

From The Stone Age to the Gun Age – Sixty-five-hundred years of History by Brian Cool

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Here is my best reckoning of what happened, where it happened, and when. It covers from the mid-fifth century B.C. through the mid-17th century A.D., and that mostly north of the equator. My hope is that this ‘river of history’ helps players of Mythmaker, and other RPGs set on Earth, to place their adventures in time. It may be useful to know when and where so-and-so was waging war, or such-and-such was invented. At the very least, it’s an interesting summary. It is also a reminder of the vast diversity of our early human endeavors.

I see it as a chronicle of the rise and fall of civilizations, their artistic and cultural achievements, and the individuals who played their parts. You will find a wide range of subjects covered, from the arts and philosophy, to the sciences, politics and daily lives of our ancestors. Please Note (and forgive): my focus on certain parts of the world, and lack of information about others was as intentional as it was practical. Future game releases will focus on the many areas not covered here, providing historical events for those places.

My hope was to present an overview of the progression of history—the good and the bad—but I leave it to the reader to learn what they will from this document. My goal of accuracy, was confounded at times by differing reports, with dates varying by a year or so here and there. I will leave it to the scholars to argue over exact dates. I’m going to play now.

My thanks go out to the many sources of information used to compile this list: first and foremost, Bernard Grun’s the Timetables of History. Others include The History Magazine, Wikipedia, Gratia Dei by Didier Méhu, The National Geographic Magazine, Uses of the Past by Herbert J. Muller, the Time Life—Enchanted World books, and The New Century Classical Handbook.

5000 to 4001

Egyptian calendar established: 360 days; 12 months, 30 days each. Measured by sun and moon

4000 to 3001

End of Paleolithic era along Mediterranean coast.

Babylonian power dominates in Mediterranean regions of Asia (to -2000)

Sumerian writing on clay tablets uses about 2,000 pictographic signs.

First Babylonian omen tablets

Harp and flutes in Egypt

Copper alloys used by Sumerians and Egyptians; also smelting of silver and gold

Cretan ships ply the Mediterranean

-3760, first year of Jewish calendar

Sumerian civilization at its height

Neolithic era in Western Europe (ending -1700)

Bohemian Bronze Age

Upper and Lower Egypt united by King Menes the Fighter
 Egypt, 1st and 2nd dynasties (Archaic age, thru to -2800)
 Sumeria, temple of Janna at Eridu built
 Double-clarinets and lyres in Egypt
 Earliest known Egyptian numerals
 -3372, first date in Mayan chronology
 Potter's wheel in Mesopotamia

3000 to 2501

First traces of civilization in Crete (-3000)
 Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa civilizations in India (-2800)
 Egypt, 3rd - 6th dynasties (Old Kingdom -2815 to -2294)
 Mesopotamia, begins dynastic period (to -2350)
 Gilgamesh, king of Uruk (ca. -2750)
 Sumerian poetry laments the death of the shepherd god Tammuz
 Chief Sumerian gods are the Mother Goddess Innin and her son Tammuz; similar deities worshiped by Hittites, Phoenicians, Egyptians and Scandinavians
 Giza, Cheops Pyramid
 Giza, the Great Sphinx
 Weaving loom in Europe
 Astronomical observations made in Egypt, India, Babylonia and China
 Egypt introduces 365 day calendar
 Great wall of Uruk built
 Wrestling is the first developed sport
 Oil-burning lamps in Sumeria
 Sumerians cultivate barley, make beer and bake bread

2500 to 2001

Egypt, end of the Ancient Empire (-2300)
 First libraries
 Babylon celebrates re-creation of the world in epic poetry
 The bull and the snake are religious symbols in Minoan culture on Crete
 Egypt, Isis, and Osiris cult (of resurrection from death)
 India, Indus civilization (to -1500)
 Crete, early Minoan age
 Scandinavian Neolithic Age, dolmen period (to -2200)
 Egypt imports gold from Africa by ship
 China, solstices and equinoxes determined; 360 day lunar year changes to sun-moon cycle
 Southern Norway, oldest pictorial representation of skiing

Earliest Egyptian mummies

Egypt, African Pygmies appear at court

Cotton cultivated in Peru

Reign of Mentuhotep V of Egypt (-2008 to -2000)

2000 to 1501

Hammurabi reigns as King of Babylon (-1703 to -1662)

The Indo-European Hittites join to form a single kingdom

Egypt controls the Aegean Islands and Crete

Greeks start moving to the eastern Mediterranean from the shores of the Caspian Sea

Southern Norway Teutonic settlements

Egypt at the height of its achievements and power during 18th dynasty

The oldest novel, Story of Sinuhe, written in Egypt

Babylon, Marduk becomes god

England, Stonehenge is center of religious worship

Book of the Dead, a collection of Egyptian religious documents

Britain's Bronze Age

Crete, first palace of Minos at Knossus built

Western Europe's Bronze Age

Highly developed geometry used as basis for astronomic measurements in Babylonia

Palace of Minos has air and light shafts, bathrooms with water supply

Code of Hammurabi includes guidelines for medical practices (including eye surgery) defines laws, lines of inheritance

Decimal system used in Crete

Trade routes spread through Europe

Horses used to draw vehicles

Troy is burned by the Greeks (-2000)

1500 to 1001

The Hebrew's return to Judea from Egypt (-1500)

Thoutmosis IV, Pharaoh of Egypt, allies himself with Artetama, King of Mitanni; marries his daughter -1408

Palace of Knossos destroyed (-1400)

Chiapa de Carzo, first (known) settlement in Mexico

Led by Moses, the Israelites leave Egypt, reach Canaan

Phoenicians come to dominate trade in Mediterranean

Destruction of Troy (-1193)

Assyrian Empire founded and fortified against northerners; Babylon conquers

Egypt, civil war under Ramses XI

Saul, is first king of Israel; is defeated by Philistines

Upanishad (hymns of the Rig-Veda) tradition in India

Hittite capital library has tablets in eight languages

Gilgamesh Epic recorded (-1200)

Mycenean Civilization in Greece destroyed by the Dorians (-1200)

Egypt, Ikhnaton (Amenhotep IV) deposes old gods; declares the sun god Aton as only god (-1385); this religion is short-lived; Tutankhamen, reinstates earlier deities

Mount Sinai, Moses receives the Commandments

Bronze Age begins in Scandinavia

Nubia, temple of Abu-Simbel built

Hittite instruments include tambourine, guitar, lyre, and trumpet

Egypt obelisks serve as sun dials

Pythagorean triangle theory

True Iron Age begins in Palestine and Syria

China, height of sun in relation to polar axis incline measured

Egypt, widespread robbery of tombs

Babylon pillaged -1101

Assyrian political crisis -1202

Mexico, Teotihuacan, sun pyramid

Mexico, Olmec culture begins

1000 to 901

Ionians, Dispossessed from their homeland in Greece, move to west coast of Asia Minor

Accession of David as king of Judah and Israel (-1000 to -960); Jerusalem as capital; returns Decalogue and Ark of Covenant

Sheshonk I of Egypt pillages Jerusalem

Classic paganism blooms in Greece

India, pantheistic religion develops (Brahminism and Atmanism), along with caste system

China, brush and ink painting

Greece, temple of Hera built (oldest remaining temple in Olympia)

Gold jewelry and vessels used in northern Europe

Use of iron in Greece

900 to 801

Celts in Gaul (-900)

Phoenicians settle Cyprus

Greek epics Odyssey and Iliad, by Homer

Early Jewish prophets

Prophet Elijah fights worship of Baal

800 to 701

Greeks settle coast of Spain

Foundation of Rome (-753)

Celts in England

Apollo worshiped at Delphi

Israel, prophets Hosea, Amos, and Isaiah fight social and religious abuses

Hesiod defines five classic ages: the Golden Age (paradisiacal), the Silver Age (godless), the Bronze Age (warfare and art), the Heroic Age and the Iron Age.

