WESTERN CIVILIZATION · STUDY GUIDE

Final Exam Study Guide

The final covers all fourteen chapters. Each chapter here is shorter than in the exam guides: three paragraphs of what to know, the points to lock in, the chapter diagram, one table, one worked case, the traps and six new self-test items. If a chapter feels shaky, go back to its exam guide for the full treatment. The long cram sheet at the end pulls the key dates, terms and arguments of the course into one place. Work two chapters a day and the whole course fits into a week.

WHAT THIS GUIDE COVERS

- Beginnings: chapters 1 and 2 (Mesopotamia and Egypt; Greece, the polis and philosophy).
- Rome and its heirs: chapters 3, 4 and 5 (republic to empire; late antiquity and Christianity; Byzantium, Islam and the early Middle Ages).
- Medieval to early modern: chapters 6, 7 and 8 (the High Middle Ages; the Renaissance; Reformation and the wars of religion).
- Europe and the world: chapters 9 and 10 (exploration and empire; absolutism, science and the Enlightenment).
- The modern age: chapters 11 and 12 (revolutions; nationalism and imperialism).
- The twentieth century and after: chapters 13 and 14 (world wars and totalitarianism; the Cold War and the contemporary world).
- Every chapter carries what to know, a diagram, a table, a worked case, the traps and a six-item self-test, and the cram sheet holds the dates and terms.

CHAPTER 1

Foundations: Mesopotamia and Egypt

Read it in full: **Chapter 1 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Farming Bargain** and **The Year the River Runs**.

What to know

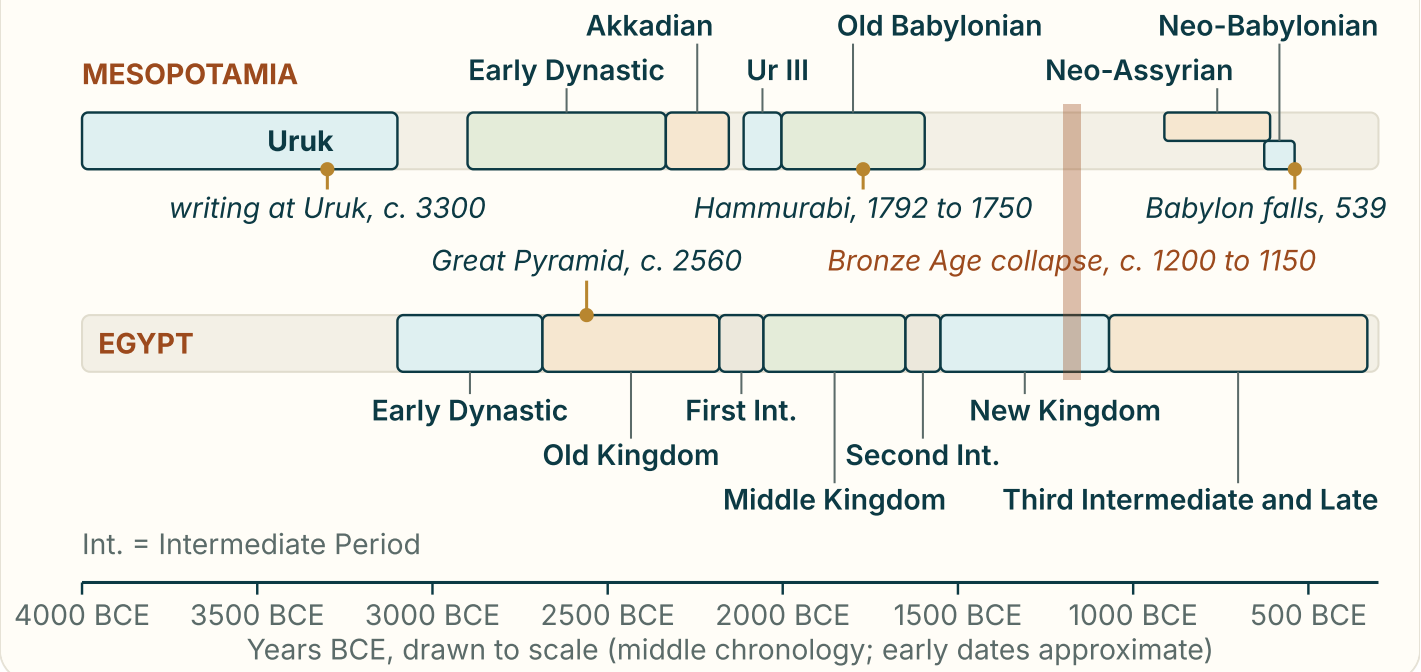
Farming began around 9500 BCE in the Fertile Crescent thanks to a lucky set of wild plants and animals. It fed more people while making the average person shorter and sicker; it won by population growth. Göbekli Tepe shows big monuments before securely attested farming. In Mesopotamia, late and erratic floods required canals and cooperation, Uruk became the first city, and writing began as accounting before the phonetic leap turned it into cuneiform.

