

World History 1 TO 1,000 AD

1 TO 50 AD

- Roman Empire spreads except in Gaul where they abandoned Germany
- Tiberius rules Rome (14 AD)
- Caligula rules Rome (37 AD)
- Claudius rules Rome and annexes Britain (41 AD)
- Seneca writes tragedies; Mela, the geographer, describes 5 temperate zones of the globe
- Nationalist Jews gain strength in Judea with goal of making Judea free
- Semi-insurrection in Judea due conflict between Judean high-priests and citizens following different religious movements, Judea worrying about Rome crushing their land due to these insurrections
- One leader of these religious movements in Judea was Jesus of Nazareth who was preaching around 29 AD
- Jesus enters Jerusalem with support of nationalists; Jesus is tried for heresy by high-priest and their party; Jesus then turned over to Romans who declare him a rebel and crucify him
- Jesus followers say he returned to life after 3 days and taken to heaven; followers continued to view him as Messiah (Greek word for Messiah is Christos, and Christ in English)
- Jew named Saul, Roman citizen, took name Paul and converted to Christianity; he gave up dietary laws and other practices; Christianity grows and becomes separate religion from Judaism (46 AD)
- Celtic tribes in Britain, closely related to Gauls, stay out of conflict between Rome and the Gauls; Brittonic chief named Cymbeline has good relations with Rome, but Rome invades Britain with difficulty after Cymbeline dies (circa 43-51 AD)
- In China, Wang Mang reforms country: distribution of land, ends slavery, fair price policy
- Buddhism comes to China

50 TO 100 AD

- Nero rules Rome; fire destroys much of Rome; fire blamed on Christians and some were executed (54 AD)
- Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian rules Rome (68-96 AD)

- Nerva rules Rome, first of 5 Emperors (96 AD)
- Trajan rules Rome; Tacitus writes history of Rome from Nero to Domitian and the history of German tribes; Plutarch writes biographies of famous Greeks and Romans; Pliny writes encyclopedia of natural history; Martial writes epigrams; Quintilian writes on education
- In Judea, nationalists drive Romans out of Jerusalem (66 AD); Second Temple destroyed (70 AD); last stand at Masada where 960 killed themselves rather than surrender (73 AD)
- Old Testament developed into present form (73 AD)
- New Testament reaches present form (100 AD)
- Paul preaching in Greece, Macedonia, and Rome
- Christianity becomes world religion

100 TO 150 AD

- China develops paper, which spreads to West (105 AD)
- Trajan rules Rome which reached maximum extent, no more expansion
- Hadrian rules Rome, which is becoming a defensive empire, withdrawing from some areas and building 72-mile long wall in Britain
- Rome's Pax Romana (Latin for Roman peace) at its height; historian Gibbon judges this period "when humankind was happiest" (150 AD)
- Justin opens Christian school in Rome and dies for this cause causing his title "Justin the Martyr"; Gnosticism blends Christianity with Zoroastrianism
- Judea emptied of Jews and new Roman town built at Jerusalem

150 TO 200 AD

- Marcus Aurelius last of "good emperors" of Rome; considered a rational and benevolent Emperor who co-ruled with his brother
- Gauls invade Italy; Rome drives them back (167 AD); Pax Romana ending
- Ptolemy, Greek astronomer in Alexandria, summarizes in writing Greek astronomy concepts which survive into modern times
- Greek culture is fading
- Plague rages through Empire (167 AD)
- India invents horse stirrup
- In China, a rebellion aimed at corrupt rule weakens Han Empire

200 TO 250 AD

- Many Roman rulers change rapidly leading to anarchy; Roman citizenship weakened with less participation in government (211 AD)
- 1000th anniversary of Rome celebrated (248 AD)
- Persecution of Christians increases since they refused to worship Emperor (249-251 AD)
- Diophantus develops algebra
- Persia, as a name and empire, develops and becomes a threat to Rome
- In Japan, Sujin comes to throne; records begin to be kept (230 AD)