Hesiod names nine Muses to supersede earlier three. His philosophy: to work is man's duty

Asia Minor arts and crafts flourish in metal sculpture, carpet weaving, rock carving, and embroidery

Greece, music a part of daily life

India, medicine divorced from priesthood; medical training with anatomical models

Olympic Games first recorded (-776); featuring wrestling, horse racing, boxing, running, Pentathlon; women are not admitted as spectators

Sennacherib retakes Babylon (-704)

Khorabad, King Sargon II of Assyria completes palaces (-707)

700 to 601

Nineveh, seen as symbol of suppression and tyranny under reign of Sennacherib

Assyrians destroy Babylon; they divert Euphrates to flood city

Greek poetess Sappho of Lesbos

India; Vedas completed

Athens, Acropolis begun

Babylon, Tower of Babel begun

Seven-string lyre introduced

King Assurbanipal's library, contains 22,000 clay tablets, covering history, astronomy, medicine and astrology;

Signs of zodiac and movement of planets recorded

Soldering of iron

Canal between Red Sea and Nile begun

Lydia, coins made of electrum (gold-silver alloy)

Nebuchadnezzar II, becomes King of Babylon (-605)

Lao-Tse, becomes founder of Taoism

600 to 501

Mexico, Mayan civilization

Nebuchadnezzar II torches Jerusalem (-582)

Cyrus II, the Great molds Persia into vast empire

Rome declared a republic; expels last king, Traquin the Proud

Aesop's Fables

First performance of tragedy based on hymn to Dionysus

Theater at Delphi built

Seven Wise Men of Greece; Thales, Pittacus, Bias, Solon, Cleobulus, Periander, and Chilo

Many books of the Old Testament first written down from old word-of-mouth stories

Solon's laws take hold in Athens; land ownership; repeal of debtor's bondage; class system involving army service, and payment of taxes

Oracle at Delphi and its priestess at height of influence

Chinese philosopher Confucius (-551 to -479)

Athens has public libraries

Buddha leaves home to study asceticism and philosophy

Temple of Jupiter finished

Human achievement and wisdom reach a zenith in Zoroaster, Confucius, Buddha, Lao-tse, the Jewish prophets, the Greek poets, philosophers, artists, and scientists

Burma, Shwe Dagon Pagoda built

Ephesus (Asia Minor), Temple of Artemis, one of seven wonders of ancient world, (built ca. -550, destroyed by Herostratus in -356, later rebuilt)

Corinth, Temple of Apollo built

Temple of Olympian Zeus at Athens

Temple of Jerusalem rebuilt

First reliable record of circumnavigation of Africa by Phoenicians; starting from Red Sea and lasting three years

China and Greece, sun dial used

Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar II builds palace with terrace gardens (said to be the legendary Hanging Gardens, one of seven ancient wonders)

Greek theory of earth as a disk, covered by sky dome or floating free in spherical sky

Theodorus of Samos invents lock and key, carpenter's square, ore smelting and casting, water level and turning lathe

Greece, introduction of papyrus

Greek settlers bring olive tree to Italy

Persia, regular courier service by messenger on horseback established

Babylon, banking practiced

Rome captured by Persenna, King of Clusium (-504)

500 to 401

Satyr play by Pratinas in Athens (ca. -500)

Athens, building of the Theseum (ca. -500)

Erection of first Temple of Saturn, Rome (ca. -498)

Egypt, Amun temple built at El Charge

Persepolis, Hypostyle Hall of Xerxes built (-485)

Rome, temple of Castor and Pollux built (-484)

Indian surgeon Susrata operates on cataracts (ca. -500)

“Father of Medicine,” Greek physician, Hippocrates, (b. -460)
 Sparta, disastrous series of earthquakes (-465)
 Persian Wars (-490 to -449)
 Themistocles builds Athenian sea power (-483)
 Persians destroy Babylon (-479)
 Athenian ascendancy begins ca. (-447)
 Death of 306 Roman Fabii in battle with Etruscans (-477)
 Greeks defeated in Egypt by Megabyzus (-454)
 Aeschylus: *Prometheus Bound* (-460)
 Athenian philosopher Socrates (b. -470 d. -399)
 Hebrew scribe Ezra goes to Jerusalem to restore the laws of Moses (-458)
 Magadha, “cradle of Buddhism”: beginning of Indian empire
 Assembly of Roman plebeians given right to share in lawmaking
 Marseilles flourishes
 Athens and Sparta, 30-year truce (-445 to -415)
 The Periclean Age blooms
 Antigone by Sophocles
 The Torah becomes moral essence of Jewish state
 Consecration of the Parthenon (-438)
 Athens, Temple of Theseus built (ca. -450)
 Athens, rebuilding of the Acropolis
 Cape Sunium, Temple of Poseidon (ca. -445)
 Greek musician and poet Pindar (d. -447 b. -520)
 Greece, carrier pigeons used
 Greece, population: two million citizens, one million slaves; in Athens, 100,000 slaves and 50,000 citizens
 A plague kills 25% of the population in Athens (-430 to -423)
 The Spartans use chemical warfare (burning charcoal, sulfur and pitch)
 Xerxes II made king of Persia (-424), assassinated two months later
 Athenian army destroyed in Sicily (-414); Athenian general Nicias executed after
 Athens: power transferred to people’s assembly in coup (-411)
 Athenians capture Byzantium (-408)
 Spartan navy destroys Athenian navy (-405)
 Aristophanes comedy: *The Peace* (-421)
 Euripides anti-war play: *The Trojan Women* (-415)
 Plato becomes pupil of Socrates (-407 to -399)
 Siege of Athens (-405 to -404)
 End of Peloponnesian War; peace between Sparta and Athens (-404)
 Rule of the thirty tyrants in Athens (-404)
 Athens, the Thirty Tyrants are deposed, democracy re-established (-402)

400 to 301

Greek army successfully withdrawn upon defeat at Cunaxa; Retreat of the Ten Thousand: (-400)
 Mexico, end of Indian civilization
 Gauls of northern Italy capture and sack Rome, then withdraw – “Vae victis” (-390)
 Egypt the 30th dynasty (-380 to -343), last native house to rule
 Spartan tyrants massacred at Thebes by Epaminondas and Pelopidas (-379)
 Greek philosopher Aristotle, (b. 384 d. -322)
 Tomb of Mausolus (the first mausoleum) completed (-351)
 Catapults used as weapons of war
 Rome rebuilt (-387)
 Walls built around Rome (-377)
 The Greek Herostratus burns the Temple of Artemis (-356)
 Alexander the Great, (b. -356 d. -323)
 Building of the first Great Wall of China (ca. -356)
 Persians again conquer Egypt (-343)
 Alexander destroys Thebes (-335)
 Alexander occupies Susa, Babylon and Persepolis (-330)
 Aristotle becomes teacher of Alexander the Great (-343)
 Alexandria, center of Greek learning
 Hellenistic era of Greek art (-320 to -30)
 Appius Claudius Caecus finishes Appian aqueduct and begins building of Appian Way (-312)
 Aristotle outlines musical theory ca. (-340)
 Iron used in China
 Greek explorer Pytheas of Massilia reaches Britain ca. (-330)
 Alexander has Nearchus explore the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean and the Euphrates (-325)
 Euclid’s work on geometry, *Elements* (-323)
 First Roman coins ca. (-338)
 Port of Alexandria founded (-332)
 Jewish trading in Egypt and Cyrene
 Palestine returns to Egyptian rule (-301)
 Battle of Ipsos (-301)
 Empire of Alexander the Great redivided between his successors (-301)
 Stoic School in Athens founded by the philosopher Zenon (-301)

300 to 201

Romans capture Corsica (-283)
 The First Punic War (-264 to -241)
 Roman plebeians admitted to priesthood (-300)

Teotihuacan, Mexican sun temple built (-300)
 Colossus of Rhodes completed (ca. -275, destroyed by earthquake -224)
 Alexandria, completion of lighthouse at Pharos (ca. -275)
 Ball games, dice, and board games used by Greeks and Romans
 First use of Roman silver coin, denarius (-268)
 Rome, first public combats of gladiators (-264)
 Invasion of Britain by La Tene (ca. -250)
 Carthaginian general Hannibal (b. -246 d. -182)
 Conquest of Spain by Carthage (begins -238)
 Indian emperor Asoka erects 40 feet high columns inscribed with his laws (ca. -250)
 Chinese classical philosophy ends with the death of Sun-tsi (233)
 Edfu, Egyptian temple of sun god Horus built (ca. -230)
 Pergamum, parchment produced (-250)
 Oil lamps used in Greece
 Great Wall of China (1,400 miles long) built to keep out invaders (-215)
 Rome takes northern Italy
 Second Punic War (-219 to -201)
 Hannibal crosses the Alps, to invade Italy from the north
 Romans defeated at Cannae, 50,000 killed (-216)
 "Hannibal ante portas!" (-211)
 Scipio Africanus defeats Hannibal at Zama (-202)
 Philip V of Macedon captures Samos (-201)
 War between Macedon and Pergamum (-201)

