

THE MIDDLE AGES

500-1500 Part 1



THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

- What is the **Middle Ages**?
 - The time period, which lasted from about 500 until about 1500, also known as the medieval times is
- **Dark Ages** were during the Middle Ages from 400 to 1000.
 - characterized by the brutality of the age. It was a time of constant warfare, despotic chiefs and minor kings, migrations of whole nations of people over many hundreds or thousands of miles, the complete eradication of whole cities of people.
 - Video:
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Video+on+the+Middle+ages&docid=608032928716686413&mid=B6A66D88C86B6D53F27AB6A66D88C86B6D53F27A&view=detail&FORM=VIRE&ateSearch=strict&adlt=strict>
- Roman Empire falls apart in 400.
- Europe left without a single dominant government.
- Europe broke up into many small kingdoms.
- One thing continued to tie the people of Europe together – religion.
- Everyone in Europe was Christian, and most Europeans felt tied together by their beliefs.
- Christianity was so important that the church gained a great deal of influence.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

- Almost no part of life in Europe in the Middle ages was unaffected by the church and its teachings.
- The church played a key role in education, developing religious communities called **monasteries**.
- The most powerful religious leader was the pope, the leader of the Christian church.
- Religious war is called a **Crusade**.
 - <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=video+on+the+Crusades&docid=608018961351969730&mid=D2247B2B3976974BAAEFD2247B2B3976974BAAEF&view=detail&FORM=VIRE&safeSearch=strict&adlt=strict>
- Pope wanted Europeans to take over the **Holy Lands**, the region in which Jesus had lived.
- There were 8 crusades over two centuries, but they were unsuccessful and did not drive the Muslims from the Holy Lands.
- One good thing that came from the crusades was it increased trade between Europe and Asia.

FEUDAL SYSTEM

- The system of exchanging land for military service is called **Feudal system**.
- Kings owned the land.
- Kings gave land to nobles (people born into wealthy, powerful families).
- Nobles gave land to knights who promised to help defend both their lands and the king.
- Peasants worked the land for the Nobles in return for a place to stay and protection.
- Kings gained power and disrespected nobles, which in England made the nobles turn on the king in 1215.
- Nobles forced the king to sign the Magna Carta.
- The **Magna Carta** was the first document to protect the rights of the people.

THE BLACK DEATH

- <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=video+on+the+Black+Death&adlt=strict&view=detail&mid=4019DCF52796A68D7F334019DCF52796A68D7F33&FORM=VDRVRV&safeSearch=strict>
- 1347 the Black Death swept through Europe.
- The Black Death killed a third of Europe's people.
 - 50 million people
- The kings once again gained power as nation states emerged and the feudal system came to an end.
- The Black Death spread through rats and fleas.



HISTORY OF EARLY MODERN EUROPE

Renaissance and Reformation, Science and Exploration,
Political change, and Industrial Revolution

RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

- A period of creativity, of new ideas and inspirations is called the **Renaissance**. 1350 to 1500
- The renaissance was the rebirth of Europe's history and culture.
- Started in Italy.
- Cities such as Florence and Venice became rich through trade.
- People started to become more curious about the larger world, and scholars started traveling to Italy and started learning about ancient Greeks and Romans.
- People started studying subjects that had been taught in Greek and Roman schools, such as Humanities, which led to a new way of thinking and learning known as **humanism**.

RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

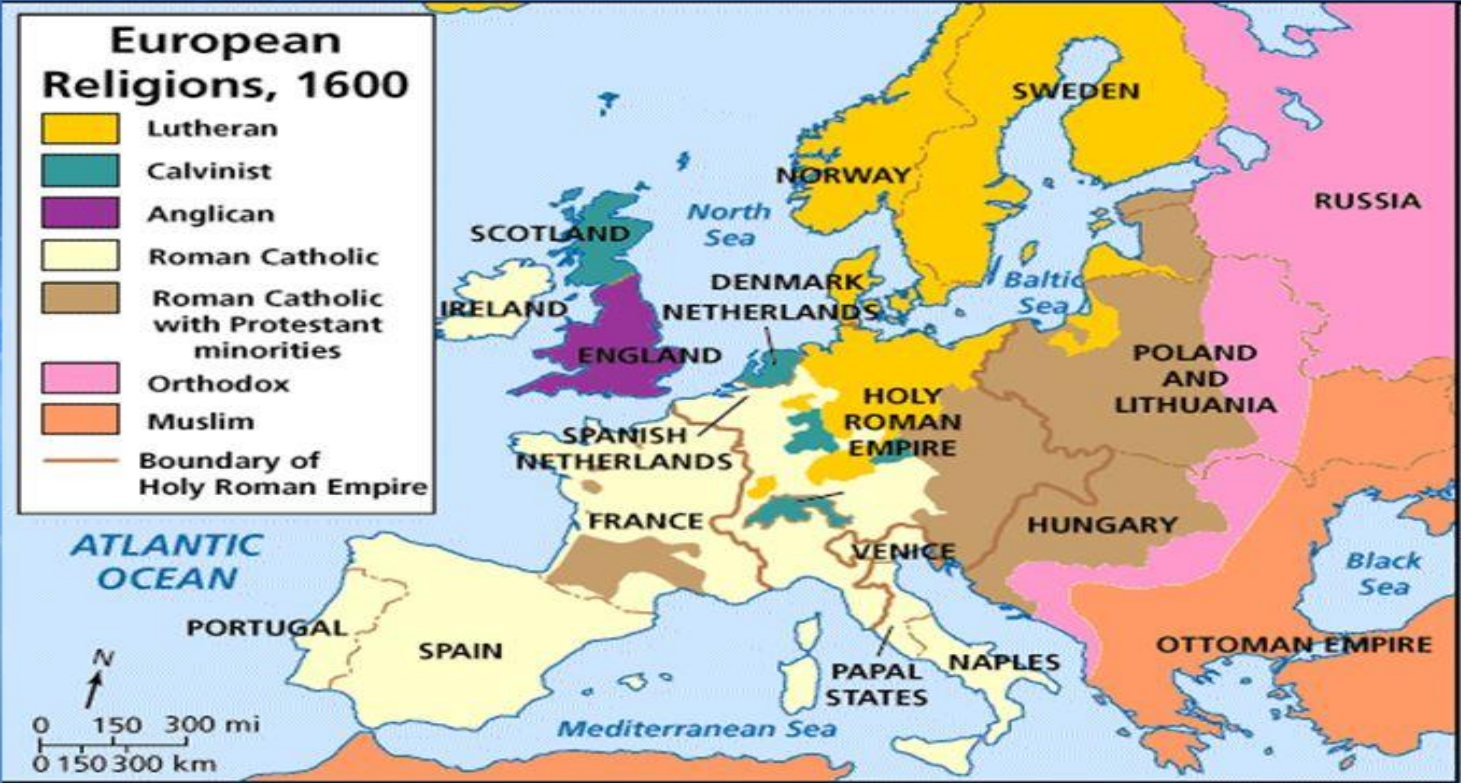
- **Humanism** emphasized the abilities and accomplishments of human beings.
- People started to focus on making this life better, rather than hoping for a better life after death.
- Humanist believed that people were capable of great things and admired artists, architects, writers, and scientists.
- Two famous Renaissance artists were Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.
- The most famous renaissance writer is William Shakespeare.
- One of the most important inventions of the renaissance was the Printing press.
- This allowed books to be printed quickly, cheaply, and share ideas which helped the ideas of the Renaissance to spread beyond Italy.

REFORMATION

- By the early 1500 Europeans started to have problems with the Roman Catholic Church.
- A religious reform movement is called the **Reformation**.
- People thought church officials were too focused on their own power and had lost sight of their religious duties.
- In 1517 a man named Martin Luther lead a protest against the church. This angered the church and they would expel him.
- Luther's followers then formed a separate church, which was called the **Protestant church**.
- After Martin Luther broke away others would follow.

REFORMATION

Religious map of Europe



SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

- 1540to 1700 European views about how to study the world changed.
- Scientific Revolution – the series of events that led to the birth of modern science.
- People began placing more importance on what they observed and less on what they were told.
- People feared that the increasing influence of science would lead to the breakdown of European society.
- People started to base things on facts instead of what they were told by the church.

SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

- Many great discoveries:
 - How the stars and planets move in the sky.
 - How blood circulates throughout the human body.
 - The greatest advances were made by Sir Isaac Newton.
 - Newton created calculus and other contributions to math and physics.
- New inventions helped ships to sail farther and longer.
 - Compasses, and astrolabes
- With the help of these new inventions sailors wanted to explore for two reasons to spread the Christian faith and to get rich.
- In the Mid 1400 explorers wanted to find an all water route to Asia, for the land route was expensive.
- Most explorers were inspired by Marco Polo.

SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

- In 1492 Christopher Columbus found the Americas while searching for a sea route to India. Spain financed his voyage.
- With the discovery of new lands the European kingdoms were in a race to claim the best land for themselves.
- Spain was able to gain massive wealth from the Americas and became Europe's mightiest country and the center of a huge empire.



