Livingstone. He crosses the Kalahari desert (1849), discovers Victoria Falls (1856), and Lake Nyasa (1859). Henry M. Stanley, after searching for Livingstone, finds him at Lake Tanganyika (1871).
- 1852-1870. Reign of Napoleon III as emperor of France. This period is known as the Second Empire.
- 1854-1856. The Crimean War. Great Britain, France, Turkey, and Sardinia battle against Russia. Russia is defeated in a series of battles and asks for peace.

1861. Victor Emmanuel II is proclaimed king of Italy made up of representatives from all of Italy except Rome and Venetia. This made the unification of Italy practically complete.
1870. Rome is taken (from France) by forces of Victor Emmanuel II in the name of the Kingdom of Italy, thus finally uniting the country. Marks the beginning of the 6th and weakest resurrection of the Roman Empire!
- 1870-1871 The Franco-Prussian War. Napoleon III declares war on Prussia. France surrenders after defeat at the battle of Sedan.
1871. The German Empire as framed by Bismarck is proclaimed at Versailles, thus uniting north and south Germany into a single Reich. William I is declared emperor with Bismarck as the first chancellor.
- 1862-1890. Otto von Bismarck becomes minister president of Prussia. Largely through his efforts--"by blood and iron!"--he succeeds in uniting Germany under the hegemony of Prussia. (Note that this item should have been placed earlier in the chronology.)
1877. Queen Victoria is proclaimed Empress of India.
1882. The Triple Alliance. Italy joins the military pact formed in 1879 by Germany and Austria-Hungary. This helps set the stage for the ultimate outbreak of World War I.
- 1894-1917. Reign of Nicholas II of Russia, the last czar. The victim of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 led by Lenin, he is forced to abdicate and then is assassinated in 1918 with his family.
- 1899-1902. The Boer War in South Africa between the British and the Dutch results in victory for Great Britain.
- 1900-1946. Reign of Victor Emmanuel III of Italy. With the rise of the Fascist party (1922) his power declines, until the party is dissolved in 1943.
- 1904-1905. Russo-Japanese War. Japan attacks the Russians at Port Arthur, and astonishes the world by defeating them with relative ease! Assumed to be a so-called backward nation, Japan, in less than 50 years, becomes a threat to the European powers, who must now include Japan in their military maneuvers. Moreover, that Japan could become westernized so rapidly and successfully serves as an example to other nonwestern peoples. As for Russia, the defeat exposes her need of reform to her people, who respond by revolting in 1905!
- 1910-1936. Reign of George V, king of England and Northern Ireland; emperor of India. His reign is marked the establishment of Home Rule for Ireland (1914), and by World War I (1914-19).
1911. Chinese revolution begins. Yuan Shih-k'ai becomes premier and Sun Yat-sen president.

1914. On June 28 the heir to the Austrian throne, Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, are assassinated at Sarajevo, Bosnia, by agents of a secret terrorist organization. This is the spark that started the 4-year bonfire called World War I!!
- 1914-1918. World War I. The powers of the Triple Entente—France, Great Britain and Russia—and their associates are known as the Allies. Their adversaries, the Dual Alliance—Germany and Austria-Hungary—and their associates are known as the Central Powers.
1916. Gregory Rasputin, a Siberian peasant who posed as a mystic and who reputedly exerted a great influence over the Russian royal family of Nicholas II, is murdered. This man was clearly demon-possessed and his deeds helped pave the way for the Bolshevik Revolution, at least in part.
1917. The United States declares war on Germany on April 6th.
1917. Lenin arrives in Moscow from Switzerland. As Dr. Hoeh pointed out in the final lecture of the semester, he was transported on a German train by the Germans. The date was April 16th.
1917. The Balfour Declaration. Great Britain announces that Palestine should become a home for the Jewish people.
1917. November 6th—the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia! The Council of People's Commissars is established, with Lenin at its head and Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin among its members.
1918. Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (Mar. 3). Russia loses Poland, the Ukraine, and border areas inhabited by non-Russians. This humiliating treaty, dictated by Germany, is accepted by the Bolsheviks, who pledge to bring peace to the Russian people.
1919. June 28th—the Treaty of Versailles is signed in the Hall of Mirrors. Many territorial problems decided. Germany accepts all war guilt, and will pay indemnity. The Kaiser is to be tried. The German military establishment is severely limited. The treaty is ratified by Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Japan—but never by the United States.
1919. On July 31 the Weimar Constitution is adopted by Germany.
1922. Treaty of Rapallo is signed between Germany and Soviet Russia (April 16th).
- 1922-1939. Papacy of Pius XI, a militant anti-Communist. The Lateran Treaties (ratified June 7, 1929—ending the 70 years of 1859-1929 when "Tyre shall be forgotten"—see Isa. 23) define the position of the Church in the Fascist state.
1923. The "Beer Hall Putsch" of Nov. 8-11 at Munich. German General Ludendorff and Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi Party, try to overthrow the Bavarian government. Hitler is arrested and imprisoned at Landsberg, where he writes Mein Kampf.

1924. Death of Lenin. A struggle for leadership begins between Stalin and Trotsky.
- 1927-1928. Nationalist Kuomintang government is established in China by Chiang Kai-shek.
1929. The crash of the New York stock market on Oct. 29 begins the depression in the United States.
1933. On Jan 30 Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany. On Feb. 27 the German Reichstag is burned by the Nazis. Hitler denounces this as a Communist plot and suspends freedom of speech and of the press!!
1933. The United States recognizes the Soviet Union as the government of Russia. Diplomatic relations resume.
1933. Both Germany and Japan withdraw from the League of Nations.
- 1933-1945. The Third Reich in Germany. Although the Nazi Party does not receive the majority vote in an election (March, 1933) called by the Nazis, Hitler is given dictatorial power for four years—but he continues to exercise it until 1945!
- 1934-1938. Kurt von Schuschnigg replaces Dollfuss as premier of Austria until the Nazis seize the government. Schuschnigg is interned in a concentration camp!
1935. Italy invades Ethiopia (Oct. 3).
1936. Germany breaks the Locarno Pact and her troops reoccupy the Rhineland. Had the French called Hitler's bluff, the Germans would have retreated! But the French reached for another cigarette and cocktail and hoped the problem would go away!!
- 1936-1939. The Spanish Civil War. Generalissimo Francisco Franco, a leader of the rebellion, forms a junta on July 30, 1936 to direct the activities of the war. With the intervention of other countries, the war becomes an international battleground. On Oct. 1, 1936 Franco is appointed chief of the Spanish State.
- 1936 Abdication of King Edward VIII of England (Dec. 11). His brother becomes king as George VI.
- 1936-1938. Purge trials in the USSR. Trotskyites and others opposed to Stalin are forced to confess their guilt and are executed or exiled.
- 1936-1952. Reign of George VI of England. During this reign the appeasement policy of Neville Chamberlain leads to the Munich agreements with Hitler (Sept. 1938), but war between England and Germany breaks out nevertheless (Sept. 3, 1939). The postwar period of George's reign is marked by the socialization program of Clement Atlee, which results in the nationalization of utilities, communications, and some industries; and by the gradual achievement of self-government by many imperial possessions.
1937. German-Czech crisis. France, who is allied with Czechoslovakia, ig-