200 to 101

Germanic invasion of Bohemia (-200)
 War between Rome and Sparta (-192)
 Exorbitant taxes in Upper Egypt lead to insurrections (-189)
 Hannibal commits suicide to avoid extradition by Rome (-182)
 Rosetta Stone inscribed (ca. -200)
 Persecution of Jews by Antiochus IV and desecration of Temple at Jerusalem (-168)
 Invention of ox-driven water wheel for irrigation (ca. -200)
 Hipparchus of Nicaea, makes important astronomical discoveries and invents trigonometry
 Paved streets appear in Rome (ca. -170)
 Macedonians sold as slaves in Rome after the Battle of Pydna (-168)
 Third Punic War (-149 to -146): Rome destroys Corinth (-147); Rome destroys Carthage: of 500,000 citizens only 50,000 remain; all sold into slavery
 Greece falls under Roman control (-147)

The Roman Empire in (-146) has seven provinces: the two Spains, Gallia, Sicily, Corsica and Sardinia, Africa, Transalpina, and Macedonia (Asia Minor becomes the eighth in -133)

Chinese army occupies Tarim basin

College of Technology founded at Alexandria (ca. -105)

The Chinese occupy Turkestan (-104)

Nicomedes II and Mithridates occupy Galicia and divide Paphlagonia amongst them

Serf uprising in Campania and Sicily (-103)

End of civil war in Sicily (-101)

101

Gaius Julius Caesar (b. -100 d. -44)

Rome at civil war

Revolt of gladiators and slaves under Spartacus, crushed by Pompey and Crassus (-71)

Romans capture Crete (-68)

Amphitheater erected at Pompeii (-82)

Roman poet Virgil (b. -70 d. -19)

Cicero: *De republica* (-54)

Sanchi, India, Erection of the Great Stupa (ca. -100)

Greek physician Asclepiades practices nature healing in Rome (-90)

Caesar, form Pompey and Crassus form the first triumvirate (-60)

Roman has colonies in Switzerland (-60)

Caesar conquers Northern Gaul: disciplinary expeditions sent to Britain (-55)

Egypt, Cleopatra VII is last queen (to -31)

("Alea jacta est") Caesar crosses Rubicon to start civil war (-49)

Herod is governor of Galilee (-47)

Caesar murdered; conspirators led by Cassius Longinus and Brutus (-44)

Cassius and Brutus defeated (-42); commit suicide

Herod is appointed king of Judaea (-40)

Cleopatra and Mark Antony defeated by Octavian, commit suicide; Egypt now a Roman province -31

Roman poet Ovid (b. -43 d A.D. 18)

Alexandria, Library of Ptolemy I destroyed by fire -47

Building of the Pantheon begins (-30 completed A.D. 124)

Agrippa finishes his map of the world (-7)

Ascribed birth of Christ (-4)

Death of King Herod the Great; his kingdom is divided between his sons

The earliest oboe

Julian calendar adopted

A. D.

1 to 100

Beginning of Christian Era, according to the monk Denis the Little (1)
 Ovid: *Metamorphoses* (1)
 Tiberius conquers Germany up to the Elbe (4-6)
 First reference to diamonds (16)
 Probable date of baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist (28)
 Probable date of crucifixion of Christ (31)
 Praetorian Guard assassinates Caligula (42)
 London founded (43)
 Vatican Hill near Rome, Italy: Pliny the Elder gives an account of a possible dragon killed during the reign of the Emperor Claudius. It contained the body of a child (ca. 50)
 Claudius poisoned by (his wife) Agrippina (54); succeeded by (her son) Nero
 Nero has Agrippina killed (59)
 Nero has (his wife) Octavia killed, marries Poppaea Sabina (62)
 Seneca commits suicide at Nero's order (65)
 Nero commits suicide (68)
 Jews revolt against Rome: Jerusalem taken and destroyed (70)
 St. Peter executed (67)
 China, invented paper (100)

101 to 200

First campaign of Trajan against the Dacians (101)
 Tacitus: *Histories* (105)
 Martyrdom of St Ignatius of Antioch (107)
 Hadrian's Wall built from Solway to Tyne (122 to 127)
 England, Roman Theater built at (St. Alban), Verulamium (140)
 India, earliest Sanskrit inscriptions (150)
 Romans retire to Hadrian's Wall after defeat in Scotland (180)
 Huns invades Afghanistan (200 to 549)
 Earliest Mayan monuments (ca. 164)
 Under Roman rule, Carthage again becomes world metropolis
 Paracas civilization collapses (200)

201 to 300

Proscription against Christians and Jews throughout Roman Empire (202)
 China ends Han dynasty (220), four centuries of division follows
 Goths invade Balkan Peninsula and Asia Minor (220)
 Increased persecution of Christians; martyrs revered as saints (ca. 250)

First book on algebra

Rome celebrates its millennial (1,000th anniversary 248)

Ostrogoths and Visigoths, invade Black Sea area (257)

Franks in Spain (257)

Goths sack Sparta, Corinth, and Athens (268)

The Romans take Armenia (297)

Separate development of five German dukedoms: Thuringians, Goths, Saxons, Franks, and Alemanni (ca. 300)

China, growing Buddhist influence (ca. 300)

First compass China (271)

Pappus of Alexandria describes five simple machines in use: screw, wedge, cogwheel, lever, and pulley (ca. 285)

301 to 400

Monks settle in Egyptian desert (ca. 300-350)

Christian soldiers dismissed from the Roman army (302)

Emperor Diocletian's edict against the Christians (304)

Constantinople made seat of Roman Empire (331)

Constantine the Great (d. 337), succeeded by (his three sons) Constantine II, Constans and Constantius II

Constantine II killed at Battle of Aquileia, fighting Constans (340)

Rome again splits into two empires with Constantius II as Eastern and Constans as Western Emperor (340)

Persians regain Armenia (350)

Edict of Milan: Constantine declares toleration of Christianity (313)

Scots and Picts cross Hadrian's Wall to attack Britain (360)

Huns invade Europe (360)

Scots and Picts driven from Britain by Theodosius (370)

Huns invade Russia (376)

Roman legion begins leaving Britain (383)

Scrolls being replaced by books (ca. 360)

Kansu, Caves of the Thousand Buddhas (360)

The Huns reach the Elbe (400)

401 to 450

Alarich invades Italy (401)

Gladiatorial combat forbidden in Rome (405)

Invasion of the Vandals and the Suevi in Gaul (407)

Ho-Lien Po-Po, chief of the Huns, founds the kingdom of Hia in North China (407)

Visigoths invade Italy (401-403)

Vandals settle in southern Spain, Huns settle in Pannonia, Ostrogoths settle in Dalmatia, Suevi and

Visigoths settle in northern Spain and Portugal (425)

Alaric's Visigoths capture Rome (410)

St. Patrick in Ireland (432)
 Attila becomes ruler of the Huns (433)
 Roman troops out of Britain (436)
 Beginnings of alchemy (ca. 410)
 Northern China, Nanking again becomes the capital (420)
 Brittany, the ancient town of Ys submerged in great flood (440)
 Cyrus the Young becomes Governor-General of Asia Minor (408)
 Euripides: *Orestes* (408)
 Socrates and Plato meet for the first time (408)

451 to 500

Attila meets with Leo the Great, agrees to peace (452)
 Vandals sack Rome (455)
 Southern Mexico, flowering of Maya city civilization (ca. 470)
 End of Western Roman Empire (476)
 Japan, Shinto shrines appear (478)
 Moshica culture of the Chimic Indians Peru (pottery, textiles and agriculture)
 Peru, pre-Inca culture in Tiahuanco
 Peru, tubas, drums, flutes and horns used
 Refugees from Attila's Huns found Venice (452)
 End of Western Roman Empire (476)
 Visigoths settle in Spain (476)
 Northern India, Gupta Empire overthrown by Epthalite invaders (ca. 484)
 Sussex, Saxons capture Pevensey (491)
 Kingdom of Wessex founded (495)
 Lombards (Langobards) occupy area north of the Danube (500), "seeking occasions for war"
 Mount Badon, Dorset, Britain victorious over Saxons (500)
 Merovingian dynasty (481-751)

