

Important Historical Categorizations

Broad Labels in History

Divisions of All History

~5 million – 3000 BCE	Pre-History
3000 BCE – 500	Ancient History
500 – 1500	Middle Ages
1500 – Present	Modern History

Secular Divisions Within Ancient History

8,700 BCE – 2,000 BCE	Stone Age
3300 BCE – 300 BCE	Bronze Age
1200 BCE – 500 BCE	Iron Age
800 BCE – 500	Classical Antiquity
500-1500	Post-Classical History
1500 - Present	Modern History

Divisions Within the Western Tradition

8,700 BCE – 2,000 BCE	Stone Age
3000 BCE – 1200 BCE	Bronze Age
1200 BCE – 500 BCE	Iron Age
800 BCE – 500	Classical Antiquity
~476 – 1000	Early Middle Ages
~1000 – 1250	High Middle Ages
~1250 – 1500	Late Middle Ages
~1500 – 1800	Early Modern Period
~1800 – 1945	Late Modern Period
1945 – Present	Contemporary History

Divisions within Church History

+4000 BCE – 444 BCE	Old Testament
444 BCE – 6 BCE	Intertestamental Period
~6 – 33	New Testament/Christian Era
~33–100	Apostolic Age
~100 – 451; 100 – 787	Patristic Age
~476 – 1000	Early Middle Ages
~1000 – 1250	High Middle Ages
~1250 – 1500	Late Middle Ages
~1517 - 1648	Protestant Reformation

Further Divisions of 'lithic' Ages

In archaeology, lithic technology includes a broad array of techniques used to produce usable tools from various types of stone. The earliest stone tools were recovered from modern Ethiopia and were dated to between two-million and three-million years old. The archaeological record of lithic technology is divided into three major time periods: the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age), Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age), and Neolithic (New Stone Age). Not all cultures in all parts of the world exhibit the same pattern of lithic technological development, and stone tool technology continues to be used to this day, but these three time periods represent the span of the archaeological record when lithic technology was paramount.

<u>2,000,000 – 10,000</u>	<u>Paleolithic Period (Stone Age)</u>
<u>10,000 – 8000</u>	<u>Mesolithic Period (Stone Age)</u>
<u>8000 – 4000</u>	<u>Neolithic Period (Stone Age)</u>
<u>3300 – 300</u>	<u>Bronze Age (Includes Chalcolithic/Copper Period)</u>
<u>1500 – 600</u>	<u>Iron Age</u>

Renaissances, Revolutions, and Art

Definition: The French word *renaissance* (*rinascimento* in Italian) means "rebirth" and defines the period as one of cultural revival and renewed interest in [classical antiquity](#) after the centuries which [Renaissance humanists](#) labeled the "[Dark Ages.](#)"

Date	Movement	Explanation
~750 – 850	Carolingian Renaissance	Under the reign of Charlemagne and his son, Louis the Pious, intellectual and classical culture resurged in western Europe during the wake of the fallen Roman Empire. Charlemagne famously learned Latin as fluent as his native language and Alcuin of York propagated the use of the Seven Liberal Arts.
~930-1000	Ottonian Renaissance	Seen as a continuation of the Carolingian Renaissance, the Ottonian Dynasty (Otto I, Otto II, and Otto III) contributed to a revival in the sciences, logic, and the art of illuminated manuscripts. Connection renewed with Byzantium through royal marriages and aided in the proliferation of texts.
~1100-1300	12 th Century Renaissance	Through the crusades and wars with the eastern Islamic empire, Arabic translations of Aristotle and Plato reached the Western Roman Empire. Roman Catholic scholasticism flourished with the reintroduction of Greek Classics and a further transmission of ancient Latin texts.
1300-~1600	Italian Renaissance	Arguably lasting until the 17 th century, the Italian Renaissance was the turning point in Western history from the Middle Ages to Modernity.

