



History of Europe | Summary, Wars, Map, Ideas, & Facts

The History of Europe





The history of Europe is long and complex, stretching back hundreds of thousands of years. In this series of articles, we'll be taking a look at some of the key periods and events in European history, from the very earliest days up to the present day.

In this first article, we'll be looking at the period known as prehistory, which covers the time before written records began. This is a period that is often misunderstood or ignored, but it's actually full of fascinating stories and important events.

The Metal Ages

The Metal Ages were a time of great change in Europe. New technologies and new ways of living emerged, and old ways of life began to disappear. This was a time when the first cities appeared, and when trade and industry began to flourish. It was also a time when warfare became more widespread, and when new ideas about government and society began to emerge.

Europe saw significant transformation over the third, second, and first millennia BCE. The Bronze Age (2300–700 BCE) and the Iron Age (700–1 BCE), which followed a less distinctly defined Copper Age (c. 3200–2300 BCE), have traditionally been defined as the Metal Ages, which can be further divided into stages with approximate dates as shown: the Bronze Age (2300–700 BCE) and the Iron Age (700–1 BCE).

During this period, European societies began to consciously create metals. Changes in settlement organization, ceremonial life, and the connection between Europe's various societies all occurred at the same time as these technological breakthroughs. The period appears to be a succession of dramatic changes due to these advances and their outstanding echoes in material culture.



Greeks, Romans, and barbarians



Flag of Europe

One of the most interesting aspects of European history is the interaction between the Greeks, [Romans](#), and barbarians. The Greeks were one of the first great civilizations of Europe. They were known for their art, literature, and philosophy. The Romans were a great military power that conquered much of Europe. The barbarians were often seen as primitive and uncivilized by the Greeks and Romans, but they had their own cultures and ways of life.

Over time, the Greeks, Romans, and barbarians interacted with each other in a variety of ways. Sometimes they fought against each other, but other times they traded with



each other or even intermarried. This long history of interaction between the three groups has helped shape Europe into the continent it is today.

The Middle Ages in Europe



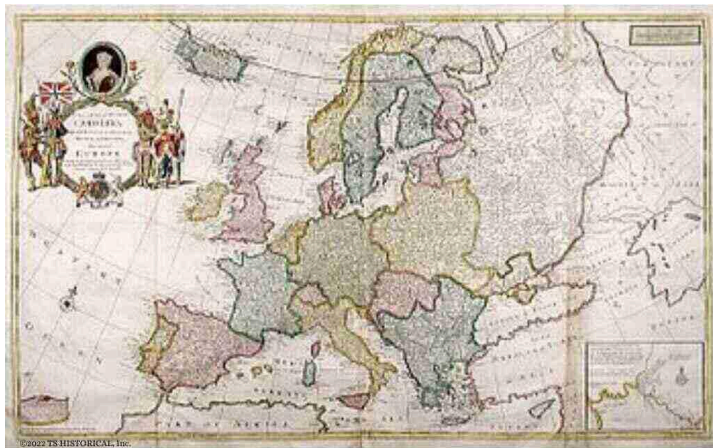
The [Middle Ages](#) in Europe were a time of great upheaval and change. From the fall of the [Roman Empire](#) to the rise of the [Ottoman Empire](#), the continent was in a state of



flux. In this period, there were many great rulers and leaders who left their mark on history. Here are some of the most notable figures from the Middle Ages in Europe:

1. **Charlemagne:** Also known as Charles the Great, Charlemagne was the first Holy Roman Emperor. He was a great warrior and ruler, and he conquered much of Europe during his reign.
2. **William the Conqueror:** William was the Duke of Normandy who invaded England and became its king in 1066. His victory at the Battle of Hastings changed the course of English history.
3. **Joan of Arc:** Joan was a young French woman who led the French army to victory against the English in the Hundred Years' War. She is an iconic figure in French history.
4. **Leonardo da Vinci:** [Leonardo](#) was a renowned Italian artist and scientist who lived in the Renaissance period. He is best known for his paintings, but he also made significant contributions to science and engineering.
5. **Christopher Columbus:** Columbus was an Italian

The emergence of modern Europe, 1500–1648





The modern era in Europe began with the Renaissance, a period of rebirth and rediscovery of the arts and sciences. The Renaissance began in Italy in the 14th century but soon spread to other parts of Europe. It was a time of great creativity, with artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo creating masterpieces that are still admired today.

During the Renaissance, Europe also experienced some important political changes. The feudal system, which had dominated medieval Europe, began to break down. monarchs began to centralize power and establish nation-states. The Protestant Reformation also began during this time, leading to the split of the Catholic [Church](#) and the rise of Protestantism.

The Age of Exploration began in the 15th century and continued into the 16th century. This was a time when Europeans began to explore the world, sailing to distant lands in search of new trade routes and sources of wealth. Explorers such as Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan made some amazing discoveries, opening up new lands to European settlement.

The Renaissance, the Age of Exploration, and political changes like the Reformation all helped to shape modern Europe. These developments set the stage for the next era in European history: the Enlightenment.

The great age of monarchy, 1648–1789

The great age of monarchy in Europe began in the Middle Ages and lasted until the early 20th century. This was a time when monarchs held absolute power over their countries and ruled with an iron fist.

During this period, European monarchs were often at war with each other as they fought for control of land and resources. This led to a lot of bloodshed and many people died in these wars.

Absolute monarchy began to decline in the late 18th century as people started to challenge the authority of the monarchs. This led to the [French Revolution](#) in 1789, which overthrew the monarchy in [France](#).



The French Revolution inspired other revolutions in Europe, such as the 1848 Revolution in [Germany](#). These revolutions led to the establishment of democracies in many European countries.

The great age of monarchy finally came to an end with the First [World War](#) (1914-1918). This war destroyed many of the old monarchies and ushered in a new era of democracy.

Revolution and the growth of industrial society, 1789–1914





The Industrial Revolution began in Europe in the late 1700s. This was a time when new technologies and ideas changed the way people lived and worked.

During the Industrial Revolution, factories were built and machines were used to make things. This led to a growth in industry and a rise in the standard of living for many people.

However, the Industrial Revolution also had some negative effects. For example, child labor became common, as children were needed to work in the factories. There was also a lot of air pollution from the factories.

Despite these negative effects, the Industrial Revolution was a time of great change and progress. It led to a growth in industry and improved living standards for many people.

European society and culture since 1914

Europe has long and varied centuries, it was a center of culture and learning. Many of the world's greatest artists, musicians, writers, and thinkers came from Europe.

In more recent times, Europe has been a major political and economic power. It has also been a leading force in the development of the European Union (EU).

Today, Europe is a very diverse continent. It is home to many different cultures and peoples. Despite its challenges, Europe remains an important part of the world.