500

Jutland occupied by the Danes

507

Copan, Honduras, Mayan altar with head of death god

508

Cleisthenes reforms the Constitution of Athens after conquering the Oligarchs and the Lacedaemonians

522

The oldest known pagoda from the Sung Yuen temple of Honan, China

525

Buddhist caves with stone carvings at Ajanta

527

Earliest paddle wheel boats (with animal 'whim-drive')

529

Athens, in an action directed more against paganism than Greek philosophy Justinian closes the 1000-year-old School of Philosophy

532

Kingdom of Burgundy overthrown by the Franks

533-535

Emperor Justinian I, takes Italy

534

Spain, Toledo made capital of the Visigoth kingdom (to 711)

537

Arthur, king of the Britons killed at Battle of Camlan

539

War begins between the Byzantine Empire and Persia (to 562)

540

Aneirin, Taliesin, and Llywarch Hên are the first Welsh poets

Cassiodorus founds Monastery of Vivarium, near Squillace

Empress Theodora introduces tiaras, pointed shoes, long white dresses, purple cloaks and gold embroidery

542

Constantinople, the plague, imported by rats from Syria and Egypt; soon spreads throughout Europe

547

The plague reaches Britain

550

Mexico, Toltecs continue Teotihuacan civilization

Musaeus: *Hero and Leander*

St. David converts Wales to Christianity

Church bells used in France

Golden Era of Byzantine art

The crucifix developed as ornament

Draw looms used in Egypt

551

Byzantines defeat Ostrogoth navy

557

Justinian sends missionaries to Ceylon and China to smuggle out silkworms

569-650

Christian conversion of England

570

The Chinese monk Chi-Kai (531-597) interprets Buddhism as symbolic mysticism

ca. 570-632

- Life of Mohammed
- 572
- War between the Byzantine Empire and Persia (to 591)
- 587
- Earliest Buddhist monastery in Japan
- 590
- The plague in Rome
- 594
- End of the plague after halving the population of Europe over 50 years
- 596
- St. Augustine is missionary to Britain; founds a Benedictine monastery in Canterbury in 597
- 598
- Canterbury, first English school
- ca. Middle Ages (throughout)
- Isle Ste. Marguerite, France: a large dragon is often confused with the Tarasque, although it has wings
- 600
- Tibet becoming a unitary state
- Slovaks and Czechs settle in Moravia and Bohemia; Yugoslavs settle in Serbia
- Books printed in China
- Italy, barter replaces the monetary system
- 602
- China, the bed of the Yellow River must be changed due to disastrous flooding
- 603
- Earliest mention of London
- 605-609
- Persians occupy the eastern provinces of Byzantine Empire
- 610
- Mohammed has vision on Mount Hira
- 614
- Persians take Jerusalem and Damascus; take the Holy Cross as booty (taken back in 628 by the Byzantines)
- 615
- India, architecture and stone sculpture revival
- Japan, 'Burning water' (petroleum) used
- 616
- Egypt overrun by Persians
- Kent passes to Wessex
- 619
- China, orchestras formed
- 620

- The Isle of Man annexed by Northumbria
Northmen invade Ireland
China, produce is porcelain
622
Year one in Moslem calendar
624
Mohammed marries Aisha, the 10-year-old daughter of Abu Bekr
625
Mohammed dictates the Koran
626
Edinburgh founded
627
Persians defeated by the Byzantines at Nineveh
Mohammed's enemies besiege Medina; slaughter 700 Jews
628
Mohammed captures Mecca; writes letters to world rulers, explaining principles of the Moslem faith
630
Expelled from his native Sweden, Olaf Tratelia founds a colony in Vermeland (Norway)
632
Tibet, Buddhism becomes state religion
633
Persia attacked by Arabs
635
Gaza captured by the Mohammedans
636
Japan, rise of the feudal nobility
637
Arabs conquer Jerusalem
638-651
China conquers Central Asia
641
Arabs destroy the book-copying industry at Alexandria
642
Eastern Roman Empire considerably weakened by Arab conquest of Mesopotamia, Syria and Egypt
643
Moslems take Tripoli
644
Chinese in Korea
646

- Alexandria recaptured by Byzantine fleet
- 649
 - Arabs take Cyprus
- 650
 - Hindus in Sumatra
 - Serbs and Croats occupy Bosnia
 - The Khazars conquer Bulgarian Empire
 - The Caliphs introduce organized news service
- 655
 - Lycia, Moslem fleet destroys Byzantine fleet
- 664
 - Saxon England, plague outbreak
- 671
 - Greek Fire, a 'missile weapon' composed of rock salt, sulfur, resin, and petroleum used against the Arabs at the siege of Constantinople (ending 678)
- 685
 - Battle of Nechtansmere: Pict victory prevents Northumbrians from controlling Scotland
- 686
 - Sussex (the last heathen kingdom in England) converts to Christianity
- 697
 - First Arab coins
- 697
 - Arabs destroy Carthage
- 700
 - Arabs takes Algiers—Christianity almost exterminated in N. Africa
 - Western India cave temple at Ellora
 - Water wheel for mill drive in use throughout Europe
 - Peru, tapestry weaving well established
 - Population explosion in China; large urban developments
- 705
 - Construction of the great mosque of Damascus
- 708
 - Creation of Japan's first fixed capital; minting of its first copper coins
- 710
 - Japan Buddhist monasteries become civilization centers
 - Sugar cultivated in Egypt
- 710-713
 - Muslims enter India
- 711-714

Fall of the Visigoths

715

The first extant Islamic paintings

718

Leo III, defends Constantinople against the Arabs for 13 months; destroys their fleet

720

Abu Masa Dshaffar, famous Arab chemist thought to have invented aqua regia, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, and nitrate of silver

725

The largest city in the world is the Chinese capital Ch'ang-an; Constantinople is the second largest

Arabs ravage southern France

Charles Martel crosses the Rhine; conquers Bavaria

St. Boniface fells the Donar oak near Fritzlar, Hesse; a great blow to the old Germanic heathen beliefs Casa Grande, Arizona, large irrigation works and Indian fort

732

Charles Martel victorious over Arabs in Battle of Tours and Poitiers, stopping their westward advance

735

Charles Martel defeats Burgundy

740

Major earthquake in Asia Minor

ca. 740-755

St. Boniface preaches in Germany

741

Charles Martel dying, (his son) Pepin the Short made mayor of Frankish court

742

Charlemagne, son of Pepin the Short, b. (d. 814)

748

Peking, the first printed newspaper appears

750

Pueblo period; southwestern part of N. America (lasting through - 900)

Kiev becomes a well-known trading center and fortress

The Chinese royal stables contain 40,000 horses, mostly for the game of polo

Beds become popular in Germany and France

ca. 750

Mayan civilization peaks

751-987

Carolingian dynasty

755

War between the Bulgarians and the Byzantine Empire

- 762
Chinese poet Li Po, d. (b. 701)
- 763
Caliph al-Mansur moves his capital to Baghdad, from Damascus
- 765
Tibet invades China
Japan, pictorial book printing
- 772
Charlemagne subdues Saxony converting it to Christianity; imposition of tithes to support clergy, schools, churches and the poor.
- 775
Tibet subdues Himalayan countries; concludes boundary agreement with China
- 778
Charlemagne defeated at Roncesvalles by the Basques; subject of the *Song of Roland*
- 780
Empress Irene becomes ruler of Byzantine Empire (through 802); restores image worship
- 781
Charlemagne mints the silver penny
- 782
Charlemagne executes 4500 Saxon hostages at Verden
Offa's Dyke built against Welsh attacks on Mercia
Arab scientist Jabir commences chemical studies, as distinct from alchemy
- ca. 785-800
Tithing widespread
- 787
First invasion of Britain by Danes
- 971
Byzantine Emperor Constantine imprisons (his mother) Irene for her cruelty
- 792
Irene regains power
- 793
Monastery of St. Cuthbert, island of Lindisfarne, off the east coast of England: a multitude of flaming dragons seen flying above the migrating birds, taken as an omen of sorrow by the monks. Church sacked six days later in first of many Viking raids along English coast.
- 794
Charlemagne condemns image worship
- 795
Northmen land in Ireland
- 797

