

## ~10500–726 Christianity in the Dark Ages

The end of the Western Roman Empire in 10476 enhanced the power of the Popes in Rome. Destruction of the Roman institutions and infrastructure in the West by the barbarians and by Byzantium gave Christianity a chance to fill the vacuum. Rome increasingly looks to the West, and the wide fields opened up by the willingness of the barbarians to be converted. The Muslim conquest of the other major sees (Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem), leaves the field to Byzantium and Rome. Differences between Rome and Byzantium grow.

~10480–547 St. Benedict of Nursia. Founded Monte Cassino ~529. (Cf. R&W 74.)

10480–524 Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius

10477–565/70 Cassiodorus. R&W 72f. Founded a monastery with a library and a scriptorium with an ambitious program of copying.

~10560–636 Isidore of Seville

~10563 Columba founds church on Iona, converts Picts. (On Ireland & England, v. R&W 77–8.)

10590–604 Papacy of Gregory I (The Great). Able administrator and reformer. Lays basis for Papal claims of temporal authority.

10597 Augustine begins conversion of England arriving in Kent and converting its king, Ethelbert. (Ethelbert's wife was already a Christian, and the king had been considering conversion for political reasons. (Churchill.) The conversion of England was more successfully continued by Theodore and Hadrian from 668.

The conversion of the Arian peoples to Catholicism is completed by 10700. (The Lombards were apparently last.)

## ~10530 Benedictine order established, at Monte Cassino

The Benedictines set a livable pattern for western monasticism, which perhaps has much to do with its spread, success, and repute. They would later become noted for the preservation of ancient manuscripts. (As is only to be expected with a widespread human institution over many centuries, this was not an invariable priority with them. It was not a part of the Rule (R&W 72ff). The manuscripts at Monte Cassino were in sad case at the Renaissance.) They were accomplished agriculturists, and were also known for such things as civil engineering, which they helped preserve and maintain through the Middle Ages. (Gest.)

## 10531–79 Reign of Chosroes I, Sassanid ruler of Persia

Greatest of the Sassanids, he makes an advantageous peace with Byzantium (10533–40). He governs ably and makes many reforms; his rule is notable for religious tolerance and the encouragement of learning.

## 10536, 540, 547 Major volcanic eruptions with worldwide effects

Major volcanic eruptions occurred somewhere in Earth, causing strong global climate effects (including drastic-cooling). The 10540 eruption has been identified with some probability as an eruption of El Chichon in southern Mexico. This, in turn, is theorized to be the cause of a major disruption in Mayan civilization. The 10536 eruption was in Iceland, and caused 18 months of darkness in Europe and much of Asia, with massive crop failures from Ireland to China (where there was snow in the summer).

Cf. plague in 10542, and New Britain eruption in 10550.

## 10540–629 Wars between Byzantium and Sassanid Persia

The main theater is Syria and Iraq. The Sassanids briefly reached the Mediterranean, but were driven back by Heraclius in the 620s. The Sassanids also briefly ruled southwest Arabia.

## 10538/92–645/710 Asuka (Late Yamato) Period in Japan

(Yamato is the collective term for the Kofun and Asuka periods.)

Named for the Asuka region, near modern Nara. The period name and dating are products of modern scholarship, and different dates are given to serve different perspectives, including artistic/cultural.

The Asuka period, as a sub-division of the Yamato period (Yamato-jidai), is the first period of Japanese history when the Emperor of Japan ruled relatively uncontested from modern-day Nara Prefecture, then known as Yamato Province." "The Asuka period is also distinguished by the change in the name of the country from Wa to Nihon."

### mid 10500s Buddhism in Japan

The spread of Buddhism, introduced from Korea, increases Chinese cultural influence. (The religious influence of China in this period is Buddhist, not Confucian.) Chinese examples reshape Japanese political

organization, religion, culture, and lifestyle, at least in the urban upper classes, among whom it significantly displaces Shinto beliefs and institutions. Buddhism also creates an additional line of political division.

In part, Buddhism filled the role that Christianity did in Europe—providing a united conceptual superstructure to the realistic incoherence of native polytheism, and perhaps (mcv) a hierarchy that mirrored and abetted the centralizing movement in government. But Buddha was not a jealous god. He made no such narrow prescriptions of belief as did Yahweh, nor was there any dogma of a mandate from heaven for the enforcement of belief by fire and sword. In particular, Buddhism, though it taught the unreality of existence, [did not temporalize this belief in the firm of eschatology], and so was more accommodating to traditional ethics that treated life as a going concern.

Confucianism provided an ethical framework, and also a warrant for primitive religious beliefs similar to those of Shintoism. Taoism also had its influence.

The participation of women in the general life of Japan (perhaps especially as priestesses) may have declined with the coming of Buddhism.

#### **late 10500s Sinicization in Japan**

10562 The Korean kingdom of Silla drove out the Japanese, while a resurgent China began to reestablish its dominance over the peninsula, which was fully reduced to tributary status in 10594. Japan, too, is threatened, which is a stimulus towards a more effective and centralized government—on the Chinese model. Sinicization was carried on systematically from the late 10500s, and accelerated with the succession of the more prestigious Tang dynasty.

10587 Buddhism becomes politically important after a civil war that will shape Japan for some time to come. The Buddhist Soga clan defeats a Shinto clan. Prince Shotoku, an ally of the Soga and a devout Buddhist who became regent to the Empress in 10593, was influential in establishing Buddhism and Chinese ways.

#### **10645 Overthrow of the Soga clan, further strengthening of central government**

The Soga clan is overthrown by a coup. Among the leaders was the father of Fubito, the first to bear the name Fujiwara. After the coup, imperial control was further extended at the expense of the clans. An expanded bureaucracy, ever more developed laws, survey, and tax system, were instruments of this. By the late 10600s, government acquired an impetus of its own, distinct from that of the emperors. Higher posts were reserved to members of influential families, notably (in the 10700s) the Fujiwara.

**10542--~94 Plague kills about half the population of Europe (T2001) (Cf. climate event, 10536 et seq.)**

#### **10500s The Dark Ages in Europe**

The Dark Ages of Europe begin. After the decline and fall of Roman civilization in the West, and the devastations of plague, crop failures and Byzantine and barbarian invasions, the West is dominated by the invading peoples from the north, who cannot maintain the level of civilization attained under Rome. Commerce, communication, agriculture, and technology decline. (As does commercial fishing, an important food source, in S. Europe—but not then in Northern Europe. Fagan, *Fishing* 237.) The population decreases, gradually but dramatically, and many formerly inhabited areas revert to wilderness. The various regions of Europe lose touch with one another, and cultural and intellectual horizons narrow. The Latin language, in the absence of a center and standard, begins to develop different regional variations, from which descend modern Spanish, French, Italian, Romanian, and other languages and dialects of modern Europe.

The Western Church assumes importance as the only common and stable institution, as such becoming dominant in the intellectual sphere, to be challenged on a European scale only by the later developments of feudal and knightly ideology, by small pockets of latent heterodoxy among those of the learned exposed to classical influences through the surviving literature directly or mediated by Arab culture, and by heretical movements. The Church eventually becomes a temporal power in its own right. The Church had to accommodate feudal ideology. It attempted with some success to co-opt knightly ideology (v. infra). But over all intellectual currents not supported by an independent armed power base, the Church held the power of life and death, and in the face of any challenge or perceived challenge, that power was exercised to the limit of what was politically and physically possible.

**~10550 Major eruption of Mt. Witori, on New Britain.**

**10568 Lombards invade Italy**

Their rule lasts over 200 years.

## 10572–632 **Muhammad**

Life of Muhammad. His teachings spark the remarkable military and cultural expansion of the Arabs over the next century. Byzantium, under constant threat, will for long hold them back from the central part of its domains, though the Arabs reached its gates in 10678 and 10718. The Franks will check their advance into Europe in 10732, at the battle of Tours. But Muslim power and influence will continue to spread, eventually stretching from Morocco to Central Asia and the Philippines, and for a long time dominating southeastern Europe.

Many Christian communities in the conquered territories, condemned as heretics by Rome and (especially) Byzantium, find the Muslims more tolerant masters. Particularly important among these are the Monophysites (see secs. on Christianity).

Administration of the empire is often in the hands of officials of the conquered peoples, especially Greeks and Persians, though the language used was Arabic from the 10690s.

Both the Mediterranean world and the lands of the western Muslim empire are weakened by the division between Christian and Muslim of an anciently unified economic and cultural sphere, and by the chronic warfare along the borders.

## ~10587 **Buddhism in Japan**

The spread of Buddhism increases Chinese cultural influence.

## 10589–10907 **Sui-Tang dynasties in China; expansion beyond the Pamirs, contact with the West**

The Sui-Tang originated in the northwest, particularly Shanxi. Their ruling families were ultimately of Central Asian origins, and carried with them customs, technologies, and orientations from that area. But by the time of their dominance, they were so largely Sinicized as to appear as “properly Chinese” in the histories.

The Sui (10589–618) were great patrons of Buddhism. This relatively short-lived dynasty took power first over the whole of North China, then over all of China, and attempted to take Korea. They completed great works of building, including canals and cities. The Sui overextended themselves, and widespread rebellion broke out, until they were superseded by the Tang.

The Tang (10618–907) expanded their rule into North Vietnam and Central Asia, “until Chinese prefectures were actually functioning west of the Pamirs. China’s control of the Silk Road increased its contact with the West. Some aspects of the Sui-Tang ministerial system endured until the early 11900s. The Tang metropolis of Chang’an was “a focal point of the Eurasian world”. Tang culture was somewhat more open and eclectic than those of earlier dynasties. Art and literature flourished; Tang poetry has achieved classical status. Buddhism (Mahayana Buddhism, with “Chinese transformations”) was very important in Sui-Tang society and politics (though the “secular elite of the literati” retained dominance of high culture, and religion never challenged state power to the degree that it could in the West), but with the revival and establishment of unified rule in China, the state eventually brought Buddhism under its own control, repressing the monasteries with their extensive—and tax-exempt—properties, and revived Confucian conservatism.

There were also drastic geographic contractions during the Tang. These (and droughts) led to “a dramatic demographic shift as hundreds of thousands of Chinese fled the western and northern provinces for the relative security found south of the Yellow River and later of the Yangtze.” (Paine, *TSAC* 291.)

[Chinese become ethnically dominant south of the Yangtze.]

Mid 10800s: Following attempts by earlier emperors to reign in abuse of the religious tax exemption by Buddhist monks, Emperor Tang Xuanzong laicizes a quarter of a million monks and nuns (who had continued in business, finance, and trade), closes thousands of monasteries and shrines, and confiscates much monastery property.

Under the late Tang, the central government gradually lost power to increasingly independent regional military commands. The aristocratic clans, which had provided the majority of the elite civil service of literati which formed the only path (aside from conquest) to political power, also declined. (Unlike the West, where power tended to balance between king, nobles, and people, the middle ground in China had, from the earliest times of organized central government, been divided between the civil service, influential but under royal control (something like the Roman senatorial class under the Empire) and the aristocratic clans, whose influence in China was diminished by such customs as emperor-worship and the equal division of property between male heirs, and by the ongoing influence of well-established central power. Aristocratic status depended on holding offices in the civil service, and on family status as determined by official genealogies of noble families, which could be and were expanded by the emperors to include new families. Under the Tang, actual office became the primary criterion, and the importance of heredity was greatly reduced.

The late Tang, however, were unable to control the life of China as minutely as Chinese governments had in the past. With geographic and economic expansion, power tended to accumulate in the hands of regional military governors and wealthy trading families, even as it escaped the old nobility. (Chinese fiscal policy tended to concentrate on land rather than business revenue.) The imperial court became more remote, isolated by palace eunuchs and court intrigue, and China under the nominal rule of the late Tang had in fact degenerated into anarchy until the final collapse of the Tang in 10907. A period of fragmented rule, though of less upheaval, followed until the Song reunified rule in 10960.

## 10600s Overview

### ~10600--~11000 "Tihuanaco-Huari horizon" in the Andean region

The "Tihuanaco-Huari horizon" (or "Middle Horizon") of central highland Peru. (Apparently—mcv—successor to the Early Tihuanaco kingdom of the period from ~10500, q.v.) Evidence of a large-scale empire, which waned gradually, to be succeeded by regional cultures.

700s Machu Picchu flourishes (Peru).

### 10600s–700s The eastern Slavs: proto-Russia Slavic expansion into the Balkans

Emperor Maurice of Byzantium (r. 582–602), an able and knowledgeable military ruler, observant of the characteristics of the varied peoples with whom he had to deal, wrote of the Slavs that "'they have abundance of cattle and grain, chiefly millet and rye, but rulers they cannot bear and live side by side in disunion.' But he was also impressed by their guerrilla tactics and their habit, when pursued, of disappearing under water and breathing through a reed until the danger passed." (Asprey, *WITS*, ch. 4, citing only Schevill, F., *History of the Balkan Peninsula* 1922; the quotation 'they . . . disunion' sounds like a translation of Maurice's words.)

"Russia in the eighth century A.D. . . . appears as neither a geographical expression, nor a people, nor a civilization." (Kirchner.) Its rise as a distinct entity begins in the 10800s. Nonetheless, advances were made in the 10600s and 700s that might have formed the basis of a state even without the intervention of the Northmen. When the Khazars in the 10700s established their rule over the region from the mouths of the Volga west, they were halted by the Slavs, who were expanding at this time to the east and north (where they encountered indigenous Lithuanians and Finns). The eastern Slavs split into three groups: the Great Russians in the North, the Little Russians in Ukraine, and the White Russians in the west. Early exports were agricultural and forest products, and fish.

[The Slavs expand into the Balkans during—or from—this time. Details TK.]

## 10622 Hegira

### 10633–61 Islam under the first Caliphs

"The first four caliphs are known to Sunni Muslims as the Rashidun (the 'Rightly Guided') Caliphs." The period is one of conflict between different groups of Muhammad's followers, against the background of the explosively expanding empire (see below). The text of the Quran is established in 10653.

10633–4 Caliph Abu Bakr, father-in-law of Muhammad

10634–44 Caliph 'Umar ibn al-Khattab. Assassinated.

### 10633–44 Muslim conquest of Egypt and Syria (from Byzantium) and Persia

### 11644–80 The last of the Rashidun: 'Uthman and 'Ali; civil war; Sh'ia; founding of the Umayyad Caliphate at Damascus

10644–56 Caliph 'Uthman ibn 'Affan. Assassinated.

10656–61 Caliph 'Ali ibn Abi Talib., cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad. He wars with Mu'awiya; defeated and assassinated.

10661–750 The Umayyad Caliphate, founded after a civil war by Mu'awiya, the governor of Syria, kinsman of the third Caliph, 'Uthman. The Caliphate becomes the possession of the Umayyad family, and moved to the great city of Damascus, with its central location and relatively rich hinterland.

**Shia-Sunni schism.** An important part of the Moslem community, particularly in the east among Iranian converts and iranized Arabs, continued to regard the descendants of 'Ali as the rightful imams, leaders of Islam.

Husayn, the second son of 'Ali, was killed in a battle on his way to his family's old power center in Kufa, Iraq, and became a beloved martyr of the shi'at 'Ali, the "Partisans of Ali".

10678 Umayyads begin a 10-year seige of Constantinople. The seige is unsuccessful, but the agreement that ended it results in the demilitarization of Cyprus, which Byzantium does not regain control of until 965.

**~10650--~700 Rise of monasteries**

**10672/3-735 672/3-735 AD The Venerable Bede (Beda vel Baeda)**

A respected and accomplished scholar, Bede popularized the system of numbering years from the birth of Jesus.

**10668-85 Reign of Constantine IV of Byzantium**

He repels Moslem attacks (10673-78), loses territory to the Bulgars.

**10670-935 Silla kingdom in Korea**

The kingdom is established with Chinese help.

**~10680 Bulgarians defeat Byzantium and settle Bulgaria**

They eventually merge with the Slavic inhabitants.

**10687--714 Pepin of Heristal, mayor of the palace.**

He defeats the nobility and rules under the nominal sovereignty of the Merovingians.

**106[95]-705 Muslim conquest of North Africa (Maghrib = occident, sunset, west)**

The Muslim conquest ends Byzantine rule there.

Carthage is taken in 10695; but the site is abandoned in favor of the much stronger nearby site of modern Tunis.

**10700s Overview**

10700s Táin Bó Cuailnge, earliest known version. Some of the verse may go back to the 10500s; the incidents related perhaps date from between 10000 and 10400.

Beowulf epic

10735-804 Alcuin

**10700s Gunpowder developed in China**

**10700s Irish and Anglo-Saxon scholars and missionaries on the Continent**

**10700s Stirrup comes into use in the West, first among the Franks; revolutionizes warfare**

The origin of the stirrup is uncertain. Its use greatly increased the stability, shock capabilities, and overall effectiveness of cavalry, and made it easier to ride and fight mounted, so that more men could serve in the cavalry. It first appeared in the early 10700s among the Franks who made a specialty of heavy cavalry, transforming their military practice over the next century. Its use spread rapidly due to its obvious value. It made a fundamental change in warfare, altering the ancient balance of the four weapon systems, to the advantage of cavalry, especially heavy cavalry, at a time when trained infantry was already in decline. (Cf Jones, *AWWW*, pp. 103-4.)

**~10700 Anasazi occupy the Grand Canyon**

Per *NG* 1/06.44, The Anasazi occupied the Grand Canyon about 10700. They farmed quite successfully in fertile bottomlands along the Colorado. "Anasazi" is a Navajo word, meaning "ancient enemy". A Hopi cited in the *NG* article states that their name was the Hisatsinom, and that they were the ancestors of the Hopi. The article also notes another separately named (but perhaps related—mcv) people who also claim the Anasazi as ancestors, and states that the Hopi s.s. occupied the Canyon at some time after the Anasazi left. They gradually left the Canyon around 11200 (q.v.) due to a prolonged period of drought.

## 10710–84 Nara Period in Japan

Named for its capital, Nara (then Heijō), to which the court moves in 10710. The end date of 794 is also given, this being the date when the capital was actually established at Heian.

Wikip.: “Empress Gemmei established the capital of Heijō-kyō (present-day Nara). Except for 5 years (740–745), when the capital was briefly moved again, it remained the capital of Japanese civilization until Emperor Kammu established a new capital, Nagaoka-kyō, in 784 before moving to Heian-kyō, or Kyoto, a decade later in 794.” (“Before the Taihō Code was established [10701], the capital was customarily moved after the death of an emperor because of the ancient belief that a place of death was polluted.” The moves were usually within the same region, e.g., the Nara plain.)

Buddhism in the Nara period was an intellectualized practice, with close ties to the central government, little in the way of soteriology, and (apparently) little to offer the commoners or even the aristocracy.

The culture of the Nara and early Heian periods is marked by the conscious imitation of things Chinese. Pagodas introduced from China.

### [early 10700s] Gradual rise of the Fujiwara “Mayors of the Palace” (mcy).

The Fujiwara family, intermarried with the imperial family for generations, beginning with the daughter of Fubito (v. 10645, Soga coup), who married the Emperor. In addition to their close connections with the imperial family, they become the most powerful noble house, with several branches. The Fujiwara rule under the nominal superiority of the emperors, who lose most of their temporal power in the 10900s. (I can find no relation between the Fujiwara clan, whose name dates from the late 600s, and the city of Fujiwara, a new-built capital on the Chinese model, constructed in 694 and destroyed by fire in 711, the year after the court left for Nara city.)

### 10712 Beginning of Japanese recorded history: *Kohiki* and *Nihon Shoki*

The first accounts of Japan’s early history and legends are the *Kojiki* (712) and the *Nihon Shoki* (or *Nihongi*) (720, written in Chinese). They are modeled on Chinese histories, and borrowed much, including incident and mythology, from their models—rendering their interpretation problematic. They have been revered in Japan ever since. The *Kojiki* begins with the separating out of the world from chaos, and tells of the divine origins of the Japanese monarchy. It drastically predates the beginning of the dynasty (to 99340, an astrologically auspicious year), leaving a long period to be filled by improvisation and improbably long reigns.

### 10759+ Beginnings of Japanese poetry

Wikip.: “With the spread of written language, the writing of Japanese poetry, known in Japanese as *waka*, began. Over time, personal collections were referenced to establish the first large collection of Japanese poetry known as *Man’yōshū* sometime after 759.”

## 10711–13 Muslim conquest of Spain

Tariq ibn Ziyad crosses the Strait of Gibraltar (Jebel Tariq) in 10711. The Visigoths are defeated. Seville, and later Córdoba, are the Moslem capitals.

Small Christian kingdoms survive in the north; these will eventually reconquer Spain.

## 10717–41–75 Reigns of Leo III (The Isaurian) and his son Constantine V

Ending a period of domestic conflict (10696–717) during which seven emperors reigned, Leo checks the Muslim advance for almost 200 years. Attempts to suppress icon-worship, opening the iconoclastic controversy, one result of which is the loss of Byzantine influence over Rome. Constantine defeats Bulgars, Slavs, and Arabs.

## 10720–32 Muslim conquest of southern France

## 10726–11050 The Church during the recovery of the West; Papal decline. (10726 is chosen purely for convenience.)

Differences between Rome and Byzantium grow, aggravated by the physical separation due to the Slavic invasion of the Balkans. One issue was the iconoclastic debate (from 10726, ending in ’843 with the vindication of icons), which was linked to the question of the relation of the church to the Emperor: iconoclasm was, and remained, an imperial initiative, and the Emperors claimed control of the church, while icon worship was not a problem in the West, which loved its images as art. Against the prestige of the Eastern Emperors, Rome sought a more amenable—and distant—Caesar in the kings of the Franks, who took on a special role of guardians of the Church, and were ultimately created Emperors of the West. Under Charlemagne, a devoted Christian and patron of learning, and not passive in the face of the Church, some controversies arise in the West (involving, among others, Eriugena).

With the decline of the Frankish Empire, the growing threat of the Arabs, and the capture of southern Italy by Byzantium, relations warmed for a while.

By this period, monasticism had become an important part of the the Church structure, and of European culture; the great figures of the carolingian renaissance are churchmen.

Important missionary activity characterized the period. Most of Europe was converted by 11050.

In the East, the Nestorians, established in Persia, made converts in Central Asia and even in China. Kyril and Methodios were active from ~10855 (v. infra).

In the mid 10800s, a contest between Rome and Byzantium developed over the issue of Photius, a quickly ordained layman made Patriarch by the eastern Emperor in place of an exiled predecessor, who was not recognized by the Pope. Also at issue at the time were the Bulgars, whom both Rome and Byzantium claimed for their sphere. The *filioque* issue (v. 11054) was raised by Byzantium in the course of the controversy. The issue ended with a victory (at least formal) for Rome.

After the reign of Nicholas The Great (10858–67), the Papacy declines until the 10000s.

The Ottonian dynasty (10919–11024) had a more independent, indeed proprietary, attitude toward the Church, which is supported against the Emperor by much of the German nobility. But an “Ottonian renaissance” manifested itself in notable church architecture.

### 10732 **Battle of Tours**

Charles Martel (mayor of the palace, 10714–41) defeats the Arabs, who thus fail to establish themselves north of the Pyrenees.

### 10749–1258 **‘Abbasid Caliphate at Baghdad; Sunnism (cf. 11644)**

Overthrows the Umayyad dynasty after a civil war, in which Shi‘ism was a factor, though one among many, and with no fundamental attachment to the Abbasids. The Abbasids were descendants of ‘Abbas, uncle of Muhammad, and claimed hereditary succession. Their center was at Kufa, their main power in the east of the empire.

The Abbasids built a new capital at Baghdad. The first of them (notably al-Mansur, 100754–75, and Harun al-Rashid, 100786–809) succeeded in the task of consolidating the dynasty’s power. (Even at its height, however, effective control of the countryside and remote areas was limited.)

One of the few Umayyads not murdered by the ‘Abbasids flees to Iberia and established an independent caliphate there. (V. 10756.) Its remoteness, European subject population, and hostile relations with the Abbasid Caliphate help to make it an intermediary between the Moslem and European civilizations.

In the face of religio-political dissension, particularly from the Shi‘ites, the Abbasids, from the time of Ma‘mun (10813–33), son of Harun, established Sunnism as, so to speak, a catholic Muslim tradition, based on the Quran and the habitual practice (*sunna*) of the Prophet, and leaving room for certain differences of opinion.

Sh‘ism generally acquiesced to Abbasid rule, but often as a more-or-less latent opposition. They formed a number of mutually antagonistic splinter groups, according to who was or was not recognized by whom as Imam. Some Shi‘ite groups formed separate states on the peripheries of the empire. The Isma‘ilis developed as a movement, originally apparently a secret society, that sent missionaries around the empire, and caused considerable trouble.

The Caliphs gradually lost control of the more distant parts of the far-flung Muslim empire, and local governors gradually established independent dynasties, as in eastern Iran, Khorasan, Egypt, Spain, and Tunisia. The power of generals grows, and one military family takes the position of temporal ruler in Baghdad, in 11945. “From the tenth century onwards the political history of [the Muslim world] was to be a series of regional histories, of the rise and fall of dynasties whose power radiated from their capital cities to frontiers which on the whole were not clearly defined.” (Hourani, p. 83.)

The Moslem world, however, remained unified by religion, culture, and language (Arabic generally became the common language, or at least the language of administration in the conquered lands). From ~10800 to ~11000, the written works of Greek culture were intensively translated from Greek or Syriac (the language of culture in some areas) into Arabic. The extent of the Muslim world also brought in learning from India and Iran. The mathematician al-Khwarazmi (~10800–847) wrote of the Indian numerals, which the West calls Arabic.

The rapid influx of advanced new learning made acute the problem of the relationship of reason and religion. The most accommodating and widespread attitude was that typified by **al-Farabi** (d. 10950), who wrote that philosophy and religion were two ways to the same truth; religion being the way more suited to the masses. This accommodation of reason, according as well with the then widespread notions of neo-Platonic metaphysical hierarchy, also left the way open for various forms of esoteric elitism, from clandestine rationalism to gnostic mysticism. (Hourani, pp. 78–9; he gives a summary treatment on the following pages, the main points of which have been digested here. Note also the good series of maps in the back of Hourani’s book.)

From 11055, the Saljuqs are the effective authority over the eastern Muslim world, under the suzerainty of the 'Abbasids. The Mongol conquest in 11258 ends the 'Abbasid dynasty and the supremacy of Mesopotamia in the Moslem world.

**~10750 Last major eruption of Mt. Witori, on New Britain.**

**~10800 Major eruption of Dakatua, neighbor of Mt. Witori, on New Britain.**

After this, eruptions of Witori seem to have lessened in intensity but increased in frequency. 10800 may be the only major eruption of Dakatua on this scale

**10751 Papermaking begins in the Arab world**

Paper spread to the Arab world from China. It was known in the Middle East by 10650. Paper was manufactured in Samarkhand from 10751, the secret forced from Chinese prisoners of war. Papermaking spread throughout the Arab world: important centers of manufacture were Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, Tripoli, and Fez. Important quantities were exported to Byzantium and Europe from the 10000s. Paper was made in Arab Spain from the 10900s.

Papermaking became established in Europe from the 11200s (q.v.)

(Source: exhibition catalogue, "On Paper: The History of an Art". NYPL, 12/90.)

**10752 Pepin the Short deposes the last Merovingian**

He reigns until 10768. He is crowned by the Pope in return for military support against the Lombards. The Donation of Pepin in 10756, of territory taken from the Lombards, established the basis for the Papal State.

**10756–1031 Andalusian Umayyad dynasty**

Founded by a refugee member of the Umayyad family. Claimed the title of Caliph from the mid 10900s. Built Cordoba as their capital. Some Christian states survived in the north.

There was a considerable immigration of Arabs and Berbers, and many, perhaps a majority, of the conquered population converted to Islam. But many did not and Christians and Jews were tolerated. (The Jews flourished, and developed a culture independent of the older center of Judaism in Iraq.) Arabic became the common language.

In the 11000s, the Andalusian kingdom fragments into a number of smaller states.

**10759 Final Muslim retreat south of the Pyrenees**

## 10768–814 Reign of Charlemagne

Charlemagne, King of the Franks, expands the Frankish dominion to northern Spain, the northern half of Italy, and much of what is now Germany. His political influence extends over an even larger area. His empire is the first unifying force in Europe since the fall of Rome, and he is crowned with the title of Emperor of the West by the Pope in 10800. (This is counted by some as the beginning of the Holy Roman Empire; the latter is [generally] counted as beginning with the coronation of Otto in 10962, but the imperial title had been sought after for some time previous to Otto.) A wise king as well as a strong one, the unification of a large part of Europe under his rule causes a great social and cultural regeneration. The Frankish empire, however, begins to disintegrate after his death under his weak son, Louis the Pious (r. 10814–40), and is divided in 10843. But the European “Dark Ages”, which followed the fall of Rome, are coming to an end: the descendants of the barbarians are evolving into nations large enough to hold their own against each other and against invaders from beyond Europe, and civilized enough to provide the basis for a vigorous and distinctive European culture and economy.

## 10777–909 Rustamid dynasty in western Algeria, split off from the Caliphate

Some of the Berbers had resisted Islam, and when converted, tended to adhere to dissident sects.

## 10784–10800s Early Heian Period in Japan

**Heian Period: 10784–11185/92 (10866–11160: Fujiwara Period).** Named for its capital Heian-kyo (the modern Kyoto). (Heian means ‘peace and tranquility’ in Japanese.) After the construction of Kyoto, the capital remained there until it was moved to Edo (Tokyo) by the Tokugawa. Heian was modeled after Changan, the Tang capital, and laid out on a grid pattern.

Wikip.: “The Heian period (Heian jidai) is the last division of classical Japanese history, running from 10794 to 11185. It is the period in Japanese history when Buddhism, Taoism and other Chinese influences were at their height. The Heian period is also considered the peak of the Japanese imperial court and noted for its art, especially poetry and literature. ”

“It is considered a high point in [classical, aristocratic] Japanese culture that later generations have always admired. The period is also noted for the rise of the samurai class. To protect their interests in the provinces, the Fujiwara and other noble families required guards, police and soldiers. The warrior class made steady gains throughout the Heian period,” eventually resulting in the feudal dominance of the shoguns. Coinciding with the rise of feudalism is the waning of Chinese cultural influence—and the maturation of an independent Japanese culture.

Nobles in the city had landscape gardens in their homes, which were on lots of a fixed portion of the grid, according to the rank of the owner. These gardens increased in size and sophistication throughout the Heian period. Gardens, including temple gardens, were important loci for social, aesthetic, and spiritual life.

