

LATE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY RENAISSANCE CHRONOLOGY

- 1453 Turks capture Constantinople and kill Emperor Constantine.
End of the East Roman (Byzantine) Empire.
End of the Hundred Years' War between England and France.
Movable type used by Gutenberg to print the first Bible at Mainz.
- 1454 Gutenberg prints up blank "forms" for use as indulgences.
- 1455 Beginning of the Wars of the Roses (England).
- 1460 Completion of Winchester Cathedral, England and Palazzo Pitti in Florence.
- 1465 First printed music.
- 1466 First German Bible (complete) printed in Strasbourg, France.
- 1467 First ballad about the Swiss national hero, William Tell.
- 1469 Ferdinand of Aragon marries Isabella of Castile (Spain).
- 1472 Dante's *Divine Comedy* printed for the first time at Foligno.
- 1474 William Caxton prints (at Bruges, in Belgium) the first book in the English language.
- 1477 Caxton prints Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.
- 1479 Union of Aragon and Castile under Ferdinand the Catholic and Isabella: beginning of the Spanish state.
They appoint Inquisitors against heretics among converted Jews.
Leonardo da Vinci invents the parachute.
- 1481 Beginning of the Spanish Inquisition under the joint direction of Church and state.
- 1484 Botticelli: *The Birth of Venus*.
Portuguese navigator Diego Cam discovers the mouth of the Congo River.
- 1489 Yasuf Adil Shah, a former slave, becomes ruler of Bijapur, India.
The symbols + **and** - come into use.
- 1491 Future King Henry VIII of England born. Ignatius Loyola born.
Copernicus studying at Cracow University.
- 1492 Lorenzo de Medici ("The Magnificent") dies in Florence.
Discovery of America.
Birth of Marguerite de Navarre, sister of François I of France.
By order of the Inquisitor General, Torquemada, Spanish Jews are given three months to accept Christianity or leave Spain.
Leonardo da Vinci draws a flying machine.
First terrestrial globe constructed by Nuremberg geographer Martin Behaim.

- 1493 Pope Alexander VI publishes Bull dividing the New World between Spain and Portugal.
Frederick III dies, succeeded by Maximilian I as Holy Roman Emperor.
Lucrezia Borgia, daughter of Pope Alexander VI, marries Ludovico Sforza.
Paracelsus, Swiss physician and alchemist, born.
Agnolo Firenzuolo, Italian poet and short-story writer, born.
- 1494 François I of France born.
Suleiman "The Magnificent," Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, born.
François Rabelais born.
Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, Italian humanist (wrote *The Dignity of Man*) dies.
Leonardo da Vinci finishes his *Madonna of the Rocks* after 11 years of work.
Luca di Pacioli publishes his *Algebra*, including a study of the problems of cubic equations.
First French invasions in Italy by armies of Charles VIII.
- 1495 Charles VIII crowned King of Naples.
Pope Alexander VI forms Holy League aimed at expelling Charles VIII from Italy.
Ferdinand II of Spain reconquers Naples.
French fleet captured at Rapallo.
Hieronymus Bosch, painter: *The Garden of Earthly Delights*.
Leonardo begins *The Last Supper*.
Syphilis epidemic spreads from Naples all over Europe through French soldiers.
- 1496 Henry VII (England) commissions Venetian navigator John Cabot and son Sebastian to discover new trade route to Asia.
Romano Pane, a monk who accompanied Columbus on his voyages, is first to describe the tobacco plant.
- 1497 Vasco da Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope (Nov. 22).
Severe famine in Florence.
- 1498 Reign of Louis XII (France; until 1515).
Comedies of Aristophanes published in Venice.
Erasmus teaching at Oxford.
Leonardo da Vinci: numerous technical and scientific drawings.
Michelangelo: The *Pietà* commissioned for St. Peter's in Rome.
- 1499 Louis XII of France marries Anne of Brittany, widow of Charles VIII to keep duchy of Brittany for the French crown.
Partition of Milan: Ludovico Sforza flees; the French take Milan; Louis XII enters the city.
Fernando de Rojas: *La Celestina*, the first Spanish comedy.
Spanish Inquisitor General, Francisco de Cisneros introduces forced mass conversions of the Moors, causing the Moorish revolt in Granada.
First political cartoons (concerning the French/Italian wars) appear.