POLITICAL CHANGE IN EUROPE & INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

European History Part 3

POLITICAL CHANGE

- The Scientific Revolution and the age of Exploration expanded Europeans' knowledge and changed life in many ways. The 1600s and 1700s brought still more changes. Some people began to use reason to improve government and society.
- During the 1600 and 1700s monarchs, or kings and queens, ruled in most of Europe.
- Many monarchs believed they ruled through divine right, or thought God gave them the right to rule however they chose.
- Some people challenged rule by divine right, and thought rulers' powers should be limited to protect people's freedoms.
- John Locke, an English philosopher, thought government should be a contract between a ruler and the people.

POLITICAL CHANGE

- Locke also believed that all people had certain natural rights, such as life, liberty, and property.
- If a ruler did not protect these natural rights, people had the right to change rulers.
- These ideas would inspire some Europeans to rise up against their rulers.
- Age of Revolution
- 1642 the English forced King Charles I from power and strengthened their Parliament. They also made sure future Kings would honor the Magna Carta.
- The American Revolution in 1775.
- 1789 The French Revolution

POLITICAL CHANGE

- During the French Revolution there was a period called the Reign of Terror.
- The Reign of Terror was a bloody period of the French Revolution during which the government executed thousands of its opponents and other at the guillotine.
- The guillotine was a device to behead people with a large, heavy blade.
- 1799 Napoleon Bonaparte will take control of France.
 - Brilliant military leader.
 - By 1810 Napoleon had control of most of Europe.
 - In 1812 Napoleon invaded Russia. Of over 100,000 troops only 10,000 will return home from the disastrous invasion.
 - This was a huge blow to Napoleon's power and he would then be defeated by Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia in 1814.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- In the 1700's people had to make things by hand and used animals and water for power.
- By the mid 1700's all this will change. People invented machines which will change how people lived.
- A period of rapid growth in machine-made goods is called the **Industrial Revolution**.
- Better farming methods and technology had several effects.
 - Farmers could grow more crops with less labor.
 - With more crops available for food, the population grew.
 - Less need for labor many farmworkers lost their jobs and moved to the city.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- The Industrial Revolution started in Great Britain.
- Great Britain had the labor, raw materials, and money to invest.
 - Large workforce, rich supplies of coal, and many rivers for waterpower.
 - The colonial markets also increased the demand for manufactured goods.
- Industrial growth began with textiles, or cloth products.
- 1760 James Watt built the first modern steam engine.
- Steam engines powered riverboats and trains the helped speed up transportation.
- The telegraph made communication faster.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- Factory System created major changes to how people lived.
 - Many workers were young women and children, so owners could pay them less.
 - Factory workers would work for 12 hours a day and 6 days a week.
 - Factory conditions were miserable and unsafe.
 - By the late 1800's the industrial Revolution will spread throughout Europe.
 - The Industrial Revolution made goods cheaper and more available, and more people joined the middle class.
 - Challenges to the Industrial Revolution –
 - Cities grew rapidly, Over crowded, Workers remained poor, Unsafe apartments, Diseases spread rapidly.

1900 TO 1918

- World War I
 - Nationalism --- devotion and loyalty to one's country
 - Countries were willing to go to war to prove their superiority over their rivals.
 - Fierce competition emerged among the countries of Europe.
 - Many countries built up their militaries.
 - As tensions rose countries created secret alliances.
 - Alliance --- is an agreement between countries.
 - 1914 a Serbian assassin shot and killed Archduke Francis Ferdinand (the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary).
 - Austria-Hungary will declare war on Serbia. Serbia was allied with Russia and before you know it Europe is at war.
 - Austria-Hungary and Germany were known as the Central Powers.
 - Serbia, Russia, Great Britain, and France were the Allied Powers.

1900 TO 1918

- World War I
 - Trench Warfare --- a style of fighting in which each side fights from deep ditches, or trenches, dug into the ground.
 - New weapons --- Machine guns, poison gas, and tanks.
 - Britain will use its navy to blockade Germany and Germany would use its U-boats to break through those lines.
 - 1917 German U-boats will start attacking American ships, which will force the US to join the war.
 - 1918 the Central Powers will surrender.
 - 8.5 million soldiers were killed 20 million were wounded.
 - Allied leaders wanted to punish Germany for the war.
 - In the Treaty of Versailles Germany had to accept the blame for starting the war. They had to slash the size of its army and give up overseas colonies. Finally they had to pay billions of dollars for damages caused during the war.
 - The rise of Communism. A political system in which the government owns all property and controls all aspects of life in a country.