- Byzantine Empress Irene overthrows (her son) Constantine; blinds him; assumes sole power; proposes to marry Charlemagne
- Korean civilization flowers
- France, horse-changing posts for royal messengers installed
- 800
- Rome, Charlemagne crowned first Holy Roman Emperor (Dec. 25)
- Franks invade Bohemia
- Northmen in Germany
- Old High German poem: *Hildebrandsleid*
- Irish travelers reach Iceland
- Northmen discover the Faroe Islands
- Peru, the Moche and Nazca civilizations end
- Rome; Charlemagne crowned Emperor
- 801
- Charlemagne prohibits prostitution
- Louis the Pious captures Barcelona
- Charlemagne sends ambassadors to Haroun-al-Raschid
- 802
- Vikings dominate Ireland
- Empress Irene of Byzantium overthrown by Nicephorus I
- 802-804
- Charlemagne destroys the Arabs who had ravaged Europe for three centuries
- 803
- Charlemagne battles the Saxons
- 805
- Venetian nobles swear fealty to Charlemagne
- The Moslem fleet pillages Cyprus
- 807
- The Moslem fleet pillages Rhodes
- 810-840
- Viking's begin raiding England
- 813
- Baghdad, School of Astronomy
- 814
- Charlemagne d.; succeeded by (his son) Louis the Pious; retrogression of Western Empire begins
- Venice, building of Doges Palace started
- 815
- Britons of Cornwall defeated by Egbert of Wessex
- 820

Epic Heliand

- 826
Arabs conquer Crete; plundering from there to the Greek islands
- 827
Arab conquest of Sardinia and Sicily begins
- 827-902
Arabs take Sicily
- 834
Danes raid England
- 837
War between the Danes and Wessex
- 838
The Arabs sack Marseilles; settle in southern Italy
- ca. 840
Viking raids begin in Germany and France
Saracenic raids begin in Italy and France
- 841
Northmen plunder Rouen on their way to Paris
- 843
Treaty of Verdun
- 844
Kenneth, king of the Scots, defeats the Picts
- 845
Northmen destroy Hamburg; penetrate Germany
Buddhist persecution in China
China, paper money leads to inflation and state bankruptcy
- 846
Arabs sack Rome; damage the Vatican
Arabs destroy Venetian fleet
- 848
Pope Leo IV builds wall around Vatican hill
- 850
The Northman Rurik becomes ruler of Kiev
Tibetan power collapses
Mythological poem; *The Edda*
Groups of Jews settle in Germany; begin development of Yiddish
Zimbabwe, Rhodesia, construction of the Acropolis
Arabs perfect the Astrolabe
- 851

- Danes sack Canterbury Cathedral (rebuilt ca. 950)
 Major earthquake in Rome
 France, crossbow comes into use
- 857
 Ergotism epidemics first reported in Western Europe
- 858
 Vikings sack Algeciras
- 861
 Northmen sack Paris, Cologne, Toulouse, Worms, and Aix-la-Chapelle
 Northmen discover Iceland
- 869
 Arabs capture Malta
- 870
 Calibrated candles used in England to measure time
 China, first book printed
- 872
 Norway, Harold Haarfagr crowns himself king
- 874
 Danes occupy Iceland
- 877
 Egypt annexes Damascus
- 878
 Arabs conquer Sicily
 King Alfred retakes London from the Danes; defeats them at Edington
- 879
 Nepal gains independence from Tibet
 The patriarch of Constantinople and the pope excommunicate each other
- 880
 The Emperor Basil takes Italy back from the Arabs
 Monserrat, Catalonia, founded Benedictine monastery
- 885
 Northmen besiege Paris
- 890
 Alfred the Great establishes regular navy and militia; extends power of the king's courts; institutes markets and fairs
- 893
 Danes renew attacks on England and are defeated
- 894
 Gradual ending of close cultural and political connection between China and Japan

- 895
The Magyars; expelled from southern Russia settle in Hungary
- 897
War between the Saracens and the Bulgarians
- 899
Hungarians invade Germany
- 900
Hungarian invasion of Islam
Slave-trade with America begins
Mexico; The Mayas relinquish settlements in the lowlands; immigrate to Yucatan peninsula
Czechs assert authority over Bohemian tribes
England divided into shires and county courts
Constantinople still a major cultural and commercial center
The beginnings of *A Thousand and One Nights*
Medical school of Salerno founded
Vikings discover Greenland
Castles become seats of European nobility
Ellora, India, Jaina rock temple
- 901
The Byzantines capture Reggio
- 903
Chou Wen seizes Emperor Cho-Tsong, takes power
- 904
Russians attack Constantinople again
The Cretan pirate Leon of Tripoli attacks Constantinople and captures Salonika
With Pope Sergius III begins the era of pornocracy, the papacy's darkest period
- 905
Tulunid dynasty of Egypt deposed
- 907
Commercial treaties between Constantinople and Kiev
- 908
End of T'ang dynasty; break-up of China
- 909
Kairouan, N. Africa, rise of the Fatimid dynasty
- 909-973
Fatimid caliphate in North Africa
- 913
Symeon of Bulgaria invades Macedonia and Thrace; fails to take Constantinople
Ethelfleda, daughter to Alfred the Great, builds the great earthen mound of Warwick Castle

- 915
Egypt invaded from Tunisia
- 916
Arabs routed from central Italy
- 919
Byzantine Empire extended to Tigris and Euphrates
- 919-1031
Saxon rule in Germany
- 920
Toltecs settle in Mexico
- 921
Bohemians embrace Christianity
- 924
Symeon devastates Greece and again threatens Constantinople
- 930
Spain, Cordoba, becomes seat of Arab learning, commerce, science and industry
- 933
King Henry defeats Hungarians
- 934
Eric Blodaxe king of Norway; his cruelty sparks revolts
- 935
China, Wang Chien establishes central monarchy
Arabs found Algiers
- 939
Japan, revolts against imperial rule ignite a period of civil war (lasting through 1185)
- 941
Constantinople thwarts attack by Russian fleet
Danes in England, make war on Edmund I
- 942
The Arabs bring trumpets and kettledrums to Europe
News and Postal services in Caliph's empire have 1000 stations at their disposal
- 945
Westmorland and Cumberland annexed by Scots
- 950
Dark Ages in Europe
Lapps enter Norway
- 951
Otto I marries Adelheid and becomes king of the Lombards and Franks
- 955

- Otto defeats the Slavs at the Battle of Recknitz and the Magyars at the battle of Lechfeld, near Augsburg
- 961
Byzantines retake Crete from the Arabs
- 963
First record of a London bridge
- 964
New Maya empire (lasts through ca. 1191)
Germany, working of copper and silver mines in the Harz Mountains
- 965
English invade Celtic kingdom of Gwynedd
Celibacy enforced for English clerics
- 968
Russians ravage eastern Bulgaria
- 970
Russians driven out of Balkans
- 972
Russia, Eastern Slav tribes unified
Cairo University founded
- 974
Earthquake in Great Britain
- 975
Modern arithmetical notation brought to Europe by Arabs
- 978
Chinese encyclopedia of 1000 volumes begun
- 979
King Edward of England murdered
- 980-1037
Arab physician philosopher Avicenna
- ca. 980-1100
Christianization of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway
- ca. 980
Danes in Greenland
- 982
Otto II defeated by Saracens in southern Italy
Viking raids on Portland, Dorset, and South Wales coasts
Greenland, Viking colonies established by Eric the Red
- 984
Genoa and Venice carry on flourishing trade between Western Europe and Asia
- 987

- New Mayan Empire begins in Mexico
- 988
Vikings attack Somerset and Devon
Irish Danes raid Wales
- 990
Development of musical notation
- 993
First saints canonized
- 994
Arabs destroy Monastery of Monte Cassino
Sweyn of Denmark and Olaf of Norway besiege London
- 995
The last independent tribe of Bohemia subdued by Germans
- 996
Settlers arrive in Greenland from Iceland
Rome, civil war
- 998
Danes attack Isle of Wight
- 999
Poles conquer Silesia
- 1000
King Olaf I of Norway killed in Battle of Svolder; Norway turns Danish
Venice rules over Adriatic Sea and Dalmatian coast
Heroic poem *Beowulf*
Christianity reaches Greenland and Iceland
Tiahuanaco civilization extends throughout Peru
Climax of Mayan civilization
Leif Ericson, son of Eric the Red, discovers North America (Nova Scotia)
Mention of several attempts to fly or float on air
Germany, Jews and Arabs become court physicians
Millennium brings widespread fear of the End of the World and Judgment Day
Norsemen arrive in America
Chinese perfect gunpowder, made from sulfur, charcoal and potassium nitrate
- ca. Early 11th century
Vikings in Newfoundland
Ireland: Tristan of Lyonesse slays a dragon
Kiev, Russia: recorded in the Legends of Heroes, a dragon called Gorynych terrorizes the region; slain by the hero Dobrynja
- 1001