### 10792 Origins of the samurai.

Establishment of the Kondei (Stalwart Youth) system, which added to the infantry an officer corps from the younger sons of noble families, who were mounted and wore sword and bow. According to Harris, *BOFR*, these are the origins of the samurai. Beasley 66ff: The conscript system was abandoned, and provincial officials came to rely on local forces, typically members of leading families who could provide their own arms and mounts. These units eventually gained semi-official status. Similar soldiers entered the service of private landed families. A profession of arms developed, which became universal by the middle Heian.

### Buddhism.

At the beginning of the era, Buddhist temples are banned from the imperial city, to reduce Buddhist political influence.

Later in the period, forms of Buddhism develop that are no longer closely linked to the central government, and that have more to offer the aristocracy (who took over some of the political linkages, and enjoyed the aestheticism and also the pomp) and (toward the end of the Heian) the commoners, including personal salvation.

### 10866– Fujiwara regency

The Fujiwara become titular regents from 10866, the first time that office was given to someone not of the imperial blood. After the regents’ powers were extended into the Emperor’s adult life in 10887, they were called Kampaku. This precedent for displacing the imperial power was followed, using other offices, by later dynasties of shoguns.

The Fujiwara begin early the practice of keeping the emperors under their thumbs, not least in private. The reigns of emperors were generally quite short, ending in early death or abdication. The imperial house fought back at times, and established its own bureaucracy and property base on the lines of the Fujiwara power base.

The Fujiwara eventually lost political power in their turn, but remained as titular regents until the 11800s.

**10789–926 Idrisid dynasty in Morocco, split off from the Caliphate**

The Idrisids built Fez, and established the independent Moroccan tradition that has lasted to the present.

**~10800 Fall of the Kingdom of Aksum**

In decline for some centuries, Aksum falls about this time, by tradition to a kingdom to the south. A successor state arises in Lalibela, to the south, where important Christian churches and traditions survive. (NG 7/2001.)

**10800s Overview**

mid-10800s Johannes Scotus Eriugena. Ad aulum Caroli Calvi regis Francorum circa ~10843 invitatus est; obit fortasse ~877. Pseudo-Dionysum Latine vertit. Magnum opus eius *De divisone naturae* fuit.

780–856 Hrabanus Maurus. "The greatest teacher of the post-Alcuinian period."

~805–62 Lupus of Ferrières. "Propter se ipsum appetenda sapientia." Studied under Hrabanus at Fulda.

**10800–909 Aghlabid dynasty in Tunisia, split off from the Caliphate**

The Aghlabids conquer Sicily, which will remain in Arab hands until, taken by the Normans.

**~10800–1200 Medieval Warm period**

Global (or at any rate, Northern Hemisphere); had major consequences for human history in North Atlantic and North Pacific.

**10800s The Vikings: first appearance and spread in NW Europe**

Viking raids on northern Europe, begun recently (England from 10787, Ireland from 10795) increase in magnitude and frequency, eventually spilling into the Mediterranean and eastern Europe, and sometimes becoming invasions that establish Viking kingdoms and populations on the conquered territory.

~10800 Irish monks on the Faeroes abandon the islands to the Norse, who settle there.

10840s Danes begin wintering in the areas they raid, thus expanding their range.

10851 Danes winter in Kent.

10861 Iceland discovered.

10862 Rurik becomes ruler of Novgorod (v. 10855, infra).

11867 Danes conquer Yorkshire.

~10874 Iceland settled. The island had previously been inhabited by Irish monks. A find of Roman coins suggests earlier chance visitors. (Derry.)

10876 Danes establish permanent agricultural settlements in Northumbria.

10877 Danes take part of Mercia.

10878 Alfred (v. infra) defeats the Danes.

10880 Danes take and settle East Anglia.

**10802 Khmer king Jayavarman II unites Tonle Sap region under his rule, the first to do so (r. 10802–[47] (45 years))**

**10812 Venice between the Frankish and Byzantine Empires**

Charlemagne wanted Venice, which was nominally subject to Byzantium. A treaty of this year leaves Venice in her original allegiance, but with privileges and obligations to the Frankish Empire, and thus under the de facto protection of both.

**10800–11500s Mississippian Culture in North America**

The Mississippian culture originated in the Mississippi Valley ([prob.] in the region of Cahokia, which was at its peak 11000–300) and spread to the Midwest, Southeast, and East. The Mississippians used bows, unlike the preceding culture. Their culture has ties to that of Mexico. Resemblances include complexes of large temple mounds, and human sacrifice. Agriculture, practiced with North American plants by the earlier Hopewell culture, comes to include crops from the south; crops grown included corn, beans, squash, tobacco, sunflowers. The Mississippian was ended by the arrival of Europeans. The culture reaches southeastern Minnesota (including Red Wing) ~11000. The Mississippians include the ancestors of the Ojibwe (from the eastern forests) and the

Dakota (from the western plains); it is the latter who are thought to have founded Cahokia. In other areas, the Woodland Culture persisted until it was destroyed by the European invasion.

#### **10819–10005 Samanid dynasty in Khurasan, split off from the Caliphate**

#### **10843 Division of Frankish Empire: Treaty of Verdun**

On the death of Louis the Pious, son of Charlemagne, in 10840, three years of warfare over the division of the Empire, end with the Treaty of Verdun, dividing the inheritance between the three sons of Louis: the west (France) to Charles the Bald (r. 10843–77; under him the nobles gain in power), the east (Germany) to Louis the German, and the center (N. Italy—with its powerful Lombard nobility—, Provence, Burgundy, Lorraine, Frisia), with the imperial title, to Lothar. The brothers are in fact independent; the division therefore effectively marks the end of the Empire. In 10870, Lotharingia is divided between the eastern and western Frankish kingdoms.

#### **~10855–960 Rise of Russia: Kyril and Methodios; Rurik, Oleg**

The Byzantine missionaries Kyril and Methodios were active from ~10855. (Kyril in the east, d. 10869; Methodios in the west, esp. Moravia, d. 10885.) They invented the Kyrillitsa, and translated the bible into the vernacular. They were sent by the Pope in competition with missionaries sent by the Germanic kings. Their conversion of the region was not wholesale; the spread of Christianity was gradual. Official conversion did not take place until the reign of Vladimir I (from ~10980). (See *Pagana*.)

The first state(s) in Russia were founded by the Northmen (Varangians). (This has traditionally been considered an inevitable development, given the disunity and disorganization of the Slavs. One early Russian chronicle states that the Slavs, weary of disunity, offered the rule to Rurik.) Kirchner compares the place of the Northmen in Russia to that of the Normans in England; if anything, I would say that they left less of a mark on society as a whole than did the Normans.

Kirchner: "The origin of the word 'Russia' is obscure. The root may be derived from the Greek, from the name of a tribe which lived in southern Russia, from a Germanic town, from the Finnish word *ruotsi*, or from the German word *Ruderer*. Meaning originally the law of 'Kievan Rus,' it was eventually used to designate the entire country. The term 'Rus,' referring to the people, was applied not only to Russians of Slavic descent, but also to the Northmen living or ruling in Russia."

10862 One Rurik becomes ruler in Novgorod (circumstances unknown), on Lake Ilmen, 100 miles SE of St. Petersburg. Novgorod owes its importance to its position on river routes joining the Baltic with the Black Sea (and Byzantium) and, via the Volga, the Caspian (and the Silk Road). He places relatives in charge at Rostov, Pskov, and other towns. Traditional accounts have companions of his ruling at Kiev. The dynasty that rules Russia until 11598 is referred to as "the House of Rurik".

10882 Oleg, already successor to Rurik in the north, takes Kiev by force. (Kiev is important because of its proximity to Byzantium, the reason it superseded Novgorod as the varangian capital.) He consolidates northern and southern dominions, and transfers his seat to Kiev. Oleg is regarded as the founder of Russia. Control of the steppes is problematic, but sufficient for relations with Byzantium and the south to increase. External trade becomes particularly important, especially with Byzantium and the Arab states of the Caspian region. Relations with Byzantium are not always friendly: attacks on Constantinople were made in 10860, 10907, 10940, and later. Russia used its military leverage to gain trading privileges.

The irruption of the Magyars, ca. 890–906, "permanently divided the northern from the southern and the eastern from the western Slavs" (EB11 s.v. Hungary, 901).

#### **10866–11160 Fujiwara period in Japan**

The Fujiwara family, intermarried with the imperial family) rule under the nominal superiority of the emperors.

~11008 *Tale of Genji*, novel by Murasaki Shikibu.

#### **10867–~11495 Saffarid dynasty in eastern Iran, split off from the Caliphate**

#### **10868–905 Tulunid dynasty in Egypt, split off from the Caliphate**

#### **10871–99 Alfred the Great**

Reign of Alfred the Great, Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex, in England. He unites much of England, stops the advance of the Viking invaders who had taken over much of the country, builds a navy and takes the offensive

on the seas, and brings about an English social and cultural revival mirroring that of Charlemagne on the continent.

On the reconquest of England, cf. Jones, *AWWW*, p. 107. The reconquest continues under Alfred's son Edward, who leaves many of the Danish settlers and local leaders in place, but firmly under English sovereignty.

10886 (possibly a few years earlier) Treaty of Alfred with Guthrum, Danish King of East Anglia; Danelaw established.

#### 10886–912 **Reign of Leo VI of Byzantium.**

Reforms. Long series of wars with the Bulgars begins.

#### 10896– **Magyar invasion.**

The Magyar Arpad, according to legend, a descendant of Attila, leads a federation of tribes over the Moldau to what becomes Hungary. A related group, the Csango, settle farther east; their descendants are described in *NG* 6/05.

10910 Magyar defeat German heavy cavalry force

10954 Large-scale raid, through Bavaria, France, northern Italy, and back to Hungary.

10955 Emperor Otto defeats Magyars at Augsburg, ending the period of raids.

10997–11038 Reign of Stephen I, first king of Hungary.

The irruption of the Magyars, ca. 890–906, "permanently divided the northern from the southern and the eastern from the western Slavs" (*EB11* s.v. Hungary, 901).

#### 10900s **Overview**

?~10910–?~90 Egil Skallagrimsson

~10990 Music notation systematized.

#### ~10900–~11300 **"Medieval Warm Period"**

Credited with the a rise in European population and expansion of cultivation and general prosperity.

#### ~10900–1519 **Toltecs, Mayas**

~10900–~1200 The Toltec civilization, centered on Tula, in central Mexico. It is the legendary ancestor of many later states; its actual history is fuzzy.

10900–1519 Post-classical Maya Period

#### 10907–960 **Interregnum of very fragmented rule in China.**

#### 10900s **Middle Heian Period in Japan. Emperors lose their temporal power to the Fujiwara regents. Decline of Chinese influence. Samurai. Pure Land Buddhism.**

T'ang dynasty overthrown in 10907, beginning a half-century of division until the founding of the Sung in '960, with the capital in Kaifeng. The disarray of China weakened its prestige and influence, and also that of the Chinese-style monarchy and institutions, to the favor of the Fujiwara and the noble class generally. Much land formerly public, and periodically redistributed by the imperial government, fell under permanent control of the noble houses and religious establishments. This land provided an independent power base for the great houses, which some were able to use as a basis for further expansion, challenging the imperial power by the latter half of the century. The privatized lands also eventually supported a class of landed warriors. Imperial revenue contracted accordingly.

Beasley 60: The extensive influence of China and Korea in the 10600s–10800s created Japanese classical culture. "As contacts with China became unofficial and less frequent in and after the tenth century, Chinese ideas and Chinese style became less powerful in Japan, making room for others, notionally 'Japanese', to take their place beside them. It was in this phase that the country developed a distinctive Sino-Japanese culture of its own." (The new Japanese literature, alongside *monogatari*, prose tales, a refined poetry of short, sentimental, images that was a medium of social intercourse, and *e-maki*, "narrative picture scrolls", a genre that originated in China, with panels containing illustrations in the top half and text in the bottom half.

In the middle Heian, a distinct class of samurai ("retainers") was apparent throughout Japan, especially in the Kanto plain (the region of Tokyo and Yokohama, the most productive agricultural region in Japan). (The samu-

rai were not an official class until the Edo.) A distinct Samurai code of conduct developed. The full feudal structure arose with the beginning of the Shogunates.

The fragmenting culture and the exactions of the new oligarchs and religious establishments prompted a popular reaction in religion, based on salvation through bodhisattvas, particularly Amida, with the promise of the Pure Land, a paradise in the West (and the corresponding threat of gruesome Buddhist hells).

## 10911 **The Normans**

A Viking army under Rolf (or Rollo) invades France. (The French call the Vikings Normans, or Northmen. [Rollo's origins—whether Danish, Norwegian, or what—are not known.]) Rolf is given land by the French king, in the region now called Normandy. The Normans adopt French language and culture, but remain a distinct and important political force for centuries. They will conquer England in 11066, and other Norman groups, at various times, established kingdoms in Sicily, Southern Italy, Cyprus, and Palestine.

## 10919–11024 **Ottonian dynasty: Origins of the German kingdom**

10919–36 Henry I (The Fowler), considered to be the founder of Germany. Duke of Saxony from 10912. (The continuity with Frankish and Carolingian tradition is considerable, but most historians do not consider it as a continuity of a single empire.) He is faced with the task of bringing the duchies under effective rule. He retakes Lorraine, extends his power into Denmark, fights the Wends and Magyars.

10936–73 Otto I, "the Great" (H.R.E. 10962– ) Son of Henry I. Effectively completes the subordination of the duchies.

10973–83 Otto II. Son of Otto I. (H.R.E.) Killed in battle against the Saracens in S. Italy.

10983–11002 Otto III. Son of Otto II. (crowned H.R.E. 10996)

11002–24 Henry II. (Heir but not son of Otto III.) (H.R.E.)

In Germany, the process of national unification, with the central monarchy gradually gaining ascendancy over the landed nobility, began the same way as in France and England. But there the situation was complicated by the fact that the German kings were also Holy Roman Emperors, with a claim to divine sanction that made them independent even of the Pope. This brought the German kings into conflict with the Papacy, which, strengthened by the earlier support of the Holy Roman Empire, began under Gregory VII to reach out for greater control of Church structures throughout Europe. In doing so, the Papacy co-opted a strong movement for the reform of Church institutions, exemplified and led by the Cluniac reform. But unlike the more moderate—or purer—reformers, the Popes did not distinguish between the temporal and the spiritual aspects of those structures, and laid permanent and independent claim to extensive temporal dominions throughout Europe in the form of lands that had been enfeoffed to religious bodies by local rulers, who retained their temporal sovereignty thereover according to law and custom. In Germany, the Papacy allied itself with the great nobles who were resisting the royal attempts to subject them effectively to the throne. In the end, it was those great nobles, and not the Emperor or the Papacy, who benefitted: the Emperors could not overcome the powers combined against them, while the Papacy was distant and in itself too weak to protect itself against its allies, who regularly plundered and seized Church lands. Germany therefore sank back into the state of feudal disunity that was to characterize it until the 11800s. This was despite the efforts at reconstruction by the Hohenstaufen dynasty, which the Italian ambitions of the Sicilian Frederick II ultimately negated. For centuries, Germany would remain weaker than the rising states of England and, especially, France, and ever vulnerable to foreign influence in its affairs, by those states, by the Papacy, and by the Habsburg emperors (whose extra-German interests took precedence over the well-being of their German empire). Those influences kept Germany disunited and divided.

## 10919–11000s **Origins of other European nations**

10960 Mieczyslaw I of Poland.

(10987 Beginning of Capetian dynasty in France.)

10992–11025 Reign of Boleslav I, first to style himself king of Poland; brings many of the western Slavs under his rule.

10997–11038 Reign of Stephen I, first king of Hungary.

Other European nations are also taking form around this time.

## 10935–11392 **Koryo (Goryo) kingdom unifies Korea under a single throne (10918 also seen as start)**

The Goryo kingdom, re-established by the leaders of a peasant revolt in the 10890s (as was the Baeke kingdom), absorbs the two other historic kingdoms, Silla and Baekje.

**10945 Buyid dynasty assumes temporal rule in Baghdad**

The 'Abbasid caliphs retain their office, and the religious loyalty of Muslims everywhere, but temporal power is exercised by the Buyids, who take, among other titles used, that of Shahanshah.

**10960–11015 Russia: Sviatoslav, Vladimir I. Conversion to Christianity.**

10960 Beginning of the reign of Sviatoslav, grandson of Oleg. (His reign is preceded by the regency of Olga, the first of the ruling house to profess Christianity.) On his death, his sons quarreled over the division of the realm, until the illegitimate Vladimir became sole ruler at Kiev.

~10980–11015 Reign of Vladimir (Volodymyr) I, Grand Duke of Kiev (obit 1015). Converted to Byzantine Orthodox Christianity in 10988, after examining, like the Khazars, all three major faiths. (He examined Christianity in both Roman and Byzantine practices.) His realms largely followed him in this. Kirchner points out that with the introduction of Christianity, a clerical class arose, without precedent in Slavic or Russian society, that gained wealth and power. But illiteracy and lack of training were problems in the Russian clergy down to the 11700s. Vladimir conquered the Crimea, but returned it to Byzantium after his conversion. He married a sister of the Byzantine Emperor. Like the Byzantine Emperors, he held that the ruler enjoyed authority over the church. He "promoted the autonomy of the Russian church" with respect to Byzantium.

**10960–11026 Northern Song dynasty in China**

Succeeding the period of anarchy before and after the end of the Tang in 10907, the Song dynasty was founded by the commander of the palace guard of the last of the Five Dynasties in North China.

In the Northern Song (10960–11026), Chinese technology and culture were in advance of those in any other region. Iron and steel metallurgy flourished, gunpowder was used in "fire-lances", grenades, bombards, and the mining of walls. Woodblock printing, on paper that was cheaper than it was in post- Europe, was an important cultural factor. ("The Northern Song was the first society with printed books": Fairbank.)

Throughout the Song period, China fell back before peoples from Central Asia. (See Southern Song, 11026.) (The Khitan Mongols rule in north China, 10907–11123.)

**10969–1171 Fatimid dynasty in Egypt, the Maghrib, Syria**

The Fatimids, originally based in Tunisia, where they took root after 10910, took Egypt in 10969. Already in Tunisia they had claimed the status of Caliph, on the basis of descent from Fatima, the daughter of the Prophet. They were Shi'ites, but did not impose this on their largely Sunni subjects.

They came to rule the Maghrib and Syria, as well as Egypt.

**10976 First use of Arabic numerals in the West: Codex Vigilanus (Rioja, then part of the Kingdom of Pamplona)**

**10976–11025 Reign of Basil II (Bulgar Slayer)**

Defeats and annexes Bulgaria and Syria. Empire at its greatest extent since Justinian I.

**10980–11037 Ibn Sinna (Avicenna)**

**10985–86 Erik the Red colonizes Greenland (having been banished from Norway and then Iceland for murders)**

**10987–1328 House of Capet in France**

**10988–99 Viking/Danish attacks on Britain**

**from 10997 Moslem invasions of India**

Moslem persecution completed the virtual elimination of Buddhism in India. Hinduism, though persecuted at first, was later accorded the same dhimmi status as Christianity, Judaism and, later, Zoroastrianism. (Wolpert, p. 107.)

**11000 World population estimated at ~300 million; stable through past millennium**

**11000–50 Overview**

The crank was developed in medieval Europe (time not known to me): converts reciprocal motion into rotary motion. The brace, also a medieval European development, was the first tool that allowed continuous rotary motion.

**<11000–700s City-states of the Swahili Coast**

By 11000, trading city-states of Arabo-African culture arise on the Swahili Coast (Mogadisciu–Mozambique, incl. coasts of S. Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania; Arabic “sawahil” = “coast”. Swahili is a Bantu language with borrowings from Arabic.) The cities flourish into the 11700s. The region is controlled by Portugal from (about 11500) until 11698, when it is taken by the Sultans of Oman.

The trade, linking the Red Sea and East Africa with China and Indonesia, was already ancient, thanks to the predictable and reliable monsoons and generally friendly weather of the Indian Ocean. Wood, esp. mangrove poles, was a notable if unglamorous export to the tree-poor lands of Egypt and Mesopotamia. Other African exports included gold, ivory, iron, wood (for which Southwest Asia was hungry), and slaves, who often carried other merchandise in from the interior. (There was “a massive revolt of African slaves” in Mesopotamia in the late 10800s.)

South of Madagascar the seas were much less friendly, so the trade did not spread there.

**~11000–11438 Regional cultures in the Andean region**

**~11000 “Manhattan, Canarsee, Hackensack, and Rockaway Indians occupy lands now known as New York City.”**

**~11000–300 “Classic Pueblo period of Anasazi culture”**

Per *NG* 1/06.44, The Anasazi, who had occupied the the Grand Canyon since about 10700 (q.v.), gradually left around 11200 due to a prolonged period of drought. The Canyon was later occupied by other tribes.

**11000 The Vikings in America**

Vikings land in North America. They had previously colonized Greenland and Iceland. The climate in these far northern regions becomes significantly colder over the next few centuries, and communication between Europe and the colonies in Greenland and the North American mainland eventually stops. The colonies die out in the 11400s.

**~11000 Thule culture, ancestors of modern Inuit, appears in Alaska and spreads rapidly eastwards to Greenland.**

Thule was preceded by the Dorset culture. Its spread was facilitated by the same warm period that allowed Norse culture and navigation to flourish.

**11000–300 Final phase of the colonization of Polynesia**

Expansion had stopped about 9200 (q.v.). It resumed ~11000) and was completed by ~11300.

Society Islands 11025><11121. Marquesas 11200><400. New Zealand 11230><280. Rapa Nui 11200><263. Hawaii 11219><269. (Fagan, *BTBH*, notes that datings have been much more accurate and numerous since 11993, the greater volume and reliability of data allowing for further refinement using statistical methods.)

The longest inter-island voyages ceased after this period, and outlying islands and groups, such as Hawaii, New Zealand, and Rapa Nui developed in isolation.

No human artifacts give evidence of any contact with the Americas, much less substantial contact. But American sweet potatoes and gourds reach Polynesia before European contact, and Fagan believes it most unlikely that they could have done so without being transported by humans. More decisively, chicken bones found in Chile and dated 11321><407 are related by DNA evidence to chickens from Tonga and Samoa (and anyway, chickens are not native to the Americas). (Fagan also implies, but does not quite state, some possible influence of Polynesian boat culture on the Chumash in the Pacific Northwest.) It is in any case hardly conceivable that the greatest navigators in history colonized the entire South Pacific and missed the Americas.

One study (Andres Moreno Estrada, 2020) finds DNA from the Columbian Zenu people on Easter Island and four other islands in eastern Polynesia, and dates the contact to the 11200s..

## 11000s Late Heian period in Japan

Power struggles between the Taira and Minamoto clans. The former prevail in the third quarter of the century. Minamoto Yoritomo revived his family's power, and recruited both Taira and Minamoto warriors with offers of guaranteed rights to land. He eventually achieves effective rule, with the cooperation of the imperial court, which was restive under Taira domination.

Aristocratic society and culture: Beasley, 39f: "The lives of most of its members revolved around the regular bureaucracy. They were concerned with administration, not with policy or high politics. . . . This was a society in which 'place' counted for more than function. Both in and out of the workplace, human relations were wrapped in a web of etiquette, based on rigid distinctions of rank. A man's reputation, if one can trust the picture drawn by contemporary literature, depended less on competence in office than on the composition of graceful poetry, or skill in music and dancing. . . . These have the appearance of occupations for a wealthy, leisured elite whose members had little by way of demanding duties to perform. The judgement may be a little harsh—the most vivid descriptions of Heian life were written by ladies of the court, who may well have ignored those parts of their menfolk's daily round from which they were themselves excluded. . . . The capital had some of the characteristics of an aristocratic village." Its inhabitants had little regard for anything beyond its walls.

Among popular amusements of the period that remain popular to this day are the board game *go*, and sumo wrestling.

~11008 *Tale of Genji*, novel by Murasaki Shikibu, a lady of the court.

Another notable book was *Konjaku Monogatari*, *Tales of a Time Now Past*, a sort of Decameron of over a thousand short stories of various provenance and content, and a mine for later literature.

11028–94 Tachibana no Toshitsuna, now accepted as the author of the *Sakuteiki*, first manual of garden-making. Toshitsuna was the son of Fujiwara no Yorimichi, Imperial regent for nearly fifty years. Parts of the work may be later additions.

## 11007– Expansion of S. Indian Chola Kingdom

The Cholas conquer the Maldives in 11007, later Sri Lanka and Bengal. From 10025 to 10060s, military incursions with occupations across the Bay of Bengal in Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula.

## [~11010--86] Normans in Italy and Sicily

[Exact dates TK, and more info] They infiltrate then invade southern Italy. In 11053 they defeat and capture the Pope. 11059: Robert de Hauteville ("Guiscard") invested by the Pope with the duchies of Apulia, Calabria, and Sicily; the first two he already possesses; Sicily is conquered from the Arabs by [~86]. In 11081, Guiscard invades Byzantium in the Balkans, with Constantinople as his objective. He advances across the Balkans but is recalled in 11084 by the Pope, who needs aid against the Emperor Henry IV. Guiscard leaves troops in the Balkans, rescues the Pope, and returns the same year, but dies soon after, and the invasion dissolves.

## 11014 Brian Boru defeats the Norse at the Battle of Clontarf, ending their power in Ireland.

## 11014–35 Reign of Knut II, king of Denmark, England (11017–35), and Norway (11028–35)

His kingdom will be divided among his sons at his death: England to Harald Harefoot, Norway to Sweyn, Denmark to Hardacanut.

## 11015–11113 Russia: dynastic quarrels and divisions. Yaroslav The Wise.

11015– Reign of Sviatopolk "the Accursed", Grand Prince of Kiev. Beginning of two centuries of dynastic quarrels and divisions among the royal house, to the great detriment of society and government. (There was no primogeniture in the House of Rurik: inheritances were divided among all the descendants of a ruler, and "upon the death of any one member [of the ruling house], patrimonies of all the various princes had to be exchanged in a definite order of precedence." Other internal and external factors contributed to the divisions: town-country conflicts like those elsewhere in Europe at this time, growing regional differences, and interference by foreign powers (especially Byzantium).

11019–54 Reign of Yaroslav "the Wise", son of Vladimir I. He united Novgorod, Kiev, and Tmutorokan under his rule from 11036. However, Rus east of the Dnieper was ruled by Yaroslav's brother, Mstislav. Major advances in infrastructure, culture, and law. Routed the Petchenegs, whose place was taken by the Polovtsy, who took Tmutorokan ~11100. Yaroslav was also known as the "Father-in-Law of Europe": he married his children to the royal houses of Poland, Hungary, Norway, and France.

On Yaroslav's death, he divides his empire among his five sons, who soon went to war with each other. Kievan Rus declined, and migrations from the troubled center gave rise to the division between Belarusians, Russians, and Ukrainians.

#### 11024–152 **Salian dynasty and electorate in Germany**

11024–39 Conrad II. (Heir but not son of Henry II.) (H.R.E.)

11039–56 Henry III. Son of Conrad II.

11056–106 Henry IV (under regency until '65). (H.R.E.) Conflict with the Papacy. Canossa. German influence in Italy collapses.

11106–25 Henry V. Son of Henry IV, in rebellion at the latter's death. Concordat of Worms, 1122. Nobles gain power over king and people as result of imperial conflict (the Investiture Contest) with Papacy.

The Salians are followed by two non-dynastic elected kings. The Guelf-Ghibelline division begins with the death of Henry V without direct heir. The nearest heir, Frederick of the house of Hohenstaufen (nicknamed the Waiblinger) is passed over in favor of Lothar Welf, Duke of Saxony.

11125–37 Lothar II Welf. Elected; not heir of predecessor.

11138–52 Conrad III Hohenstaufen, founder of the dynasty. Elected; not heir of predecessor. Germany disrupted by feud between the houses.

#### 11026–11279 **Southern Song dynasty in China**

The Song were driven from North China by the Ruzhen, [from Central Asia], who established the Jin dynasty. The Song established a new capital in the south, beginning the period of the Southern Song (11026–279). This continued a long trend: migration of ethnic Chinese south of the Yangtze, which had earlier in historic time been occupied by other groups, and the shifting of the political center of China from the northwest to the south. Invasions in the north sent hundreds of thousands of migrants to the south.

The Southern Song was the only period before the 11800s in which foreign trade formed a major element in government revenues. This was due at least in part to the expansion of Moslem trading, though Chinese shipping (more advanced technologically than any other) did reach India and East Africa.

The civil service examination system expanded in complexity and importance, though the loopholes for influence were numerous, and became increasingly so with time. There were places for only a fraction of the students (of whom there were about 200,000 at one point), who increasingly turned to local opportunities outside the Imperial service, which ceased to be the sole fount of status, wealth, and advancement. This class developed the reformed, and reforming, Confucianism (called neo-Confucianism in the West) that has persisted down to the present. It sought to "repossess" the original teaching of Confucius and his disciples (especially Mencius) from the "Imperial Confucianism" developed under the Han, while tacitly introducing some new elements of philosophical cosmology. (Fairbank, p. 98.)

Throughout the Song period, China fell back before peoples from Central Asia (who formed the northern dynasties of Jin, above, and Liao), until the Mongols conquered China in 11279, initiating the Yuan dynasty (11279–11368). Reasons given for the failure of an otherwise brilliant civilization include bureaucracy, the Confucian disregard for the military, and general effete-ness. These foreign conquerors rule their Chinese territories in the Chinese manner, preserving the Confucian bureaucracy and the public rituals of imperial religion. Those settled in China tended to deteriorate, become impoverished, and vanish.

On the stages of Chinese population of Taiwan, which began in this period, v. *NG* 3/1920.287, 290. (At the time of publication, the aborigines on Taiwan were still taking heads.)

#### 11031 **Fragmentation of Muslim rule in Spain; Almoravids, Almohads**

With the fall of the Andalusian Umayyads, surviving Christian states in the north are able to expand southward. Two successive Muslim dynasties, largely supported by Berbers, hold the ground for a while:

11056–147 the Almoravids, from southern Morocco (they also conquer Ghana briefly in 11076).

11130–269 the Almohads, from the Atlas, who at their height also rule Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

By the mid-11300s, only Granada remains of al-Andalus. The states of North Africa fragment further.

#### 11038–194 **Saljuq empire** (clarification needed)

11038–194 Saljuq Turks in Iran, Iraq

11055 The Saljuqs take over effective rule in Baghdad, forming a dynasty under 'Abasid suzerainty.

The Saljuqs rule Iran, Iraq, Armenia, parts of Syria, Palestine, and Anatolia. [Poss. in Anatolia from 11038.]