University of Oxford institutes degrees in music and musicology.

- 1500 Hieronymous Bosch (painter): *Ship of Fools*
Botticelli (painter): *Mystic Nativity*.
Benvenuto Cellini (artist, sculptor, writer) born.
Publication of Juan de la Cosa's map of the New World.
First black lead pencils used in England.
First Caesarean operation performed on a living woman by Swiss pig gelder Jakob Nufer.
- 1501 Arthur, elder son of Henry VII (England), marries Catherine of Aragon.
Burning of books against authority of the Church ordered by papal Bull.
Erasmus: *Enchiridion militis christiani (The Sword of the Militant Christian)*.
Michelangelo (artist/sculptor): *David*.
- 1503 Henry, Prince of Wales, betrothed to Catherine of Aragon (her husband Arthur died in 1502).
Pope Alexander VI dies.
Canterbury Cathedral finished.
Leonardo da Vinci: *Mona Lisa*.
Copernicus made doctor of canon law at Ferrara.
Nostradamus, French astrologer, born.
Pocket handkerchief comes into widespread use.
- 1505 Henry, Prince of Wales, denounces marriage contract to Catherine of Aragon.
Raphael (artist): *Madonna della Granduca*.
- 1506 Christopher Columbus dies.
Niccolò Machiavelli (37 years old) creates Florentine militia, first national army in Italy.
- 1507 Martin Luther ordained.
Polydore Vergil (an Italian humanist) named historiographer to Henry VII of England.
Pope Julius proclaims indulgence for aiding in rebuilding of St. Peter's in Rome.
Exploration of Gambia, in Africa.
Martin Waldseemüller, in his *Cosmographiae introductio*) proposes the New World be called "**America**" in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.
- 1508 Luther, student at University of Wittenberg.
Michelangelo begins work on Sistine Chapel. Raphael enters service of Pope Julius II.
Guillaume Budé publishes first interpretations of Roman Law written in the vernacular (French).
- 1509 Henry VII dies.
Henry VIII succeeds his father as King of England and marries Catherine of Aragon.
John Calvin born.
First attempts to restrict the right to practice medicine to licensed and qualified doctors.
Beginnings of slave trade.
De Las Casas, Bishop of Chiapas, proposes that each Spanish settler bring a certain number of slaves to

the New World.

- 1511 Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*.
Pope Julius forms Holy League with Venice and Aragon to drive the French out of Italy.
Henry VIII joins Holy League and begins to reform the Royal Navy.
- 1513 Treaty of Mechlin: Maxmillian I, Henry VIII, the Pope, and Ferdinand of Aragon agree to invade France. Giovanni de Medici elected Pope Leo X upon death of Julius II (in March).
Ponce de Leon discovers Florida. Balboa crosses Panama Isthmus and discovers the Pacific Ocean.
Great spire of Chartres cathedral completed.
- 1514 Anglo-French truce: Louis XII marries Mary Tudor, sister of Henry VIII. Louis XII's daughter, Claude, marries François, duke of Angoulême.
Thomas Wolsey made Archbishop of York.
Correggio discovers effects of **chiaroscuro** in painting.
Andreas Vesalius, Dutch physician, founder of modern anatomy, born.
Pineapples arrive in Europe for the first time.
- 1515 Reign of François I of France (until 1547).
Anglo-French Treaty signed.
Lateran Council's degree forbids printing of books without the permission of the Church.
Wolsey appointed cardinal and Lord Chancellor of England.
Leonardo da Vinci in France, at invitation of French king.
Raphael appointed architect-in-chief of St. Peter's in Rome.
Anne of Cleves, fourth queen of Henry VIII, born.
First nationalized factories (for weapons and tapestries) open in France.
- 1516 Thomas More, *Utopia*.
Erasmus publishes New Testament in Greek.
Ariosto begins publishing the *Orlando Furioso*.
Corpus Christi College, Oxford, founded.
Michelangelo finishes statue *Moses*.
Titian: *The Assumption*.
Concordat of Bologna: François I obtains from the Pope the right to nominate all French archbishops, bishops, and abbots, after which the Pope would install them.
- 1517 Martin Luther attaches his **95 Theses** to the church door at Wittenberg.
"Evil May Day" riots in London: 60 rioters hanged on Cardinal Wolsey's orders.
Coffee in Europe for the first time.
- 1518 Peace of London between England, France, Emperor Maxmillian, the Pope and Spain devised by Cardinal Wolsey.
Martin Luther, summoned by Cardinal Cajetan to Diet of Augsburg, refuses to recant his criticism of the Church (in the **95 Theses**).
Royal College of Physicians, London, founded.