Rome revolts against Otton III

1002

Ethelred II of England orders the massacre of all Danes living in his kingdom

Philippe-Auguste of France accuses John the Landless of abducting Isabelle d'Angouleme and confiscates his fiefs of Normandy, Maine, etc. John tries to recapture them and is defeated in Poitou

Genghis Khan exterminates the Tartars

1003

War between Poland and Germany

1004

King Henry's first Italian campaign

Arabs sack Pisa

The Saracens pillage Pisa

Peace is made between China and the Khitans

1005

Henry II, Holy Roman Emperor, invades Poland

1007

Ethelred II buys two years' freedom from Danish attacks for 30,000 pounds

1009

Mohammedans sack Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem

Prussians martyr Bruno of Querfurt

Christian sanctuaries in Jerusalem destroyed by Caliph al-Hakim

1011

Ethelred invades South Wales

Danes take Canterbury

Handkerchief of St. Veronica stored in a special altar in Rome

1012

Germany persecution of heretics begins

1013

Danes rule England; Ethelred flees

1014

End of Norse rule in Ireland

1015

Arabs conquer Sardinia

1017

England divided into four earldoms

1018

India, sacred city of Muttra pillaged by Mahmud of Ghazni

1020

Pisa annexes Corsica

- Faroes, Orkneys and Shetlands recognize Olaf Haraldsson
- 1021
Europe, St. Vitus' dance epidemics
- 1031
Caliphate of Cordoba abolished
- 1033
The Russians and Germans defeat Poland, which becomes fief of the Empire
- 1037
Italy, Conrad II issues the Constitutio de feudis, making fiefs of small-holders hereditary
- 1040
Macbeth murders Duncan of Scotland; becomes king (lasting through 1057)
- 1041
Siward murders Eardwulf; becomes ruler of Northumbria
Battle of Montemaggiore; Normans and Lombards defeat Greeks
- 1043
Normans conquer southern Italy
- 1050
Egypt collapses under dictatorship
Normans penetrate England
The harp known in Europe
Astrolabes used in Europe
- ca. 1050
Movable type invented in China
- ca. Late 11th century
First troubadours
The compass used in China
- 1061
Malcolm of Scotland in Northumbria
Normans conquer Messina
- 1062
Marrakesh founded
- 1063
Tostig and Harold subdue Wales
- 1065
Westminster Abbey consecrated
- 1066
Appearance of the comet later to be called "Halley's Comet"
William, Duke of Normandy, conquers England at Battle of Hastings
- 1068

- England, nationalist rising in the west and north crushed by William I
- 1070
York Cathedral construction begins
- 1071
Italy, last Byzantine possessions conquered by Normans
- 1073
Southwestern Colorado, Pueblo at Mesa Verde
- 1074
Married priests excommunicated
- 1097
Newcastle founded
- 1083
Henry IV storms Rome
- 1085
Henry IV extends “Peace of God” over his empire
Alfonso VI takes Toledo from the Arabs
- 1090
Peking, water-driven mechanical clock invented
- 1092
William II takes Cumberland
- 1093
Malcolm of Scotland killed invading England
- 1094
Gondolas in Venice
- 1096-1099
First Crusade
- 1097
Crusaders defeat Turks at Dorylaeum; conquer Nicaea
- 1098
Hebrides, Orkneys, and Isle of Man taken by Magnus III of Norway
Antioch, crusaders defeat Turks
- 1099
Crusaders take Jerusalem
Godfrey made Defender of the Holy Sepulcher; defeats Egyptians at Ascalon
Crusaders capture Jerusalem
- 1100
French heroic poem: *Chanson de Roland*
The play of the Wise and Silly Virgins
Appearance of ‘Gothic’ architecture

Islamic science begins to decline
 Peru, Sinchi Roca civilization
 Third Pueblo period, southwestern North America
 Civil war in Germany
 Colonization of Polynesia from South America

ca. 12th Century

Drachenfels, Germany: until the fortress is built, a dragon survives on a diet of young women

ca. 1100

Incan Empire formed

1103

Magnus III of Norway killed invading Ireland

1104

Crusaders take Acre

1119

Order of the Templars founded

1122

Byzantines exterminate Patzinak Turks

1124

Rochester Cathedral finished

First Scottish coins

1125

France, beginning of troubere and troubadour music

Earliest account of a mariner's compass

1128

The pope recognizes Order of the Templars

1138

David I of Scotland in England on behalf of Matilda; defeated at Battle of the Standards

False Messiah appears in Persia and France

1139

Kingdom of Portugal established

1141

Matilda made queen at Winchester

1144

France, Gothic art begins

1147

Asia Minor, crusaders perish, second crusade fails

Teutonic crusade against the pagan Slavs

1147-1149

Second Crusade

1150

Paris University founded
Oldest Welsh manuscript *The Black Book of Carmarthen*
Arabs manufacture paper in Spain

ca. Late 12th century

The compass used in the West

1150-1155

First organization of the universities of Bologna and Paris

1151

Toltec Empire in Mexico ends
Burma, the Golden Age of Buddhist art
Chinese use explosives in warfare

1154-1485

Plantagenet dynasty in England

1155

Arnold of Brescia hanged

1156

Japan, war of the Minamoto and Taira clans

1157

Finland conquered by Eric of Sweden

1160

Normans expelled from North Africa

1163

Paris, building of Notre Dame begins

1164

Becket flees to France

1167

Barbarossa crowned emperor
Oxford University founded

1168

Milan rebuilt after being destroyed by Frederick Barbarossa in 1162
Bogolubsky sacks Kiev; assumes title of Grand Prince
Aztecs settle in Mexico

1170

Thomas Becket murdered

1173-1185

Queen Eleanor imprisoned

1174

Pisa Tower built

- 1178
Construction begins on the famous bridge of Avignon; completed 1188
- 1180
England, glass windows appear in private houses
Independence of Serbia
- ca. 1180
Windmills built in England and Normandy
- ca. 1180-1280
The Fairs of Champagne at peak
- 1182- 1226
Life of St. Francis of Assisi
- 1184
Cyprus liberates itself from Byzantium
Episcopal Inquisition established
- 1185
London, Knight Templars established
- 1189
Massacre of Jews at coronation of Richard I
- 1189-1193
Third Crusade
- 1190
Teutonic Knights founded
- 1191
Richard I conquers Cyprus; sells it to the Templars
The Nibelungenlied
Central America, second era of Maya civilization
- 1192
The Shogunate established in Japan
- 1193- 1280
Life of Albertus Magnus, German scientist and philosopher
- 1194
Scandinavian mythology collection: the *Elder Edda*
- 1197
Incan Empire founded
- 1199
Liverpool founded
- 1200
Cambridge University founded
Jewish cabalistic philosophy in southern Europe being developed

Islam replacing other religions in India

Early Gothic in England

Professional bards in Ireland

60,000 Italian merchants work and live in Constantinople

ca. 13th Century (throughout)

Provence, France: a dragon known as the Drac inhabits the Rhone River. The town of Draguignan is named for it

ca. 1200

Mayan civilization collapses

1201

Knut VI of Denmark conquers Holstein

1202

The first European court jesters

1202-1204

Fourth Crusade

1203

Genghis Khan subjugates the Kerait

Conquest of Upper India by Mohammed of Ghor

1204

Amsterdam, Holland founded

The conquest of Normandy

Crusaders take Constantinople

Foundation of Roman Eastern Empire

Theodorus Lascaris founds Greek Empire of Nicaea

The Genoese establish trade on the Black Sea in Tana and Kaffa

Crusaders sack Constantinople

1205

Genghis Khan reaches the Yellow River

1205-1235

Construction of the Gothic portals of Chartres Cathedral

1206

Genghis Khan becomes chief prince of the Mongols

1207

Conflict between John the Landless (brother to Richard the Lion-Hearted), and the English clergy