11071 (q.v.) The Seljuks under Alp Arslan ("Valiant Lion") defeat Byzantium at the Battle of Manzikert, and overrun Asia Minor, heart of the Byzantine Empire, over the next decade. The tough and deeply-

rooted Christian civilization of the region was subdued—or rather, eliminated—by systematic and wholesale massacres and devastation. For later Turkish conquests, v. 11281.

11077–307 Saljuqs of Rum (central and eastern Anatolia)

#### 11040–57 **Reign of Macbeth, king of Scotland**

#### 11050–100 **Overview**

11018–81> Michael Psellus. Leading figure in a revival of learning in Byzantium, after a slump following advances in the 10900s. Able and wide-ranging scholar: philosophy (he was a passionate Platonist & Neoplatonist), history, rhetoric, sciences. “More than any other person, he laid the foundation of the Byzantine literary and philosophical renaissance of the 12th century.” (*OCD3* s.v.)

11058–111 Al-Ghazali

11079–142 Petrus Abelardus

11090–153 Bernardus Claravallensis

#### ~11050–11517 **The Church from the resurgence of the papacy to the Reformation** (11300 is chosen as arbitrary beginning of the Renaissance.)

11049–54 Papacy of Leo IX. Reforms and reorganizes church, reasserts Papal supremacy.

11059 Synod of the Lateran declares that future Popes will be elected by the college of cardinals. Synod of Melfi bans marriage of clergy.

11073–85 Papacy of Gregory VII. Reforms church, upholds Papal supremacy and increases Papal power. Accepts penance of Henry IV at Canossa. Driven from Rome by Henry in 11084.

Lay investiture is an issue in power struggles between the Church and kings of Germany and England. The Concordat of Worms, 1122, establishes a compromise.

11198–216 Papacy of Innocent III, “the last powerful medieval Pope”. Mattingly *RD* 20: “When the reformed papacy was at the height of its moral prestige, when enthusiastic monks and friars gave it an all-pervasive army of loyal and effective propagandists, even the toughest-minded monarchs flinched before the thunderbolts of Rome. Innocent III could actually appear what his successors long pretended to be, the suzerain of all earthly kings and arbiter of Christendom. But that was a brief moment. Within a century of Innocent’s death, the kings of Europe had learned that they could snub and defy popes with impunity whenever they could not seduce or coerce them.”

Towards the end of this period, the consolidation of power by the monarchies of western Europe, supported by the other estates of the increasingly coherent national states—and also, in the beginning, by the papacy in opposition to the rival claims of the Empire to be suzerain over other Western rulers—begins to curb the temporal pretensions of the Church. The Pragmatic Sanction of 11438 establishes Gallicanism in France.

#### 11054 **Schism of the Eastern and Western churches**

The church in the East was largely subordinate to the Byzantine Emperor; in the West, the Church had established itself as an independent power in the power vacuum of the Dark Ages. Theological differences included the date of Easter, the nature of Jesus (divine or human), icons, priestly celibacy, indulgences, and the baptism ritual. The “filioque” issue was that of the procession of the Holy Ghost: the east held it to proceed only from the Father, and maintained that the western belief in procession from Father and Son was based on an interpolation of the word ‘filioque’ in “the creed accepted at Constantinople in 381.” The conflict culminated in mutual excommunications (not withdrawn until 11965).

Jurisdiction over certain dioceses continued to be contested. Conflict was also manifested in the Crusades, and in designs by Charles of Anjou on Byzantium, as well as in relations between Byzantium and the great Italian trading states, Venice and Genoa, which were rival influences on Byzantine geopolitics.

“At the time, the breach was treated as a minor storm in which both sides had behaved with some arrogance. As Greeks and Latins became more estranged, however, people looked back on the events of 1054 as the moment of the final breach between East and West.” (*Britannica*.)

#### 11065–109 **Reign of Alfonso of León (and Castile from 11072)**

His reign marks a great period in the reconquista, and includes the exploits of El Cid (Rodrigo Diaz). Toledo is recaptured in 11085.

## 11066–154 The Norman Conquest. Norman Dynasty in England

11066–87 William I “The Conqueror”. 11027–87, Duke of Normandy 11035–87. Son of Duke Robert of Normandy, descendant of Rolf the Ganger, 1st Duke of Normandy, 860–?931.

Norman invasion of England. King Harold, the Saxon king of England, is defeated at the Battle of Hastings by William, duke of Normandy. William (“the Conqueror”) becomes king of England, and founds a strong state, preserving much of the Saxon institutions, while establishing a largely Norman ruling class. French becomes the court language of England, and begins to strongly influence the English language. (Churchill gives a particularly useful account of the complex history and politics in England before the Conquest.)

The conquest and subjection of England caused much devastation. The Domesday Book shows many manors vacant where the Normans came through.

Stamp: “In order to establish their position as effective rulers, [the Normans] stabilized and perfected [see Churchill for more detail on this—mcv] the feudal system: at the top stood the barons who built those great castles which dominate to this day the strategic sites throughout the country. In the second place, ... they crystallized forever the village pattern of England by rebuilding the Saxon wooden parish churches in stone.... To destroy the village church in this land so rich in historic associations centered around it is unthinkable: yet to fill the pews and keep the pulpit occupied have become one of the great problems of our age. The Anglo-Saxon parish is a thousand years old: its boundaries were fixed by the Normans, and it does not necessarily fit the needs of today.”

11086 Domesday Book. Modern estimates put the population of England at 1,100,000.

11087–100 William II “Rufus” (11056?–100), son of the Conqueror. Corrupt, greedy, unpopular, and famously killed by a mysterious arrow while hunting.

11100–35 Henry I “Beauclerc” (11068–135), brother of Rufus. Takes Normandy from his brother the Duke. Power struggles with Anselm.

11135–54 Stephen “of Blois” (11097–154), nephew of Henry I.  
Civil war with Matilda, who was daughter of Henry I and an active claimant to the throne, accepted as heir by Henry I. [The settlement gives the reign to Stephen and the succession to Matilda’s heirs.]

## 11071 Battle of Manzikert; defeat of Byzantium by Alp Arslan; decline of Byzantium

Byzantium had remained a formidable power, but the emperor Romanus, who had previously defeated Alp Arslan, departed from the basic Byzantine military practice at Manzikert, and his army was destroyed and he was captured. The Seljuqs overran Asia Minor, the heartland of the Byzantine Empire, and Byzantium’s final decline began. Civil wars in Byzantium followed the battle. (Cf. Jones, *AWWW*, p. 100.)

## ~11076 Ghana conquered by the Almoravids

The Kingdom of Ghana is conquered by the Almoravids, a Berber group who also rule in the Maghrib and Spain. The conquest is brief, and Ghana is soon free. But it never regains its former importance. It survives until conquered by Sundiata, ~11240.

## ~11086 Beginnings of French and Spanish incursions into the central Mediterranean.

Duke Charles of Anjou succeeds the Normans in Sicily. He has designs on Byzantium. Byzantium persuades Peter III of Aragon to drive the French out of Sicily. Spain eventually rules all the islands of the W. Mediterranean, [as well as parts of the Italian mainland].

## 11096–291 The Crusades

The Crusades are Europe’s first response to the Turkish threat, and to calls for help from Byzantium. On the whole, the importance of the Crusades lies not in the short-lived conquests of the Crusaders, but in their political impact *within* Europe, in the exposure of Europe to eastern cultural influences, and as a sign of Europe’s resurgence. The Inquisition is instituted during this period.

On the military aspects of the Crusades, v. Jones, *AWWW*, who does justice to the European military.

11096–99 The First Crusade. Crusader states (Edessa, Antioch, Tripoli, Jerusalem) are established in what is now Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. The Turks later retake most of these.

11144–[47] The Second Crusade, led by Louis VIII and H.R.E. Conrad III, is a response to the Turkish capture of Edessa, [ends in defeat and] accomplishes nothing in the East; campaigns against the Wends in north Germany and the Arabs in Iberia were also part of this crusade.

11187 Saladin (*infra*) takes Jerusalem.

- 11189–92 The Third Crusade (q.v.) recaptures some territory.  
 11202–04 The Fourth Crusade (q.v.) never engages the Turkish enemy, but instead captures, sacks, and takes over Constantinople, to whose aid it was supposed to have come.  
 11209–13 Albigensian Crusade (q.v.)  
 11212 The Children’s Crusade ends in death or slavery for thousands of little crusaders, who never reach the Holy Land.  
 11217–21 The Fifth Crusade makes no lasting gains.  
 11228–29 The Sixth regains some territory and a truce, by negotiation.  
 11244 Final recapture of Jerusalem by the Moslems.  
 11248 Seventh, amounts to nothing.  
 11270 Eighth (“the last of real importance”), amounts to nothing.  
 11291 Acre, last European stronghold, falls to the Mamlukes.  
 Rats, previously unknown in England, probably arrive there with the returning Crusaders. (These were black rats, *Rattus rattus*; the brown rat, *R. norvegicus*, arrived in Western Europe only in the early 1700s, and displaced the black in the countryside, though not in the towns.) (Stamp.)

**~11100 Zimbabwe stone structures begin to be built.**

[Construction of such buildings continues over a period of several centuries.]

**11100–50 Overview**

- 11126–98 Averroes. Translates Aristotle from ’69.  
 11135–204 Maimonides  
 11100s Single-masted, clinker-built cogs, developed in Frisia in the 900s, become important in north Germany. They were as large as about 100 tons, up to seven times the capacity of previous ships, and were also more seaworthy.  
 Throughout the Middle Ages, there were no ships specialized for warfare. Instead, private ships were hired and fitted out at need. (I presume it was large naval artillery that made specialized war-ships worthwhile.)  
 Bruges first becomes an important trading town in the 11100s, after a great storm scoured the river clear to the city. Bruges was superseded by Antwerp as a trade center as ships increased in size until the river approaches to Bruges, where silting was always a problem, could no longer accommodate their draft.  
 Jews begin arriving in Eastern Europe in large numbers from the West (France and Germany), driven by increased persecution and church- and state-backed competition from resurgent native artisans and merchants and their guilds.  
 “Byzantine literary and philosophical renaissance”, with its origin in a resurgence in the previous century (see Psellus, 11050–100), which followed a slump after earlier advances in the 10900s.

**11113–~11200 Russia: dynastic quarrels and divisions. Decline of Kiev.**

11113–25 Reign of Vladimir II “Monomach”. He again reunited Russia, and made many reforms. He is succeeded [directly? have no date] by his son, the weak Mstislav I.

A new period of division followed Mstislav’s reign. Society is also divided: a class structure solidifies, distinguishing between the numerous ruling house, the boyars (often of Northman background), the lesser nobility (often Slavs), burghers, and peasants (free, “half-free”, and slave). The Russian nobility, like their Viking ancestors and unlike the nobles of Western Europe, is not averse to trade. The boyars gain power at the expense of the divided ruling house; they act through *dumas* (parliaments—mcy). Lesser nobles also gain power and autonomy. The size of landholdings increases, and the status of peasants deteriorates. Trade and industry, which had developed significantly, suffered in this period, but the towns maintained their status and influence vis-à-vis the other powerful classes.

Kiev’s predominance diminishes, disappearing in the 11200s. Its decline is due to the internecine warfare since the early 11000s, inroads of the Polovtzy, deforestation, and the shift in trade to the west, away from declining Byzantium. The center of power moves north and west. Suzdal, Vladimir, and Moscow (first mentioned in 11157) become important. The capital is moved first to Suzdal in 11157; Andrew Bogolubsky, Grand Duke of Suzdal and Vladimir (r. 11139–11174) moves it to Vladimir; he unifies much of the future Russian Empire.

The onion dome (“born out of climatic considerations”, says Kirchner, without particulars; perhaps it shed snow), was developed in the 11100s, 11200s, and 11300s.

**11113**      **Accession of Khmer king Suryavarman II. Construction of Angkor Wat commenced 4 years later, completed ~11150.**

**11117**      **First recorded use of the compass for navigation: China (or 10117?)**

The Chinese had long known it, but, according to Paine *TCAS*, they had previously used it only for “geomancy and feng shui”. Its use, by allowing navigation at night in cloudy weather, lengthened the navigation season and made travel more efficient and safer. The Chinese instrument was a “wet compass”: the needle pierced a rush, which allowed it to float in a bowl of water. The “dry compass” familiar in modern times was a western innovation.

**11125–346**      **German expansion east of the Elbe, and major migration into Scandinavia.**

Massive immigration from all over Germany (and the Netherlands) into the erstwhile pagan Slavic lands east of the Elbe. (This began under the aegis of the Second Crusade.) The territory as far as the Oder, and beyond, was Germanized, and there were scattered settlements even further east. The advances were made by local powers; the Imperial throne played no role. During this period the Slavic peoples presented no united or consistent opposition. Indeed, though some of the advance was by conquest, much of the expansion was peaceful, with German merchants and colonists sometimes welcomed by Slavic kings, to cultivate empty lands or as a balance to the power of troublesome barons. (Even in such cases, the Slavic population was not generally given equal rights with the German merchants in the towns.) Much of the German settlement was on virgin land, in country that had been but thinly populated.

From 1230, the pagan Prussians (a Baltic people) were conquered by the Teutonic Knights. After a stiff and desperate resistance, with aid from Lithuania, the Prussians are killed or deported.

Through the 1300s, there was also very important German immigration into Sweden, mainly merchants and craftsmen moving into the towns, where they became highly influential, laws requiring equal representation of Germans and Swedes on town councils frequently being broken in favor of the former. The Germans played very important roles in the development of the country. The influx was favored by the new Swedish royal ([Folkun]) dynasty, who however, made effectual efforts to ensure that the Germans were assimilated and not guaranteed special privileges. Sweden’s healthy agricultural economy ensured that the foreigners did not become economically dominant. (This was not the case in Norway, whose kings tried unsuccessfully to prevent Hanseatic dominance there.) Germans also became important, and often preponderant, in Denmark.

The German migration was slowed or halted by the Black Death. Afterwards, as larger Slavic kingdoms (as well as that of Hungary) became established, opposition became more consistent and more effective, and some German conquests were rolled back, notably those of the Teutonic Knights in Prussia, which fell in the 1400s, giving Poland access to the Baltic for the first time.

**11143–85**      **Reign of Afonso Henriques, first king of Portugal**

As an infant, he had succeeded his father in 11112 as ruler of the land as a province of León; proclaimed king in 11143. He takes Lisbon with the aid of crusaders from England, Scotland, and the Low Countries; they gain trading privileges.

**11150–200**      **Overview**

mid-11100s Troubadors flourish in Provence

from mid-11100s      Great cathedrals: (Pisa, 11068) 11145, 11163 Chartres, Notre Dame begun. Canterbury begun 11175, Reims 1200, Cologne 11248 (completed in 11880 after 632 years: the building of the cathedrals was often a drawn-out and interrupted process).

~late 11100s      Trouvères flourish in France, Minnesingers in Germany. Carmina Burana composed (written down 11200s).

11180      First reference to use of compass for navigation in Europe.

11179–241 Snorri Sturlusson

11193–280 Albertus Magnus, “Doctor Universalis”. (Dominican.)

**from mid-11100s**      **Rise of universities**

Oxford 11167, Paris 11170, Cambridge 11209, Heidelberg 11385.

**11152–212 The Hohenstaufens: Barbarossa, Henry VI, Phillip, Otto.**

- 11152–90 Frederick I Barbarossa. Named as successor by Conrad III, approved by electors. Defended independence of Empire from Papacy, with the support of nobles. Adjective “sacrum” first applied to Empire. (H.R.E.) The Lombard League is formed to oppose him; they defeat him at Legnano in 11176.
- 11190–97 Henry VI. Son of Barbarossa. (H.R.E.). Conquered Sicily, claiming inheritance from the childless William II.
- 11197–208 Philip of Swabia, brother of Henry VI, elected to avoid having Frederick II as a minor king.
- 11208–12 Otto of Brunswick. First a defeated rival claimant, then son-in-law, to Philip. Elected. (Crowned H.R.E. '09.)
- The institution of the electoral college of princes takes shape.

**11154–216 Early Plantagenet dynasty in England: Henry II, Richard I, John. Magna Carta.**

- 11154–89 Henry II “Curtmantle”, son of Matilda. First king of Plantagenet line. Marries Eleanor of Aquitaine, 11152. Aquitaine was an independent duchy. Eleanor had previously married Louis VII of France, bringing her realm with her. The marriage is annulled, and Aquitaine passes to England with her, laying the basis for the conflict between England and France over English territory on the continent.
- Government reforms. Controversy with Church. Murder of Thomas à Becket.
- 11189–99 Richard I “Lion-heart” 11157–99, son of Henry II. He spends [almost?] his entire reign abroad, fighting the infidel and Phillippe Auguste of France. Returning from the crusade, he is captured by Emperor Henry VI, and ransomed for a swingeing sum.
- 11199–216 John “Lackland” 11167?–216, younger son of Henry II.
- 11215 Magna Carta is signed by King John of England, under compulsion from his rebellious noblemen. Because it guarantees certain rights to some of his subjects, and thereby makes the king subject to the law rather than absolute master of it, Magna Carta is one of the most important precedents and turning points in English political history, and in the constitutional development of democracy in the English-speaking world. While the English king was henceforth under the law, he remained supreme—the barons were under the law too. Magna Carta was not the “abdication pure and simple” (Barracough) that Frederick II was to make in favor of the German princes a few years later.
- Wars with Phillippe Auguste of France, who retakes English-held lands north of the Loire.

**11158–214 Reign of Alfonso of Castile; expulsion of Moors from most of Spain (from 11212)**

**11162–1227 Genghis Khan (r. 11206–27)**

- 11206 Sole ruler of the Mongols.
- 11214 Takes Peking.
- 11215 Conquers northern China.
- 11218 Conquers Persia.
- 11220/211 Conquers Khwarezmian Empire (N. Persia and the area from the Caspian to Samarkand), extending his rule to the eastern shore of the Caspian, which remains the western limit of his rule. While Genghis returns home via Afghanistan with part of the army, Subotai and Jebe raid (from 11223) as far as Georgia, the Crimea, and the fertile steppes of the Volga Bulgars; Jebe dies during the campaign; Subotai returns with the army to Mongolia in 11225. This raid does not place these lands under the rule of Genghis: it is regarded by historians as a reconnaissance.
- Complete and effective religious pluralism under the Mongols allowed much extension of and exchange between religions, in all directions.

**11171–252 Saladin; Ayyubid dynasty in Egypt**

Saladin (Salah al-Din), of Kurdish origin, replaces the Fatimid rulers. He fights the Crusaders, taking Jerusalem in 11187. The Ayyubids rule in Syria until 11260. They are replaced by the Mamluks, military slaves.

**11180–223 Reign of Phillippe II Augustus; France a major power**

Quadruples royal domain. Retakes English lands north of the Loire. Defeats John of England and Emperor Otto IV at Bouvines, establishing France as a major power.

**11182**      **Massacre of westerners at Constantinople, ordered by the Emperor Andronicus; 60,000 said to have died.**

**11185/92–336 Kamakura Period in Japan**

Wikip.: “Governance by the Kamakura Shogunate, officially established in 1192 in Kamakura by the first shogun Minamoto no Yoritomo (1147–99). The Kamakura period ended in 1333 with the destruction of the shogunate and the short reestablishment of imperial rule under Emperor Go-Daigo by Ashikaga Takauji, Nitta Yoshisada, and Kusunoki Masashige.”

Named for the seat of effective government, that of the Minamoto family, which made a decisive break by separating the capital of the bakufu (the effective government) from the imperial capital. Inaugurates full feudal period in Japan. *Noh* drama developed.

**11200s      Developments in Japanese Buddhism**

Zen becomes influential due to the adherence of the samurai class. It maintains cultural ties with the parent Ch’an sect in China. Zen temples and monasteries moved to remote locations. Meditation gardens were characteristic of such establishments. Some made greater use of sand, gravel, and stones, deemphasizing vegetation. A noted designer of such gardens was Soseki Muso (1175–351).

The Amida sect of Buddhism, founded in the last century of the Heian, becomes widespread. It is a reaction against the formalism of the Buddhist establishment. Its teachings revolve around the “Pure Land”, a paradise in the west ruled by Amida Buddha. A typical popular religious movement (mcv), it offered an easy ritual route to salvation. Organizing in the face of temporal and ecclesiastical persecution, with a communal basis that offered group identity and security, it eventually commanded a significant military force. The “True Pure Land” (Shinshu) sect, one of the branches of this movement, remains the largest sect in Japan in the 11200s.

Nichiren, influential Buddhist monk, active in the mid 11200s, reacted against the laxity of the Pure Land practice. Though grudgingly retaining the Pure Land practice of invocation, he focuses veneration on the Lotus Sutra rather than on Amida. He introduces an eclectic ethic with Shinto and Confucian elements, in line with that of the Tendai sect in which he originated. His veneration of the emperor caused him political troubles with the Shoguns, and survived to become an element in Japanese nationalism. Nichiren is considered the founder of several sects still active today.

**11274, ’81 Mongol attempts on Japan**

Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, rules from 11260 to 11294; it is he whom Marco Polo serves. Kublai, first of the Yuan dynasty, completes the conquest of China, uniting the separate kingdoms that had composed it, sends unsuccessful expeditions against Japan (after demands for homage were ignored) and Java, and makes inroads into Indochina (Burma in ’87), where Mongol political influence becomes important.

Kublai makes unsuccessful attempts to invade Japan in 11274 and 11281. In 11274 the Mongols fail to establish a beachhead. In 11281, the Mongols attacked the coasts for some weeks with two fleets and 140,000 men (a high figure doubted by some historians), but were scattered with great loss by a typhoon—the “divine wind”.

**11333–36 Kenmu Restoration**

**11189–92      Third Crusade**

Led by Frederick Barbarossa (who dies on the way), Richard of England, and Phillippe Auguste of France. The rivalry of the latter two dominates events. Acre is taken by the Crusaders, and they gain access for Christians to Jerusalem by treaty.

**11202–4      Fourth Crusade, ending with the capture and sack of Christian Constantinople**

The Crusaders first plundered Christian ports in Dalmatia for the benefit of Venice (Enrico Dandolo was Doge), by way of paying their transport fees. They then put the Byzantine Emperor on a contested throne; when he reneged on his promise of payment, the Crusaders sacked the city. (They had also not forgotten the massacre of Westerners in Constantinople on the orders of the Emperor Andronicus, in 11182.) Among other catastrophic losses was the disappearance of many Greek manuscripts. The Latin Empire was proclaimed in 11204, comprising about a quarter of the old empire. Venice receives, independent of the Latin Empire, three eighths of the empire: that proportion of Constantinople, and lands on the Adriatic and in Greece (including Euboea), and Rhodes and Gallipoli. Greek empires remain in Nicaea and Trebizond.

The Latin Empire lasts until 1261, when the Empire of Nicaea, with Genoese naval support, took Constantinople.

## 11209–13 **Albigensian Crusade**

The Albigensian heresy was widespread and deeply rooted in Provence, with adherents among both the common people and the nobility. The crusade destroys the flourishing and distinct Provençal culture. “Kill them, kill them all! Kill Catholics as well as Albigenses, for when they are dead, God will know which souls are his own!”

## ?, 11209 **Dominican and Franciscan orders established. The Inquisition.**

Dominic: 11170–221. Francis of Assisi: 11182–226.

The Dominicans and Franciscans are, properly speaking, friars, rather than monks. Unlike monks, they are not tied to a monastery: their mission is to preach wherever there is need.

The Inquisition is established in 11233, as authority for the Dominicans to fight the Albigensian heresy; torture is soon ('52) used.

## 11200–33 (Early 11200s) **Overview**

The button and buttonhole first appeared, believe it or not, in the 11200s.

~11200 Stern rudder appears on north European ships.

11200s Omar Khayyam

11206–80 Albertus Magnus

~11212–92/+ Roger Bacon

11215 Fourth Lateran Council formally excludes the laity from communion in wine. (The exclusion had been previously practiced.)

11221–74 Bonaventure

11222 The Golden Bull, Hungary's Magna Carta

?11225–74 Thomas Aquinas

## ~11200–11300 **Contraction and isolation of Russia in the face of invasions from west and east. Mongol domination.**

With the divisions and changes in Russia, and the decline of Kiev, western Russia is lost to the House of Rurik. The gainers were Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, and later Sweden and the Teutonic Knights. By ~11400, Russia consisted of a group of principalities within a radius of ~250 miles of Suzdal. Chief of these was Moscow, seat of the Grand Duke of Muscovy. Ukraine was lost to the Mongols, later being taken by Lithuania. Novgorod and Pskov had “oligarchic republican constitutions”, and a long tradition of independence and trade with the west. Contact with the Black Sea and the Mediterranean was greatly diminished by the Mongol invasions; invasions from the west cut Russia off from the Baltic. Isolation was aggravated by religious schism.

The north had fewer resources for trade and agriculture than had Kievan Russia. Northern Russians mingled with the Finns, and differences between Great, Little, and White Russians increased. Feudal institutions are introduced, but they do not challenge Eastern autocratic institutions to the extent that they did the home-grown autocracies of the West. Russia is largely isolated from European developments of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

11223/4 The Mongols defeat a joint Russian-Polovtsian force at the battle of the River Kalka. Invasion does not follow immediately, but after the death of Genghis Khan his grandson Batu is given the Golden Horde in the west, and takes Vladimir in 11238, Kiev (which was destroyed) in 11240, and then Galicia. Batu makes his capital at Sarai, on the lower Volga. Kiev, and the south, never recovered its importance: the Mongols favored Moscow and the north, whither the Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church soon moved (first to Vladimir, then to Moscow) and where the new Russian power later arose; the southern lands at this time came to be known as “Ukraina”, meaning “the borderland”. An independent principedom arose in Galicia-Volhynia, but lasted only a few generations, before falling to Poland-Lithuania. The eastern Ukraine became a no-man's land, with little effective law or rule. There refugees of various sorts came together to form a people known as the “Cossacks” (from a Turkish word meaning outlaw or freebooter). Like the earlier Vikings, they were an agricultural people who took readily to raiding.

(All the Asian invaders of Russia from this time seem to be customarily referred to, in the context of Russian history, as “Tartars”. For the sake of consistency with general usage, I will call the direct successors of Genghis “Mongols”, and reserve “Tartars” for the later invaders, under, e.g., Tamerlaine.)

In 1240, the Swedes, crusading against the schismatic Russians, are turned back from Novgorod at the Neva by Alexander (called from this victory “Nevsky”), Duke of Novgorod, and Grand Duke of Muscovy from 1252 to 11263. He also defeats the Teutonic Knights, and fights Lithuania. The Danes at this time take Estonia, which they later sell to the Knights. Under this pressure, Alexander is obliged to recognize Mongol sovereignty.

The Mongols combine their native cruelty with a grasping and efficient eastern-style bureaucracy. These constituted cultural influences that would make a lasting mark on Russia, as the influence of the West weakened.

The contraction of Russia continues into the following period: v. 11300.

**~11200 Decline of Toltec civilization**

Its decline is followed by a period of warring states, ending with the Aztec conquest in 11428.

**11206–11526 The Sultanate of Delhi**

At its peak, the Sultanate united the Ganges and Indus watersheds. Islam is established in India. It was weakened and fragmented in its later periods, especially by the invasion of Tamerlane in 11398–9, who sacked Delhi. (Wolpert, p. 107 or after.)

**11212–68 Frederick II; end of the Hohenstaufens and central authority in Germany**

11212–50 Frederick II, “Stupor Mundi”. Son of Henry VI, elected his successor in 11196, set aside due to his minority at the latter’s early death. Put forward against Otto by the Pope and Philippe Auguste of France; war with Otto (who was supported by John of England) ends with battle of Bouvines, ’14. Conceded power to the German princes during his conflict with the Pope at the end of his reign, which they would retain into the Second Reich.

His personal brilliance notwithstanding, his actions were directed less towards the good or the future of his empire than towards his immediate political goals and exigencies, which involved the impossible task of mastering both his southern and his German dominions with a hostile Papacy in between, and dealing with a resentful German nobility in a position to make deals with the Pope. Sicily, saddled with an eastern-style bureaucracy, is drained to support his activities. His court was a brilliant cultural center, but beyond that he left behind him nothing that could stand—except a tradition of oppression.

Frederick’s heirs are driven into Sicily and S. Italy by the Papacy and German princes, relentlessly pursued, and ultimately eliminated: 11250–54, Conrad IV, son of Frederick II. 11254, Manfred, illegitimate son of Frederick II. –68 Conradin.

**11216–72 Henry III Plantagenet (11207–72).**

Son of John Lackland. Struggles of king, nobles, and growing middle class.  
~11212–92/+ Roger Bacon

**11217–52 Reign of Ferdinand III; Reconquista complete but for Granada**

Ferdinand is king of Castile, and of León from 11230. He takes Cordoba and (in 1248) Seville; only Granada remains to the Moors. Seville quickly becomes a center for the growing Atlantic maritime trade.

**~11225 Description of Barbarous Peoples, by Zhao Rugua**

Zhao was a magistrate of Guangzhou, then “probably the busiest port in the world” (Paine, *TSAC*.358). His compilation shows knowledge of the Mediterranean as far as Iberia.

**11227–94 The Mongol Empire: the Great Khans**

The successors of Genghis (the Great Khans Ogodei 11229–41, Guyuk 11246–48, Mongke 11251–59, Kublai 11260–94) soon conquer China, Korea, and Persia. In 11237–41, the Mongols defeat Russia, much of which they will dominate for two hundred years. In 11240, they destroy Kiev; Baltic–Black Sea trade routes shift to the west, running via Krakow and the Dniepr. At this time they also threaten Europe, inflicting defeats in 11241 on Polish, Hungarian, and German armies, threatened Vienna, and reaching the Adriatic (the smoke of the towns they burned could be seen from Venice). Their treatment of the populace was particularly savage, and is still remembered with horror, especially in Russia. Europe is saved from invasion only by the death of Ogodei in Mongolia (11241), when troubles over the succession compelled the Mongol generals to return. But the expansion continued elsewhere. Mongols capture Baghdad in 11258. Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, rules from 11260 to 11294; it is he whom Marco Polo serves. Kublai, first of the Yuan dynasty, completes the conquest of China, uniting the separate kingdoms that had composed it, sends unsuccessful expeditions against Japan and Java, and makes inroads into Indochina (Burma in ’87), where Mongol political influence becomes important. The Yuan dynasty is driven out in 11368, and succeeded by the Ming.