250 TO 300 AD

- German tribes move south; most important tribe is the Goths
- Goths take over Slavs in Poland and Ukraine
- Goths split into 2 groups: Ostrogoths in east and Visigoths in west
- Goths attack Athens, Sparta, and Corinth
- Roman cities build walls
- Rome fights Persians and Goths; some Roman provinces break away
- Claudius of Rome defeats Goths (269 AD)
- Rome builds wall around city (271 AD); Rome restored
- Diocletian attempts to reorganize empire with monarchy (instead of Republican rule), new capital in Nicomedia, divided empire in half
- In Japan, Confucianism arrives
- In North America, Mayan and pre-Aztec civilizations develop
- Pacific Ocean sees Polynesians going to islands (300 AD)

300 TO 350 AD

- Christianity is about 10% of Roman population; it grew as disintegration of Empire increased; most concentrated in east; in west, Rome had bishop who was by tradition successor of St. Peter, later the bishop of Rome came to be known as the Pope (Italian word for father)
- Diocletian begins to repress Christians, which didn't work and most likely accelerated it (303 AD); Armenia become first Christian nation
- Constantine beats Maxentius to become Emperor of Rome and supported Christianity (312 AD)
- Edict of Milan allowed Christians free exercise of religion (313 AD)

- Rome becomes Christian nation; ended gladiatorial contests; incorporated Germans into Roman army; Christians begin to persecute pagans and other Christian sects
- Council at Nicaea (325 AD) establishes Catholicism; concept of heresy (Greek word meaning “to choose” your own point of view) and orthodox (Greek word for “true opinion”) develops; Emperor’s choice (point of view) was orthodox
- Constantinople (modern day Istanbul, Turkey) becomes Rome’s capital (330 AD)
- Inventions brought to Empire: water mills, glass, soap, weaving looms, and chemistry
- Huns, a nomadic tribe from central Asia, arrive in West (350 AD)

350 TO 400 AD

- Huns enter Europe on shaggy Asian ponies from developing the stirrup and beat the Ostrogoths; they spread to the Caspian Sea in Hungary; Visigoths flee to Rome (374 AD)
- Julian becomes Roman emperor, abandoned Christianity, and returns to paganism, but was not successful (361 AD)
- Romans and Goths fight; Romans slaughtered; end of Roman legion (foot soldiers)
- Theodosius becomes Emperor (379 AD): negotiates with Goths; persecutes pagans; ends Olympic games; divides empire into Western and Eastern Empires
- St. Jerome translates Bible into Latin (until then, Christians relied on Greek Bible)
- St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, becomes intolerant of Jews

400 TO 450 AD

- Eastern Empire and Western Empire conflicted as Goths invade East and West; Vandals also attack Empire; Goths now permanently in Western Roman Empire with little resistance from villages; Vandals spread to Spain
- Alaric, Goth leader, takes Rome (410 AD)
- Rome and Vandals take N. Africa and city of Hippo, home of St. Augustine (431 AD)

- Roman soldiers leave Britain to defend Italy (407 AD); Britain reverts to Celtic culture; Picts from north invade southern Britain
- Attila rules Huns (known as Attila the Hun); expands into Germany
- Constantinople builds walls around city; East Roman Empire strength increases; Western Empire weaker
- Polynesians reach Hawaii

450 TO 500 AD

- Attila led Huns into Gaul; Rome moves to oppose them; Battle of Catalaunia Plain (100 miles east of Paris); Attila loses and turns to Italy; siege of Aquileia leads locals to flee to swampy lagoons creating city of Venice; Attila goes to Rome and Pope Leo convinces him to turn back; Attila dies in 453 AD; end of the Huns
- Vandals invade Italy and spend 2 weeks looting and moving valuables to Carthage; Romans coin negative term “vandals” (455 AD)
- West Roman Empire in fragments; Germans, under Odoacer, force boy Emperor of West Roman Empire to abdicate on September 4, 476; this is considered the date of the Fall of Rome (even though Roman citizens of the time did not think it had fallen and even though there was still an Emperor in the Eastern Empire, Zeno)
- Visigoths control Spain and Gaul
- Ostrogoths, Vandals, and Visigoths practice Arian Christianity while Romans practice Catholicism
- Ostrogoths take Italy; Odoacer flees and then is killed
- Franks ruled by Merovech, known as Merovingians; Frankish leader becomes Catholic
- Jutes in Denmark come to Britain to fight Picts; other Germanic tribes enter Britain
- Mayans found Chichen Itza (modern day Mexico)