Rival Sumerian city-states made war leaders into kings, and Sargon of Akkad built the first territorial empire. Hammurabi's stele grades punishment by rank and works best as royal monument. Assyria added provinces, roads and deportation; Babylon fell to Cyrus in 539 BCE.

Egypt's timely flood and protected valley produced early unity, the pyramids built by organized Egyptian labor, and the ideal of ma'at. The Bronze Age collapse around 1200 BCE had many causes and spread iron and the 22-letter alphabet. The West inherited these inventions by transmission, not descent.

LOCK THESE IN

- Farming began about 9500 BCE in the Fertile Crescent and fed more people while making the average person shorter and sicker.
- Göbekli Tepe (about 9500 BCE) shows monuments before securely attested farming; the causal story is now open.
- Uruk became the first city around 3500 BCE; writing appears there around 3300 to 3200 BCE as accounting.
- War made kings: the lugal's temporary command became hereditary.
- Sargon of Akkad (about 2334 BCE) built the first territorial empire.



Two river valleys on one clock. Egypt's kingdoms run long and are broken by Intermediate Periods, while Mesopotamia passes from city-states to a series of conquest empires. Both are hit by the collapse around 1200 BCE.

Chapter 1 terms and comparisons

Term or feature	Mesopotamia	Egypt
Flood timing	April to May, too late for winter grain	July to October, right for autumn planting
Flood behavior	Highly variable, sometimes destructive	Fairly regular; a low Nile meant famine
Irrigation	Large canal networks needing constant labor	Basin irrigation, largely local
Defenses	Open plain, exposed on all sides	Desert, cataracts and sea
Political form	Rival city-states, then conquest empires	One unified kingdom under a pharaoh
Building material	Sun-dried mudbrick	Limestone, sandstone, granite
Writing	Cuneiform on clay	Hieroglyphs, with hieratic and demotic
Outlook in texts	Often anxious; death bleak	Often confident; afterlife desirable

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · WHY FARMING SPREAD ANYWAY

A classmate says people started farming because it was obviously a better life. Test the claim with the chapter's evidence.

STEP 1 · STATE THE CLAIM

Farming spread because each family judged it better.

STEP 2 · CHECK THE BODIES

Neolithic skeletons show shorter stature, more caries, enamel defects, anemia and joint wear than earlier foragers.

STEP 3 · CHECK THE DISEASES

Dense villages beside animals bred measles, tuberculosis, smallpox and influenza.

STEP 4 · FIND THE REAL DRIVER

Farming feeds far more people per acre, so farming populations grew faster and displaced or absorbed foragers.

CONCLUSION

The claim fails. Farming won by population growth, not by making individuals better off. Evolutionary success and welfare are different measures.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Calling farming progress for everyone.** It fed more people but hurt the average person's health.
- **Saying Göbekli Tepe proves religion caused farming.** It breaks the old sequence; it does not settle a new one.
- **Thinking writing began as literature.** It began as accounts of barley, beer and rations.
- **Treating Hammurabi's stele as a working statute book.** Courts almost never cite it; read it as royal monument and teaching text.

