

MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

OVERVIEW

1450 - 1648

Renaissance & Reformation

The revival of classical learning, the rise of humanism, and the fragmentation of Western Christianity following Martin Luther's theses. Ends with the Peace of Westphalia.

1648 - 1815

Absolutism, Enlightenment & Revolution

The consolidation of royal power, the scientific revolution, and the intellectual shifts of the Enlightenment, culminating in the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era.

1815 - 1914

Industrialization & Nationalism

The Concert of Europe, the rapid expansion of industrial capitalism, the unification of Italy and Germany, and the height of New Imperialism.

1914 - 1945

Global Conflicts & Totalitarianism

The devastation of World War I, the failure of the League of Nations, the rise of Fascism and Communism, and the systemic destruction of World War II.

1945 - Present

Cold War & European Integration

The ideological divide of the Iron Curtain, decolonization, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the formation of the European Union.