***Summary of events at 500 AD: Saxons/Jutes in Britain, Franks in northern Gaul, Visigoths in southern Gaul and Spain, Ostrogoths in Italy, and Vandals in N. Africa; no territory was under Roman rule

“AD” after any year will no longer be used

500 TO 550 AD

- Theodoric (Ostrogoth) runs Empire smoothly
- Clovis rules all of Gaul and founds Paris in 508; “Gaul” no longer used and replaced by “France”
- Justinian I closes Plato’s Academy after 900 years (conflict between pre-Christian philosophy (Plato) and Catholicism (Justinian))
- Justinian puts scholars to work to create a 12-volume well-organized law code (Justinian Code) followed by a 50-volume set of legal opinions; it has remained the basis of European law generally in all the centuries since (529)
- Horse-race riots kill 30,000 citizens; Constantinople burned (532)
- Hagia Sophia (cathedral) completed in Constantinople (537); Constantinople begins its own silk production
- Saxons continue into Britain; King Arthur legend about this time
- Slavs, Bulgars, Avars enter Europe
- Buddhism enters Japan

550 TO 600 AD

- Last Ostrogoths driven out of Italy; vanish from history (554)
- Italy divided into 3 regions: Lombards in north, East Romans in central, and Pope in Rome (600)
- Pope Gregory I makes reforms: celibacy, social justice, missions abroad, “Gregorian” chants developed from church music
- In Britain, 7 Germanic kingdoms: Jutes in Kent, Saxons in Essex, Wessex, and Sussex, Angles in East Anglia, Mercia, and Northumbria; name of England now used from Angle-land
- In Kent, King Ethelbert rules; Pope sends Augustine to Kent to convert them and becomes Archbishop of Canterbury, capital of Kent
- Celtic Church develops in Ireland; competes with orthodox Catholicism
- Franks divide into 2 boundaries: Austria Germany (east land) and Neustria France (new land)
- Bulgars and Avars continue to invade Balkans
- Persia invaded by Turks and Khazars
- Arabia – Philip of Arabia was Roman ruler; Mecca (central Arabia) becomes holy city to Arabs from Ka’bah (black stone in wall)
- Muhammad born in Mecca (570)

- Muhammad forms new religion (eventually known as Islam)

600 TO 650 AD

- Monophysites in Egypt and Syria believed Jesus was wholly divine; Catholics believed Jesus was both human and divine, and suffered as a human; Monophysites were persecuted by Catholic Emperors; Monophysites hated Emperors and would not fight for the Empire
- Persia attacks E. Roman Empire and takes Damascus (613), Jerusalem (614), and Constantinople (617)
- In Arabia, Muhammad is preaching new religion of Islam (meaning “submission” – to the will of God) in Mecca; local officials force him to flee to Medina (this event known as the Hegira (“flight”)); Muhammad gathers a following of Muslims (meaning “those who submitted”) in Medina; Muslim calendar begins with Hegira
- War begins between Medina Muslims and non-believers in Mecca; Mecca submitted and becomes Muslim (630); Muhammad sends message to Rome and Persia to convert
- Muhammad dies (632); Abu Bakr becomes first Caliph (meaning successor); expansion of Islam begins
- Muslims attack Roman and Persian empires; Muslims take Jerusalem at Battle of Yarmuk (636)
- Omar, second Caliph invades Persia (642); Persia and Egypt fall to Arabs; Koran developed with collection of Muhammad’s sayings
- Byzantium becomes new name for East Roman Empire; Byzantium was the name of the city before Constantinople
- In England, 7 kingdoms fight each other
- In India, Harsha, a Buddhist, rules and unifies North and South (606); creates ties between India and China; Mathematician Brahmagupta develops algebra and astronomy
- In China, Tang Dynasty under T’ang Tsung unifies China permanently; creates reforms: testing for public officials, relations with Tibet and India; China defeats Turks; Ch’ao Yuan-Fang writes on causes and symptoms of disease (ahead of his time)
- Vietnam, Indonesia, and Tibet develop as countries
- In N. America, Toltecs spread in southern Mexico