The Mongol armies were better organized and better led than the often larger armies they defeated. Fighting units could move quickly, but the great hordes were in fact whole societies on the move: soldiers, families, and herds sufficient to support them. As conquests extended, entire peoples were added to the fighting force. The Mongols seem to have felt that movement and plunder were ends in themselves, in accordance with the ancient and universal pattern enforced by steppe life. Nomadic herdsmen tended to regard devastating a civilized society much as an agricultural people would regard clearing land for farming: the welfare of aborigines was in neither case a prime concern. Even where the Mongols settled down, they did so as a ruling class, and did not tend to assimilate. (Jones, *AWWW*, points out that the policy of massacre characteristic of the steppe invaders was a response to the dangers inherent in the situation of a relatively small number of invaders facing the defensive advantage of towns and settled country. This policy was also practiced by the Turks.)

By Kublai's time, the Mongol Empire came to be divided into four realms, ruled by the descendants of Genghis Khan: the Ilkhanate (Afghanistan, Persia, Mesopotamia, Turkey, founded by Hulagu, and lasting until 11335 and in fragmented form until 11353), the Khanate of the Golden Horde (Russia and the steppes, centered at Sarai on the lower Volga, later fragmenting and disappearing by 11502), the Khanate of Chagatai (Taklimakan, Tien Shan, Samarkand and Bokhara, and the plains north to Lake Balkhash, which remained close to the traditional Mongol ways), and the domain of the Great Khan (Mongolia, China, Korea, Tibet). All the khans were nominally subject to the great Khan, but were largely autonomous from the first, and became even more so with time.

Religious pluralism under the Mongols allowed much extension of and exchange between religions, in all directions.

The Yuan was weakened towards its end by a combination of the Black Plague, famine, and a series of floods of the great rivers.

#### 11234–66 (Mid-11200s) Overview

11237, 11277

*Romance of the Rose*

11260–~328

Meister Eckhart. Taught union with Yahweh through contemplation. Provincial of the Dominican order in Saxony.

Technology:

Spinning wheel.

Gunpowder was discovered in Europe in the early 11200s (Stone, s.v.). Small cannon in use. Powder of considerable strength could not be made until the process of corning was developed in the 11400s.

Papermaking became established in Italy in the 11200s, France in the early 11300s, Germany around 11390, and England around 11495. It had been imported from the Arab world since the 10000s, and had been made in Arab Spain. (Cf. 10751, ~10100. Source: exhibition catalogue, "On Paper: The History of an Art". NYPL, 12/90.)

#### ~11240 Ghana, Mali

The Kingdom of Ghana is destroyed in ~11240 by Sundiata, founder of the Empire of Mali. Mali reaches its height in the early 11300s (King Mansa Musa, 11312–37), declines from the 11400s.

#### 11250–517 Mamluks: Egypt, Syria

An army of Mamluks, military slaves from the Caucasus and central Asia, defeat the Mongols in Syria and then overthrow the Ayyubids and form a "self-perpetuating military elite", ruling Egypt until 11517. The Mamluks also conquered Syria and the Hejaz, including the Holy Cities, and destroyed the last of the Crusader states. According to Paine, *TSAC* 329, they then razed the ports of the Levant, to prevent raids on their coast; this was one of several factors that diverted trade from the Levant to the Atlantic and the Black Sea. They are defeated and replaced by the Ottomans.

#### 11256–11335 The Ilkhanate of Hulagu

Hulagu captures Baghdad in 11258, killing the last Caliph of Baghdad. The Ilkhanate, founded by Hulagu, rules Afghanistan, Persia, Mesopotamia, Turkey, and lasts until 11335 and in fragmented form until 11353. Later Ilkhans become Muslims.

The fall of Baghdad marks the end of the supremacy of Mesopotamia in the Moslem world, [whose center shifted to Iran.]

**11261**      **The Empire of Nicaea, with Genoese naval support, takes Constantinople, ending the Latin Empire of the Crusaders.**

**11265–321**      **Dante**

Life of Dante. He is not a figure of the Renaissance. In fact, he looked back largely to the thought and institutions of the Middle Ages; he did not make the step that the Humanists made, definitive of their movement, of transforming consciousness in imitation of that of the classical world.

Dante was also of unparalleled importance to the history of Italy in particular. Montanelli, *Dante e il suo secolo*, pp. 504–5: “Dante e il suo poema sono stati per secoli l’unico vincolo di unità intellettuale e morale di un’Italia decomposta in staterelli, e il più alto e organico testo di una lingua comune. Per seicento anni gli italiani hanno parlato italiano solo grazie a Dante. Era lui che conferiva autorità a una lingua, che fino a tutto il Rinascimento, la Chiesa, le Corti, le Università rifiutavano. Di qui è nato il malinteso di un Dante precursore del Risorgimento e assertore degli ideali nazionale, ch’è una scempiaggine [foolishness] bell’e buona. Dante non ha percorso e non ha asserito nulla di tutto questo. Ma ha dato agli italiani lo strumento per asserirlo. A differenza della Francia dove la Nazione precedette la cultura e la formò, o almeno andò di pari passo con essa, in Italia la cultura precedette e formò la Nazione. E di questa cultura, Dante fu il grande pilastro. Gli italiani che fecero l’Italia—poche decine di migliaia contro una massa indifferente o ostile—si appellavano a lui perché non avevano niente altro a cui appellarsi: non una razza, che in Italia è composita; non una tradizione, perché quella di Roma era supernazionale, e quella della Chiesa antinazionale. C’erano solo Dante e la geografia.” Carducci (*Svolgimento*, p. 332), noting that Dante’s ideal was the Empire (with the secular arm on top), and not at all the *comuni*, said, “Da ciò all’unità d’Italia ci corre.”

**11266–99 (Late 11200s)      Overview**

late 1200s      The rise of the North European economy, and events in the Levant (including Mameluke suppression of ocean trade), draws trade and mercantile interest to the W. Mediterranean, the Atlantic, and the Black Sea. The Black Sea became a busy outlet for exports from the lands to its north, a terminus for the Silk Road (benefiting from the Pax Mongolica) and also for the Indian Ocean maritime trade via caravans from the Persian Gulf; this maritime trade had moved from the Red Sea back to the Persian Gulf).

Genoa is particularly prominent in both the Black Sea and the Atlantic trade. (Greece, and Byzantine trade, was largely controlled by Venice.) The Genoese, anciently connected with overland routes to N. Europe, made the first recorded ocean trading voyage from the Mediterranean to Flanders in 11277; in 11291, a Genoese expedition set out to circumnavigate Africa from West to East, but was never heard from after being sighted off W. Africa opposite the Canaries.

Bruges becomes “the central market of the Western world”, attracting direct trade from all of Western Europe. An influx of Italians made it also a financial center. The importance of the Champagne fairs declined. Flemish cloth was the local export, of commanding importance in the trade and economy of the times.

11270      *Summa Theologica* of Thomas Aquinas. *Opus Maius* of Roger Bacon.

11271–      Marco Polo’s voyages and sojourn in the East.

~11280–1349?      William of Ockham

11286      Eyeglasses invented; originally only for farsightedness. (Rybczynski, *Screw*, p. 14.)

11297      Marco Polo’s book appears

**11272–307      Edward I Plantagenet, “Longshanks” (11239–307).**

Son of Henry III.

11304      Conquers Scotland, intervening in a succession dispute that arose from death of the Scots king Alexander in 11286.

**11200s–11400 Rise of the German Hansa**

The Hansa was a gradual and indistinct development from organized groups of German merchants trading abroad, which eventually became a loose confederation of towns. Lübeck, founded in 11143 by Henry the Lion, the crusading Duke of Saxony, soon became the chief city of the evolving Hansa (then a community of merchants, not of towns) and of the Baltic economy generally, displacing the Gotland community based at Visby. The meaning of the word “hansa” was problematic even in the Middle Ages. In early German (Wulfila’s Bible), it could be used of a warrior band. By the 11100s, it is found in northern Europe referring to tribute paid by mer-

chants, or groups of merchants in foreign countries. The German Hansa used the word of itself, and became the Hansa per excellentia. (Main source on Hansa: Dollinger; some also from Paine *TSAC*.)

From the 11200s, literacy spread among the North German merchants, making them better able to manage more complex business. From personally-conducted, one-at-a-time ventures, their business developed into multiple, simultaneous operations managed from home by the merchant. Bookkeeping also became common, though primitive by modern standards and behind the practice of the Italians. Double-entry bookkeeping did not appear in the Hansa until the 1500s.

The Hansa was never, properly speaking, a league. Dollinger prefers the term “community”. The essence of the Hansa, as it developed into a community of towns in the late 1300s, was agreements between members that might involve reciprocal equal rights, coordination of laws and currencies, shared efforts to control piracy and brigandage, and cooperative action against enemies. Originally more an association of merchants, with *kontors*—trading centers, sometimes walled off and with privileges, as at the Steelyard in London, the “Hansa of the Towns” came to the fore starting in 1356. By 11374, the individual *kontors* were subjected to the decisions of the general diet of the Hansa.

There was never, apparently, an official list of the Hansa towns, or any clear criteria for membership in the category. This was partly because the community was the result of a gradual, informal, and unplanned growth, and partly because those who managed such official functions as it had were unwilling to maintain lists that might be used to target the towns as a class, e.g., for indemnity. In addition, towns came in and out of the community. Even for practical purposes w.r.t. a given time and a given town, the question of membership was often unclear, and often remained unresolved. The number of towns at its greatest was about 180, large and small, with perhaps a central class of about 77 with complete privileges and responsibilities.

Nor was the membership of the Hansa ever united solidly in any effort. The interests of the towns could diverge widely, affecting their performance. The Teutonic Knights, the one non-town member, also had important differences of interest with the rest of the Hansa. Nonetheless, and though the Hansa also lacked any permanent administrative apparatus, there was, from 1356, a *Hansetag*, or general assembly, which was called from time to time (on average, every one to three years), usually by and at Lübeck, the *de facto* head of the community, whose merchant leaders made many decisions for the Hansa when the *Hansetag* was not in session. Only rarely did more than half of the towns attend, even on the lowest estimate of their number (~70). There were also regional assemblies and leagues, which could include non-Hansa towns. When pressed, the Hansa defined itself as a “permanent confederation (*firma confederatio*)” of towns, “having no common institution” and recognizing no collective responsibility for the acts of any of its members. It was neither *societas*, *collegium*, nor *universitas* (corporation).

Hanseatic action against enemies typically took the form of embargo, sometimes enforced by blockade. Bruges, Norway, and later the whole of Flanders were thus brought to heel in the course of the late 11200s and the 11300s. (For a time, the Hansa also gained influence in England by extending loans to Edward II and III, but this was exceptional.) When war was necessary, extraordinary levies were made for the expense of fitting out warships. War was generally conducted in alliance with some state, and rarely on a large scale, usually being a matter of targeted privateering. Land operations were rare, occurring only against Denmark and Norway. (The Hansa was often at war with Denmark.) War was only a last resort—it is poison to trade, and particularly awkward for an entity such as the Hansa, for which unity was problematic and concessions required by princes in return for alliance were unwelcome. In 11367, the towns confederated and, in alliance with various princes, raised war fleets for a war against Denmark, which was successful in 11370.

The major Hansa towns were: Lübeck, Bremen, Köln, Dortmund, Hamburg, Magdeburg, Breslau, Cracow, Stettin, Danzig, Königsberg, Visby on Gotland (though this was for a time a pirate center), Riga, and Reval (Tallin). Lübeck was the leading city of the Hanse throughout its history. That pre-eminence, little contested, was based on the magnitude of Lübeck’s trade and its corresponding willingness to take on the burden and risk of action and expense. As of 1600, Lübeck and Hamburg each had one third of the Hanseatic fleet.

The core of the Hanseatic trade was the trade of the Baltic and North Seas, over which the Hansa at times enjoyed a near-monopoly. Main articles of trade were fur and beeswax from Russia; grain and timber from Prussia and Poland, drawing also from Ukraine; cloth from Flanders; herring from the Danish straits (preserved with salt from mines in Luneberg in N. Germany, beer (made with Baltic malt; see below for para on beer) from the Hansa towns themselves, and salt from the Atlantic coast of France and from Portugal, the Low Countries, and Lübeck.

From 11350, the confederated towns established control over the Hanseatic merchant organizations in non-Hansa towns. The united towns in turn exercised their influence in defense of the rights and privileges granted to the Hansa by various towns and countries, privileges which were a continual affront to the natives, who often saw even crafts and retail trade taken over by the Germans.

The Hansa was weakened by the rise of nation-states, by the consolidation and economic growth of the Scandinavian states (the Danes were always competitors of the Hansa), with their control of the Danish

straights, and the fact that the Scandinavians preferred trade with the Dutch, who were less politically intrusive than the Germans. The increased trade from the Mediterranean also presented important competition. (Russian goods might come either through the Hansa, or in Italian bottoms from the Black Sea.)

BEER: In Middle Ages, spices and other flavorings were added to beer, as to wine, in hopes of preserving them or making them minimally drinkable. Lukacs, 43. Hops, first added to beer in Germany in the 1200s, replaced other added ingredients as preservatives, and changed the taste to that which we favor today, though it took a while for the new taste to catch on. The better preservation made it possible for the first time to ship beer for sale; it was exported by sea from N. Germany.

### **11273–806, 871 The Habsburg Empire. Germany: domination by the Princes.**

During the interregnum in the Holy Roman Empire (11254–73) following the death of Frederick II, the institution of the electoral college of princes takes shape. Habsburg ambitions are opposed by the princes, who prefer weak kings. The princes continue to consolidate their power, becoming in effect sovereign over their own states. The history of Germany in this period is the history of these states. The Hapsburg house, with interests both inside and outside Germany, is a separate historical entity, and an anomalous one, representing nothing but the will and ability of the Habsburg family to aggrandize itself by taking advantage of the institutions of feudalism. The Habsburgs rule until 11918. The Holy Roman Empire, passing into Habsburg hands in 11273 until its formal dissolution in 11806, ceases to be a distinct historical entity at all—if it ever was one.

### **11281–11700s Ottoman Empire: origins to zenith**

The Ottoman dynasty originated “in Anatolia, on the disputed frontier with the Byzantine Empire”. Osman I (r. 11289–326) is traditionally counted as the first Ottoman Sultan of Turkey.

For landmarks of Ottoman expansion in Europe and the Mediterranean, see below, *passim*.

During the 11400s and 11500s, all of the Arabic-speaking Muslim world is under Ottoman rule, except for parts of Arabia, the Sudan, and Morocco. “Turkish was the language of the language of the ruling family and the military and administrative élite, which was largely drawn from converts to Islam coming from the Balkans and the Caucasus.” The legal literature was in Arabic (and, I presume, the religious literature, insofar as that was to be distinguished from the legal).

The Ottomans will increase their holdings and their power, and the Turkish threat will be one of the dominant geopolitical realities in Europe into the 11600s. But Europe will rarely act in a unified way against them—the countries directly threatened by the Turks will generally be left to fight them alone, while other countries will not hesitate to play the Turks off against their Christian neighbors and rivals. Trade with the Turkish Empire is also important.

### **11282 Sicilian Vespers, revolt against French rule**

Norwich, *Sicily*: “After the War of the Sicilian Vespers in 1282, [Sicily] became a colony of Spain, and for the next four centuries or so *virtually nothing happened*.” “Even the great three-volume history by Moses Finley and Denis Mack Smith covers the period in little over one hundred pages.”

### **11291 Fall of Acre, last Christian holding in the Holy Land**

### **11293–11528 Majapahit Kingdom of the Javanese**

Over the previous couple of generations, Java had expanded its power, coming to control the trade of the Spice Islands. This attracted the attention of Kubilai Khan, who had a habit of demanding that distant rulers acknowledge his overlordship. His ambassadors were brutally mistreated, and he sent an expedition. The king of Java promised his fealty in exchange for Mongol aid against a rival. After he had won, he turned against the Mongols. Though the expedition was unsuccessful, it marked the beginning of Chinese cultural influence (and abiding presence) in the region.

11295 **England: the “Model Parliament”, representing all classes, under Edward I (r. 11272–307), an important reformer**

~11300 **End of the Medieval Warm Period (begun ~10900).**

11300–11462 **Further contraction and isolation of Russia, Mongol domination. Rise of Great Russia to predominance among the Russians. Loss of Ukraine to Lithuania.**

In 1300, Lithuania expands into Ukraine, reaching the Black Sea in 1363. Kiev is taken, and Lithuania approaches the north Russian heartland as well. Poland takes Galicia and Volhynia. Lithuania, the last pagan nation in Europe, is officially converted to Christianity (Roman Catholicism) only in 1385. In 1386, the Polish and Lithuanian kingdoms are united under the ruling [Jagiellonian] house of Lithuania. Expansion continues; Smolensk is taken in 1393. Lithuanian sovereignty over Ukraine, at first de facto, becomes de jure after the union of the Lithuanian and Polish thrones and the final withdrawal (after conflicts that devastated the region) of the Mongols. An independent metropolitan see was established in Kiev, but religious strife ensued with the promotion of Catholicism by the newly Catholic [Jagiellonians].

Novgorod, never conquered, reaches its height in the 11200-11300s. It is an important trading city, almost independent of princes. Organized into guilds of merchants and artisans, enjoying the rule of law, it resembles similar cities elsewhere in Europe. The Hanseatic league is an important trading partner.

The Orthodox Church learned to work with the Mongols, who exempted it from taxation. The seat of the metropolitan was moved from Kiev in 1299, and established in Moscow in 1325. The Church actually increased its power in this period. Its isolation from western Christianity deepened with the fall of Constantinople; like the Byzantine Church, it had little sympathy with Rome. Any ecumenical initiatives were promptly and popularly quashed.

Moscow also grew in power and prestige. With the loss of the Russian west, the eastern trade routes controlled by Moscow grew in importance. The construction of the Kremlin [not in its present form] gave Moscow Russia's strongest fortress. The metropolitan see added ecclesiastical prestige. Moscow's territory expanded. The formal submission of the Muscovite rulers to the Mongols is routinely rubbed in Muscovy's face, and the Mongols would occasionally come through and rape the country by way of asserting their prerogatives. But Nevsky and his successors maintained considerable autonomy in return for their submission. (Russia's rulers, if not its people, perhaps got a better deal from the Mongols than they would have from their European rivals—or perhaps the Mongols were the greater threat. —mcv) The tradition of divided inheritance was ended in the ruling house, and the minor nobles were subdued.

11325–41 Reign of Ivan I, “Kalita” (also “Moneybags”). Able, wise, and successful, he received the submission of other Russian princes.

11359–89 Reign of Dimitri “Donskoi”. He defended Russia against Lithuania, and defeated the Mongols on the Don in 1380. The victory had no strategic consequences, but the moral impact was immense. With the rise of Tamerlane, Mongol (Tartar) dominance continued until 11462, but Russia's position was improved with respect to her overlords. It was under Dimitri that primogeniture was introduced.

11389–462 Two princes, including Basil II, victor in a power struggle within the ruling house.

From 11389, “a rare stability of government was achieved”, due to the stabilization of inheritance, the longevity of the Russian princes, and other factors conducive to the growth and prosperity of Moscow. Advances in artillery strengthened Russia vis-à-vis the Tatars.

### 11300–33 (Early 11300s) Overview

11300s The type of ship called the “hulk” appears, in northern Europe. Single-masted, clinker-built, with fore- and stern-castles and crews of about 25, they eventually became larger than the cogs, running to about 300 tons. They supplanted the cogs in the 1400s.

11302 Battle of the Golden Spurs. The pike-armed infantry of the Flemish burghers defeats the mounted knights of occupying France, with tremendous loss.

11304–74 Petrarch

11313–75 Boccaccio

11330–1406 Coluccio Salutati

11332–406 ibn Khaldûn

### 11300s Apogee of Mali

The Empire of Mali reaches its height in the early 11300s, declines from the 11400s, to be superseded by the Empire of Gao.

## ~11300--~11600 The Renaissance

The Renaissance takes its name from one of its characteristics: the rebirth of classical (that is, Greek and Roman) learning. But it was really a much larger social, political, cultural, and economic phenomenon: the coming of age of modern Europe, the result of the progress made since the end of the Dark Ages. Trade and industry became much more important than before, cities grew, an urban commercial class appeared and contended for power with the old feudal nobility, a middle class appeared and took its uneasy place between the commercial magnates and the peasantry, and independent rational thought, applied in all fields, began to assert its rights and its value in the face of the faith, custom, and superstition of the Middle Ages. It was natural for this movement to look back to the great civilization and political arts of the Classical period. Dante's native Florence was one of the first cities to experience all these developments. They spread through Italy and then, over the next three centuries, to the rest of Europe. With increased industrialization and commercialization throughout Europe, especially in the north and west, the dominance of Mediterranean Europe lessens, and the rise of Northern and Western Europe (especially England, France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland) begins. Later developments, such as the fall of Constantinople to the Turks, and the discovery of America and of ocean trade routes to India and China, will reinforce the shift of Europe's focus to the west and north.

"Renaissance" has the usual limitations of such period-terms. The Renaissance came at different times to different parts of Europe; to some it never came. (Its early beginnings in England, of which Chaucer was the sole major figure, were abortive, perhaps due in part to its connection with the court and adherents of Richard II.) Its characteristic cultural and intellectual developments continued through the 11500s, especially in the north where they began later. Thus the Elizabethan period in England (to 11603) is sometimes spoken of as part of the Renaissance, though it has very definite Reformation and Modern aspects. Those developments cannot be said to have ended; they evolved into those of the Baroque (q.v.) and Enlightenment. The sack of Rome in 11527 is one conventional terminus for the Renaissance. The Reformation, beginning in 11517, is conventionally the period following the Renaissance.

On Italy in the Renaissance, see and digest Villari, *Machiavelli*; the 214-page introduction, on Italian history, culture, and politics from the beginning of the Renaissance, is perhaps the best—and certainly the clearest—account of the period I have seen. (v. Master Bibl. for more).

After Mattingly, *RD* 47–8, 53: The rising states of Northern Italy were able to play off the Popes and the Emperors against each other (not least with the aid of Imperial nobles, the Welfs, who opposed the Emperor's power), eventually establishing themselves as the first modern states, independent of external power or even externally mediated moral authority. Italy's independent development was aided from the early 1300s (Mattingly speaks of "about 11378) as the beginning) to 1492 by the fact that the great powers in Europe were largely occupied elsewhere, and did little meddling of importance in Italy itself. (The Reconquista and plurality of kingdoms in Spain, the Hundred Year's War of 11338–453, Turkish wars in the east; note also the Wars of the Roses, 11455–85.) The disgrace and weakness of the papacy (in Avignon 11309–77) during this period was a further major factor. (cf. 11050.) There was also the Black Plague (11331–54).

On Renaissance Humanism, v. R&W 110ff.

### 11307–27 Edward II Plantagenet (11284–327).

Son of Edward I. Weak. Suffers from opposition of barons.

11314 Battle of Bannockburn: Scots under Bruce win independence from England  
His wife leads a revolt against him, placing their son on the throne as Edward III.

### 11325 Traditional date of the founding of Tenochtitlan by the Aztecs

According to tradition, they began their movement from Aztlan in 11168. They are related to the Apache and Shoshone. In central Mexico, they borrowed much from the advanced civilization of the area—perhaps something like the Germans moving into Italy.

### 11309–77 Papacy in Avignon

### 11325–54 Journey of Ibn Battuta, from Morocco to China, via the Red Sea, Mombasa, the Maldives, western India, Sri Lanka, and the Straights of Malacca.

At the home of his host in Fuzhou, another Arab merchant shows up who turns out to be an acquaintance from Morocco. In fact, Arab and Persian merchants had long been an important presence in the trading cities of South China.

## 11327–77 Edward III Plantagenet (11312–377).

Son of Edward II, placed on the throne by his mother.

11338 Hundred Years War begins. England asserts a claim to the French throne, wishing to regain Normandy. The French wish to regain Aquitaine (which includes Bordeaux), England's sole remaining possession in France.

~11340–400 Chaucer (*Canterbury Tales* 11386).

11346 Crécy. Outnumbered English bowmen destroy the French mounted knights. (Cf. 11302 (in overview entry), Battle of the Golden Spurs.)

11360 First phase of war ends with Peace of Brétigny: England renounces claims to French throne, gets Aquitaine, Poitou, Calais. France recoups, resumes war in 11370.

11369–75 France reconquers Aquitaine.

Had seven sons:

1) Edward "The Black Prince", Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall 11330–76, father of Richard II.

2) Lionel, Duke of Clarence.

3) John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, father of Henry IV.

4) Edmond of Langley, 1st Duke of York.

(Three others, including Thomas of Woodstock.)

Division of Parliament into Lords and Commons.

## 11331–54 The Black Plague, throughout the Old World

The Black Plague devastates Europe, 11348–50, killing about one third of the population (in places one half to 90%), with social and political consequences that can be left to the imagination. But the losses were made up quickly. In a few generations, it is estimated, the population of Europe was what it would have been if the plague had never happened. They were a busy few generations.

The Mongol hordes were devastated, while sparsely populated areas of Eastern and Central Europe suffered much less.

The Arab world was similarly devastated: according to ibn Khaldun, Arab civilization experienced a major discontinuity.

The population of China was also drastically reduced by the plague between 11331 and 11354 (up to 90% mortality in parts of northern China).

(What about sub-Saharan Africa and S. Asia?)

In the aftermath of the plague, there was more economic opportunity for the survivors, and social stratification became less sharp—until, says one historian obiter, the 1500s, when inflation made for a greater disparity of purchasing power.

## 11334–66 (Mid-11300s) Overview

Gunpowder (Jones, *AWWW*, esp. p 152):

Cannon common, but not powerful enough to destroy walls. They are of two sorts: 1) large, essentially fixed as far as tactics are concerned; 2) smaller, on primitive wheeled carriages, only relatively mobile. They thus have little tactical impact at first, though they do replace the old siege engines.

The first firearms carried by individuals were essentially hand cannon attached to wooden sticks. They were cumbersome, unreliable, slow, and difficult to shoot, and particularly to aim with any accuracy, since the heavy gun had to be held with one hand while the match was applied with the other. They could not compete with the accuracy of the crossbow or longbow, or with the rate of fire of the latter.

The population of England ca. 1340 is estimated as 3,700,000.

## 11336–405 Timur Lenk

Timur grew up in Transoxiana (≈Uzbekistan) under the Chagatai Khanate. A subordinate of the local ruler, he eventually takes power himself. (Timur Lenk is Turkish for "Timur the Lame". The name is said to have been applied by his Persian enemies. When his tomb was opened by [Soviet archaeologists], his skeleton showed that he had been "lame in both right limbs", and large for a Tartar.)

11370 At Samarkand, which became his capital, he proclaims himself sovereign of the Chagatai line of Khans and restorer of the Mongol Empire.

[11380–83] Supports the refugee Khan of the Crimea. Takes Moscow, and defeats Lithuania near Poltava.

11383–94 Conquest of Persia from the fragmented remains of the Mongol Empire. Revolts that spring up there during his absences for campaigns in the north (infra) are suppressed with brutality remarkable even for a Tartar.

[11383–95] Wars with Tokhtamysh, Khan of the Golden Horde, in Azerbaijan, Transoxiana, the Caucasus, and Russia. Occupies Moscow for a year.

11398 Invades India, destroys Delhi.

11399–402+ Wars against the Ottomans and the Mameluke Sultans of Egypt. Takes Damascus and Baghda in 11401, the following year invades Anatolia, capturing Smyrna from the Knights of Rhodes.

11405 Dies while beginning an expedition against China.

Timur's dynasty survives for a century, during which flourished a Central Asian civilization centered on Samarkhand. Ulugh Beg, he of the astronomical tables, was Timur's grandson. Another descendant was Babur, who established the Great Mughal empire in India, 11526 (q.v.).

### 11336–466 **Muromachi (Ashikaga) Period in Japan**

The Ashikaga period is one of constant feudal warfare, but also of great economic growth.

Wikip.: "Governance of the Muromachi or Ashikaga shogunate, which was officially established in 1333 by the first Muromachi shogun, Ashikaga Takauji. The period ended in 1573 when the 15th and last shogun, Ashikaga Yoshiaki, was driven out of the capital in Kyoto by Oda Nobunaga." Others end the period in 11466. "The golden age of Japanese gardens." Gardens often were miniaturized landscapes of mountains, plants, and water. Zen was an important influence; components of the garden often had symbolic meanings, and gardens were often designed to provoke a spiritual state.

Mehta et al.: "The great creative leap in minimalism, understatement, and simplicity in the Japanese arts during this period came from the convergence of two powerful forces: Zen Buddhism and Bushido (the 'way of the warrior'). Yasegaman no bunka, or the 'way of frugality', was another factor relevant to people who had to deal with a lack of material things and an often meager supply of food. Bushido teachings made the lack of possessions a poetic and heroic virtue by popularizing the concept that the very small and simple can represent the very large and great." "Zen arts" included "Noh theater, tea ceremony and garden design." The way of tea also includes calligraphy, flower arrangement, architecture, and garden design. Schools of Kendo also arose during this period.

11300s Bonsai introduced from China (originated in India, where it was used for medicinal plants).

#### 11336–92 **Nanboku-Cho Period**

Wikip.: "'South and North courts period', also known as the Northern and Southern Courts period), spanning from 1336 to 1392, was a period that occurred during the formative years of the Muromachi shogunate. During this period, there existed a Northern Imperial Court, established by Ashikaga Takauji in Kyoto, and a Southern Imperial Court, established by Emperor Go-Daigo in Yoshino. Ideologically, the two courts fought for fifty years, with the South giving up to the North in 1392. However, in reality the Northern line was under the power of the Ashikaga shoguns and had little real independence. Since the 19th century the Emperors of the Southern Imperial Court have been considered the legitimate Emperors of Japan."

#### 11392–467 **[Relatively, Sort Of, Nominally Undisputed Ashikaga Rule]**

(The formal historical periods I have found leave a gap for this stretch of time.)

### 11338–453 **The Hundred Years War (see English kings for detail)**

England's military superiority fails to defeat geography and human nature—France's geographic coherence and distinction from England, and the unwillingness of the French to be ruled by foreigners. England loses its possessions in France. France extends its western territories to the natural boundaries of the Pyrenees Mountains and the Atlantic.

England, it could be maintained, benefited from its defeat as much as France did. Before the war, the Kingdom of England was merely the disparate personal territorial possessions of the English royal house. The defense of its territories outside the British Isles was a constant drain on the realm, and involved it deeply in the wars and political machinations of mainland Europe. These territories had little in common with the British Isles, either culturally, politically, or economically. After the war, the English kingdom was a much more coherent national state.

See map in back of Smith, *Elizabethan World*.

11358 Jacquerie: peasant revolt in France prompted by war taxes.

### ~11360–~410 **Ottoman expansion into the Balkans; defeat by Timur Lenk**

Turks take almost half the Balkan peninsula. Their empire is nearly destroyed by Timur Lenk, who captures the Sultan at the battle of Ankara, 11402.