WORLD WAR II & EUROPE SINCE
1945

WORLD WAR II

- Many countries faced deep economic and political problems as a result of World War I.
- Dictators rose to power and attacked their neighbors and plunged the world back into war.
- After World War I Europe factories and farmlands had been destroyed, and economies were in ruins.
- Countries like Germany and Austria, owed billions in war damages.
- 1929 the stock market crashed in the USA triggering a global economic crisis called the Great Depression.
- The Great Depression caused unemployment throughout Europe.

WORLD WAR II

- Dictator -- A ruler who has total control.
- In Russia Vladimir Lenin gained power. He formed a Communist government and united Russia into the Soviet Union.
- After Lenin's death Joseph Stalin will take power.
 - He made economic decisions, restricted religious worship, and used secret police to spy on citizens.
- Benito Mussolini took power of Italy.
- By the 1930's Germany turned to the Nazi Party and their leader was Adolf Hitler.
 - He banned all parties except for the Nazi's, he started discriminating against so-called inferior races, like the Jews.

WORLD WAR II

- Italian and German aggression forced Europe into a 2nd world war.
 - Italy invades Ethiopia.
 - Germany will annexed Austria. Then Germany takes Czechoslovakia.
 - Once Germany invaded Poland Great Britain and France will declare war.
 - Germany, Italy, and Japan formed an alliance called the Axis Powers.
 - France, Great Britain, and other countries created an alliance called the Allies.
 - In less than a year, Hitler had gained control of almost all of Western Europe.
 - By 1941 Germany had in invaded the Soviet Union, the Italians invaded North Africa, and Japan attacked the United States.

WORLD WAR II

- Holocaust – the attempt by the Nazi government during World War II to eliminate Europe's Jews.
- Over 6 million Jews were murdered.
- 1944 Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, an invasion called D-Day.
- Spring of 1945 World War II is over.
- Results of the War:
 - Millions of deaths, tensions between Allies, and creation of the United Nations.

WORLD WAR II

- More than 50 million people lost their lives.
- The United States and the Soviet Union emerged from the war as Super Powers. These two powers will create a intense rivalry, which will be known as the Cold War.
- In the hope to prevent another deadly conflict 50 nations formed the United Nations. An international peacekeeping organization.



EUROPE SINCE 1945

COLD WAR

- The US and the Soviet Union will emerge from World War II as the world's most powerful nations.
- Superpowers --- strong and influential countries.
- Cold War --- a period of tense rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union.
- The US believed in democracy and free enterprise
- The Soviet Union was a Communist country, which individual freedoms were limited.

COLD WAR

- After World War II the Allies divided Germany into 4 parts. US, France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union each got a part.
- Their job was to rebuild their section so they could reunite Germany.
- 1948 the US, Great Britain, and France reunited their sections of Germany under a democratic government. While the Soviet Union refused and kept their section which had established a communist state.
- As a result two Germany's were created: West Germany and East Germany.
- Also divided was Germany's capital of Berlin.
- Berlin Wall was created to prevent any East Germans from fleeing to the West.

COLD WAR

- New alliances
 - NATO --- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 - Warsaw Pact
- Western European countries prospered
- Eastern European countries failed to develop
- Space Race
- Arms Race – A competition between countries to build superior weapons.
- The high cost of the arms race eventually damaged the Soviet economy. In addition to a war gone wrong in Afghanistan.
- The Soviet Union's economy will crash and they will pull their reach back. In response countries like Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany will gain their independence.
- With this collapse the Cold War is over. 1989

COLD WAR

- Czechoslovakia will break up peacefully into two countries.
- The break up of Yugoslavia was not peaceful.

EUROPEAN COOPERATION

- In the 1950's six countries joined to create a united economic community. (Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and West Germany)
 - The organization's goal was to form a:
 - Common Market – a group of nations that cooperates to make trade among members easier.
 - Create a new sense of unity.
- This group will turn into the European Union --- an organization that promotes political and economic cooperation in Europe. Today they have 25 member countries.
- European Union has executive, legislative, and judicial branches.
- EU is run by a commission made up of one representative from each member nation.

EUROPEAN COOPERATION

- Has 2 legislative groups: the Council of European Union and the European Parliament --- they debate and make laws.
- They have a Court of Justice, which resolves disputes and enforce EU laws.
- EU members work together toward common economic goals, so they can compete with countries like the US.
- 1999 Europe created a common currency called the Euro.