650 TO 700 AD

- Third Caliph, Othman, approves official version of Koran; Othman killed
- Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law succeeded Othman, but was disputed by other Muslims; Ali is killed (661)
- Muawiya becomes Caliph who was related to Muhammad who was an ancestor of one named Ommaya, thus the name, Ommayad Caliphate
- Ali's death caused permanent split among Muslims; those who accepted and followed Muawiya were called Sunnites (Arabic word for "the orthodox way"); those who followed Ali were called Shiites (Arabic word for "sect") who believed all Sunnite leaders were usurpers
- Muawiya moves government to Damascus in Syria
- Muslims expand territory: Kabul, Indus River, Tunis in Africa
- In Britain, Penda of Mercia is killed in battle (654); his son was a Christian; paganism ends in England; Celtic Christianity disappears from England

700 TO 750 AD

- Walid I rules under Ommayad Caliphate; taxed non-Muslims to get them to convert; invades Spain
- Sulayman rules after Walid I and invades southern France; Franks stops Muslims in central France; Ommayad armies defeated
- Abu-l-Abbas becomes ruler of Abbasid Caliphate
- Byzantine Emperor Leo III reforms Christianity; he takes position of iconoclasm (meaning image-breaking) forbidding statues and paintings due to Biblical verses against idolatry
- Pope Gregory II challenges iconoclasm and excommunicates all iconoclasts and becomes independent of the Byzantine Emperor
- In China, poetry, art, and peace flourished under Tang Empire; develops printing on paper
- In Japan, Shomu rules as 45th Emperor; Buddhism becomes dominant
- Mayans in Yucatan Peninsula at its peak

750 TO 800 AD

- Carolingian Dynasty (Frankish Empire) begins with Pepin anointed king by the Pope (752)
- Pope becomes secular leader (territory of Ravenna) as well as a religious leader
- Pepin drives Muslims behind Pyrenees; Pepin dies; kingdom divided into 2 rulers: Carloman and Charles, his sons
- Carloman dies; Charles rules alone and becomes Charlemagne (French for Charles the Great)
- Frankish Empire take northern and southern Italy; becomes strongest Christian power in Europe
- Pope Leo III is driven from Rome but reinstated by Charlemagne; Pope then crowns Charlemagne Emperor of Rome
- Alcuin, an English scholar, reforms educational procedures in the Frankish Empire including developing small (lower) case letters when writing (developed as a need to write letters compactly and neatly)
- In Spain, Ommayad Caliph re-founded by Abd ar-Rahman who was tolerant of Christians and Jews
- In Scandinavia, raiding parties radiate by sea; Viking raids begin in Europe
- In England, Mercia King Offa becomes Christian and communicates with Charlemagne: Danes arrive in England, Kent and Scotland
- English scholar, Bede, writes history of Anglo-Saxon England, criticizing Julian calendar and proposes that moon causes the tides
- Vikings attack Ireland (795)
- Byzantine Empire, under Emperor's mother's influence (Irene), fights iconoclasm and brings back icons and paintings
- Abbasid Caliphate under Al-Mansur founds Baghdad (762)
- Ar-Rashid becomes 5th Caliphate (786), known for his Arabian Nights stories
- Arabian named Jabir becomes alchemist and puts his ideas in writing
- Tibet attacks China; Turks attack China; Uighurs establish Mongolia
- In Japan, Kammu raids Ainu people in the north
- Polynesians reach Easter Island; Maoris reach New Zealand

