

EUROPEAN EMPIRES

A Chronological Historical Overview

27 BC - 476 AD

The Roman Empire (Western)

Capital: Rome | Zenith: Trajan (117 AD)

The foundational empire of Western civilization, governing the Mediterranean basin and much of Europe through advanced law, engineering, and military hegemony.

330 - 1453

The Byzantine Empire

Capital: Constantinople | Legacy: Preservation of Greek/Roman Knowledge

The Eastern Roman Empire which survived the fall of the West, serving as a Christian bulwark against eastern expansions for over a millennium.

800 - 1806

Holy Roman Empire

Origin: Charlemagne | Region: Central Europe

A multi-ethnic complex of territories in Central Europe. Characterized by elective monarchy and decentralized power structures.

1492 - 1898

The Spanish Empire

Era: Age of Discovery | Key Figure: Philip II

The first "Empire on which the sun never sets," spanning the Americas to the Philippines and establishing global trade routes.

1583 - 1997

The British Empire

Peak: Victorian Era | Influence: Global Trade & Language

The largest empire in human history by landmass, pivotal in the Industrial Revolution and the spread of English common law.

1804 - 1815

First French Empire

Leader: Napoleon Bonaparte | Legacy: Napoleonic Code

A brief but transformative period that exported revolutionary ideals and modernized legal codes across continental Europe.

1721 - 1917

The Russian Empire

Dynasty: Romanov | Extent: Eurasia

A transcontinental power that bridged Europe and Asia, reaching its height under Peter the Great and Catherine the Great.

1867 - 1918

Austro-Hungarian Empire

Structure: Dual Monarchy | Dissolution: Post-WWI

A central European constitutional union of the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary, known for its ethnic diversity and cultural contributions.