Adam Riese, mathematician, publishes his first book on practical arithmetic.
License to import 4,000 African slaves to Spanish-American colonies granted to Lorens de Cominot.
Spectacles for the near-sighted used for the first time.
Azay-le-Rideau castle (France) begun (commonly known as "Sleeping Beauty's Castle").

- 1519 Reign of Charles V, Habsburg (until 1556).
Voyages of Magellan begin (and continue until 1522).
Death of Leonardo da Vinci in France.
Chambord castle begun.
- 1520 Reign of Suleiman the Magnificent (until 1566).
Robert Estienne publishes first complete Bible in French.
Charles V crowned Holy Roman Emperor at Aix-la-Chapelle.
Royal Library of France founded by François I at Fontainebleau--creating the *privilège du roi*--the "copyright" whereby all books printed are sent to the king upon publication.
Chocolate brought from Mexico to Spain.
Henry VIII orders the building of bowling lanes in Whitehall.
First "Field of Cloth of Gold" meeting with the French King.
- 1521 Pope Leo X confers title of "Defender of the Faith" on Henry VIII for his treatise *Assertio septem sacramentorum* (a defense of the 7 sacraments) against Luther.
Luther, cross-examined before the Diet of Worms, is banned from the Holy Roman Empire. He is imprisoned in Wartburg, and begins his German translation of the Bible.
Machiavelli: *The Art of War*.
Manufacture of silk introduced into France.
- 1522 Luther returns to Wittenberg, condemns fanatics, finishes translation of the New Testament (the Old Testament will be finished in 1534). Wittenberg Hans Lufft, produces 100,000 copies of this Bible translation over the next 40 years.
Henry VIII's book in defense of the seven sacraments translated into German.
In May, English at war with French again and for the English, a complete débâcle.
- 1523 François I gives aid for voyage of Giovanni da Verrazano.
Sir Thomas More elected Speaker of the House of Commons.
French translation of the Four Gospels.
- 1524 Peasants' Revolt in southern Germany. Denmark confirms independence of Sweden under Gustavus I.
Hans Holbein the Elder, German painter, dies.
Giovanni da Verrazano discovers New York Bay and the Hudson River.
Turkeys from South America eaten for first time at the English court.
- 1525 François I taken prisoner in Italy. Peace signed between England and France.
Pierre de Ronsard, Louise Labé ("The Ropemaker's Daughter") born (they were French poets).
Cardinal Wolsey presents Hampton Court to Henry VIII and endows Cardinal College, Oxford.