Chapter 1 self-test · six items

1. Which title began as a Sumerian war leader's role and became hereditary kingship?

A. Wanax
B. Pharaoh
C. Lugal
D. Ensi

C. Lugal Lugal means big man. Chronic border wars turned the temporary command into permanent, inherited rule.

2. Which Egyptian idea did the pharaoh exist to uphold?

A. Polis, the citizen community
B. Ma'at, truth and cosmic order
C. Isfet, the force of chaos
D. Logos, the ordering of reason

B. Ma'at, truth and cosmic order Ma'at is truth, justice and cosmic order; isfet is its opposite, chaos.

3. When did the first true city, Uruk, appear?

A. Around 9500 BCE
B. Around 2334 BCE
C. Around 3500 BCE
D. Around 1200 BCE

C. Around 3500 BCE Uruk became a city around 3500 BCE; 9500 BCE is the start of farming and Göbekli Tepe.

4. Why is the Neo-Assyrian Empire important to the toolkit of rule?

A. It used provinces under salaried governors and mass deportation
B. It was the first state to elect its rulers by a popular vote
C. It banned the use of iron weapons across the Near East
D. It replaced cuneiform with the Phoenician alphabet

A. It used provinces under salaried governors and mass deportation Tiglath-Pileser III organized provinces under governors and systematized deportation to break local identity.

5. How many letters did the Phoenician alphabet have?

A. 26 letters with vowels
B. About 600 signs
C. 282 sound signs
D. 22 consonant letters

D. 22 consonant letters Phoenician writing reduced hundreds of signs to 22 consonantal letters, around 1050 BCE. Greeks later added vowels.

6. Which word best describes how the West received these river valley inventions?

A. Descent
B. Transmission
C. Isolation
D. Independent invention

B. Transmission Greeks, Romans and later Europeans borrowed writing, law, math and calendars. They were not descendants of Sumer or Egypt.

CHAPTER 2

Ancient Greece: Polis, Philosophy and Democracy

Read it in full: **Chapter 2 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **Forge a Polis** and **The Lot and the Demos**.

What to know

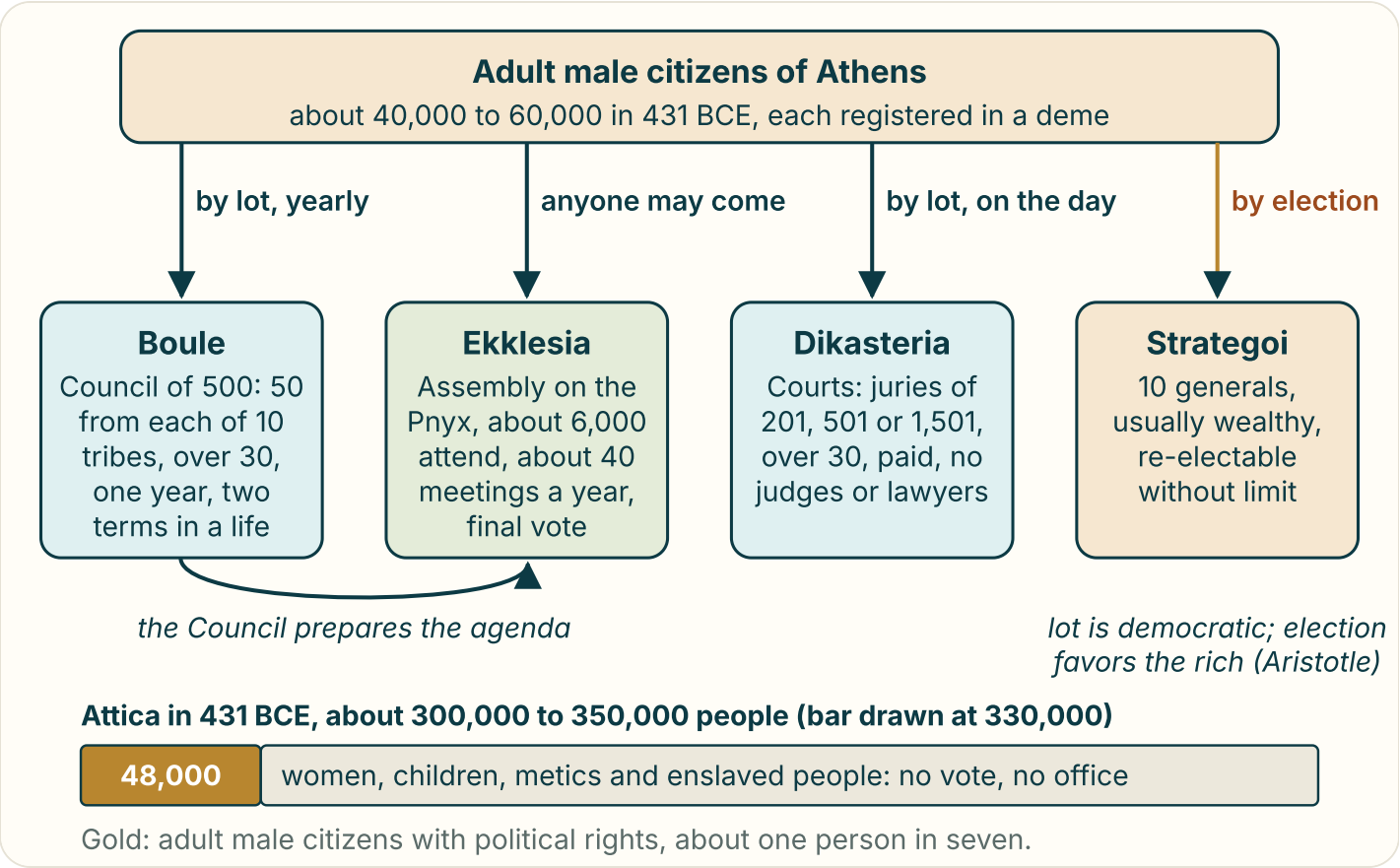
The Mycenaean palaces, recorded in Linear B, fell around 1200 BCE. When Greece recovered it built the polis, a small self-governing citizen community, because the memory of central kingship was gone. Colonies, the vowel alphabet and coinage followed. The hoplite phalanx tied military and political roles together.