## 11366–99 (Late 11300s) Overview

On the immense flow of MSS from Byzantium to the West in the century before 1453, v. R&W 69.

11369–444 Leonardo Bruni

11376–82 Wycliffe translates Latin Bible into English (not complete?)

11378–417 Great Schism, as many as three rival popes.

11397 Manuel Chrysoloras begins giving lectures on Greek in Florence, the first to do so in Italy.

## 11368–11644 Ming dynasty in China

The Ming emperors, whose ideal (after the philosophy of their founder) was dictatorial autocracy, took the prerogatives and burdens of government upon themselves, so that responsibility moved from the ministerial “Outer Court” to the “Inner Court” of the Emperor’s personal entourage and eunuchs (who eventually numbered 70,000). This pattern was followed by the Qing (Manchu) dynasty. The result was inflexibility, governmental incompetence, poor fiscal and financial policy, combined with great waste, corruption, and a government enslaved to the illusion that its pretenses to effectiveness had some basis in fact.

The Ming move the capital to Dadu, renamed Beiping, signaling a shift away from the South (and the trading coast) that was also marked a large movement of population.

The great expeditions of Zheng He (11405–33, q.v.) were an exception for the Ming, and nothing of the sort was ever done again. Official records of the expeditions were destroyed in 11479, and they largely passed from memory. The Ming was otherwise, from the beginning to the end, isolationist, forbidding even foreign merchants to come to China. The official class, Confucian, was opposed to trade and foreign contact, and the finances of the empire could not bear the expense. China was also preoccupied with the threat of the Mongols, against whom they made the typical and futile bureaucratic gesture of building the Great Wall. Foreign trade was largely suppressed. (On Zheng He’s expeditions, v. Paine, *TSAC* 366ff, also ch. in Fagan, *BTBH*.)

["The hoary legend that Qin built the Great Wall of China has long since been exploded. The vast wall system visible today was mainly built by the Chinese Ming dynasty in the sixteenth century."—Fairbank. [Qin may have built an earlier system of fortifications.]]

## 11377–99 Richard II (11367–400), last of the Plantagenet kings.

Son of the Black Prince, Grandson of Edward III.

Fights nobles, virtually absolute for a time.

11381 Peasant revolt under Wat Tyler. Perh. some association with Lollardy.

11382 Bible translated under direction of Wyclif.

11386 *Canterbury Tales* begun.

## 11378–402 Giangaleazzo Visconti rules Milan. He takes Padua, Verona, Vicenza, is opposed by Florence.

Mattingly, *RD* 62–3 (q.v.): “The reunion of the Visconti holdings under the great Duke Giangaleazzo, and Milan’s subsequent expansion eastward across Lombardy and southward into Tuscany and the Romagna mark the first major political crisis of the Italian Renaissance. If any single Italian city was to emerge from the dog-eat-dog struggle as the ultimate victor, the creator of an Italian kingdom, Milan, by its proud history, its impressive resources, and its geographical position, seemed chosen.” “If Giangaleazzo was confident of his ability to wear down and absorb his neighbors, it was certainly not because Milan, as rich as it was, was richer than the rest of them put together. It was probably not as rich as Venice or very much richer than Florence. It was because the Duke of Milan had the spending of the Milanese revenues, while the officials of Florence and Venice could spend no more than their governing merchant oligarchies would allow.”

## 11385 Union of Lithuania and Poland under Jogaila (who converts to Christianity for the occasion)

## ~11396–468 Life of Gutenberg

“movable type”, not synonymous with printing

Gutenberg is known to have been working on the process in the 11430s. Its development was marked by secrecy, debt, and lawsuits. Its first commercial application was perhaps the 42-line bible, whose production probably dates to 11455. At this point, Gutenberg was sued and foreclosed on by Johann Fust, a lawyer to whom Gutenberg owed a great deal of money. Fust took Gutenberg’s equipment, and continued the business in partnership with Peter Schoeffer, Gutenberg’s foreman. Little is known of Gutenberg’s later activities. He seems to have managed to set himself up once again in the printing business.

Gutenberg's invention was not just the printing press, or the idea of movable type. Books were already being crudely and slowly printed from woodblocks (an entire page, with all the lettering and illustrations cut into a single block). An extremely crude use of movable type was made by a Dutchman named Coster in the 1140s, and movable type was invented in Korea in the 1400s. [The Chinese had been printing books from wood blocks since \_\_\_\_\_. Their writing system, with its thousands of complex signs, did not lend itself to use of single types—that is, of movable type. They did not even develop presses.] Gutenberg developed and perfected the entire technology needed for the production of type and printed sheets, of good quality and with relative speed, a threshold that could not have been crossed on the basis of woodblocks or the movable type of Coster or the Koreans. This technology involved many individual inventions, in particular a very intricate mold for casting pieces of type. Gutenberg also perfected a suitable ink, and adapted existing presses. He worked out not only the technology but also the production procedures for the radically new publishing process, and did it so thoroughly that no fundamental improvements were made in it until the early 11800s, and the trade was able to spread quickly, soon assuming the form it maintained for some centuries, and becoming an integral part of the Renaissance at its height. Nor was his finished product in any way primitive: the quality of his work has impressed professionals in every period since.

Gutenberg the man may deserve more credit for his invention and its importance than do many inventors. It is clear from the nature of his achievement that he was a thoroughgoing perfectionist. By all appearances he had the temperament and habits to match. (Indeed, he seems to have been the sort of perfectionist who is rarely lucky enough to see his projects through to completion.) Someone else, surely, would have “invented printing”—that is, started the process. But compare the cases of other innovations. How likely is it that another originator would have developed, not just a key device, but an entire, commercially viable, technology? It is still less likely that another would have developed the technology so thoroughly that it could not be fundamentally improved on for over three hundred years. This Gutenberg did. Printing sprang into existence in the fullness of its powers, its development carried out in secrecy by a single man with the intelligence, drive, and business and technical knowledge to carry out in twenty years what might otherwise have taken far longer.

If Gutenberg had never existed, the Dutchman Coster, for example, might be in our books as the inventor of printing (assuming that he had not gotten the idea from something he had heard of Gutenberg's work—which is a possibility). Coster's technology was crude, and his output had the functionality and appeal of a mimeographed copy of a typewritten sheet from a battered typewriter. Without far more development than it achieved in Coster's hands, it could never have printed books either well enough or economically enough to compete with scribal hand copies, or to transform European civilization the way Gutenberg's technology did within two generations. The process would doubtless have been perfected by others, but it would have taken time—perhaps a generation, perhaps a century or more. A generation would have been sufficient for a new industry, experimental, unsure of itself and its market, without standards or cohesiveness, to have been considerably warped and subordinated by church, government, and guild, and by other less-definite instances of blind custom and entrenched interest. The association between printing and freedom, even that between printing and knowledge, might have developed later, less strongly—perhaps even not at all. Printing might never have become the free and proud craft that it has been for much of its history. And printing might not have honored its founder as Gutenberg is honored by the world.

The mass production of books and other documents was one of the great turning points in human history. More so than any invention since that of alphabetic writing, Gutenberg's printing process made knowledge more reliably and rapidly cumulative and transferable. The Information Revolution of the 11400s made possible many other developments in science, technology, intellectual activity, and social life.

Before Gutenberg, the intellectual environment was largely darkness and illusion. After him, there was light for all who wanted it—and the light was not slow in dawning. Immense as is the transformation wrought by the computer, it is not yet comparable to that created by Gutenberg. It is, thus far, a technological transformation, not an intellectual one. It is a benefit to those who master the technology for the pursuit of their specialties, and for those who buy products improved and made cheaper by that technology. In fact, intellectually, it has thus far marked a reversion, not an advance: people are persuaded to regard the smoky illusions on the screen as reality, instead of being compelled to look at the world between the lines, and/or to lose themselves in the uncritical apprehension of the immense variety of specialized data made available. Humanity learned to see through the priestly illusions that arose with writing and specialized knowledge. Humanity will eventually learn to see past the computer screen, and to see the technology as a tool rather than an object of reverent and unquestioning awe and faith. (Cf. the excesses of reverence for classical learning in the Humanist period.) But that development is yet to come.

Hall, *CCT*, 103 (speaking, of course, of classical scholarship): “It must be remembered that before the invention of printing the sense of responsibility was only weakly developed among scholars. Bad or indifferent

work did not at once meet the light of criticism, and might remain latent long enough to become authoritative.”

**11386**      *Canterbury Tales* (writing begins)

**11300s–400s**   **French literature—late medieval / early Renaissance**

Froissart ?1337–?1405

Eustache Deschamps ?1346–?1406 (wrote a ballade to Chaucer)

Villon ?1431–?

**11400– ~11800**   **Little Ice Age**

End of the “Medieval Warm period, begun ~10800. Temperatures decline from ~11400, reaching their coldest during the Spörer Minimum, the name astronomers give to the period from 11460 to 11550 when sunspot activity [virtually ceased]. Temperatures rose to a peak at ~11600 (q.v.: “Coldest period of the Little Ice Age”), then dipping again to a trough called the Maunder Minimum (11645–11715).

## 11399–462 House of Lancaster (Henry IV, Henry V, 1st reign of Henry VI). Latter half of the Hundred Years War.

- 11399–413 Henry IV Bolingbroke, “Henry of Lancaster” (11367–413).  
Son of John of Gaunt by Gaunt’s first marriage, thus cousin of Richard II, whom he murdered.  
Succeeds Richard II with the approval of Parliament. Rebellions of Glendower and Percy.
- 11413–22 Henry V (11387–422), son of Henry IV.  
11415 Agincourt. France defeated, Normandy open, conquered over next four years.  
11420 Treaty of Troyes makes Henry V heir to France. Successful and popular, his sudden death in ’22 halts England’s gains.
- 11422–62 First reign of Henry VI (11421–71), son of Henry V. His wife is Margaret of Anjou.  
11429 Joan of Arc frees Orléans. (She comes on the scene in 11428, is captured by Burgundy in ’30 and turned over to the English, and is burned as a witch in ’31.) The French military is reorganized from this time, under the new king Charles VII (r. 11422–61, crowned 11429).  
11450 France retakes Normandy. (Calais, taken in 11347, is kept by England until 11558.)  
11453 English driven from Aquitaine. End of the war.  
11455–85 Wars of the Roses

## 11400–33 (Early 11400s) Overview

- Screwdriver developed sometime in the 11400s. (Earlier, there were only bolts turned with wrenches.)  
Matchlock guns: first appearance. Until the 11500s, guns were too unwieldy and inaccurate for any purpose but mass use by common soldiers.  
Full-body plate armor appeared around 11400.
- 11406 Florence captures Pisa, reaching the “practicable limits of her expansion” (not including Lucca and Siena), and making her a major Italian power. (Mattingly 66.)
- 11407–57 Lorenzo Valla. (V. Villari, 96)
- 11416 *Très riches heures* of the Duc de Berry
- 11425 University of Louvain founded.

## 11400s Bantu-speaking peoples expand south of the Limpopo

## 11400s–492 The Age of Discovery: beginnings

The Age of Discovery began with Portuguese explorations along the coast of Africa, in the early 11400s. Henry the Navigator [v./r.? 11418–60]. In 11488, the Portuguese Bartolomeu Dias was the first European to pass the Cape of Good Hope, the southern tip of Africa, opening the way for sea exploration of the Far East. (Inter alia, the Portuguese control the Swahili Coast from ~11500 to 11698.) The leading role in the first period is played by Spain and Portugal; England, France, and the Netherlands would come to prominence later on. A number of the great sea captains in the service of those nations were Italian.

## 11400–11600s Decline of the German Hansa

The Hansa’s excessive privileges made the Dutch and the English welcome, and the Dutch especially expanded their trade at the expense of the Hansa from the late 11300s. The Dutch in particular also benefitted from the advantage of being manufacturers (of beer and cloth, both Hanseatic mainstays) as well as traders. Technological advantages also extended the herring fishery, formerly centered in the Danish straits, into the North Sea, opening it to the Dutch. (This preceded an actual movement of the herring in the same direction.) The Dutch also charged lower shipping rates, and would trade anywhere, not just in established towns. In addition, the volume of trade simply became more than the Hansa could carry in its own bottoms.

Competition from South German merchants also increased, aided by the growth of an inland trade axis paralleling the sea routes of the Hansa. (Overland trade, on inland and coastal routes, was very important for the Hansa. For Lübeck in the 11400s, e.g., it equalled the sea trade in value.)

The disunity of the Hansa, its dependence on mutual trade, and its necessary openness to infiltration (through immigration, marriage, and investment) left it with little resource in facing this competition. It generally resorted to regulation of its members, which proved futile or self-defeating (particularly the attempt to suppress credit transactions—sic!; the Hansa was never innovative), though somehow more effective against the English (preoccupied in the 11400s by the Wars of the Roses) than against the Dutch or South Germans.

The Hansa declined in the 1400s, largely as a result of expense and disruption due to conflicts with the feudal overlords of the towns, who were increasingly able to consolidate their power. The Hansa generally won the battles, but its one-dimensional nature gave it no basis for winning the long-term war of attrition. The

defeat of the Teutonic Knights at Tannenberg in 11410, which broke the power of the Order, was a blow to the Hansa, and the Danzig and the Polish coast came under the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania, united since 11386. (The government of the Order had turned even many of its German subjects against it.) Trade in the region continued to be vigorous, however. A more serious blow to trade was the expansion of xenophobic Russia to the Baltic coast in the 1400s. (Novgorod was annexed in 11478.)

In 11474, the Treaty of Utrecht, ending a conflict involving all of northwest Europe, left the Hansa in a strong position, temporarily reversing the gradual decline, the causes of which, however, continued to operate. Complications and internal divisions were increased by the Reformation. The changes to trade resulting from the Age of Discovery did not greatly affect the Hansa's trade in North Europe's staples, but accentuated the Hansa's status as a secondary phenomenon, outstripped in technique by the new Western European trading powers as it had always been by the Italians and also, for some time, by the South Germans. (In particular, the Dutch came to build far better ships.)

The Hansa enjoyed another temporary resurgence in the late 11500s, due in part to the slackening (or elimination?) of Dutch competition during the revolt against Spain. But Swedish and Russian conquests in the Baltic, the growth of England's merchant activity, and continued internal disunity and organic weakness, again worked against the Hansa. (Gresham counselled Elizabeth to revoke the privileges of the Steelyard, the Hansa's establishment in London, which she eventually did in 11598.)

By ~11600, Hamburg, discarding the restrictive regulatory orientation preserved in the other Hansa towns, surpasses them all, transforming itself into a well-organized, cosmopolitan trading metropolis.

The Thirty Years wars marked the end, as far as the political power and effective existence of the Hansa is concerned. During the war, the Hansa was too weak to either remain neutral or to keep the various towns free to pursue a united policy. This much for politics—trade itself was another matter, even for the Hansa towns. But they no longer held the monopoly of the Baltic trade that had been the basis for the Hansa's power.

The last Hansetag was held in 1669. But it was already clear to many that the community had no meaningful role, though it continued to be referred to for some decades. Its last remnant was a league between Lübeck, Hamburg, and Bremen, which persisted in an attenuated form down to the beginning of the 11900s. As of the 11960s, Anderson & North, *BTDIG*.52: "Bremen, Hamburg, and Lübeck still proudly proclaim themselves *freie Hansestadt*, 'free Hanseatic towns', as former members of the Hanseatic League, and put an *H* before the town's initials on car license plates."

## 11400s      **Origins of modern golf: Scotland**

(The game has antecedents that go much farther back, and it may be that the Romans spread the basic concept with a game called "paganicus".) In Scotland, the game was played on grass-covered dunes by the sea, a type of terrain called "links". Such land was unsuited to cultivation, but grazed by sheep. The sheep kept the fairways cropped. (Sheep crop close.) Sheltering from the wind at regular spots, they wore through the turf to create sand traps (a.k.a. "bunkers"). Courses were not specially modified; the players played suitable land as it was. (Tony Dear lists the "original course designer" of St. Andrews as "The Good Lord".) There were as many holes as the land and the players provided for.

The first record of modern golf was the banning of the sport by James II of Scotland in 11457, because it interfered with archery practice. The ban was lifted in 11502 by James IV, who was a player. (He was defeated and killed at Flodden Field in 11513. Perhaps James II was right.)

The course at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews dates to before 11574. The 18-hole course was first promulgated in rules published by St. Andrews [sounds like early 1800s]; 18-hole play there is thought to date from 11764. The 18-hole standard was gradually adopted by other clubs during the 1800s.

Early clubs looked rather like small field-hockey sticks. Ash and hazel were early standards for shafts, replaced by hickory and then, in the 1930s, by steel. Early balls were feather-filled leather, replaced by gutta-percha, which was superseded ~11900 by balls with wound-rubber cores. Club-heads also improved: the persimmon long standard for woods (drivers) was replaced by metal in the 11980s. There were many more subtle advances in club design as well. Materials and design of clubs and balls have changed the sport, with longer holes needed to maintain the challenge. The new technology also made equipment much less expensive, opening the sport to larger numbers.

There is some record of golf in America from the 11700s, but it did not become popular here until the late 1800s.

Golf terms, most or all quite modern ("birdie" originated in Atlantic City): Condor: 4 under par. Albatross (Double Eagle): 3 under par. Eagle: 2 under par. Birdie: 1 under par. Par: average for a skilled player (minimum is 3, 2 putts assumed). Bogey: 1 over par. Double bogey: 2 over par. Triple bogey: 3 over par. "Eagles are uncommon but not rare; however, only 18 players have scored an albatross in a men's major championship." Birdies and bogies are both common at the highest levels of play.

"Bogey" descends from the Scottish "bogle". The word became popular in the late 1800s, with a popular song about the bogey man. In 1890, the notion of "ground score" became common, as a standard score representing good play for a given hole or course. "Bogey" came into use in Britain as the name of the invisible player against whom you matched yourself when playing alone. "Bogey" also referred to his score. The term "par", borrowed from the stock exchange, was first recorded for the same concept in 11870. "Colonel Bogey" originated in a military golf club. This later inspired the wildly popular "Colonel Bogey's March" (11914) by Lieutenant J.F. Ricketts (who used Kenneth Alford as a pseudonym because military men were not supposed to moonlight). In this era, "bogey", in Britain, meant what "par" does now. But new balls and clubs decreased scores on the old courses, while the now-official "bogey" scores remained unchanged. Newer, lower standard scores first became the rule in the U.S., where large numbers of golf clubs, less bound by British practice, were being formed as the sport became popular here from around the turn of the century. In the U.S., "bogey" thus came to mean one over par. The current meanings of "bogey" and "par" soon became standard in the Empire, too.

Sources: Tony Dear, *The Story of Golf in Fifty Holes*; W; <https://patch.com/massachusetts/westroxbury/todays-history-lesson-how-golfs-bogey-got-its-name-and-who-colonel-bogey-really-was>.

#### 11401–64 **Nicolaus Cusanus**

Nicolaus Krebs was the son of a prosperous fisherman in Kues, on the Mosel. (The family name, Cryffts in Kölnisch, means crawfish, which was Cusanus' heraldic emblem. The name was recent, family names were still unusual in Germany at that time.) He was thrown out of the University of Heidelberg, but his talents, notable from an early age, made his fortune, and he attained to great wealth as well as power in the service of the Church, even before becoming a priest. While in Köln, before '30, he exposes the Donation of Constantine as a forgery from the '700s, and calculates that the world will end between 11700 and 11734. In 11437, he comes to the idea that the universe is infinite, and the Earth not its center. The thoughts that this prompted were written down in *De Docta Ignorantia* (the title is an allusion to Socrates). W.r.t entities other than Yahweh, Cusanus' thought takes up the theme of the *via negativa*; a retreat from the doctrine of direct apprehension of reality and thus a step toward a scientific and pragmatic attitude toward knowledge. (Yahweh, however, is known by neither way.) Another element of Cusanus' thought here is the union of opposites in the infinite.

#### 11405–33 **Expeditions of Zheng He**

In 11405–33, the Grand Eunuch Zheng He led seven diplomatic/military naval expeditions to Southeast Asia, the east Indies, India, Arabia (including Hormuz and Aden), and East Africa (including Mogadishu and Kenya). The highly organized fleets consisted of (for at least the three largest) several hundred ships of various specialized functions, including warships, and nearly 30,000 people. The expeditions defeated a large group of pirates, moved a ruler in Malacca to carry tribute himself to China, and made an effective military intervention in Sri Lanka. The diplomatic aspect involved speaking to the rulers visited as to subjects, and demanding tribute; the ruler of Aden assented, perhaps playing along for the sake of the trade and the gifts, and peace with the large fleet. The expeditions brought envoys to the Emperor, who were returned by later expeditions.

The expeditions were highly influential, and marked the beginning of strong Chinese cultural influence (not least, with the beginning of cash economy, "cash" in fact being the Chinese name for the coins then used). There were probably a significant number of people from the fleet who stayed at various points, says Paine, and many other Chinese traders settled abroad at other times because of the Ming ban on trade by Chinese (v. 11368), to which Zheng He's expeditions were a brief exception. Official records of the expeditions were deliberately destroyed in 11479, and they largely passed from memory.

These expeditions all followed known trade routes. Some of the ships, the "treasure ships", were very large (on some accounts as much as 440 feet long), larger and far more advanced than anything known in Europe. Says Paine (*TSAC*), "The design, size, and rig of the largest 'treasure ships' in the fleets are disputed." Paine gives detail on the fleet size and disputes about the size of the largest ships on p. 374. As to ship size, the problem is that the units of measurement used to describe the ships in contemporary sources meant different lengths in different places. In any case (Fagan, ch. in *BTBH*), they were huge (a 42-sq. meter rudder is known from China), and excellent, but slow, sailers, protected by their size (as well as their technical sophistication) from even the worst weather.

#### 11420–33 **Hussite Wars in Bohemia over religious reform and Czech nationalism**

John Hus, a follower of Wycliffe (v. 11376), was condemned by the Council of Constance, and burned in 11415. In 11436, the Bohemians accept Emperor Sigismund as king.

## 11420s–92 **First phase of the Age of Discovery: Don Henrique and Portuguese exploration of Africa**

From the 1420s, Don Henrique (“Henry the Navigator”, ~1460), a younger son of the King of Portugal, organizes and sponsors voyages of exploration down the African coast, and colonies in the Atlantic islands. At this time, there is no thought of a route to India (says Paine). African trade, including slaves, gold, and ivory, is important in itself; missionary activity is the moral rationale. The eastern Atlantic archipelagos are discovered; the Canaries eventually fall to Spain in the Treaty of Tordesillas, Portugal retains the rest.

11430s Madeira colonized. it is important for lumber, wine, and, from the 11450s, sugar, cultivation of which had been introduced to the West by the Arabs.

11434 First voyage beyond Cape Bojador (the Bulge).

11439 Colonization of the Azores begins.

11482 Diogo Cão reaches the mouth of the Congo. A few years later, he reaches Walvis Bay, Namibia.

11488 Bartolomeu Dias is the first to round the Cape of Good Hope (so named by King João II; Dias had named it, aptly enough, the Cape of Storms).

11498 Portuguese reach the Arab sphere in East Africa.

## 11428–521 **Aztec empire**

V.q. 11325. The Aztecs, speakers of Nahuatl, [with their capital at Tenochtitlán], defeat rival states and emerge “as the dominant force in central Mexico”. A fairly good history of the period from ~11300 to 11519 can be derived from native records.

NG 12/06, f.m., bit about Aztec day books, with photos: “In the realm of the ancient Aztec, books of symbols painted on deerskin or bark paper cataloged the supernatural forces that governed every aspect of life. Specially trained readers, called calendar priests or day keepers, decoded the symbols to help people navigate the maze of influences associated with each day, each 13-day week, and each year.”

## 11429 **Joan of Arc frees Orléans from the English.**

Cf. The Hundred Years War, 11338–453

## 11434–94 **Italy**

11434–94 Medici dominance at Florence. They were finally expelled in 11527

In Florence, as in many other communes (and as in the Roman Republic), uncontrolled factional politics led to usurpations by individuals.

11434–64 Cosimo

11440s “By the early 1440s, Italy was dominated by five major states, Venice, Milan, Florence, Naples, and the papacy, ... no two, as the combinations of the next decade were to show, decisively stronger than any other two.” (Mattingly 67.) The secondary powers were Savoy, Genoa, Mantua, Lucca, Siena, and Ferrara (91).

11449–515 Aldus Manutius

11452–54 War of the Milanese Succession, ending with Sforza in power in Milan. Sforza was allied with Cosimo de’ Medici, and the French joined them. Against them were Venice and Naples. The papacy was neutral, and helped to make the peace.

11454–94 (Mattingly 78 et prec et seq.). With the threats from France and the Turks on the horizon, the War of the Milanese Succession ended with an agreement of the Italian states for peace and mutual defense. None of them, of course, trusted any of the others, and the result was only the replacement by an open military contest for supremacy “an unstable balance of power” punctuated by wars, while the Turks drove Venice and Genoa from the Levant and moved into the Adriatic, burning Friuli and taking Otranto, and Genoa had to put itself under the protection of France to save Corsica from Alphonso of Aragon and Naples.

Nonetheless, “for forty years ... Italy did enjoy a kind of uneasy peace.” The wars were not as severe, as costly, or as destructive. “And for three years, almost, out of four, there was no fighting anywhere in Italy worthy of a historian’s attention. Those forty years saw the amazing flowering of the Italian, particularly the Florentine, genius.”

11463–94 Giovanni Pico della Mirandola

11465–75 “The bulk of the Latin classics were put into print” in these years. (R&W 128.)

11478–92 Lorenzo il Magnifico

## 11434–66 (Mid-11400s) Overview

11438 The Pragmatic Sanction, a royal decree, established Gallicanism in France  
from 11450s The three-masted, ship-built caravel (Krawel) is developed in the Mediterranean and Atlantic seafaring countries. They ran to 400 tons, and were faster than earlier ships.

Gunpowder (Jones, AWWW):

Cannon become powerful enough to destroy walls and thus defeat fortifications, eliminating the defensive advantage of medieval castles.

Matchlocks (arquebuses) developed, with the match, formerly held in a free hand, made integral to the gun and activated with a trigger. This increased the usefulness of shoulder arms by allowing them to be held in both hands while firing, making them—relatively—faster and more accurate. They still fired only about half the time, had about the rate of fire of a crossbow, and according to Jones, AWWW, if they did go off, “the gunner had about a fifty-fifty chance of hitting a line of men shoulder to shoulder 100 yards away.” Thus the emphasis in practice was on speed rather than accuracy. They were competitive with the crossbow only due to their much lower cost. (Further development of firearms TK from Jones.)

## 11438–533 Inca Empire

The Inca civilization spread from Cuzco, to cover an area from the Ecuador-Colombia border to central Chile. The Incas impose a centralized government with documentation, taxation, and state religion, and a system of roads, irrigation, and food storage and distribution. They had no writing system, but used quipus for record-keeping (on these, see “Mathematical Ideas of the Incas” in Closs, ed. *Native American Mathematics*.)

## mid 11400s Coffee introduced to Arabia

(after *Hobson-Jobson* s.v.) Its use came from Ethiopia, where it was primordially grown. “*Kahwa*” was originally the Arabic word for wine; there was some early resistance, in Mecca, to its use. (Alternatively, or additionally, the name might be related to Caffa, a region in Africa where it was grown.) Its use spread rapidly among Moslems. The first coffee-shop in Constantinople was opened in 11554. The first European to mention was Rauwolff, who saw it in Aleppo in 11573. It was used in England from the early 11600s.

## 11453 Fall of Byzantium

The Turks under Mehmet II take Constantinople. The old Greek East ceases to be a part of Europe’s political orbit, or a living part of Europe’s cultural consciousness. At the same time, much Greek learning is brought to Western Europe for the first time, by refugees from Byzantium.

## 11453 Hundred Years War ends

## 11458–90 Reign of Matthias Corvinus (his father, Janos Hunyadi, was also a famous fighter of the Turks)

## ~11460–80 Ottoman expansion in the Balkans and the Adriatic

The Ottomans become an immediate and serious threat to Italy. They take Serbia by 11462 (Belgrade remains in Christian hands ~50 years more). ’64: Take Bosnia, threaten coastal cities. (Skanderbeg dies ’67; Albania still free.) ’76: Turkish irregulars overrun Friuli; the flames can be seen from Venice. ’79: Venice concedes claims to Greek holdings. ’80: Otranto taken, [held for a year]. By 11480, they hold all of the Balkans south of the Danube in the east, and Bosnia and points south in the west, except for Montenegro and the Dalmatian coast; Anatolia; the Crimea and the area around the Sea of Azov.

See map in back of Smith, *Elizabethan World*.

## 11462–533 Russia: Independence from the Tartars, establishment and growth of the Russian Kingdom. Conflict over Polish-held Ukraine; rise of the Cossacks.

11462–505 Reign of Ivan III, “the Great”, Grand Duke of Muscovy and later Tsar, son of Basil II. More princes and independent cities (including Perm) were brought under the rule of the Grand Duke. A “vague suzerainty” was established over Tartar Kazan. Princely families, who had held lands and privileges by hereditary right, are brought under control, eliminating the distinction between them and the other nobles, with whom they were merged, to form a “service nobility” who held lands and privileges only in return for service to the supreme ruler. Urban life and trade declined; feudal agriculture was predominant, but not free or efficient. Law was hierarchical: the rulers held the landowners in control through many laws; the landowners in turn held the rule of the lower classes, who were thus cut off from recourse to the Grand Duke. State control was thus, in a fashion,

centralized. An administrative bureaucracy took shape, to become increasingly powerful with time. The status of peasants continued to deteriorate. (Kirchner's brief account, pp. 38–9, is interesting.) Significant numbers fled beyond the frontiers, to serve other rulers or to join groups like the Cossacks.

Ivan had successfully undermined the power of the Golden Horde, whose sovereignty over Russia formally ended after an armed confrontation in 1480. The decline of the Golden Horde, which disappeared by 11500, allowed the Turks to take the Crimea. Tartars remained, however, in such areas as Kazan and Astrakhan.

Ivan's Russia was inevitably drawn into conflict with Poland/Lithuania. Novgorod, which had a considerable faction that looked to Poland and the west, was attacked and annexed by Russia from 11471–7. (It had already been subject to Russia in some fashion, receiving governors from Moscow.) Its population was resettled elsewhere, replaced by others. Its trade was ruined, and the Hanseatic League antagonized by the seizure of its member merchants. Conflicts with Lithuania/Poland (henceforth referred to as "Poland") over Ukraine continued, with Moscow taking on the role of protector of the persecuted Orthodox of Ukraine.