1208

St. Dominic founds the order of the Preaching Friars

Francis of Assisi converts

1209

King John invades Scotland

Francis of Assisi issues rules for his brotherhood (the Franciscans)

- Albigensian Crusade begins
- 1210
 - Gottfried von Strassburg: *Tristan und Isolde*
- 1211
 - Genghis Khan invades China; lasting through 1215
- 1213
 - Venice conquers Crete
- 1214
 - Genghis Khan captures Peking
- 1215
 - Magna Carta
 - Trial by ordeal prohibited
 - Foundation of the orders of the Minors (the Franciscans) and the Preachers (the Dominicans)
- 1217
 - Crusade in Egypt fails
- 1218
 - Genghis Khan takes Persia
- 1218-1221
 - Fifth Crusade (to Egypt)
- 1221
 - Vienna becomes a city
- 1222
 - Mongols in Russia, battle at Kalka River
 - London, England: November 30, dragons are seen overhead; preceding thunderstorms and severe floods
- 1227
 - Genghis Khan dies; his empire is divided between his three sons
- 1228-1229
 - Sixth Crusade, led by Emperor Frederick II in Syria
- 1230
 - Leprosy brought to Europe by the Crusaders
 - Founding of Berlin
- 1230-1231
 - Mongols conquer Iran
- 1234-1279
 - Mongols conquer Sung-ruled China
- 1236
 - China, under Mongol rule, issues paper money
- 1237 - 1240
 - Mongols conquer Russia; take Moscow

- 1240
Crusade of Simon de Montfort of Jaffa and Richard of Cornwall
- 1241
Silesia: Mongols defeat Germans at Battle of Liegnitz, invade Hungary and Poland; the death of their ruler Ughetai forces withdraw from Europe
- 1242
Batu, grandson of Genghis Khan, establishes the “Golden Horde” at Sarai
- 1243
Five-year truce between France and England begins
- 1244
Egypt takes Jerusalem
Turks capture Jerusalem
- 1245-1248
Albertus Magnus teaches in Paris
- ca. 1245-1275
Enfranchisement of peasants in northern France
- 1248-1254
Louis IX leads crusaders to Syria and Egypt (seventh crusade)
- 1250
Saracens capture Louis IX
Louis IX defeated in El Mansura
- ca. Late 13th century
Spinning wheel introduced
- 1251
Portugal seizes Algarve
China; Kublai Khan made Governor and in 1259 made Mongol ruler lasting through 1294
- 1252
The Inquisition starts using instruments of torture
Gold coins minted in Genoa and Florence
- 1252-1259
Thomas Aquinas teaching at University of Paris
- 1254
Innocent IV allows torture as a means of interrogation during the Inquisition
- 1256
“Hundred Year War” between Genoa and Venice begins
Order of Augustine Hermits founded
- 1257
Llywelyn becomes Prince of Wales, and in 1259 establishes peace between Wales and England
Richard of Cornwall elected King of the Romans (soon ‘dispossessed’)

- 1258
Mongols take Baghdad; overthrow caliphate
House of Commons established
- 1260-1327
Life of Meister Eckhart, German mystic and preacher
- 1263
Scottish defeat Haakon of Norway at Largs; win Hebrides
- 1264
Thomas Aquinas: *Summa contra Gentiles*
Roger Bacon: *De computo naturali*
- 1267
London guilds of tailors and goldsmiths battle in the street
- 1270
Eighth Crusade; Louis IX dies in Tunis
- 1271-1295
Marco Polo's travels in China, India etc.
- 1273
Persian poet Rumi dies
- 1274
Kublai Khan fails to conquer Japan
- 1275-1292
Marco Polo in service of Kublai Khan
- 1277-1292
Roger Bacon in prison for heresy
- 1278
278 Jews hanged in London for coin clipping; Christians who are guilty of the same offense are fined
Glass mirror invented
- 1282
The Sicilian Vespers
Florence the leading European city in finance and commerce
- 1283
Prussia bows to the Teutonic Order
- 1283 - 1323
Building of Caernarvon Castle
- 1284
The *Pied Piper of Hamelin*
Gold ducat struck in Venice
- 1285
The German epic poem: *Lohengrin*

- 1287
Mongols invade Burma
- 1290
Invention of spectacles
- 1291
End of the Crusades era; Knights of St. John settle in Cyprus
Swiss Confederation established
- 1295
Marco Polo returns from the orient to Italy (In 1298 he begins to dictate his memoirs in a Genoese jail)
- 1296
King Edward I of England conquers Scotland
- 1297
Scottish defeat English at Stirling Bridge
New Zealand, giant moas die out
- 1300
Jongleurs are the professional musician of France
European slave trade ends, temporarily
First Jubilee of Rome
- 1302
Battle of Courtrai; the French defeated by the Flamands
Dante exiled from Florence
- 1303
Edward I of England arrests and executes Wallace
Lyons cathedral finished
- 1306
Robert Bruce made King of Scotland; defeated by the English at Dairy and Methuen
- 1307
Philip IV, the Fair, of France has the Templars arrested, confiscates their property
End of the great Japanese schism
Jews expelled the from France
- 1307-1314
Trial of the Templars
- 1307-1321
Dante: *the Divine Comedy*
- 1309
Doge's Palace, Venice, built over earlier palaces
- 1313
Schwarz invents gunpowder
- 1314

The English under Edward II are routed by Robert Bruce's Scottish at the Battle of Bannockburn

1327

Aztecs establish Mexico City

The great Munich fire

1328

Sawmill invented

1332

Bubonic plague begins in India

1333-1582

Muromachi period in Japan

1337

Earliest scientific weather forecasts

1337-1453

Hundred Years' War between England and France

1345

Bankruptcy of the Florentine banks of Peruzzi and Bardi

1346

Battle of Crecy; first use of the cannon

1347-1350

The Black Death spreads from China throughout Europe and beyond

1348

Order of the Garter founded

Prague University founded

1349

Persecution of Jews in Germany

Black Death kills one third of England's population

1350

Lute playing popular in Europe

1351

75 million people have died from the Black Death

1352

Arab geographer Ibn Battuta explores the Sahara

1352-1358

Chinese revolt against Mongols

1354

Rienzi murdered in Rome after second attempt at tyranny

The Turks capture Gallipoli

1358

Urban uprising and peasant revolts in northern France

- 1361
Black Death reemerges in England
- 1363
Timur the Lame (Tamerlaine) begins campaign in Asia
- 1364
The Aztecs build their capital, Tenochtitlan
Revolts in Crete
- 1368
China, Mongol Yuan dynasty overthrown by national Ming dynasty
Great Wall of China restoration
- 1368-1644
Ming dynasty in China
- 1369
Venice repels Hungarians
Paris, the Bastille built
- 1370
Steel crossbow used for war
- 1375
Robin Hood appears in popular English literature
- 1378-1417
Great Schism between the Popes of Avignon and Rome
- 1380
Tamerlaine begins streak of 35 successful campaigns to Russia, Egypt, Persia, Georgia, etc.
- 1381
England, Wat Tyler leads Peasants' Revolt
Venice wins "Hundred Years War" against Genoa; flourishing of arts and sciences, commerce
- 1382
Mongols sack Moscow
- 1384
Jadwiga, daughter of King Louis I crowned "king" of Poland
- 1387-1400
Chaucer writes *Canterbury Tales*
- 1388
Scottish defeat English at Battle of Chevy Chase
- 1389
Turks defeat the Serbs at Kosovo Polje
- 1390
Byzantines in Asia Minor lose last possessions to Turks
- 1392

Charles VI goes mad; his brother Louis becomes Duke of Orleans
 Japan, the Ashikagas become shoguns of Muromachi

1393

Prague, King Wenceslas has St. John of Nepomuk murdered

1398

Timur conquers Delhi

1400 -1500

North America, development of Upper and Middle Mississippi mound-building
 Early Renaissance period

1401

Timur conquers Baghdad and Damascus
 Resumption of the war between Poland and the Teuton Knights
 Tamerlane crushes the Mamelukes and retakes Baghdad
 Revolt of Malwa against Delhi

1402

Scotland revolts against Henry IV of England

1404

Death of Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy; succeeded by John the Fearless