Notable Art Movements in European and American Culture

Date	Movement	Relevant Work
~40,000 – 4000 B.C.	Prehistoric Art	Lascaux cave paintings, Paleolithic era
~4000 - 500	Ancient Art	Mesopotamia, Code of Hammurabi, 1754 B.C.
~500 – 1400	Medieval Art	Cimabue, <i>Crucifix</i> , 1288
~1400 – 1600	Renaissance Art	Raphael, <i>The School of Athens</i> , 1511
1527 – 1580	Mannerism	Bronzino, <i>Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time</i> , 1540
1600 – 1750	Baroque	Caravaggio, <i>The Calling of St Matthew</i> , 1600
1699 – 1780	Rococo	Antoine Watteau, <i>Embarkation for Cythera</i> , 1718
1750 – 1850	Neoclassicism	Jacques-Louis David, <i>Napoleon Crossing the Alps</i> , 1801
1780 - 1850	Romanticism	William Blake, <i>The Ghost of a Flea</i> , 1820
1848 – 1900	Realism	Jean-François Millet, <i>The Gleaners</i> , 1857
1890–1910	Art Nouveau	Alphonse Mucha, <i>Princess Hyacinth</i> , 1911
1865–1885	Impressionism	Claude Monet, <i>Impression, Sunrise</i> , 1899
1885–1910	Post-Impressionism	Georges Seurat, <i>A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte</i> , 1886
1900–1935	Fauvism	Henri Matisse, <i>Woman with a Hat</i> , 1905
1905–1920	Expressionism	Edvard Munch, <i>The Dance of Life</i> , 1900
1907–1914	Cubism	Georges Braque, <i>Violin and Palette</i> , 1909
1917–1950	Surrealism	René Magritte, <i>The Son of Man</i> , 1964
1940–1950s	Abstract Expressionism	Jackson Pollock, <i>Autumn Rhythm (Number 30)</i> , 1950
1950s–1960s	Op Art	Bridget Riley, <i>Blaze</i> , 1964
1950s–1960s	Pop Art	Andy Warhol, <i>Campbell's Soup Cans</i> , 1962
1960s	Arte Povera	Mario Merz, <i>Giap's Igloo</i> , 1968
1960s–1970s	Minimalism	Frank Stella, <i>Black Series I</i> , 1967
mid-1960s–mid-1970s	Conceptual Art	Joseph Kosuth, <i>One and Three Chairs</i> , 1965
1970 – present	Contemporary Art	Jeff Koons, <i>Michael Jackson and Bubbles</i> , 1988

Notable Cultural “Revolutions”

~10,000 BCE	Agricultural Revolution	The Neolithic Revolution, or the Agricultural Revolution, was the wide-scale transition of many human cultures during the Neolithic period from a lifestyle of hunting and gathering to one of agriculture and settlement, making an increasingly large population possible. These settled communities permitted humans to observe and experiment with plants to learn how they grew and developed. This new knowledge led to the domestication of plants
~1000 - 1750	Commercial Revolution	The Commercial Revolution consisted of the creation of a European economy based on trade, which began in the 11th century and lasted until it was succeeded by the Industrial Revolution in the mid-18th century. Beginning with the Crusades, Europeans rediscovered spices, silks, and other commodities rare in Europe. This development created a new desire for trade, and trade expanded in the second half of the Middle Ages (roughly 1000 to 1500 AD). Newly forming European states, through voyages of discovery, were looking for alternative trade routes in the 15th and 16th centuries, which allowed the European powers to build vast, new international trade networks. Nations also sought new sources of wealth and practiced mercantilism and colonialism. The Commercial Revolution is marked by an increase in general commerce, and in the growth of financial services such as banking, insurance and investing.
~1750 - 1840	Industrial Revolution	The Industrial Revolution was the transition to new manufacturing processes in Europe and the United States, in the period from about 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840. This transition included going from hand production methods to machines, new chemical manufacturing and iron production processes, the increasing use of steam power and waterpower, the development of machine tools and the rise of the mechanized factory system. The Industrial Revolution also led to an unprecedented rise in the rate of population growth.
~1543 – 1780	Scientific Revolution	The Scientific Revolution was a series of events that marked the emergence of modern science during the early modern period, when developments in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology (including human anatomy) and chemistry transformed the views of society about nature. The Scientific Revolution took place in Europe towards the end of the Renaissance period and continued through the late 18th century, influencing the intellectual social movement known as the Enlightenment.
1947 – Present	Digital Revolution	The Digital Revolution (also known as the Third Industrial Revolution) is the shift from mechanical and analogue electronic technology to digital electronics which began in the latter half of the 20th century, with the adoption and proliferation of digital computers and digital record-keeping, that continues to the present day. Implicitly, the term also refers to the sweeping changes brought about by digital computing and communication technologies during this period. Analogous to the Agricultural Revolution and Industrial Revolution, the Digital Revolution marked the beginning of the Information Age.
1960s – 1980s	Sexual Revolution	The sexual revolution, also known as a time of sexual liberation, was a social movement that challenged traditional codes of behavior related to sexuality and interpersonal relationships throughout the United States. Sexual liberation included increased acceptance of sex outside of traditional heterosexual, monogamous relationships (primarily marriage). The normalization of contraception, public nudity, pornography, premarital sex, homosexuality, masturbation, alternative forms of sexuality, and the legalization of abortion all followed.