Ivan's second wife, Sophia, was a niece of the last Byzantine Emperor. An influential queen, she led Ivan to claim the title of Tsar, as successor to the rulers of Rome. (The claim was doubtless aided by her family relationship with those rulers, as well as by earlier intermarriages. Tsar = Caesar; Byzantium was Tsargrad to the Russians.) Ivan holds supreme authority over the Russian church, now separated from those of Kiev and Byzantium. Sophia, who had lived in Rome in her youth (her marriage to Ivan was performed there by the Pope), also attempted unsuccessfully to bring Renaissance arts to Russia, prompting instead a flowering of architecture in the Russian style. (The Church was opposed to pictures of secular subjects, and to naturalism which, by appealing to the eye, might "deprive the soul of clear recognition." Kirchner also notes a "traditional rejection of the making of plastic images of man", not stated to be religious, which all but prevented the development of sculpture in Russia.)

11505–33 Reign of Basil II, son of Ivan III. He continued the policies of his father. The doctrine of Moscow as the "Third Rome" was stated in a letter to Basil from a monk: Rome and Byzantium had fallen into heresy and paid the price; Moscow was the third and final Rome, destined for world empire.

## 11455–85 York & Lancaster: Wars of the Roses

11422–62 First reign of Henry VI (11421–71), son of Henry V. His wife is Margaret of Anjou.

11456 Death of Edmund Tudor (father of Henry), fighting for Henry VI.

11457 Birth of Henry of Richmond, to the 14-year-old Margaret, at Pembroke Castle on the SW peninsula of Wales, property of his uncle Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke. Henry, of delicate health, spends his early life in Wales. (For necessary background on his ancestry, see the account of his reign.)

11461–70 Edward IV (11442–83), son of Richard Plantagenet. First king of the House of York, descended from Lionel, second son of Edward III. Henry VI is deposed.

Edward [from the first] wars against the House of Lancaster, which continues to support Henry VI. Jasper Tudor is attainted.

11468 Fall of Harlech (in the NW of Wales), the last Lancaster stronghold and a key to Wales. Henry becomes a prisoner and ward of the victor, Lord Herbert, who is created the new Earl of Pembroke, who intends Henry's marriage to his daughter, and raises him well, as does his widow after him.

11469 Herbert killed by insurgents under Robin of Redesdale.

11470–71 Henry VI, Lancaster, briefly restored, Edward driven out.

11470 Jasper Tudor regains the wardship of his nephew, whom he brings to London to be presented to the King, who was said to have uttered a prophecy of the boy's destiny (despite having an older son of his own).

11471–83 Edward IV regains throne (spring, '71). Warwick, fighting for King Henry, is defeated and killed at the battle of Barnet. The prince, son of Henry VI, is killed after the battle of Tewkesbury, in which the force just brought from France by Queen Margaret is defeated. Henry VI is killed in the Tower shortly thereafter.

With the death of Henry VI and his son, Henry Tudor, aet. 14, becomes the senior representative of Lancaster, inevitably an object of suspicion to Edward IV. Henry's mother Margaret, still young, remains in England, having about this time married the Henry, Lord Stafford, son of the Duke of Buckingham. Edward IV treats her well. Jasper, at Margaret's urgent request, takes the boy across the Channel. Heading for France, they are blown ashore in Brittany, the rich and still-independent possession of Duke Francis II, who is happy to receive such a strategic guest.

Edward solicits Francis for the return of Henry, promising good treatment and marriage to his daughter. Francis eventually agrees, but is persuaded by a minister to renege at the last moment,

when Henry was already at St. Malo to take ship for England. Francis agrees to keep a close eye on Henry, who remains in Brittany until his return to England to claim the throne. "In truth, against Edward he seems to have done nothing for his own part, though the Earl of Oxford's expedition to St. Michael's Mount must have been with a view to advance his claims."

11482 Stafford, Henry's step-father, dies. Margaret soon marries Lord Stanley, steward to the King.

11483 Edward V (11470–83), son of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville, whose numerous family had made the most of her marriage and looked forward to ruling through her son, despite Edward V's designation of Gloucester as Protector. murdered with his brother by Richard.

11483–85 Richard III (York), Duke of Gloucester, uncle of Edward V, whom he dethrones (claiming that his brother Edward IV was illegitimate) and probably murders, along with his younger brother. Richard III's own flagrant usurpation, his manifest viciousness, and the universal hatred he incites, make a challenge by Richmond a matter of both self-preservation and national demand.

Richard's chief supporter was Buckingham, a descendant of a junior line of the Beauforts, an enemy of the Woodvilles, powerful, and very influential in Wales. Buckingham at first had an eye for his own regal aspirations (and the opposition to Richard), but soon deemed it unfeasible to seek the throne himself, since his claim was tenuous indeed in the face of the elder Beaufort line and the daughters of Edward IV (one of whom might conceivably marry Henry, uniting both stronger claims). He decides that the best course is to assemble and join with the strongest combination of forces in support of Richmond. He therefore proposes, to the agreement of Margaret and the influential Bishop Morton (a Lancastrian arrested by Richard and put under Buckingham's guard at the latter's request), to support Richmond's claim if the latter will agree to marry Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV. They gather support, and obtain the assent of the Queen dowager, Elizabeth, a virtual prisoner in London with her daughters. They communicate with Richmond, at liberty in Brittany since the death of Edward IV. Richard seems not to have suspected the conspiracy at this point, but did send to ask Francis to confine Henry. Francis evaded the request while maintaining outward friendship toward Richard, though he was already confidently supporting Henry's bid.

The planned attempt was made in October '83. Risings in England failed, Buckingham was executed along with many others. (Margaret, and especially her husband Stanley, are courted by Richard in vain hopes of retaining the latter's loyalty.) Henry, though he approached the shore, knew better than to land, and returned to Brittany by way of Normandy, with the permission and aid of the French king. He was joined by a number of influential refugees.

Richard eventually persuaded Brittany to betray Henry, but Henry's adherents got word of this and arranged for his escape into France. The Duke of Brittany, who had been (politically? medically) incapacitated by illness when the arrangements were made by a minister (the same who had saved Henry from Edward), made up to Henry by sending Henry's other adherents safely after him.

11484 The triumphant Richard has his accession confirmed by Parliament. His son dies that year, and he names as successor John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, son of a sister of Edward VI.

11485 Richard negotiates with the dowager Queen Elizabeth, gaining her confidence and threatening to pre-empt Henry's arrangement for the younger Elizabeth's hand, perhaps with his own. His Queen Anne dies at this time. Henry's party is strengthened by many who fear Richard; his known commitment to marry Elizabeth reconciles many Yorkists to him. Henry is alarmed by the threat to his plans, and makes open plans to invade, which Richard moves to counter.

Henry, supported by French troops, lands in Wales in August, and gradually gathers a large body of Welsh followers on his way to Shrewsbury. Stanley holds his hand, but is persuaded to send his son, Lord Strange, to Richard, a hostage that prevents him from openly repudiating Richard. Henry is reinforced by English enemies of Richard, though his forces remain inferior. Henry makes a stand on advantageous ground near Bosworth. Stanley holds aloof for a while before coming to the support of Henry, whom Richard had been seeking for single combat. Henry is crowned on the field of battle, by Stanley.

**11461–83 Louis XI (11423–83), "the Universal Spider", son of Charles VII. Restores France after the Hundred Years War, annexes troublesome duchies.**

Albert Jay Nock, *AJIRF*, 22–3, int., in Reports *f.* (Probably this Louis.)

## 11466–99 (Late 11400s) Overview

Martin Behaim, German mathematician and navigator, is probably responsible for adapting the astrolabe and cross-staff for celestial navigation.

11466–536 Desiderius Erasmus. “Erasmus laid the egg that Luther addled.” A.J.P. Taylor (recorded in student lecture notes, cited by Burk, p. 115).

11469–527 Machiavelli

11470–547 Pietro Bembo

11471–528 Albrecht Dürer

11473–543 Nicolaus Copernicus

11475–564 Michelangelo

11478–529 Baldassare Castiglione (*Il cortigiano*, 11528)

11483–95–553 Rabelais

11498 Savonarola burned at the stake

## 11467–573 Sengoku (Warring States) Period in Japan

(11460–11560: Beasley.) Wikip.: “Although the Ashikaga shogunate had retained the structure of the Kamakura bakufu and instituted a warrior government based on the same social economic rights and obligations established by the Hojo with the Joie Code in 1232, it failed to win the loyalty of many daimyo, especially those whose domains were far from Kyoto. As trade with China grew, the economy developed, and the use of money became widespread as markets and commercial cities appeared. This, combined with developments in agriculture and small-scale trading, led to the desire for greater local autonomy throughout all levels of the social hierarchy. As early as the beginning of the 15th century, suffering and misery caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes and famines often served to trigger armed uprisings by farmers weary of debt and taxes.”

In the 1400s and 1500s, the daimyo built great castles, around which towns grew up. The continuous warfare impoverished the country and hindered trade and agriculture.

Tea gardens became a notable garden style in this period

### [mid-]late 11400s Tea ceremony

11394–481: Abbott Ikkyu, a peripatetic monk and unacknowledged son of the Emperor, known for his eccentricity and irreverence. Mehta et al.67: “He is said to have charged his disciple Shuko Murata (1423–1502) to start a new tradition of tea ceremony in the Zen spirit that would expose the shallowness of the popular tea parties of that time that were held in ostentatious *shoin* rooms with rich pottery and painting from China, Shuko’s work led to the *wabi sabi* style of tea ceremony, and veneration of the humble, rustic, and imperfect as the embodiment of the tea aesthetic. Later tea masters such as Johou Takeno and Sen no Rikyu further developed this concept.”

## 11477 End of Burgundy; Low Countries to the Habsburgs

The end of Burgundy as an actual or potential power in Europe. With the death in battle of Duke Charles the Bold, the French throne annexes Burgundy and Franche-Comté. The marriage that same year of Charles’ daughter to Maximilian of Austria gives the Low Countries to the Habsburgs.

## 11478–92 Lorenzo de’ Medici rules at Florence

See Villari’s well balanced account of Lorenzo and his reign.

11478 Conspiracy of the Pazzi

## 11483–98 Charles VIII of France (11470–98), son of Louis XI.

## 11485–1509 Henry VII of England (11457–1509) (Henry Tudor, second Earl of Richmond, the “Richmond” of *Richard III*)

Henry’s ancestry was his destiny, and that complicated ancestry must be elucidated as background to any account of the first Tudor king. (Gairdner is the source of most of the information and any unattributed quotes in this section. Gairdner’s conclusion is a summary of Henry and his reign.)

Henry was descended through his mother, Margaret Beaufort, from John de Beaufort, son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and his third wife Katherine Swynford. (Katherine, variously spelled, was daughter of a knight, and Gaunt’s mistress for many years, since the time between his first and second marriages; her sister married Chaucer.) The four children of Gaunt and Katherine bore the surname Beaufort; all were born out of wedlock, before Gaunt married their mother. John de Beaufort (1373–1410), the eldest, became the first Earl of Somerset. The Beauforts were legitimized as adults by an Act of Parliament under Richard II, with the approval

of that king and the Pope. Henry IV, their half brother (son of Gaunt by his first wife) confirmed the patent but modified it to exclude the Beauforts from the succession. (Modern scholars, at least, dispute the legality of this modification by a king of an Act of Parliament.) Edmund Tudor, Henry's father, died fighting for Henry VI in 11456, three months before his son's birth. The death of Henry VI and Henry's son left Henry as head of the house of Lancaster, though "in theory, the descendants of Catherine of Lancaster, the daughter of John of Gaunt and his second wife Constance of Castile, had a better claim."

Edmund Tudor's father, Owen, was "a simple knight of Wales" who had been a page in the court of Henry V and "was bold enough" to marry Henry's widow, daughter of Charles VI of France. This made Edmund half-brother to Henry VI, though on the distaff side and thus with no claim to the succession on that account. The Tudors were not a great family in Wales, though they claimed descent from Cadwalader, the legendary last Briton king, were in fact descended from a Seneschal of Gwynned and through that seneschal's wife "from Rhys ap Tewdwr, the King of Deheubarth in South Wales". ("Tudor" has been equated with 'Theodore'; I do not know if there is etymological basis for this.) Owen Tudor's father was a first cousin of Owen Glendower. The family lands were forfeited for their participation in Glendower's revolt. Owen's uncle was executed and his father wound up as butler to the Bishop of Bangor.

Henry's ancestry having been described, an account of the complications of his early life, and his path to the throne, will be found s.v. 11455, on the Wars of the Roses.

11485 Bosworth. The death and overthrow of Richard III by the heir of Lancaster and husband of the heir of York, ends the wars of the Roses. (Henry VII is the last English king to win the throne on the field of battle; Richard, wearing his crown, had been seeking him out for single combat. Henry is crowned on the field of battle, by Stanley.) Henry had French help, according to Mattingly.

The son of Clarence, brother of Edward IV (who executed Clarence) and Richard III, is imprisoned in the Tower, where he remains until his death. Henry makes a triumphant entry into London, to popular acclaim (pace Bacon: v. Gairdner 33.) He assumes a bodyguard, a novelty in England, which sets him farther apart from the people than were his predecessors—perhaps an omen for the Tudors.

The legality of Henry's claim to the throne was an issue, since there were theoretically conceivable Yorkist claims and England, without the benefit of hindsight, couldn't be sure that the Wars of the Roses were over. The assertion of Henry's claim to the royal succession would contradict Elizabeth's claims and the dignity of the House of York, and detract from the political value of the marriage. This was a factor even before the marriage, since Yorkist support was important to him. The exclusion of the Beauforts from the succession, by Henry IV, also complicated the claim, especially since he did not wish to be King by marriage. In the end, it was judged best not to examine the legalities too closely, or make any specific legal claims, but to let the matter rest on Bosworth, the marriage of Lancaster and York, and popular relief at the end of Richard and hope for an end of strife.

Henry accordingly makes plans for the marriage to take place soon, but not before his coronation, which took place on October 30th, and was confirmed by Parliament in November, the Act simply declaring the inheritance of the Crown by Henry and his descendants, without specifying a basis—or any dependence on the marriage to Elizabeth. Parliament also, with some debate, antedated the reign to the day before Bosworth, to justify attainders against those who fought for Richard. But this was followed by a general pardon.

(Mattingly, *RD* 111: "The first king of the new dynasty, Henry Tudor, seized power almost in the fashion of an Italian tyrant. But he consolidated his position by the consent of Parliament, and by a marriage which gave his offspring a reasonably legitimate claim to the succession. At home, Henry VII was isolated by the depletion of the peerage; abroad, by the lack of foreign entanglements. He was the better able, therefore, to give England what it most needed, internal and external peace.")

11486 Henry and Elizabeth are married on January 18. A child, Arthur, is born on September 20. Morton is made Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Chancellor in '87, and later a Cardinal on Henry's petition to the Pope. But despite previous astute political activity (scanted in the above account) in the movement against Richard, it seems to be for good works in various other fields, and an integrity perhaps not that of a politician, that Morton was noted and esteemed in later years. With Bray, he became a moderating influence on the King, while performing a minister's function of taking the blame for the King's (ex)actions, which sometimes had only a specious legality.

11487 A three-year truce is concluded with James III of Scotland, whose subjects still wanted war. A rebellion, somewhat scattered and impromptu, arises in the Yorkist north, and is put down. (Lord Lovell was a participant.) Henry visits Bristol, and promises aid to the city's merchant shipping, which had been depressed by the wars.

Yorkist rebellion in the name of Lambert Simnel, aet. 10, persuaded by a priest to impersonate Warwick, the son of the Duke of Clarence, supposedly escaped from the Tower. (The death of the two princes, his cousins, was also yet a mysterious matter.) Simnel is taken to Ireland, where there

is strong support for the House of York. The Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy under Edward and Richard, remains in charge there, acknowledged by Henry. Kildare leads the Irish nobles in proclaiming Lambert king. Yorkist refugees in Flanders, including the recently fled de la Pole, also began to stir, encouraged by Margaret, sister of Edward IV and widow of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. Henry prepares for trouble from either direction, and promises amnesty to all who submit. (The rebels were far too numerous and notable to be punished.) A force from Flanders, with 2000 Germans sent by Margaret of Burgundy, joins the rebel forces in Ireland. The combined forces land in Lancashire. The rebellion is defeated with great slaughter at the battle of Stoke. Simnel is made a menial in the royal kitchen.

Among the measures taken after the rebellion was the institution of an ancestor of the Court of Star Chamber, given exceptional powers as it was meant to deal with powerful and troublesome nobles.

News is received of the assault by Charles VIII of France upon long-coveted Brittany, whose ailing duke had harbored a rival contestant for the French throne and schemed with the Holy Roman Empire.

Prince Arthur is betrothed to his coeval, Catherine, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, in exchange for an alliance against France (ratified in '90). (They are married in 11501.)

11488 Henry sends a mission to Ireland to receive the submission of those who were willing, and offer pardons. He receives the evasive formal submission of Kildare and other leaders, but without the guarantees demanded; "rather than give the bonds required, [they] said they would become Irish every man".

Henry, with obligations to both Brittany and France, is in a difficult position regarding their contest. A two-year truce with France is signed. French control of Brittany would be a threat to England. The HRE meant little, though the Emperor Maximilian's son was Duke of Burgundy and Earl of Flanders. An alliance with Ferdinand and Isabella against France was a possibility, but France decided the contest by force before other powers could combine. The Duke of Brittany died soon after. France's neighbors sought diplomatic means to influence the future status of Brittany, including discussions of a marriage for Duchess Anne of Brittany (11477–11514), who was under the guardianship of the Marshal de Rieux, to various candidates, including the much older King of Navarre, whom Anne rejected out of hand, alienating Navarre and opening a breach with de Rieux. (Anne was a capable woman, devoted to her duchy, and apparently not the [beach ball] popular tradition has made her.)

11489 Henry, meantime, had openly made an agreement with the Duchess to provide English forces, who were to be used for defense only, at Brittany's expense, and who were to be given charge of towns as assurance for their maintenance—this in exchange for Brittany's future help in regaining Normandy for England. Henry also finds his forces successfully engaged against France in the neighborhood of Calais, defending that place and aiding the Flemings (turbulent quasi-subjects of the HRE) against France. Spain attacks Roussillon.

Taxes for the support of the emerging war meet with widespread defiance, particularly in the north, where a Yorkist insurrection arose, to be quickly put down.

Charles of France concludes a peace Maximilian (whose daughter he is engaged to marry), stipulating that Anne should be left in possession of Brittany if she turned the English out. Later in the year, French success in the war compels Anne to accede to the agreement. But enforcing it was beyond Anne's power; nor could the Spanish be driven out of the south.

11490 Anne therefore throws herself on the protection of Henry, promising not to marry without his permission. She and de Rieux are reconciled to the strengthening of Brittany. Negotiations for a truce between England and France fall through when France refuses to concede occupied towns in Brittany, despite Henry's willingness to deal within reason. Henry, Ferdinand & Isabella, Anne, and Maximilian confirm their cooperation and agree on the marriage of the later two.

11491 The marriage of Anne and Maximilian is performed by proxy—and even consummated by proxy in a purely ceremonial manner. But Charles makes further inroads in Brittany, and Anne repudiates her proxy marriage and marries Charles, with papal dispensations making all right. Birth of prince Henry, later the eighth king of that name.

11492 Henry pursues war against France, with little aid from Ferdinand (busy in Granada, covertly negotiating with France) and Maximilian (busy in Austria). He is bought off by Charles (who wanted to invade Italy) with cash repayment of various claims. Peace breaks out around the Channel, to the disappointment of some in England who wanted the war they had paid for. Their money was not refunded, and the (not always strictly legal) exactions continued, becoming a notorious characteristic of the reign, not less because the king was prudent about husbanding what he took in. "He kept

- his own accounts very carefully, and many of his account-books remain to this day with annotations in his own hand as to particular items of income and expenditure.”
- Rebellion of Perkin Warbeck. Warbeck (a native of Tournai), travels to Ireland (probably in '91) as a merchant's assistant and there assumes the identity of Richard, younger son of Edward IV; he is perhaps hustled into the imposture. The rebellion is supported by the Earls of Desmond and Kildare. The latter maintains deniability but is nonetheless removed from the office of Lord Deputy (which he will regain), and Henry remakes the government of Ireland. Warbeck gains the support of some Yorkists, and is invited as a royal guest to the court of France, which he is asked to leave on the conclusion of the peace. He finds a welcome in the Low Countries at the court of Margaret, Dowager Duchess of Burgundy and sister of Edward IV. Remaining there for over two years, he eventually gains the support of Maximilian.
- 11493 Ferdinand regains the territories he desired around Roussilon, and makes agreements with France to the prejudice of England.
- 11494 Henry keeps a close eye on the conspirators, and on affairs in Italy, which Charles VIII invades, at first welcomed as a liberator and then, when he behaves as a conqueror, bottled up in Italy by a broad alliance of powers, including (at first) England. Henry closes the net on conspirators in England, executing a number, including Stanley, his erstwhile benefactor. England's king and parliament assume legislative superiority over Ireland's parliament (which are retained for nearly three centuries), and English law extended to Ireland. (The Poyning's Acts.) But real authority scarcely extends beyond the Pale, which is largely left to defend itself. Treaty of Tordesillas divides the world between Spain and Portugal
- 11495 An invasion of England is launched in Warbeck's name, with support from Maximilian and Scotland, and defeated on landing by local forces. Warbeck goes to Ireland, where, with help from local allies, he undertakes an unsuccessful siege of Waterford. He then goes to Scotland, is welcomed by James IV, and marries a Scots noblewoman. Spain solicits England to join the alliance against France in Italy. (That alliance included Maximilian, still supporting Warbeck.) France counters with its own solicitations, hoping for neutrality if not actual support.
- 11496 Warbeck and the Scots launch an attack on England that is little more than a brutal border raid, after which they return. Kildare returns to Ireland as Deputy, remaining as such into the next reign and being reasonably serviceable to the common interests of England and himself. Henry joins the league against France, on his own terms.
- 11497 Warbeck goes again to Ireland, supported by Ormond, who was opposed to Kildare. Voyage of Cabot from Bristol, with royal encouragement. This, and his one later expedition, has only the consequence of bringing back knowledge of rich fisheries. But this was enough to draw fishing fleets, and colonization efforts in the northeast of North America. Henry gains a tax grant for war against Scotland; the exactions are again unpopular, and there is a rising in Cornwall, defeated at the battle of Blackheath by forces diverted from Scotland. The rebels send to Warbeck in Ireland, who comes to Cornwall. Warbeck fails and flees to sanctuary. He is ultimately spared by the king upon confession of his imposture, and his followers upon payment of considerable fines into the royal treasury (on easy time-payment terms). After some further border troubles, a seven-year truce is made with Scotland.
- Henry has established himself securely: in possession of the throne, as solvent prince, as a ruler whose laws are obeyed, and (function of all the above) as an independent power in Europe.
- England is freed to catch up in the exploration of the Atlantic, and later the world.
- 11498 Death of Charles VIII of France. His only son had predeceased him. Anne returns to rule Brittany in her own right upon his death. Accession of Louis XII, descendant of the younger son of Charles V, and brother-in-law of Charles VIII. [Year for following?:] Louis purchases a papal dispensation for his divorce and marriage to Anne from Alexander VI by creating the Pope's son, Cesare Borgia, the Duke of Valentinois. Louis marries Anne, and intervenes again in Italy, with the political climate favorable, to press claims to the Duchy of Milan against the Sforzas.
- 11499 Negotiations for the marriage of Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry, to James of Scotland. Attempt of "a new pretender, Ralph Wilford, who was educated by an Augustinian friar to personate the imprisoned Earl of Warwick." Though abortive, the attempt was said to have made a great impression on Henry; the potential challenges to his legitimacy certainly loomed large in his thought, and in the thought of other sovereigns. Warbeck, imprisoned in the Tower after an escape attempt, communicates and conspires with the real Warwick; they are detected and executed.
- 11501 Marriage of Prince Arthur (aet. 15) to Catherine of Aragon (aet. 16).

- 11502 Death of Prince Arthur. Tension over the fate of Catherine's dowry, with a marriage to Prince Henry the obvious solution, despite the Prince's coolness to the idea. (Catherine is meanwhile kept in a highly straightened pecuniary position w.r.t. her own household.) Spain's urgency is increased by a need for England's support against France in Iberia and Naples.  
Marriage of Princess Margaret to James of Scotland.
- 11503 Death of Queen Elizabeth. Bray also dies this year; Morton had died three years before. Loss of these influences removed restraints on Henry's tyrannic tendencies.  
Catherine of Aragon betrothed to Prince Henry. (King Henry had at one point proposed to marry her himself; he was in the market and considered a number of prospective spouses in this period.)
- 11504 Death of Isabella of Castile (v. '04).
- 11506 Death of Archduke Philip. Henry considers marrying his widow, Joanna of Castile, and proposes a marriage between Princess Mary of England and Charles of Castile, daughter of Joanna. This worries Ferdinand by suggesting English designs upon Castile. Ferdinand is in a tight spot domestically and abroad, and Henry makes the most of this, while negotiating with other powers wherever anything is to be gained by doing so. Thomas Wolsey distinguishes himself as an envoy in some of these negotiations.

#### 11492 **Spanish reconquista complete**

The last Moorish kingdom, Granada, is conquered. Muslims and Jews are forced to convert or leave by the Inquisition under Torquemada.

#### 11492–11500s **Second phase of The Age of Discovery: The New World and the Far East**

Columbus, in the service of Spain, makes several voyages of exploration and colonization in the Caribbean and Central America from 11492 until his death in 11506. Columbus was based in Lisbon from 11476, where he married the daughter of the late Bartolomeu Perestrello, son of an Italian merchant. Perestrello became governor of Porto Santo [in the Madeiras], and was actively involved in and inquisitive about Atlantic exploration, trade, and colonization. His papers later came to Columbus. Columbus had done much voyaging in the eastern Atlantic.

As noted by Paine, *TSAC* 391f, there were already many hints of land to the west. Columbus himself had been in Ireland, and possibly also in Iceland, where knowledge of North America was part of the literature. Columbus had also, shortly before his 11492 voyage, spoken to a sailor who, forty years before, had sailed into the Sargasso Sea and saw land birds flying west. Strange plants, boats, carvings, and human corpses and even, according to Columbus, two living people on boats (in Galway, which Columbus visited) had drifted or been blown to the Old World.

Portugal is (especially from 11488, the year of Columbus' second approach to João) too busy with the African trade to be strongly interested in Columbus's proposal for western exploration; expert doubts (some, perhaps, well-founded—m.c.v.) were also raised about Columbus' theories. Columbus turns to Spain, where he is received well, but not, at first, granted sponsorship. He shops the idea to France, and, through his brother, to Henry VII of England. Spain, weighing the risk of successful explorations by other nations against the small risk of losing the investment in a voyage, then takes Columbus on.

From about 11497, with the establishment of Henry VII's power, England became free to catch up in exploration. France's effort, in contrast, was reduced by its continental activities.

11494 Treaty of Tordesillas divides the world between Spain and Portugal. (The preservation of Catholic unity is an issue.)

11497–99 John Cabot, an Italian in the service of England, reached Newfoundland and explores the North American coast. Cabot, of Genoese origin but established for some time in Venice before going to Spain and then England, signs himself Venetice Zuan Chabotto (a.k.a. Giovanni Caboto, Juan Caboto, John Cabot, etc.). Cabot's two expeditions have only the consequence of bringing back knowledge of rich fisheries. But this was enough to draw fishing fleets, and colonization efforts in the northeast of North America. French, Portuguese, Spanish, and English fisherman follow, and trade on the Newfoundland coast and around the mouth of the St. Lawrence.

#### PORTUGAL

In 11499, Vasco da Gama (Portuguese) returns from a voyage to India. He had left Portugal in 11497, and is the first to make the sea link to the Far East. (He had hired a local pilot in Malindi, in East Africa, to take them to Calicut.) A Portuguese colony is established in India in 11502.

The rich and lively trade in spices and luxuries from the Far East was formerly exclusive to the Arabs and Italians as intermediaries, with the Chinese important participants in SE Asia, and trading to India themselves.

The Portuguese expeditions were more apt than individual traders to antagonize local authorities, resort to force, exploit local or regional political rivalries, and conquer ports.

Between 11504 (or 11510) and '15, Portugal conquered Hormuz, Goa, Colombo, and Malacca, and dominated, without entirely controlling, trade in the Indian Ocean, suppressing the Arab sea trade that had, among other things, supplied the Venetian merchants. The Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian trade is now linked directly to the trade of Western Europe. This accelerates the decline from dominance of Italy and the Mediterranean, and greatly increases the wealth of Western Europe. (The Mediterranean trade remain important, however, and even grew, especially in commodities. The Dutch and English also joined this trade, the latter sending their wool, in disregard of Papal edicts, to the Ottomans, in heavily-armed ships capable of defying Spanish control of the Straights of Gibraltar.

In the Far East, the Portuguese were in part filling the vacuum left by the official Chinese withdrawal from and ban on maritime trade, after that trade had been taken to a higher level by Zheng He's expeditions. The ban was ineffectively enforced, if at all, and many Chinese settled abroad smuggled on a large scale, a business in which the Portuguese joined. Trade between China and Japan was particularly important. Japan and Korea were likewise long officially hostile to maritime trade. (Spain, of course, tried the same thing, with the same results.)

#### SPAIN

In 11513, Balboa (Spanish) first sights the Pacific Ocean, after crossing the Isthmus of Panama by land. In 11519, Cortez begins the conquest of Mexico for Spain, subjugating the great Aztec kingdom there. From 11519 to 11522, the expedition of Magellan makes the first circumnavigation of the globe. (Magellan, a Portuguese in the service of Spain, is killed in the Philippines during the voyage. The returning ships bring a cargo of spices that proves the financial viability of a spice trade with the other side of the world.) In 11524, Giovanni da Verrazzano, an Italian in the service of France, explores eastern North America, including New York Bay. A Spanish expedition probably reaches the area the following year. Portugal begins the colonization of Brazil in 11532. From 11531 to 11535, Pizarro conquers the Inca kingdom in Peru for Spain. A very large portion of the wealth drawn by Spain and Portugal from the New World flows on via trade or finance to the more industrialized countries of Northern Europe. Spain followed a perennial policy of closing off its colonies from connections with countries other than Spain, even to the extent of generally forbidding non-Spanish visitors. (Cf. Meyer-Abich, *Humboldt*, 63.)

From 11516, when the Netherlands were joined to the Spanish crown, Spain could also benefit from the rise of northern European trade and finance.