1405

Death of Tamerlane: his empire falls into ruin

1405-1435

Chinese expeditions in the Indian Ocean

1407

London, Bethlehem Hospital (Bedlam), becomes an institution for the insane
 John the Fearless assassinates Louis of Orleans

1408

Cardinals of Avignon and Rome meet to end Great Schism

1412 - 1431

Life of Joan of Arc

1415

Henry V takes Harfleur; defeats the French at Agincourt
 English victorious at Agincourt

1418-1419

The Portuguese in Madeira

1420

Peking, erection of the Great Temple of the Dragon

1422

Blind Hussite general Ziska defeats the imperial army near Prague

1427

- Itzcoatl, King of the Aztecs, enlarges his empire
- 1428
Joan of Arc leads France against England
- 1429
Joan of Arc raises siege of Orleans
Order of the Golden Fleece founded
- 1429-1430
Victories of Joan of Arc
- 1430
Joan of Arc captured
The great cast-iron gun, 'Mas Marjorie', introduced
- ca. 1430-1440
First witch hunts in the Vaud canton
- 1431
Worms, first German peasant revolt
Joan of Arc burned at the stake in Rouen
- 1432-1453
Portuguese sailor Gonzalo Cabral discovers the Azores
- 1436
English withdraw from Paris
Scottish defeat English near Berwick
- 1438
Pachacutec founds Inca rule in Peru
- 1444
First conquests of the Incas
- 1447
Scanderbeg defeats Murad II; gains independence for Persia, Afghanistan and India
- 1449
English break truce with France
- 1450
Northern Peru, the Incas subdue tribes of Chimu
Vatican Library founded
- 1452
Metal plates used for printing
- 1453
Turks capture Constantinople
End of East Roman (or Byzantine) Empire
End of Hundred Years' War between France and England; England gives up all possessions except Calais
Constantinople, Turks convert St. Sophia Basilica into a mosque

English defeated at Castillon; last battle of Hundred Years' War
 Mehmet II, Ottoman sultan, takes Constantinople; Byzantine Empire ends

1455

Venetian navigator Cadamosto explores Senegal River

1455-1485

England, Wars of the Roses

1456

Trial of Joan of Arc annulled

Turks conquer Athens

Cadamosto discovers Cape Verde Islands off west coast of North Africa

1458

Turks sack the Acropolis

1459

Civil war again in England

1460

Richard of York defeats Henry VI at Northampton

Richard of York defeated and killed at Wakefield by Queen Margaret

Winchester Cathedral Completed

1463

Turks conquer Bosnia

1467

Turks conquer Herzegovina

First ballad about Swiss hero William Tell

1470

Portuguese navigators discover Gold Coast, West Africa

1471

Edward IV, King of England, restoration of Lancastrian regime

1472

Dante's *Divine Comedy*

Newfoundland discovered

1473

Cyprus comes under Venetian rule

1480

Ivan III; self-styled Czar of Russia

Ferdinand and Isabella appoint inquisitors against heresy among converted Jews

Leonardo da Vinci invents parachute

1483

Russians begin to explore Siberia

1483-1546

Life of Martin Luther

1484

Botticelli: *Birth of Venus*

1486

Portuguese discover Angola

1487

Diaz rounds Cape of Good Hope

1492

Spanish conquer Granada; extinguish Moorish kingdom; consolidate monarchy of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile

By order of inquisitor-general, Torquemada, Jews given three months to accept Christ or leave Spain

Earliest terrestrial globe constructed by geographer Martin Behaim

Ferdinand and Isabella finance voyage of Italian Christopher Columbus to the New World

Columbus sails from Palos, Spain in August; Santa Maria wrecked off Haiti, December 25

Christopher Columbus “discovers” America

The book publisher profession emerges

1492-1496

Moors and Spanish Jews forced into Christianity

1493

Columbus returns: leaves Spain on second voyage, during which he discovers Dominica, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico

The Pope divides New World between Portugal and Spain

1494

Charles VIII begins invasion of Italy

1495

English Parliament frames an act against beggars and vagabonds, and a new statute of treasons

Portugal, Jews expelled

Hieronymus Bosch: *The Garden of Worldly Delights*

Da Vinci begins: *The Last Supper*

1497

Perkin Warbeck lands in Cornwall; attempts to take Exeter with rebels; captured by royalist troops

The Cabots reach the east coast of North America

Vasco da Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope

1498

Columbus discovers Orinoco River

Vasco da Gama discovers sea route to India

1499

War between Swiss cantons and Swabian league; the Swiss establish their independence

Granada, forced mass conversions of Moors causes great Moorish revolt; suppressed by Ferdinand of Aragon

Alonso de Ojeda and Amerigo Vespucci discover South America

1500

Beginning of High Renaissance

Cabral discovers Brazil, claiming it for Portugal

De Ojeda and Vespucci return

Modern pencils used in England

Vasco da Gama returns (to Portugal) from his expedition to Africa

Earliest recorded Caesarean on a living woman

Portuguese explorers: Diego Dias in Madagascar, Cabral in Brazil, Corte Real in Labrador

1501

Michelangelo: *Pieta* of St Peter's

French enter Rome

Books burning ordered by papal bull

1502

Columbus on fourth and last voyage; to Panama and Honduras

Portuguese colony founded at Cochin, India

The first watch

Edict ordering expulsion from Spain of all non-converted Moors

The Kingdom of the Golden Horde in Southern Russia and Siberia is utterly destroyed

Vasco da Gama makes second voyage to India

Dante exiled from Florence

1503

Rupture between Aragon and France

Da Vinci: *Mona Lisa*

1504

Columbus returns from last voyage

Michelangelo completes *David*

1505

Martin Luther enters a monastery

1506

Dunbar: *The Dance of the Sevin Deidly Synnis*

Niccolo Machiavelli creates Florentine militia

1507

Martin Luther ordained

1508

Michelangelo paints Sistine Chapel

1508-1512

Rome, Michelangelo paints ceiling of Sistine Chapel

1509

- Bartolome de Las Casas, bishop of Chiapas, encourages Spanish settlers to bring Negro slaves to the New World
- 1511
Pope Julius forms Holy League with Aragon and Venice to expel the French from Italy
- 1512
Copernicus: Commentariolus states that the planets turn around the sun
Royal Navy builds ships with 70 guns
- 1513
Peasants' revolts in Black Forest and Wurttemberg
Early excavation of ancient Rome
Vasco Nunez de Balboa crosses panama Isthmus to discover Pacific Ocean
Juan Ponce de Leon discovers Florida
- 1514
Peasants' revolt in Hungary
Portuguese vessels in Chinese waters
- 1515
Treaty of Vienna concerning mutual succession of Jagellons and Hapsburgs
The Lateran Council forbids printing books without permission of Roman Catholic authorities
Nationalized factories open in France to produce tapestries and weapons
- 1516
Machiavelli, *The Prince*
- 1519-1522
Magellan attempts to sail around the world; Sebastian del Cano successfully completes voyage after Magellan's death
- 1521
Luther excommunicated
- 1534-1553
Jacques Cartier explores St. Lawrence River
- 1572
Scandinavia, a dragon inhabits the area north of Lapland
Bonn, Germany, Ulisse Aldrovandi the Italian naturalist has in his collection a lindworm killed nearby
- ca. 1580-1640
Large-scale witch hunts in northern Europe
- 1600
War between Poland and Sweden for possession of Livonia
East India Company chartered
Shakespeare: *As You Like It*
- 1601
The Dutch destroy a Spanish fleet by Gibraltar

- 1603 Submission of the Irish rebels
Death of Queen Elizabeth; accession of James I
Shakespeare presents *Hamlet*
- 1604
Bacon: *Advancement of Learning*
- 1605
The Gunpowder Plot in London
Shakespeare: *King Lear*; *Macbeth*
Cervantes: *Don Quixote*
- 1607
The Jesuits gain control of the government of Paraguay
- 1608
Neidenburg, Germany, a local dragon poisons wells by bathing in them
Sanctogarin Germany, report by naturalist Edward Topsell of a dragon whose flight causes fires
- 1610
Galileo invents the telescope
- 1619
Switzerland, Christopher Schorer, Prefect of the canton of Solothurn, reports the sighting of a winged mountain dragon near Lucerne
- 1654
Switzerland, a dragon encountered by hunter; one of the last sightings