- 1526 Andrea del Sarto (painter): *La Cena*.
Albrecht Dürer (artist; woodcuts): *The Apostles*.
Charles V marries Isabella of Portugal.
Persecution of the Jews in Hungary.
Hans Holbien the Younger visits England for the first time (continues the tradition of being Henry's 'portraitist.').
- 1527 Reorganization of the Habsburg administration in Austria: Ferdinand crowned King of Bohemia in Prague and is recognized as sole King of Hungary.
The Sack of Rome: imperial troops pillage the city, killing 4000 inhabitants and looting art treasures.
Pope Clement VII imprisoned in Castel Sant'Angelo (period referred to as the "End of the Renaissance").
Future King Philip II of Spain born.
Castiglione's *Il Cortegiano (The Courtier)* published.
Machiavelli dies.
Hans Holbein's portrait of *Thomas More and His Family*.
Paracelsus lectures on medicine at the University of Basel.
French translation of the Old Testament.
- 1528 At Bridewell, Henry VIII explains to nobles and citizens his motives for seeking divorce from Catherine of Aragon.
Paracelsus publishes first manual on surgery.
Outbreaks of the Plague in England.
- 1529 Treaty of Cambrai between François I and Charles V joined by England.
Cardinal Wolsey falls from power.
Thomas More made Lord Chancellor.
Luther and Zwingli hold their disputation on the Eucharist at Marburg.
Michelangelo works on fortifications of Florence.
Physician Giovanni Battista da Monte introduces clinical examinations of patient in the sickbed at the University of Padua.
Height of the international debate over Henry VIII's divorce and its theological implications. In autumn, Henry clearly allied with the rising tide of anti-clericalism.
- 1530 Establishment of the Collège de France by François I and Guillaume Budé (for the study of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew).
Henry VIII begins in earnest his battle for principle of Royal Supremacy.
Charles V crowned Holy Roman Emperor and King of Italy by Pope Clement VII at Bologna.
Ivan IV of Russia, the Terrible, born.
Cardinal Wolsey dies.
Portuguese colonize Brazil.
General, widespread use of the spinning wheel in Europe.
- 1531 Michelangelo: *Night, Dawn*. Titian: *Saint Jerome, The Magdalen*.
Henry VIII recognized as Supreme Head of Church in England.

First complete edition of Aristotle's works published by Erasmus.

Sighting of the "Great Comet" (to be known later as Halley's Comet) arouses a wave of superstition.

- 1532 Rabelais: *Pantagruel* (condemned by the Sorbonne).
English clergy submit to Henry VIII.
Robert Estienne: *Thesaurus linguae latinae*, the first Latin-French dictionary published.
Second "Field of Cloth of Gold."
- 1533 Birth of Michel de Montaigne.
Henry VIII secretly marries Anne Boleyn.
Thomas Cranmer becomes Archbishop of Canterbury and declares the marriage of Henry and Catherine of Aragon void and marriage with Anne Boleyn lawful. Anne crowned Queen. Henry excommunicated.
Future Queen Elizabeth I born to Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII.
Ivan IV (The Terrible) ascends the throne of Russia at age 3.
Titian: portrait of *Charles V*.
- 1534 Rabelais: *Gargantua*.
François I sends Jacques Cartier to America.
Henry VIII's Proclamation of Royal Supremacy ("Divers and sundry old authentic histories and chronicles manifestly declared that this realm of England is an Empire").
Elizabeth Barton, the "Nun of Kent," the ecstatic who was vehemently opposed to Henry's matrimonial policy, executed at Tyburn.
Pope Clement VII dies.
September: Cardinal Farnese elected as Pope Paul III.
Jesuit order founded by Ignatius Loyola.
Erection of St. Basil's cathedral (Eastern Orthodox) in Moscow.
Success of divorce and annulment of marriage to Catherine of Aragon.
Treason Act passed by English Parliament: denial of king's title as Head of Church is punishable by death.
- 1535 *L'Affaire des Placards* (posters denouncing the Mass hung all over Paris and on the King's bedchamber at Amboise castle).
English clergy abjure authority of the Pope and Thomas More, who refuses the oath of the "King's Supremacy," is tried for treason and executed.
Holbein's portrait *Henry VIII*.
Jacques Cartier's second voyage: up the St. Lawrence River, to Quebec, Montreal.
- 1536 John Calvin: *De Institutione Religionis Christianae*--dedicated to François I.
Pierre Lescot works on Louvre palace.
January: Catherine of Aragon dies. May: Anne Boleyn executed.
Henry marries Jane Seymour (#3).
Thomas Cromwell made Lord of the Privy Seal.
François le Dauphin dies.
Act of Parliament declares authority of the Pope void in England.

Death of Erasmus.

Holbein made court painter to Henry VIII.

Michelangelo paints *Last Judgment* on altar wall of the Sistine Chapel.