Sparta conquered Messenia and built a garrison society over the helots; its shrinking citizen body lost at Leuctra in 371 BCE. Athens moved from Solon's debt reforms to Cleisthenes' ten mixed tribes and then a radical democracy run by lot, rotation and paid juries, for adult male citizens only.

Athens beat Persia at Marathon and Salamis, turned the Delian League into an empire and lost the Peloponnesian War to a Persian-funded Spartan fleet. Thucydides separated deep cause from trigger. Socrates, Plato and Aristotle made argument itself the legacy, and after Alexander, Stoics and Epicureans turned ethics inward.

LOCK THESE IN

- The Mycenaean collapse, more than geography alone, cleared the way for the polis.
- Linear B was early Greek, deciphered by Ventris in 1952, building on Kober.
- The hoplite shield protected the man beside you; military and political roles tracked each other.
- Sparta rested on helots; its citizen body shrank and Thebes broke it at Leuctra in 371 BCE.
- Solon (594 BCE) canceled debts but refused land redistribution; Cleisthenes (508 to 507 BCE) built ten mixed tribes.



Lot, rotation and a narrow citizen body. Three of the four institutions were filled by lot or open attendance; only the generals were elected. The bar uses the chapter's working figures, and estimates vary.

Chapter 2 terms and comparisons

Term or feature	Sparta	Athens
Economic base	Helot farming in Laconia and Messenia	Small farms, olives, Laurion silver, imported grain
Unfree labor	Helots, state-owned and tied to land	Chattel slaves, privately owned, often bought abroad
Decisive arm	Hoplite infantry	Trireme navy rowed by poorer citizens
Executive	Two kings, five ephors, council of elders	Ten elected generals; most offices by lot
Women	Exercised, inherited and owned land	Under a male guardian (kyrios), no property control
Outsiders	Periodic expulsion of foreigners	Many metics, taxed but never enfranchised
Citizen trend	About 8,000 falling to about 1,200 to 1,500	About 40,000 to 60,000 adult men in 431 BCE
Key reformer	The mixed constitution Aristotle admired	Solon, then Cleisthenes, then Pericles

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · WHY CLEISTHENES MIXED THE REGIONS

An aristocratic family dominates one coastal district. Show how Cleisthenes' tribes weaken its hold on politics.

STEP 1 · THE OLD SYSTEM

Four kinship tribes let great families command local loyalty.

STEP 2 · THE BUILDING BLOCKS

About 139 demes were grouped into 30 trittyes: 10 coastal, 10 inland and 10 city.

STEP 3 · THE MIX

Each of the 10 new tribes took one trittys from each region, so 3 trittyes per tribe and 30 in all.

STEP 4 · THE RESULT

The family's coastal followers now sit in a tribe alongside inland farmers and city dwellers who owe it nothing.