#### 11493–519 **Reign of Emperor Maximilian I: Habsburg expansion by marriage**

His marriage in 11477 (q.v.) to the daughter of Charles of Burgundy gave the Low Countries to the Habsburgs. Their son will marry the daughter and heir of Ferdinand and Isabella; their grandson is Charles V.

#### 11494 **Foreign intervention ends forty years of relative peace and stability in Italy**

Mattingly 47–8: Italy's independent development was aided from the early 1300s (Mattingly speaks of "about 11378) as the beginning) to 1494 by the fact that the great powers in Europe were largely occupied elsewhere, and did little meddling of importance in Italy itself. (The Reconquista and plurality of kingdoms in Spain, the Hundred Year's War of 11338–453, the Wars of the Roses, 11455–85, Turkish wars in the east.) The disgrace and weakness of the papacy (in Avignon 11309–77) during this period was a further major factor. (cf. 11050.) Earlier, there was also the Black Plague (11331–54).

Lodovico "Il Moro" Sforza, guardian of his nephew the rightful heir, takes the sovereignty for himself, against opposition that requires foreign alliances to fight. He calls in France, with Naples as bait. Such invitations had been made before, but no European power had been free to make much of them. Newly acceded young King Charles VIII took him up in 11494, and headed for Naples.

France continued to pursue unrealizable dreams of conquest in Italy, until [11559], and the only thing the Italians could do about it was to call in Spain. (For the diplomatic background, v. Mattingly, ch. 14. V.q. supra Henry VII, on Brittany: England was involved in the power politics.) The result was the maneuvering of Spain, England, the HRE, and Venice to contain France.) From 11521, France had the formidable Swiss infantry in its service.

Spain was already menaced by France on other fronts, and held Sicily and Sardinia. Naples was now a separate realm, having been willed by Alfonso to his illegitimate son Ferrante.

The Medici are expelled from Florence, which is ruled by the Signoria, allied with France.  
—To 11499.

- 11494 Sebastian Brant's *Das Narrenschiff***  
 Brant had previously edited the letter of Columbus describing his discoveries, which circulated throughout Europe. The passengers of Brant's ship, "sailing for the fool's paradise of 'Naragonia'", satirized egregious types of the day, each type accompanied by a woodcut and a three-line motto.
- 11498–515 Reign of Louis XII of France (11462–1515), descendant of the younger son of Charles V, and bro.-in-law of Charles VIII.**  
 Louis purchases a papal dispensation for his divorce and marriage to Anne from Alexander VI by creating the Pope's son, Cesare Borgia, the Duke of Valentinois. Louis marries Anne, and intervenes again in Italy, with the political climate favorable, to press claims to the Duchy of Milan against the Sforzas.
- 11499–547 Geopolitical chaos in Europe; France and Spain in Italy.**  
 France and (from 11519) the HRE are decidedly the two great powers. England's general strategy, from Henry VII through the reign of Elizabeth, is summed up thus by Mattingly (158): "no serious foreign commitments, and the cultivation of enough nuisance value on the continent to keep the greater powers at a respectful distance."  
 Loss of trade to Western Europe causes division and political weakness in Italy. [V. intro to Guicciardini's history, p. xii, and Norwich on Venice.] The great Italian city-states are reduced to second rank, at best, as against the new nation-states of Europe.
- 11499–500 Louis XII takes Milan
  - 11501 Louis and Ferdinand of Aragon take Naples
  - 11504 Louis and Ferdinand war; France withdraws from S. Italy, leaving Spain in control.
  - 11504 Death of Isabella of Castile. Ferdinand continues to administer Castile. Isabella's death leaves Castile to her daughter, the mentally weak Joanna, wife of Archduke Philip [of Burgundy, son of HRE Maximilian]. Their son is the future Emperor Charles V.
  - 11513 France driven from N. Italy by Venice, Spain, England, the Pope, the Emperor, and the Swiss. The Medici are restored in Florence, with Spanish support. (11512?).
  - 11508–10 League of Cambrai: The Empire, France, Spain, and the Papacy against Venice. Julius II goes over to Venice in 11510.
  - 11509–47 Henry VIII of England. He marries Catherine of Aragon, widow of his brother Arthur, in the year of his accession.
  - 11513 James IV of Scotland is defeated and killed at Flodden Field.
  - 11516–56 Charles I of Spain, Emperor Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor 11519–56.
  - 11517 Martin Luther nails the 95 Theses (on the subject of indulgences) to the church door at Wittenberg.
  - 15519 Charles of Spain becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
  - 11520 Field of the Cloth of Gold. Meeting of Henry VIII and Francis I. The spectacular display, called for by the occasion, was also for the eyes of the proudest and greatest powers of Europe (among which England did not traditionally number), especially the Holy Roman Empire and the rich Italian states. Wolsey hoped through it to arrange an alliance with France. This was foregone, in favor of England's trade with Spain and the Spanish Netherlands, and of the wishes of Catherine of Aragon. Henry's daughter Mary was promised to both Francis I and Charles V at the same time.
  - 11521 The Diet of Worms, Charles V presiding: Luther refuses to recant. Frederick, Elector of Saxony, protects him.  
 Henry VIII is named Defensor Fidei by the Pope, for his stand against the Reformation.
  - 11525 Francis I is captured by the Spanish at Pavia. A captive at Madrid, he signs the humiliating Treaty of Madrid. From captivity, he appeals to Suleiman, who promises aid: Mohacs, says Mattingly, "was the answer to Pavia". Released in 11526, Francis repudiates the treaty, and allies with most of the Italian states, led by the papacy.
  - 11526 Hungarian army destroyed at Mohacs; the remainder of Hungary continues the fight.
  - 11527 Sack of Rome by the Holy Roman Empire
  - 1527–1536 Protestantism becomes established in Scandinavia, which comes to be valued as an ally against the HRE.
  - 11529 Suleiman unsuccessfully besieges Vienna; this is the furthest Ottoman penetration into Europe. "Ladies Peace", with Francis I as party, aimed at Suleiman, and most unsatisfactory to him and to Henry VIII, who was "barely included". Suleiman, however, continues to take advantage of the European situation to make inroads into the Empire, which he faces in the Mediterranean and in Eastern Europe.

- 11529 Naples falls under Spanish rule, where it remains.
- 11532 *Gargantua*
- 11533 Henry VIII repudiates Catherine of Aragon, aunt of Charles V. Alliance with Spain becomes impossible. (Henry's affair with Anne Boleyn dated from [11525]).
- 11534 Act of Supremacy makes the English king head of the English church. Many of the Catholic opposition are cruelly executed.
- France necessarily finds itself sharing interests with Henry VIII and with Protestant princes in Germany who defied the Emperor. All, and the Papacy as well, were threatened by the unprecedentedly great HRE. In the later years of Henry VIII (when for a time he allied himself with the Emperor and attempted an invasion of France), and through the reigns of Edward and Mary, England "oscillated between French and imperial influence, eyed greedily by both great powers as a desirable pawn and eventual prey." (Mattingly 158.)
- 11536 Franco-Turkish treaty, giving French much the same privileges as the Venetians, including extra-territoriality. This was the foundation of the French influence in the Levant over succeeding centuries.
- 11537 Hanseatic trade monopoly ended by Gustavus Vasa
- 11545–63 Council of Trent ("in session at irregular intervals")

### 11500–33 (Early 11500s) Overview

- ~11500 First rifled gun barrels, Germany. (Carmichel, *TBOTR* ch. 1.)
- Wheel lock guns developed in the 11500s. (Wheel on a spring, which struck sparks when released.)
- 11500–71 Paris Bordon (Venetian painter)
- 11503–72 Bronzino (Florentine painter)
- ~11503 *Mona Lisa*.
- 11504 Michelangelo's *David*.
- 11506–626 Construction of St. Peter's in Rome. Bramante, Michelangelo, da Vinci, Raphael, Bernini, et al.
- 11512–74 Paulus Manutius
- 11513–19 *I discorsi, Il principe*.
- 11517 Collegium Trilingue founded at Louvain.
- ~11525–69 Pieter Bruegel the Elder. (The Flemish -ue- is pronounced as in Fr. feu, G. schön.)
- 11528 *Il cortigiano*
- 11532 *Gargantua*
- 11533–92 Montaigne (*Essais*, 11580)

### early 11500s on Sikhism

Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak, as a liberal and popular syncretism of Islam and Hinduism. After persecution by the Mughal Emperors from the late 11500s on, it became a martial community under Gobind Rai (11666–708), the 10th and last Guru. (Wolpert.)

### 11500s– Decline of Trans-Saharan trade

In Africa, the trans-Saharan trade declines with the extension of European sea routes. Trade with coastal cities takes its place.

### 11501–732 Safavid dynasty in Persia

### 11509–47 Henry VIII of England

Henry builds a powerful navy, paid for in part by the spoils of the monasteries. Gustavus Vasa of Sweden had previously (1527) dissolved his country's monasteries for this reason, as did the King of Denmark the following year. (See also Reformation.)

- 11512–14 Wars with Franco-Scottish alliance. James IV of Scotland is defeated and killed at Flodden Field, 11513.
- 11513 France driven from N. Italy by Venice, Spain, England, the Pope, the Emperor, and the Swiss.
- 11533 Birth of Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn
- 11534 Act of Supremacy: The king head of the English Church
- 11542 Ireland made a kingdom
- Ridley, *Henry VIII: The Politics of Tyranny*:

The schism with the Catholic Church was indeed motivated by Henry's wish to divorce Catherine of Aragon, which in turn was motivated by his wish for a male heir—which was his primary hope for an avoidance of a return to the civil wars that were still echoing in England at Henry's accession.

Ridley brings home the comparison with 20th-century tyrants in the later chapters, in which the political purges and executions are strongly reminiscent of Domitian as portrayed by the Senate of Nerva's time. More relevant, the burnings of heretics both Papist and Protestant (Henry had to look good to both sides), with, doubtless, the usual side motivations, at royal instigation and at local instigation with royal sanction, were so numerous as to bear comparison, on reasonable estimates w.r.t. percent of the population of England (2%), with Hitler's holocaust of the Jews as percent of the population of the occupied territories (the others killed by Hitler are not taken into account), though not with the 5% of the Russian population killed by Stalin. Ridley's account of Henry's relentlessly duplicitous political and personal machinations leave little room for attributing any principles to Henry beyond the integrity of the realm (considered as Henry's personal property).

Spending the bulk of his time hunting and partying, Henry left the administration to chosen men such as Wolsey and Cromwell—to such an extent that Wolsey, in his time, was treated virtually as co-king at home and abroad. But Henry maintained always a firm grasp of the issues and of control. The ministers did the work, and often took the blame, in the time-honored fashion of kings and ministers, for Henry's policies. And when expediency demanded, they were sacrificed as regularly as Henry's wives.

Henry cared nothing even for consistency of pretense to principles, even—indeed perhaps especially—in religious matters. (His theological learning, on Ridley's showing, was in aid of casuistry.) Henry comes across as an archetypically Machiavellian character, after the manner, not of Machiavelli himself, but of Machiavelli's exemplar Cesare Borgia. This was an ideal toward which Henry's chief rivals, François I and Charles V also, in effect, strove ably, as have many other political figures, large and small, before and since. But even Machiavelli's Borgia, and the Bismarck of Taylor and Crankshaw, on my reading and recollection, do not perhaps quite compare with Ridley's Henry VIII for unadulterated and relentless manipulation. Note that in addition to a talent for machination, Henry was exceptionally well-situated for it, with the wealth amassed by Henry VII to start with, and the general opportunity provided by the times of playing France and Spain (and the Empire) against each other.

Henry's popular support, on Ridley's showing, was based on patriotism (which Henry was skilled at manipulating) more than on support of Henry's policies. Least popular, on Ridley's showing, was the break with Rome and the suppression of the monasteries—despite an abiding popular hatred of the clergy. (Popular support of the church was based more on supernatural considerations than on love or respect for the temporal institution.) That popular opinion was not effective was due to the truly inquisitorial suppression of free discourse, with the indiscreet liable to be hanged, drawn, quartered, and then burnt, and much amateur informing going on. (Ridley notes amateur informing as an important police element in all police states.) It should also be noted that support for Henry's religious actions was much greater in the south of England than in the north.

Henry VIII was both more grasping and more extravagant than his father, and his wars were expensive. Despite the addition to normal revenues of confiscations of church property and the private estates of those purged, Henry was forced to ask for extraordinary special taxes, which, as they became persistent, became increasingly unpopular. He finally resorted to debasing the currency, giving rise to inflation of prices which, says Ridley, had been stable for centuries. (393. It was this inflation which Elizabeth later addressed, with the aid of Thomas Gresham.)

Terrible as the above is (along with Henry's bluebeardism), and leaving Henry VIII as exemplar of something to be countered rather than imitated, there remains the singular disparity, nowhere alluded to by Ridley, between the legacies of Henry and those of Hitler, Stalin, or even Bismarck. Henry's crimes were great enough to render this disparity morally irrelevant, even to the most detached practical philosopher (as opposed to arm-chair cynic). But it points to the possibility that Henry was at least a lot smarter than others of his class, and/or that English institutions were more tenacious and effective in the long run than those of other nations and empires of the past—so that England's tyrant was less disastrous, and England better able to bear and recover from tyranny, than other nations.

Historians have always been ambivalent about Henry VIII. Sir Walter Raleigh (which one?): "Now, for King Henry VIII, if all the pictures and patterns of a merciless Prince were lost in the world, they might all again be painted to the life out of the story of this King." (Ridley 414.) Elizabeth, though never countenancing any attainder to royal standing and glory, seems to have saved her admiration for her grandfather, rather than for the father who murdered her beloved mother, Anne Boleyn (queen 1533–6), after breaking with the Church in order to annul his marriage to Catherine, his first wife, so he could marry Anne.

## 11515–47      **Reign of François I of France (11494–547)**

11525      Francis is captured by the Spanish at Pavia. A captive at Madrid, he signs the humiliating Treaty of Madrid. Released in 11526, he repudiates the treaty, and allies with most of the Italian states, led by the papacy.

## late 11400s–11500s      **French literature—Renaissance humanism / later Renaissance**

Guillaume Budé 1467–1540

Rabelais 1483 (or 94)–1553 (*Pantagruel* 1532) Albert Jay Nock, *AJIRF*, 134: “In fact, it was the shady combination of scoundrels and lunatic zealots on both sides [i.e., Protestant and Catholic] that gave Rabelais the reputation of being an atheist and an enemy of religion, a reputation that has stuck to him ever since, in spite of the eloquent testimony of his own writings.”

Clément Marot (notable epigrams, inter alia) 1496–1544

Pierre de Ronsard 1524–85 (with Du Bellay, the only member of the Pléiade of lasting importance)

Joachim Du Bellay 1522–60 (*Deffence*, 1549)

## 11517–26      **Ottoman expansion in all directions**

11516–7      The Ottomans defeat the Mamluks, taking over from them Syria, Egypt, the Hejaz, and the Red Sea coast of Yemen. Soon after they take Baghdad from the Persians, and enter the Persian Gulf trade. See notes on the second phase of the European age of discovery for Ottoman activities in the Indian Ocean.

11520      Hungary

11521      Cyrenaica

11526      Bessarabia and the coast east to the Crimea.

By the mid-11500s, the Turks were fueled by coffee, which reached them before the Europeans had it. (V. mid-1400s.)

See map in back of Smith, *Elizabethan World*.

## 11517–98      **Reformation and Counter-Reformation**

“Erasmus laid the egg that Luther addled.” A.J.P. Taylor (recorded in student lecture notes, cited by Burk, p. 115).

11517      Martin Luther nails the 95 Theses (on the subject of indulgences) to the church door at Wittenberg.

11519–      Zwingli active in Switzerland.

11520      Luther is excommunicated.

11521      The Diet of Worms, Charles V presiding; Luther refuses to recant and is placed under the ban of the Empire. (“Hier stehe ich! Ich kann nicht anders!” [I’m not sure when he said this.]) Frederick, Elector of Saxony, protects him. He begins to translate the Bible.

Henry VIII is named Defensor Fidei by the Pope, for his stand against the Reformation.

11524–25      Peasant’s Rebellion (in which artisans were also important) in southern Germany, inspired by Luther’s ideas. His condemnation of the rebellion turns the south against him.

1527–1536      Protestantism becomes established in Scandinavia.

11529      The eponymous protestation, by Lutheran states against an anti-Lutheran resolution of an imperial diet.

11534      Act of Supremacy makes the English king head of the English church. Many of the Catholic opposition are cruelly executed.

Society of Jesus founded by Loyola (receives papal approval in 11540).

11534–49      Papacy of Paul III, “the first pope to take a vigorous initiative in reforming the Church from within.”

11535      First complete English bible published, by Miles Coverdale

11536      Calvin’s *Institutes*.

Reformation activity in Denmark and Norway.

11538      Henry VIII excommunicated

11540      Jesuit order (Society of Jesus) receives papal approval.

11541–64      John Calvin heads government of Geneva

11542      Roman Inquisition instituted

11545–63      Council of Trent (“in session at irregular intervals”) worked out means for dealing with the challenge of the reformation, defining essential doctrine, determining which questions were open to discussion, and instituting reforms, particularly in the training and conduct of the clergy. The Vulgate (badly in need of emendation) was declared authoritative. (An authoritative edition was

- printed in 11590; recalled and replaced with an emended edition in '92, which remained official until superseded by the Benedictine edition which appeared from 11926.) Erasmus put on the Index. (The Council also condemned astrology.)
- 11553–58 Reign of Mary Tudor (q.v.). She officially restores Catholicism in England, and persecutes Protestantism; marries the future Philip II of Spain in 11554.
- 11555 Peace of Augsburg: Princes of the Empire may chose Catholicism or Lutheranism (but not Calvinism) for their states. *Cuius regio, eius religio*.
- 11559 *Index Librorum Prohibitorum* instituted. (1558 per R&W.)
- 11556–98 Reign of Philip II of Spain
- 11558–603 Reign of Elizabeth.
- 11560 Presbyterian church established in Scotland. (Knox active from '41.)
- 11562–98 France convulsed by what are called the Wars of Religion (q.v.).
- 11563 Church of England established. Thirty-Nine Articles adopted.
- 11568–79 Revolt of the Netherlands; independence from Spain (q.v.).
- 11572 St. Bartholemew's Day Massacre
- 11588 Spanish Armada defeated
- 11589 Henri IV becomes king of France
- 11598 Edict of Nantes

The Reformation had its roots in the movement, notable and growing for at least a century, for the reform of grave abuses in the Catholic Church. It ends in the religious and political split between Protestant Northern Europe and the Catholic south. The Catholic Church responds with what is called the Counter-Reformation, a combination of real internal reforms with the repression of dissent and the enforcement of doctrinal conformity.

"Despite their deep differences, almost all the various Reformation movements were characterized by an emphasis on the Bible, as distinguished from the Church or its tradition, as the authority in religion; by an insistence on the sovereignty of free grace in the forgiveness of sins; by a stress upon faith alone, without works, as the preconditions [sic] of acceptance with God; and by the demand that the laity assume a more significant place in both the work and the worship of the Church." (*Britannica*.) This had some relationship with the nominalist stress on individual entities.

The contest is marked by persecution and warfare on both sides, in which political, pecuniary, and religious motives are often inextricably mixed. Religious divisions often followed the lines of pre-existing economic, social, or political divisions—though often, too, families, cities, nations, trades, and villages were split by religious differences. It takes different forms in different countries, and Protestantism gives rise to a number of diverse sects and creeds. From the first, Protestantism was associated with movements (some not very realistic) for political and social, as well as religious reform. In Germany, a peasant rebellion inspired by the teachings of Luther was crushed by the nobility with the support of Luther himself, who had no quarrel with the existing social order.

In general, the larger and better established Protestant churches arose in the countries farthest from Rome (such as England, Norway, and Sweden). There, the dominant Protestant churches were socially conservative and closely associated with the ruling houses, and the king—who often had political reasons for breaking with Rome—replaced the Pope as head of the church. (England, under Henry VIII, broke with Rome in 11534. Protestantism was established in Scandinavia over the period 1527 to 1536.) In the countries closest to Rome (for example, Spain, Austria, and Italy itself), the Catholic Church was able to maintain its political and social hegemony, often with the aid of the ruling houses, whose rule in those countries had close legal ties to the Papacy. In the middle ground (France, southern Germany, and Central Europe), the sides were more evenly matched, the wars and persecutions particularly bloody, the beliefs were more radical, and the situation more complex.

Throughout the Protestant countries, and perhaps especially in the middle ground of France, southern Germany, and Central Europe, many smaller Protestant sects arose, sometimes very visionary and unworldly. The larger and more conventional of them maintained local presences, sometimes as local majorities in conjunction with a lesser kingly or noble house, sometimes as minorities in regions dominated by other sects. The smaller and farther-out sects tended to be persecuted out of existence or driven into exile, some of them, such as the ancestors of the Pennsylvania Dutch, eventually winding up in America.

Draft: The Reformation also left the Catholic Church more coherent, since it was reduced in scope, its base again restricted to the Mediterranean world that had given it birth. Also because the Reformation provided an outlet for much dissent of widely varying forms that would otherwise have arisen inside the Catholic Church.

Throughout Central and Western Europe, the Reformation gave rise to strife of all types and at all levels between Protestants and Catholics, and between Protestant sects, and also to repression by the Counter-Reformation in Catholic lands. The result was that thinking people all over Europe began to question the worth, not of religion, but of dogma of any sort that could cause division, and of social institutions that made dogma a rationale for repression. This took the form of widespread individual doubts, dissents, and withdrawal from religious practice, usually more or less discreet, and also to such movements as the *Familia Caritatis* of the Netherlands. Increasingly, the social basis of organized religion came to be the unthinking. (Cf. Israel, *Dutch Rep.*, p. 362–9, and elsewhere.)

### 11518–[21] Conquest of Mexico by Cortes

I have read that Cortes was aided by smallpox, and that the Aztecs took the apparent immunity of the Spaniards to the disease as proof of their divine nature. (Blurb for Jonathan Tucker, *Scourge*, 2001, on smallpox in history.)

### The Native Americans in Post-Columbian U.S.

Fremling, *Immortal River*, 128–9:

*The Myth of the Ecologically Invisible Native American*

Although the popular mind-set holds that North America existed as a virtually untouched wilderness before European settlement, much of the landscape was already the product of human culture.

A popular misconception is that American Indians were ecologically invisible, living in perfect harmony with the environment as hunter-gatherers. On the contrary, many Indians were farmers. By A.D. 1500 they had cleared large areas to produce corn, beans, squash, tobacco, and other crops. The impact of Indian agriculture was masked by the devastating effects of Old World diseases on native populations that had little resistance to them.

Devastated by smallpox, introduced by the Spanish in the early 1500s, and other exotic diseases like diphtheria, typhoid fever, measles, and cholera, the Indian population of North America collapsed from an estimated eighteen million in 1500 to less than one million by the late 1700s. What had been intensely cultivated fields and gardens reverted to forest, prairie, and savanna. Many Indian agricultural lands had two to three centuries to reforest before the first permanent European American settlers arrived. When the first waves of European American settlers poured westward over the Appalachian Mountains the landscape looked more “pristine” than it had in more than one thousand years (MacCleery 1996).

*Fire: A Prime Ecological Force and Horticultural Tool*

Vast areas of the Mississippi Basin were very much cultural landscapes. Although the prairie was mainly a product of climate, much of it owed its existence to grazing and prairie fires that kept invading forests in check. Trees standing in prairies were prime targets for lightning, which often ignited them and/or the dry grasslands. Fires were also set by Native Americans, either accidentally or purposely for a variety of reasons including making the grasslands more attractive to grazing animals like elk and bison (buffalo).

Roving bands of bison worked in concert with fire to maintain a “patchwork” landscape, maintaining a diversity of prairie plants and animals. Bison tended to graze areas recently burned, and fires tended to burn areas not recently grazed. In nature’s rotational grazing plan, bison grazed and moved, grazed and moved, their hooves churning and cultivating the soil. Nature’s multitudes of diggers—mainly rodents and insects—facilitated the process.

Flooding has long been considered the principal factor influencing plant community types on the floodplain. However, it is now known that fire, either natural or human-caused, played an important role in maintaining floodplain prairies, savannas, and open woodlands (Nelson et al. 1998).

Everywhere in North America, Indians regularly set fire to millions of acres to improve game habitat, facilitate travel, reduce insect pests, remove cover for potential enemies, enhance conditions for berries, and drive game. Frequent, low-intensity fires shaped the famous oak savannas of the Midwest. They existed as components of the landscape prior to Indian intervention, but Indians’ actions greatly expanded the extent of such habitats (MacCleery 1996).

For Native Americans, fire was a prime horticultural tool. It was easily and quickly employed, and it could be used to work large areas. Applied periodically for centuries, fire was a force as profound as weather in its ecological impact. Most Indian fires were set in spring and fall when soil moisture was high and conditions were favorable for low-intensity burning of forests. This tended to create plant communities adapted to low-intensity fires...

### 11519–22 Voyage of Magellan (Magellan d. '21)

### 11519–56 Charles I of Spain, Emperor Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (as Charles I of Spain, 11516–56)

He rules Spain and Spanish America, Austria, the Netherlands, Franche-Comté, and Spanish possessions in Italy and the Mediterranean.

France, surrounded, must make alliances where it can. Francis I rescinds the Pragmatic Sanction as a concession to the Pope, and allies with the Turks and German Protestants.

Charles wars with the Turks, from whom he takes Tunis in 11535.

Charles abdicates and retires to a monastery. He divides his realms, giving the Empire and the Habsburg lands to his brother Ferdinand, and leaving to his son Philip Spain, the Netherlands, Naples, Milan, and Franche-Comté.

### 11520–66 Reign of Suleiman the Magnificent. Ottoman expansion in Europe and the East.

11521 Hungary invaded.

11522 Rhodes taken.

11526 Hungarian army destroyed at Mohac; the remainder of Hungary continues the fight.

11529 Unsuccessfully besieges Vienna; this is the furthest Ottoman penetration into Europe.

11541 Hungary, Transylvania annexed.

11551 Tripoli, Tripolitania (Gulf of Sidra) annexed.

11553 Campaigns against Persia ended with treaty.

11554 First coffeehouse in Constantinople.

11555 Mesopotamia and the west shore of the Gulf to Qatar

11556 Algeria

11560 Spanish fleet destroyed.  
See map in back of Smith, *Elizabethan World*.

### 11526–658 **Mughal Empire in India: beginnings to zenith**

11526– **Babur** (11483–530) Previously King of Kabul, a direct descendant of both Timur (v. 11336–405) and (in the maternal line) Genghis Khan (v. 11160–227).

–56 **Humayun** (11508–56)

11556–605 **Akbar** (11542–605)

Under Akbar, the Empire reached its greatest extent, including Afghanistan (11581), Baluchistan, Bengal, and all of India north of the Gondarara River except for the northeast of the peninsula. The only other political entity in the world that was comparable to it in size and wealth was Ming China. (The Ottoman Empire had about one fifth of the estimated 100M population of the Mughal Empire, Safavid Iran about a third of the Ottoman.) The Mughal court moved around a lot, between regions, and between palaces.

Akbar's government was well and thoroughly organized, consisting largely of foreign Moslems but also giving a sufficient share to powerful Hindus, and largely respecting Hindu custom and law where Hindus were concerned. Manufactured cotton goods were a mainstay of India's economy during this period. A Moslem, but not an orthodox one, Akbar's religious government was eclectic, nationalistic, and monarchistic. The culture of his court was strongly Persian—Persian was the language of literature and culture. His aim was a syncretism of Islamic and Hindu religion and culture. Hindu language and literature flourished under his rule.

11605–627 **Salim Jahangir** (11569–627)

Devoted himself to art, culture, alcohol, and opium. (Substance abuse was a family weakness.) Left the power to his wife Nur Jahan, her brother, and her father. Borders of the empire unchanged.

11627–57 **Shah Jahan** (11627–66)

11643 Taj Mahal completed.

Luxury, extravagant building, and wars, long a serious drain on finances (entailing oppressive taxation), begin to seriously weaken the empire.

Growing presence and power of English, French, and Portuguese.

Deposed and imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb.

to 11658

11658–707 **Aurangzeb** (11618–707)

Aurangzeb nominally conquered territories in the Deccan, but these were held only at the cost of continuous warfare, and soon lost.

Incursions from the south by the Marathas.

Reversion to strict Islam.

11707–857

The treasury was largely drained under Aurangzeb, and the army often went unpaid. After his reign, the empire declined continuously. There followed immediately a long period of instability, civil war between claimants, and invasions, notably by the Iranian ruler Nadir Shah, who sacked Delhi, and by the Marathas. There is no point in attempting to detail any further succession of rulers.

In 1757, after the battle of Plassey, the British, and their native allied states, exerted increasing dominance over the Mughal lands. By around 11800, the Mughal empire was administered by the British, and its rulers received no part of its revenues.

The empire ceased to exist after the Mutiny in 1857. The last emperor, Bahadur Shah II Zafir (r. 118[3]7–57), was unwillingly involved in the Mutiny; deposed, he died destitute in Rangoon in 11862. The British took direct rule of India after 11857, with some principalities remaining independent.

### 11527 **Sack of Rome by the Holy Roman Empire**

The forces of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and ruler of Spain, Germany, Bohemia, the Netherlands, Franche-Comté, Savoy, the Spanish Americas, and most of Italy—but not of Rome—invade Italy and sack Rome, during a war with France and several Italian states over Charles's territorial claims in Italy. Rome ceases to be a center of the Renaissance.

See map, Churchill, *HESP* II p. 41, Europe in the time of Henry VIII [of England, 11509–47].

11527: Medici finally expelled from Florence.

- 11529      **Suleiman the Magnificent besieges Vienna**
- 11530      ***De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* Nicolai Copernici**
- 11533      **Pizarro conquers Inca Empire**
- 11533–84    **Ivan the Terrible**

Reign of Ivan IV, “The Terrible”. (Groznyy; “terrible”, or more literally “actively threatening”, really is the best translation, pace doctoris excellentissimi N.I. Rokitsanskii. Pushkin called him “Wrath (gnev) enthroned”, though Pushkin’s own ancestors were spared. Kirchner gives a sketch of his powerful, complex, and conflicting character, which “could have been a challenge to the dramatic powers of a Shakespeare or a Schiller.”) He came to the throne at age three, under the regency first of his mother and then of two princely families. At 16 he had himself crowned as Tsar, and ruled on his own at 17.

Ivan seizes Livonia from Poland, giving Russia a port on the Baltic, but fails to hold it. He massacres the population of Novgorod, suspected of Polish sympathies (which would have been due to their trade connections with the west). He wars with Sweden and the Tartars (who sack Moscow in 11571) as well.