Ages and Stages

Definition: An era is a span of time defined for the purposes of chronology or historiography. In the following categorization, an “age” is synonymous with an “era.” Another valuable term for reference is “zeitgeist.”

1685-1815	Age of Enlightenment	The Age of Enlightenment (also known as the Age of Reason or simply the Enlightenment) was an intellectual and philosophical movement that dominated the world of ideas in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. The Enlightenment included a range of ideas centered on the sovereignty of reason and the evidence of the senses as the primary sources of knowledge and advanced ideals such as liberty, progress, toleration, fraternity, constitutional government and separation of church and state. The Enlightenment emerged out of a European intellectual and scholarly movement known as Renaissance humanism and was also preceded by the Scientific Revolution and the work of Francis Bacon, among others. Some date the beginning of the Enlightenment to René Descartes' 1637 philosophy of <i>Cogito, ergo sum</i> ("I think, therefore I am"), while others cite the publication of Isaac Newton's <i>Principia Mathematica</i> (1687) as the culmination of the Scientific Revolution and the beginning of the Enlightenment.
	Age of Discovery	The Age of Discovery, or the Age of Exploration (sometimes also, particularly regionally, Age of Contact or Contact Period), is an informal and loosely defined term for the early modern period approximately from the 15th century to the 18th century in European history, in which sea-faring European nations explored regions across the globe. The extensive overseas exploration, led by the Portuguese and the Spanish, emerged as a powerful factor in European culture, most notably the European rediscovery of the Americas. It also marks an increased adoption of colonialism as a national policy in Europe. Several lands previously unknown to Europeans were discovered by them during this period, though most were already inhabited.
1760	Age of Imperialism	The Age of Imperialism, a time period beginning around 1760, saw European industrializing nations, engaging in the process of colonizing, influencing, and annexing other parts of the world. 19th century episodes included the "Scramble for Africa."
	Age of Revolutions	The Age of Revolution is a period from the late 18th to the mid-19th centuries in which a number of significant revolutionary movements occurred in most of Europe and the Americas. The period is noted for the change from absolutist monarchies to representative governments with a written constitution, and the creation of nation states. Influenced by the new ideas of the Enlightenment, the American Revolution (1765–1783) is usually considered the starting point of the Age of Revolution. It in turn inspired the French Revolution of 1789, which rapidly spread to the rest of Europe through its wars.
	Age of Information	The Information Age (also known as the Computer Age, Digital Age, or New Media Age) is a historical period that began in the mid-20th century, characterized by a rapid epochal shift from the traditional industry established by the Industrial Revolution to an economy primarily based upon information technology. The onset of the Information Age can be associated with the development of transistor technology. According to the United Nations Public Administration Network, the Information Age was formed by capitalizing on computer microminiaturization advances, which would lead to modernized information and to communication processes upon broader usage within society becoming the driving force of social evolution.