CONCLUSION

A tribe became an artificial cross-section of Attica. No single region or family could control one, and each tribe sent 50 men to the Council of 500.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying geography alone made the polis.** The same mountains held palace kingdoms; the collapse of kingship was decisive.
- **Calling the Dark Age a time when nothing happened.** Palaces died, iron spread and the citizen farmer community formed.
- **Treating the hoplite revolution as proven.** Sparta had the best hoplites and never became a democracy.
- **Thinking Athenian elections were the democratic part.** Lot was democratic; only generals were elected.

Chapter 2 self-test · six items

1. What did Aristotle say about choosing officials by lot and by election?

A. Election is democratic and lot is tyrannical

B. Lot belongs to kings and election to priests

C. Lot is democratic and election is oligarchic

D. Both are equally democratic in practice

C. Lot is democratic and election is oligarchic Election favors the rich and famous, so to Aristotle the lottery was the democratic instrument.

2. Which battle ended Spartan dominance in 371 BCE?

A. Salamis
B. Chaeronea
C. Marathon
D. Leuctra

D. Leuctra Thebes broke Spartan power at Leuctra. Chaeronea (338 BCE) was Philip II's victory over Athens and Thebes.

3. What was ostracism?

A. A purge of helots by Sparta's young men
B. A vote that sent one man into ten years of exile
C. A trial for impiety before a jury of 501
D. A tax on resident foreigners called metics

B. A vote that sent one man into ten years of exile Citizens scratched a name on a potsherd; the leading name left for ten years without losing property or honor.

4. What was Socrates' method of questioning called?

A. Eudaimonia
B. Logos
C. Elenchus
D. Seisachtheia

C. Elenchus Elenchus is cross-examination that exposes contradictions in someone's beliefs.

5. What was Plato's central claim about knowledge?

A. True knowledge is of unchanging Forms grasped by reason
B. The good life is freedom from pain and from fear
C. All knowledge begins with careful observation of things
D. Everything is made of tiny atoms moving in a void

A. True knowledge is of unchanging Forms grasped by reason Plato's Forms are the objects of knowledge; Aristotle, by contrast, began with observation.

6. When was Athenian democracy restored after the Thirty Tyrants?

A. 404 BCE
B. 322 BCE
C. 431 BCE
D. 403 BCE

D. 403 BCE Athens surrendered in 404 BCE, endured the Thirty, and restored democracy with an amnesty in 403 BCE. Macedon ended it in 322 BCE.

CHAPTER 3

Rome: Republic to Empire

Read it in full: **Chapter 3 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Manpower Engine** and **The Chain That Killed the Republic**.