800 TO 850 AD

- Charlemagne dies (814); Louis I succeeds; much infighting among brothers; Empire divides: eastern part – Germany, western part – Frankish
- English King Egbert of Wessex takes Mercia (802)
- Norse take Scotland and Ireland; Dublin founded in 841
- Vikings invade Hamburg, the Mediterranean, and western Russia
- Franks could not stop Viking raids forcing local nobility to fight Vikings; local grow to rely on local nobility for safety, not from the king; as a result of this, feudalism develops
- Abbasid Caliph: House of Knowledge in Baghdad established by Mamun the Great (great European works are translated); Muslim nations expand in N. Africa; Mediterranean dominated by Muslims who raid Rome in 846
- In China, Zen Buddhism develops (introspection and contemplation)
- In N. America, Mayan collapse in Guatemala; Mayan second growth farther north in Yucatan

850 TO 900 AD

- Vikings raid Paris; King Charles does nothing; Count of Paris (local noble) organizes their defense and holds off Vikings; King Charles allows Vikings (via a bribe) to plunder; end of Frankish Empire
- Pope Nicholas recovers Rome after Muslim raid; establishes authority over secular rulers; supports “False Decretals”, which was a list of rulings that established a College of Cardinals and centralized the Church making it an absolute monarchy (“False” in title because it was later discovered these decretals were forgeries)
- Danes sack Canterbury and London (851); later other parts of England are sacked; eastern England dominated by Danes
- Alfred the Great in England resists the Danes (871); eventually creates navy and retakes London; Alfred negotiates with Danes to accept Christianity; encourages learning and reorganizes legal system; translates Latin works into Old English
- Picts joins Scots (originally from Ireland) to create Scotland
- Norse establish Iceland

- Vikings founded Novgorod; Vikings were called “Rus”, which led to origin of name “Russia”
- Byzantine reforms under Basil I during schism with pope
- Abbasid Caliph fragmented; strong scientific developments: Al-Khwarizimi develops algebra (al-jabr), the science of transpositions and cancellations; develops algorithms; created numbers with positional notation; Arabic numerals (the numbers we use today i.e. 1, 2, 3, as opposed to Roman numerals I, II, III.); Albategnius, an astronomer, discovers length of year, tilt of Earth, and spherical trigonometry
- Japanese devise simpler form of writing: symbols for syllables instead of whole words

900 TO 950 AD

- End of Carolingians
- English kings unite and partly rule Scotland, which was becoming Anglicized
- In China, T'ang Dynasty ends causing disunity (907); gunpowder invented; Mongols move south and choose Peking as capital (now Beijing)
- In Japan, Fujiwara clan dominates; dictator Fujiwara Tadahira rules

950 TO 1,000 AD

- Byzantine refinement enter Germanic world when Frankish Emperor Otto obtains Byzantine wife for his son
- Otto and Pope create new empire: Holy Roman Empire (962)
- Hugh the Great's son, Hugh Capet, elected by nobility as king of territory under new name, France
- Pope Gregory becomes first German Pope (996); Sylvester (a learned pope) becomes first French Pope (999)
- Muslim decline in Spain
- Edgar recognized as first King of all England
- Danes invade England again
- Eric the Red discovers Greenland (982 AD); colony established (986 AD); Eric's son, Leif Ericsson, discovers New Foundland
- Sweden becomes Christian under Olaf
- Magyars settle in Hungary

- Christianity spreads in Hungary and Serbia
- Egypt under control of Shiites
- In China, Sung Dynasty promotes printing of books, paper money, art, and government welfare
- In Japan, Fujiwara Michinago becomes Shogun (word for Regent)
- In Africa, Ghana is flourishing kingdom: iron weapons and gold; decline begins about 100

*****Important item:** horses hitched to plows (due to invention of a collar) penetrated dense soil causing farming to become more efficient; this combined with horseshoes led to an increase in the food supply of northern Europe; increase in population

The next timeline (1,000 TO 1,500 AD) can be viewed, downloaded or printed on the web page:

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