Noteworthy idea of the “Stage of Empires”

The following is derived from U.S. Army General and historian, Sir John Bagot Glubb. He studied eleven empires beginning with the Assyrians in 859 B.C. and ending with the British in 1950 A.D. Sir John determined that each followed a remarkably similar pattern from birth to demise. Spanning a period of about ten generations, or 250 years, each went through 7 Stages of Empire (*The Fate of Empires*, Glubb).

The Lives of the Empires

The Nation	Dates of Rise and Fall	Duration in Years
Assyria	859-612 B.C.	247
Persia (Cyrus and his descendants)	538-330 B.C.	208
Greece (Alexander and his successors)	331-100	231
Roman Republic	260-27 B.C.	233
Roman Empire	27 B.C.-A.D. 180	207
Arab Empire	A.D. 634-880	246
Mameluke Empire	1250-1517	267
Ottoman Empire	1320-1570	250
Spain	1500-1750	250
Romanov Russia	1682-1916	234
Britain	1700-1950	250

Seven Stages of Empires

1. The Age of Pioneers (Outburst)
2. The Age of Conquests
3. The Age of Commerce
4. The Age of Affluence
5. The Age of Intellect
6. The Age of Decadence
7. The Age of Decline & Collapse

The Age of Pioneers (Outburst): “Again and again in history we find a small nation, treated as insignificant by its contemporaries, suddenly emerging from its homeland and overrunning large areas of the world.”

The Age of Conquests: “The first stage of the life of a great nation, therefore, after its outburst, is a period of amazing initiative, and almost incredible enterprise, courage and hardihood... In the case of the United States of America, the pioneering period did not consist of a barbarian conquest of an effete civilisation, but of the conquest of barbarian peoples.”

The Age of Commerce: “The conquest of vast areas of land and their subjection to one government automatically acts as a stimulant to commerce. Both merchants and goods can be exchanged over considerable distances.”

The Age of Affluence: “There does not appear to be any doubt that money is the agent which causes the decline of this strong, brave and self-confident people. The decline in courage, enterprise and a sense of duty is, however, gradual. The first direction in which wealth injures the nation is a moral one. Money replaces honour and adventure as the objective of the best young men. Moreover, men do not normally seek to make money for their country or their community, but for themselves. Gradually, and almost imperceptibly, the Age of Affluence silences the voice of duty.”

The Age of Intellect: “The great wealth of the nation is no longer needed to supply the mere necessities, or even the luxuries of life. Ample funds are available also for the pursuit of knowledge. The merchant princes of the Age of Commerce seek fame and praise, not only by endowing works of art or patronising music and literature. They also found and endow colleges and universities... Perhaps the most dangerous by-product of the Age of Intellect is the unconscious growth of the idea that the human brain can solve the problems of the world.”

The Age of Decadence: “Frivolity is the frequent companion of pessimism. Let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die... Decadence is a moral and spiritual disease, resulting from too long a period of wealth and power, producing cynicism, decline of religion, pessimism and frivolity. The citizens of such a nation will no longer make an effort to save themselves, because they are not convinced that anything in life is worth saving.”

The Age of Decline and Collapse: The Roman Republic, as we have seen, was followed by the empire, which became a super-state, in which all the natives of the Mediterranean basin, regardless of race, possessed equal rights. The name of Rome, originally a city-state, passed from it to an equalitarian international empire. This empire broke in half, the western half being overrun by northern barbarians, the eastern half forming the East Roman or Byzantine Empire. The vast Arab Empire broke up in the ninth century into many fragments, of which one former colony, Moslem Spain, ran its own 250-year course as an independent empire... The Spanish Empire (1500-1750) endured for the conventional 250 years, terminated only by the loss of its colonies. The homeland of Spain fell, indeed, from its high estate of a super-power, but remained as an independent nation until today. Romanov Russia (1682-1916) ran the normal course, but was succeeded by the Soviet Union... Any regime which attains great wealth and power seems with remarkable regularity to decay and fall apart in some ten generations.”