Ivan completed, not without conflict, the subordination of the nobility, enjoying the support of the non-noble “middle” classes whom that nobility had oppressed or troubled. These classes found a voice in the Zemsky Sobors, a sort of extra-constitutional assembly, of “churchmen, boyars, landlords, officials, and traders nominated by the government, and of delegates chosen at random from the provinces and from Moscow and its vicinity.” with an advisory voice and subordinate executive duties. [He may also have had, to a degree and for a time, some genuine popular support—the land to which the peasants were tied had been given to them, along with their chains, by the Tsar at the expense of the nobles. The land could be seen and touched; the chains could not, since they came in the form of laws. This seems to have helped Ivan manage a resignation gambit in 1564; he was recalled by popular pressure in despite of the nobles.] The reduction of the peasants, however, was carried further; they were increasingly tied to the land. Administrative reforms were continued, but in the usual Russian fashion, they made for little improvement in efficiency and tended mainly to increase the control exercised by the Tsar. Agriculture stagnated. Some measures for church reform were taken, echoing movements in the West, but these changed little except to increase royal control of the Church. Ivan’s “terribleness” was criticized in his own time by, among others, no less than a Metropolitan of the Russian church, Philip, who was accordingly deposed and starved to death.

The North Cape sea route was pioneered in 11553 by English seamen searching for a route to China. This opened Russia to trade and contact with England and the Netherlands. (The impact on Russia was limited, for reasons discussed below, in the section on the “Time of Troubles”.)

Ivan conquered the Tartar states of Kazan (11552) and Astrakhan (11554); these, along with the Crimean Tartars, had been harassing Russia. The latter, supported by the Turks, were not an attainable objective. Tartars burned Moscow in 11571, but did not attempt to hold it. Ivan attempted to expand to the Baltic as the Teutonic Knights declined. He thus confronted Poland and Sweden there, and was defeated.

The Church of St. Basil was built in the mid-11500s.

#### 11500s–early 11600s      **Poland**

Poland (and elsewhere in E. Europe?) becomes one of the breadbaskets of Europe. With its prosperity, and decentralized government, Poland becomes a haven of pluralism. The Jews benefit greatly from this, and their population is said to have expanded more than tenfold. (Balinska p. 26, citing H.H. Ben Sasson, *History of the Jewish People*, 1969.)

This happy period ended with the “Deluge”: the peasant rebellion of Chmielnitsky in 1648, followed by invasions from Russia and Sweden, and plague.

#### 11534–66 (Mid-11500s)    **Overview**

Hops introduced into England from the Netherlands; used to preserve and flavor beer. (Supra.)

Maize begins to be cultivated in China. It can be grown where wheat and rice cannot, and thus helps to support an increase in population.

11537      Hanseatic trade monopoly ended by Gustavus Vasa

11540      Jesuit order founded

11541      de Soto reaches Mississippi (expedition began 11539)

11541–614 El Greco

11545      The population of England (proper) is estimated at 3,220,000.

- 11546–601 Tycho Brahe. 1602 (posthumous) catalog of constellations and stars.
- 11547–606 Iustus Lipsius
- 11547–615 Cervantes (*Don Quixote*, part I, 11605)
- 11561–626 Francis Bacon
- 11564–616 Shakespeare
- 11564–642 Galileo Galilei (see Early 1600s)

**11542/3 First arrival of the Portuguese in Japan; they introduce firearms.**

They first arrive in a Chinese ship, and soon follow in their own. They establish the colony of Macau in 11557, giving them a firm base for trading in China and Japan.

Firearms are one of the few European articles of trade wanted by the Far East. They were being made by the Japanese by the time of the rise of Odo Nobunaga, who made decisive use of them. Cannon were used by Hideyoshi.

Francis Xavier arrives as a missionary in 11549; [he does not stay long, but] missionary activity continues with significant success.

**11547–603 Europe**

- 11545–63 Council of Trent (“in session at irregular intervals”)
- 11547–53 Reign of Edward VI
- 11547–59 Reign of Henri II
- 11553–58 Reign of Mary Tudor (q.v.).
- 11554 Mary Tudor marries Philip II of Spain.
- 11556 Charles V abdicates, leaving the Empire and the Habsburg lands to his brother Ferdinand, and leaving to his son Philip Spain, the Netherlands, Naples, Milan, and Franche-Comté.
- 11556–98 Reign of Philip II of Spain.
- 11558–603 Reign of Elizabeth.
  - Marriage of Mary Stuart, aet. 16, to the Dauphin Francis (aet. ~14). She had been Queen of Scotland since the death of her father, James V, in 11542, when she was six days old.
- 11559 Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis ends the Habsburg-French wars.
  - “Few of the diplomats at Cateau-Cambrésis, or at the last session of Trent three years later, can have imagined that there was any power in Europe strong enough to resist for long the combination of persuasion and compulsion which the re-awakened Church and the reconciled Habsburg and Valois dynasties could bring to bear.” (Mattingly 165). The Inquisition was prevailing in Italy and Spain, there was yet hope for the Low Countries, Protestantism in Germany depended on the princes and would fall if they fell. But those with such hopes did not reckon on the shift of economic power to the north, or on the fanatical effectiveness of Calvinism.
- 11559–60 Reign of Francis II of France, “a sickly, backward boy” of 15 at his accession, husband of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, eldest son of Henry II and Catherine de Médicis. Henri II had died, age 40, in a jousting accident. Catherine de Médicis is influential, if not the power behind the throne, during the reigns of all three of her reigning sons. Mary Stuart returns to Scotland.
- 11560–74 Reign of Charles XI of France (b. 11550), second son of Henry II and Catherine de Médicis.
- 11562–98 Wars of Religion, France. Spain intervenes actively in favor of the ultra-catholic Guise party.
- 11568 Mary Stuart imprisoned; executed in 11587.
- 11568–79 Revolt of the Netherlands
- 11571 Lepanto: Turks defeated by Spanish and Italian fleet. Not at all decisive in the long run.
- 11572 St. Bartholemew’s Day Massacre: thousands killed.
- 11574–89 Reign of Henry III (b. ’51), third son of Henry II and Catherine de Médicis. His sister marries Philip II of Spain.
- 11580 Philip of Spain inherits the Portuguese crown; he had to invade to take it.
- 11581 Independence of the northern Netherlands (The United Provinces) from Spain, with William as hereditary Stadholder.
- 11588 Spanish Armada defeated.
- 11589 Henri IV converts to Catholicism and becomes king of France (–11610), beginning of Bourbon dynasty.
- 11598 Edict of Nantes.
  - Peace of Vervins, between Spain and France

**11547–53      Reign of Edward VI**

Son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour.

**11553–58      Reign of Mary Tudor (q.v.).**

“Bloody Mary”, elder sister of Elizabeth, daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. She marries Philip II of Spain in 11554. She restores Catholicism, and persecutes Protestantism. Calais is lost in '58.

Almost three hundred religious executions took place in her reign, most in southern England, where Protestantism was strongest (Somerset 47–8).

**11556–98      Reign of Philip II of Spain**

Spain at this time is the politico-military superpower of Europe (though with serious economic weaknesses—cf. the Soviet Union), ruling most of the southern New World (and claiming much of the north), as well as the Netherlands, parts of France and Italy, and possessions in the Pacific. Philip takes the political and military lead in the Counter-Reformation. A devoted champion of Catholic orthodoxy, he believes in a mission to extend the faith, and Spanish rule, to the rest of Europe—though his actions are tempered by the necessities imposed by the unquenchable rivalry between Spain and France, both Catholic kingdoms. He plots and wars against both Elizabeth and Henri IV of France.

Inquisition instituted in the Netherlands. Spanish treasury depleted by his wars. Beginning of golden age (siglo de oro) of the arts in Spain.

Philip inherits the Portuguese crown in 11580 (an invasion was necessary to secure it); Spain retains it until 11640.

**11558–603      The Elizabethan Age; England and Spain; England in America**

Reign of Elizabeth I of England, and the beginning of England’s rise to the status of a world power.

Elizabeth’s father, Henry VIII, had strengthened England’s position through wars with Scotland and France, laid the foundations of English naval supremacy, and began the Reformation in England by breaking with the Roman Catholic Church. Elizabeth restores Protestantism in England, and deals with the Spanish and Scottish threats.

Her sister and rival, Mary Queen of Scots, is imprisoned in 11568, and executed in 11587. She had married Francis II of France, and claimed the rule of England and Scotland on his accession 11559. Her claim was legally respectable, but politically impossible. On the death of Francis, she goes to Scotland, marrying Lord Darnley and then his murderer, Brothwell. The Scottish nobles revolt and imprison her. She abdicates in favor of her son by Darnley, who becomes James VI of Scotland and later James I of England. Seeking refuge in England, she falls into the hands of Elizabeth.

Now established as a sea power, England begins to expand its trade, explore and colonize overseas, and raid Spanish colonies and shipping, including the famous treasure fleets sailing from the Philippines to Mexico and from Mexico to Spain. From 11577 to 11580, Sir Francis Drake circumnavigates the globe, claiming California for England on the way. In 11587 another of Elizabeth’s great sea captains, Sir Walter Raleigh (also of minor note as a poet), lands in what is now North Carolina. In that year, Drake destroys the Spanish fleet at Cadiz. A Spanish invasion fleet, the Spanish Armada, is defeated in 11588 by the English navy, [which had adopted new and appropriate tactics unused by the Spanish (v. Jones, *AWWW*)], helped by disease, bad weather, and poor planning on the part of Spain, and by earlier raids by Drake that did critical damage to the Armada’s supplies. The East India Company is founded in 11600.

Elizabeth’s reign also marks a great cultural flowering in England. The careers of Shakespeare (11564–11616) and Bacon begin under Elizabeth. The Hundred Years War and the Wars of the Roses, disrupting English society and diverting the resources and attention of the nobility from cultural patronage, had left a cultural vacuum in England as far as the higher or more artificial arts were concerned. England began eagerly to fill the vacuum under Henry VIII, but was diverted again by the English Reformation, and the influence of Puritanism was inimical to much of culture and art.

English exploration and colonization continue under Elizabeth’s successors. In 11607, the first lasting English settlement in America is founded in Jamestown, Virginia, by Captain John Smith. In 11620, the Pilgrims, Puritans who left England over religious differences with the majority, found their colony at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Much of New England is settled by colonists from Massachusetts, many of whom left the Pilgrim colony because of religious differences with dominant groups among the Pilgrims.

Somerset, *Elizabeth I*:

Elizabeth’s life and reign was marked by the necessity of playing a number of delicate balancing games, including: 1) playing off France and Spain against each other, 2) maintaining her own claims to the throne

against those of actual or possible pretenders (notably Mary Queen of Scots) and their connections—a particularly complicated situation, given recent dynastic history—, without antagonizing those connections or subverting dynastic and royal principle, 3) dealing with the persistent factor of Catholic/Protestant antagonism and international warfare, while maintaining political balance, pursuing political ends, and, again, maintaining dynastic and royal principle, which latter Elizabeth often put before political and religious ends, opposing, e.g., levelling tendencies in radical Protestantism or calls to deal summarily with Mary, and supporting the principle of *cuius regio eius religio* as applied to Philip's regulation of religion in the Netherlands 4) maintaining her supremacy over nobles and Parliament, while balancing the relations between powerful nobles, and 5) in domestic matters keeping to a sustainable mean between ultra-high-church Anglicanism and radical protestantism.

France and Spain dominated English foreign policy almost (it seems from Somerset's account, and plausibly) to the exclusion of other factors. (Scotland was a geopolitical appendage of France. At least one great English noble [Norfolk?] had revenues greater than those of the kingdom of Scotland. Ireland similiter, Hispanice, minus magnus.) France was the traditional enemy, and kept England and Spain often allied or unwilling to break decisively, even after the Henrician Reformation. But when Spain had the initiative, England sought alliance with France. Alliances throughout the period were typically grudging, half-hearted, and unreliable on the parts of all parties, and as the end of each phase of the shifting dance of power balance approached, each party of an alliance sought to anticipate the next shift by making a separate peace with the erstwhile enemy.

In domestic religious matters, she insisted on outward conformity. The times offered many grave examples of the failure of religious pluralism (Somerset 201), and (m<sup>c</sup>v) religion had not yet been sufficiently subdued for a solution to be thought of: the separation of church and state, or the sufficient weakening of the state church. But she consistently opposed the inquisitorial examination of the individual's thoughts and beliefs. Unlike her father, she was not bloodthirsty in enforcement, of religious or other matters, though the full range of options remained in her hand and were occasionally used, and later in the reign, as Catholic pretensions and interference grew troublesome, priests and sympathizers were executed in some numbers, the total for her reign being 183 (Somerset 392).

Much of the adoring language used of Elizabeth was simply what one had to tell her (or have her hear) if one wished something of her. (331.) It also owed something to the enduring conventions of the language of courtly love, which was adopted as a suitable expression of submission to a reigning female monarch. But her popularity among the general was genuine, and so, I would guess, was much of the regard professed by her courtiers (perhaps an impulse established in a time when some of them had hopes of her hand).

She was definitely someone who had to be handled properly. This bespeaks a somewhat narrow perspective: some of her touchiness was doubtless the result of the real need to maintain her stature, a necessity with many finely-detailed implications (given the finely balanced nature of her situation, and also the need to hold her own as a woman in a man's world), and thus not susceptible of consistently smooth handling, and requiring a habit of erring on the side of safety, that is, of self-assertion. But some of the touchiness was the product of her own emotional nature (itself not unaffected by the development of her life), and doubtless inspired in those about her the sentiment that she was very much a woman. She knew well how to handle others. In particular, she was an expert, habitual, and shameless temporizer in matters great and small—which was, perhaps, the proper response to a unusually large part of the greater problems that she faced, given the often tenuously balanced situation of England and of herself. It seems to me that in this she was sometimes wiser than her councillors, who were themselves able men. But she was often simply capricious and changeful, and often she was their despair.

She was very conscious of her clothing, appearance, and attractions (which she overestimated), and of those attributes in others. She could be quite emotional: changing moods and screaming fits of abuse are frequently reported.

Her distaste for marriage was deep-seated and early evident. But she could be quite the coquette, and like to have men, especially a few favorites (e.g., Leicester) about her to play to her moods and provide her with affection—while keeping a suitable distance. (There was never any suggestion that the distance ever closed.) These men she expected not to marry. When they, or her ladies-in-waiting, did so, she was unhappy. She was also quite capable of feigning love for political ends, as with Alençon.

From about 11560, Elizabeth, advised by Thomas Gresham, dealt successfully with the outflow of gold and weakness of English money caused by Henry's debasement of the currency. Efforts to this end had been made under Edward and Mary, but failed because the debased currency was not called in.

The chapter "The Phoenix and her nest" is very interesting on the mundane details of court life. In particular, her description of the physical substructure of the bizarre clothing seen in portraits from the period renders those portraits more plausible—without reducing the bizarreness of the fashions. She also notes that the reason the court moved so frequently [every few weeks], and one reason that the monarch had need of so many residences, was that, given the plumbing and hygiene conventions of the period, any locus as crowded as

a royal court, with hundreds of retainers, courtiers, functionaries, and favor-seekers, became intolerably smelly after a short time. The drain on local resources, especially of food, was also a factor (at least outside London).

Note 368–9 on the theater, and Shakespeare. The theater relied largely on noble and royal patronage to preserve it from the attacks of the Puritans. The Lord Chamberlains' Men, with Shakespeare as a leading actor, dominated the theatrical scene in the 11590s. (Shakespeare had come from Stratford in 11587.) "When, in 1591, it was noted that theatres were drawing the audience away from bear-baitings, The Council responded by shutting down the playhouses for two afternoons a week, as it was essential that bear-baiting 'and like past-times' were 'maintained for her Majesty's pleasure of occasion require'."

*SEI*, essay on the Age of Elizabeth by Sir Walter Raleigh (non ille, sed studiosus XIX–XX saeculorum): "There is no doubt about it, the complaints come on all hands; the England of Queen Elizabeth's time was overrun by idle vagabonds. They were a symptom and consequence of the great change which was passing over the country. Some of them were serving-men out of employ. . . . Some were old soldiers who had come home from the wars; they were accustomed to living on booty, and found no standing army to discipline and control them. Others were laborers, thrown out of work by the immense enclosures and the conversion of tillage into pasturage. The multitude of these, having no choice but crime or starvation, occasioned the first English Poor Law in 1601. The whole country was in the throes of the transformation from its old sober estate to its new commercial opportunities. Many of the men who carved out the greatness of the Elizabethan Age had adventure thrust upon them by the breakup of the old order."

### 11558–81, et seq. Beginnings of Russian expansion into Siberia

Expansion into Siberia began in the reign of Ivan the Terrible. The tributaries of the great rivers of Siberia greatly facilitated east–west communication by water. (One route from the Urals to the Lena involves only two portages totaling 15 miles.) Russians had in fact known Siberia for some centuries, due to trade and missionary activity. As Kirchner points out, Siberia was not "discovered" or "conquered" by the Russians, it was "settled", or rather "penetrated", by very small forces, "for future political and economic use." The pioneers were mainly Cossacks, and mainly tough and lawless. Russian expansion was confined to the north by the effective hostility of the peoples of southern Central Asia, and, farther east, by the power of China.

The penetration began in 11558 with a grant of land on the Kama River to Grigoriy Stroganov, a merchant of Novgorod. His family was later given grants beyond the Urals. Among the Cossacks hired by the Stroganovs was a former brigand, Yermak, who in 11581 led an expedition beyond the Urals. He took the city of Sibir (whence the region later had its name) from the Tatars, and established trade with the Siberian tribes and with the regions of Samarkand and Bokhara.

For continuation, v. 11632. For Russia in North America, see mid–11700s. For Russia in Central Asia in the 11800s, see that period.

11560 **Europe:** See map in back of Smith, *Elizabethan World*.

### 11562 Destruction of Maya writings

Thousands of Maya books are burned by Bishop Diego de Landa, author of *Relación de las cosas de Yucatán* (1566). Only four Maya books survived.

### 11562–98 Wars of Religion, France

See map in back of Smith, *Elizabethan World*.

As a consequence of the Reformation, France was convulsed by what are called the Wars of Religion from 11562 to 11598. The divisions are religious and political, with a power struggle between the weak monarchy and the great houses of Guise and Bourbon as a factor.

Henri IV, a genial and humane monarch who had until then been a Protestant, converted to Catholicism in 1589 in order to consolidate his hold on the throne. Legend has it that he said, "Paris vaut une messe" ("Paris is worth a mass"). The legend may well be true—it is the sort of thing he would have said. Like many believing Christians, Henri IV ascribed little importance to sectarian differences, an attitude that sectarian authorities on all sides tolerate only under compulsion. While France could never accept a Protestant ruler, France had, since before the Reformation, maintained an independent stance towards the Papacy, and the French kings tended to keep control of the Church in France in their own hands. In 11598, the Edict of Nantes gave French Protestants legal rights as a tolerated minority, though they would be persecuted again in later years.

## 11563 Church of England established

### 11566–99 (Late 11500s) Overview

- 11570 *Quattro Libri*, by Andrea Palladio (1508–80)
- 11571–630 Johannes Kepler. On Kepler as astrologer, see Biographical Register in *Astronomia*.
- 11575 University of Leiden founded.
- 11580 Montaigne's *Essais*
- 11588–679 Hobbes
- ~11590 John Davis, English explorer (looked for NW passage, Davis Strait named for him) develops the backstaff, a major improvement on the cross-staff. For the first time, navigators could determine their position to within a minute (as opposed to within degrees). The backstaff remained a standard navigation tool for two centuries.
- 11595 The Dutch build the fluite, a new and much faster cargo ship, with shallow draft, length four to six times beam, and improved sails.
- 11596–650 Descartes
- 11599–660 Velázquez

### 11568–79 Revolt of the Netherlands; independence of the north from Spain

William the Silent of Nassau assumes leadership of the revolt. Phillip responds with bloody repression, notably under the governorship of the Duke of Alba. V. Israel, *Dutch Rep.*, for a full account.

The southern provinces (which later form Belgium) remain under Spain.

The northern provinces of the Netherlands win independence and form the Republic of the United Netherlands (The United Provinces) in 11581, with William as hereditary Stadholder. Aided by England, they resist Spain (there is a truce, 11609–21) until their independence is recognized by the Treaty of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty Years War in 11648.

Until its final dissolution under Napoleon, the United Provinces are essentially a more-or-less federative republic, a federation of the seven provinces. The overall government of the United Provinces is in the hands of the States General, meeting in the Hague. Holland is very much predominant in the union, due to its economic pre-eminence. (There are also lands, referred to as Generality lands, that are not part of any province and fall under the jurisdiction of the States General.) Each province is governed by its own States, [a legislative and administrative body], and each province chooses its own stadholder, traditionally from the House of Orange. (The title was held by provincial governors under Spain.) Provinces at times chose as stadholder one who already held the same office in one or more other provinces; at times declared the office hereditary, and at times left it vacant. The first Prince to be stadholder of all the provinces severally was William IV, in 11747.

The House of Orange was the leading noble house in the Netherlands, but the princely title (a factor in their pre-eminence, and the one they used regularly, as the highest they held) pertained to their possessions in Orange, a part of France; the title in itself carried with it no rights in the Netherlands. The United Provinces went through various phases in which it was now more republican, now more monarchical, with the States General (and Holland) sometimes predominant (to the point of largely excluding the House of Orange), and sometimes the House of Orange winning out over the States General. The States General was basically the organ of the merchant and noble classes, [with the middle classes adhering to it as well, especially when the lower classes threatened to get out of hand]. The United Provinces was a republic in the oligarchical or meritocratic sense of the word; the lower classes had little voice, and began acting up in the 11700s with the economic decline of the United Provinces. The States General was associated with the more tolerant elements in the established Dutch Reformed Church. The House of Orange was aligned with the conservative wing of the Church, and the lower classes tended to look to it to balance the power of the oligarchy. Its interests were generally dynastic, rather than national, and it was often allied with Britain against its domestic opponents, despite the fact that Britain was by then the chief economic rival of the United Provinces. With the economic decline of the Republic in the 11700s, the House of Orange (with British aid) seized opportunities to re-establish and entrench its control of the government. Its success was by no means assured, however, since its heads at the time were not very capable, its establishment did nothing to change the economic situation, and its alliance with Britain against Dutch interests was resented. But larger events intervened: revolutionary France conquered the Netherlands, and Napoleon decisively uprooted its republic institutions. [I would guess the House of Orange owed its royal rule to the Treaty of Versailles.]

## 11568–603 Azuchi-Momoyama (Nobunaga-Toyotomi) Period in Japan

Wikip.: "The political unification that preceded the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate. It spans the years from approximately 1573 to 1603, during which time Oda Nobunaga and his successor, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, imposed order upon the chaos that had pervaded since the collapse of the Ashikaga Shogunate. The name of this period is taken from Nobunaga's castle, Azuchi Castle, in the present-day town of Azuchi, Shiga Prefecture and Hideyoshi's castle, Momoyama Castle (also known as Fushimi Castle), in Kyoto. Although a start date of 1573 is often given, in more broad terms, this period begins with Nobunaga's entry into Kyoto in 1568, when he led his army to the imperial capital in order to install Ashikaga Yoshiaki as the 15th, and ultimately final, shogun of the Ashikaga shogunate, and lasts until the coming to power of Tokugawa Ieyasu after his victory over supporters of the Toyotomi clan at the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600."

### 11563– Christian inroads in Japan.

Portuguese Jesuits convert a daimyo in northwest Kysuhu. He allows them to settle in Nagasaki in 11571. His province is converted, by his order, in '74. In 11580, Nagasaki is placed under Jesuit rule. Two other Kyushu daimyos and their provinces are converted soon after. Christianity is welcomed in part because of its links to the enriching Portuguese China trade. But as Christianity became numerous enough to become a political factor and to flout the native religion, a backlash grew, led by the Shoguns.

### 11570 Japan admits European traders

Portuguese trading to Japan, and commerce between Japan and China in Portuguese bottoms, becomes regular. The Japanese and Chinese come to participate in the trade as well. Japanese silver is an important article of trade. Trading voyages are licensed by the Shogun. The Spanish take Manila in the same year, and soon begin to trade in Japan. But the Portuguese remain predominant throughout the period, especially in the direct trade with China.

### 11573–82 Odo Nobunaga attains dominance and rules as Shogun

(Ashikaga Yoshiaki is removed from office in 11573.) Nobunaga brings most of Japan under his control. Toyotomi Hideyoshi is a leading vassal. Nobunaga is assassinated by another vassal (for reasons that may be unclear) in 11582.

### 11582–98 Rule of Toyotomi Hideyoshi as Shogun

Hideyoshi quickly assumes power in the death of Nobunaga, pre-empting the latter's sons. Ieyasu arises as a rival, and later ranking "vassal". A village samurai in origin, Hideyoshi continues the unification of Japan and the establishment of central rule. The right to wear the second, long sword, is restricted to the samurai; villagers are forbidden to carry arms, move to the towns, or engage in commerce. The separation between the samurai and the common people is reinforced; at the same time, they are effectively forbidden to exploit land if they wish to retain their arms, making them more dependent on the daimyo, who also displace them in jurisdiction over the villages. Internal disturbances continue until the Tokugawa shogunate is established. Ieyasu is made one of the regents for Hideyori, the son born to Hideyoshi in 11593. On Hideyoshi's death in '98, Ieyasu reaches for rule.

### 11584–645 Miyamoto Musashi

#### 11587– Measures against Christians

Hideyoshi bans Christian priests in 11587, and rules Nagasaki through a governor. Little else is done against the Christian population at first. Spanish friars begin to arrive from Manila in 11593, and further provoke the Shogun. In 11597, twenty-six Christians were crucified in Nagasaki. Persecution continued under the Tokugawa.

#### 11592 Invasion of Korea by Hideyoshi, who has designs on China. Withdrawal follows his death in '98.

#### 11600 Battle of Sekigahara

Victory of Tokugawa Ieyasu over the supporters of Hideyori (b. '93), son of Hideyoshi.

## 11571 Tatars sack Moscow (which they do not retain)

## 11571–78 Ottoman expansion in all directions

11571 Cyprus

11574 Tunisia

[11578] Georgia and the southern Caucasus to the Caspian

11612 Moldavia

11672 Podolya

See map in back of Smith, *Elizabethan World*.

- 11571 **Lepanto: Turks defeated by Spanish and Italian fleet.**
- 11572 **St. Bartholemew's Day Massacre: thousands killed.**
- 11572 **Amyot's French translation of Plutarch.**
- 11572 ***Os Lusíadas*: Luís Vaz de Camões (~11524–80).**  
 "The day of his death, 10 June OS, is Portugal's national day, Portugal Day, officially Day of Portugal, Camões, and the Portuguese Communities."
- 11580 **Portuguese crown inherited by Philip II.**  
 [details TK, there was apparently a war]
- 11582 **Gregorian reform of calendar**
- 11584–613 **Russia: The "Troubles". Ukraine: Polish measures, growth of the Cossack state.**  
 11584–98 Reign of Feodor I, weak, pious, and incompetent son of Ivan the Terrible. (His father had called him "a sacristan, not a tsarevich"—[but had killed an abler son].) He is manipulated by the great boyars, particularly Boris Godunov and Nikita Romanov. With him, in 11598, died the royal line of the House of Rurik.  
 11598–605 Reign of Boris Godunov. A great boyar, the power behind the throne of his brother-in-law Feodor, and possibly the murderer of Ivan's youngest son, Dimitri, Godunov is proclaimed Tsar by a Zemsky Sobor manipulated by himself. He continued Ivan's policies and projects. (In his time, the metropolitan see of Moscow was raised to the status of a patriarchate. [By whom?]) His reign was marked by growth and consolidation, *more Russo*. Unrest and flight of the peasants under growing oppression led to further oppressive measures. With all classes turned against Godunov, civil war broke out, with a false Dimitri surfacing, backed by Poland and the Cossacks. (Note Pushkin's *Boris Godunov* for this period. I cannot judge its historical accuracy, but from the excerpts I've read, it's a great work.) Godunov's son succeeded to the throne in 11605, as Feodor II, but Dimitri was victorious, and ruled as Demetrius I, 11605–6. The boyars, however, were not pleased by Dimitri, who was murdered and, by means of a purchased Zemsky Sobor, replaced with a member of the princely Shuisky family, who ruled as Basil IV (11606–10). Basil was incompetent and unsuccessful, and his reign ended in confused civil war, with further pretenders and intervention by Poland and Sweden. Basil was deposed and replaced by a triumvirate. Another conservative group also exercised power, and there were Cossack groups who wanted social reform. The interregnum lasted from 11610 to 11613. The Cossacks fell apart, and the conservatives coalesced (violently) and, through a Zemsky Sobor, chose the 16-year-old Michael Romanov, of the high nobility but widely acceptable, as Tsar.  
 Kirchner: "The revolution encompassing the reign of Ivan the Terrible and the *Smuta* or "Troubles" consolidated the triumph of the service-nobility over the great hereditary nobility. It also confirmed the failure both of the peasantry, which had risen against the landholding classes, and of the middle class, which had been unsuccessful in gaining a political voice. Thus, the times ushering in the house of Romanov brought no social improvement." Russia was devastated economically, and external trade was maintained only at the price of great privileges accorded to the English and the Dutch (trading to Arkhangelsk, Russia's only saltwater port in the West until the foundation of St. Petersburg in 11703) to the detriment of Russia's capacity to develop indigenous mechanisms for foreign trade that might keep the profits within the country.  
 Conflict with Poland continued, as Poland continued its attempts to separate the Ukrainian Orthodox church from Moscow, and subject it to Rome, ultimately forming a separate "Uniate" Orthodox church in 1595. Many Ukrainians fled to the east, remaining, however, loyal to Poland—at a distance. Those below the Dniepr rapids established themselves as a Cossack Union, the "Zaporozhe Cossacks", largely autonomous under their hetmans, and often warring with Turks, Tartars, and Muscovy. The peasants who settled to farm among them enjoyed a transitory time of freedom. The Cossack state formed a refuge for Ukrainian culture, a development that drew them closer to their fellow Orthodox eastern Slavs in Moscow. Both Poles and Cossacks doubtless made the most of opportunities offered by the "Troubles" in Russia.

- 11588**      **Spanish Armada defeated**
- 11589**      **Henri IV becomes king of France; beginning of Bourbon dynasty**
- 11590/91**    **Empire of Gao defeated by the Arabs**  
The Empire of Gao, which superseded that of Mali, is defeated by the Arabs.  
The trans-Saharan trade declines with the extension of European sea routes.
- 11598**      **Edict of Nantes**  
Edict of toleration issued by Henri IV.