- 1537 Queen Jane Seymour (wife #3) dies after birth of Prince Edward (later Edward VI).
First Catholic hymnal published.
Four volumes of the complete works of Cicero published in Venice. T
Titian's portrait of François I.
- 1538 Calvin, expelled from Geneva, settles in Strasbourg.
Destruction of relics and shrines in southern England (notably Thomas à Becket's shrine in Canterbury).
Mercator uses the name *America* for the first time on a map.
- 1539 Marriage treaty signed at Hampton Court for Henry to marry Anne of Cleves (#4).
Spain annexes Cuba.
Calvin publishes *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*.
First Christmas tree at Strasbourg Cathedral.
François I's ordinance of Villers-Cotteret: all official documents are to be written in the French language.
- 1540 28 editions of the Bible in French are published (this continues to 1560).
6 January: marriage of Henry VIII to Anne of Cleves--marriage then annulled by convocation of Canterbury and York.
Henry marries Catherine Howard (#5).
Cromwell executed. Lord
Treasurer Norfolk, uncle of Catherine Howard, is selected as successor.
Order of the Jesuits confirmed by Pope Paul III.
Henry VIII founds "regius" professorships of Greek, Hebrew, divinity, civil law, and physics at Cambridge and Oxford (i.e. professorships directly under the control of the king).
Ether produced from alcohol and sulfuric acid.
Michael Servetus discovers pulmonary circulation.
Calvin's *Institutes* translated into French.
François I issues Edict of Fontainebleau: ruthless inquests against heretics.
- 1541 Michelangelo: *The Last Judgment* completed (Sistine Chapel).
Henry VIII assumes titles of King of Ireland and Head of the Irish Church.
Queen Catherine Howard sent to the tower on suspicion of immoral conduct (her alleged paramours Thomas Culpepper and Dereham, executed).
Calvin returns to Geneva.
Birth of El Greco (Spanish painter).
- 1542 Catherine Howard executed.
Mary, Queen of Scots (born August 12) ascends throne 6 days later.
Pope Paul III establishes Inquisition in Rome.

- 1543 Copernicus: *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* published.
Copernicus's death.
Convening of the Council of Trent (through 1563) to deal with the "Protestant" question.
July: Henry Marries Catherine Parr (#6).
Index liborum prohibitorum (Index of Prohibited Books) issued by Pope Paul III.
First Protestants burned at the stake by the Inquisition.
Benvenuto Cellini, saltcellar for François I.
Titian ***Ecce Homo***.
Portuguese land in Japan and bring firearms.
Sorbonne issues list of 65 condemned books (a second list is issued in 1544).
- 1544 Death of poet Clément Marot (early Renaissance printer and poet).
Francesco Primaticcio (Italian painter) works at Fontainebleau.
Georg Agricola initiates the study of physical geology.
St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London refounded.
Sorbonne orders Calvin's ***Institutes*** to be burned.
- 1545 Duke of Orléans, third son of François I, dies.
Discussion by the Council of Trent on the Reformation and the Church's Counter-Reformation.
Cellini writes his autobiography.
First European botanical garden in Padua, Italy.
- 1546 Rabelais: ***Le Tiers Livre***.
English navy founded.
Etienne de la Boétie: ***Discours de la servitude volontaire (Discourse on voluntary enslavement)***.
Martin Luther dies.
Pierre Lescot begins to build the Louvre.
Michelangelo designs the dome and undertakes the completion of St. Peter's in Rome.
Ghirolamo Francastoro (Italian physician) states his views on infections and epidemic diseases.
Geographer Gerardus Mercator (Flemish) states that the Earth has a magnetic pole. 1
August: Franco-Anglo-Imperial Treaty signed.
- 1547 Deaths of Henry VIII, François I.
The Pléiade poets' group founded.
Edward VI king of England.
Henri II, king of France.
Ivan IV crowned Czar of Russia.
William Baldwin: ***Treatise of Morall Phylosophie***.
La Chambre Ardente (the *Burning Room* or the *Hot Seat*" created in France for trial of heretics.
First predictions of French astrologer Nostradamus.
French instead of Latin declared the official language (spoken and written) of French authorities.
Moscow destroyed by fire.
Poor rate levied in London.