What to know

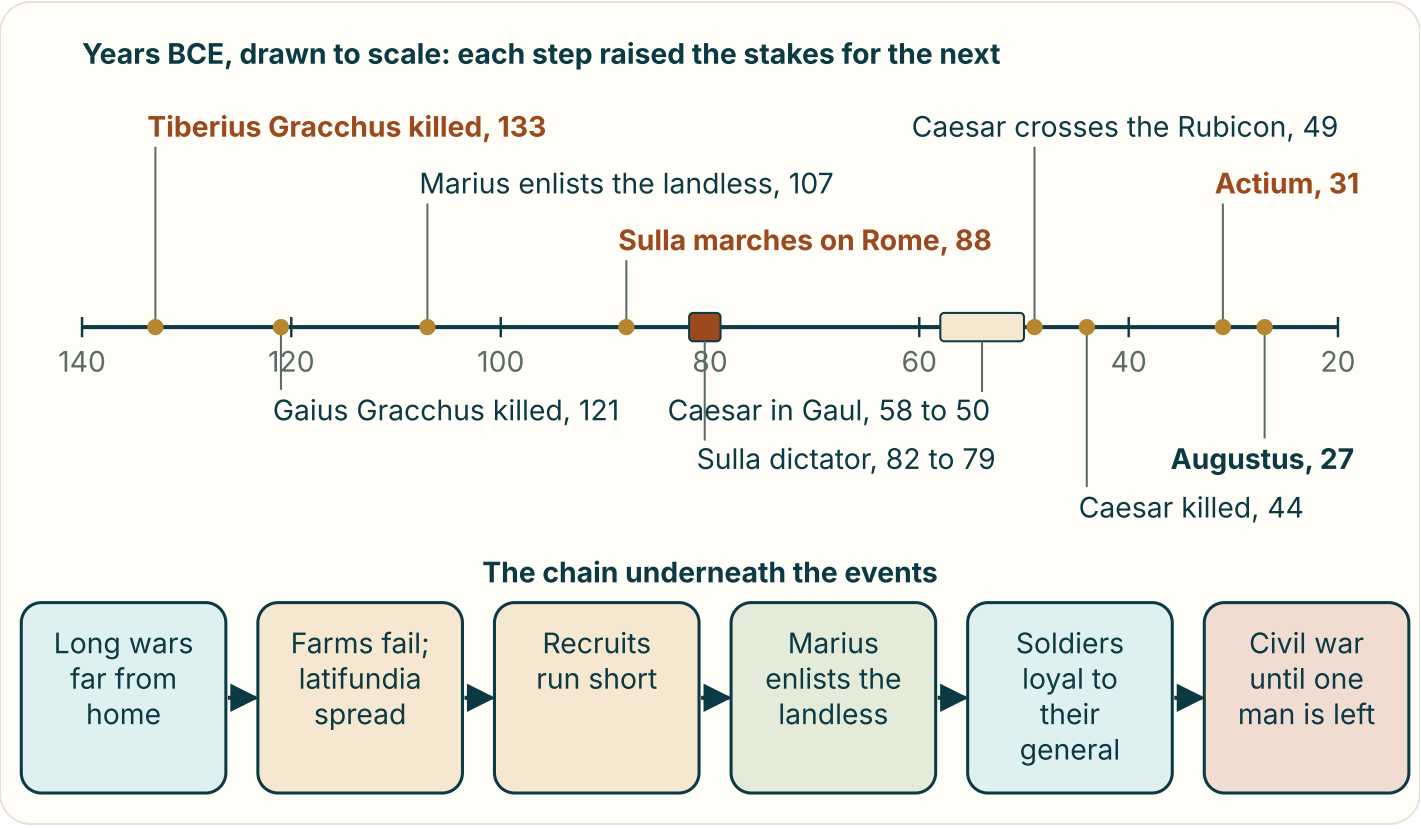
Rome's Republic (from about 509 BCE) was built to stop one-man rule: two consuls, annual collegial offices, a powerful Senate and tribunes with a veto. The Struggle of the Orders widened the ruling class to rich plebeians. Graded citizenship turned defeated Italians into soldiers, which let Rome beat Carthage in the Punic Wars and absorb the Hellenistic east.

Conquest destroyed the smallholders who filled the legions. The killing of Tiberius Gracchus in 133 BCE made political violence normal; Marius' landless armies became loyal to generals; Sulla marched on Rome; Caesar crossed the Rubicon; and Octavian won at Actium in 31 BCE.

Augustus built a monarchy that spoke the language of the Republic and gave two centuries of relative peace, roads, cities and law. Without a succession rule, the third century nearly broke the empire; the East survived to 1453, while the West became successor kingdoms after 476.

LOCK THESE IN

- The Republic's design principle: no one holds permanent power (annual, collegial offices; six-month dictator).
- The Struggle of the Orders helped rich plebeians most; the poor got tribunes but no land.
- Graded citizenship turned defeated Italians into soldiers; that manpower beat Hannibal after Cannae.
- Punic Wars: 264 to 241, 218 to 201, 149 to 146 BCE.
- 133 BCE: Tiberius Gracchus killed; political murder becomes normal.



From 133 to 27 BCE. Each crisis set a precedent that the next generation pushed further. The chain beneath the dates is the structural story: conquest emptied the farms that had filled the legions.

Chapter 3 terms and comparisons

Status under Rome	Vote at Rome?	Military duty	Self-government
Roman citizen	Yes	Legionary service	Governed from Rome
Citizen without suffrage	No	Legionary service	Partial local magistrates
Latin right	Limited, if resident at Rome	Auxiliary contingents	Yes, with trade and marriage rights
Italian ally (socius)	No	Contingents under own officers	Yes, own laws and constitution
Provincial subject (after 241 BCE)	No	Auxiliary levies	Varied; taxed by a Roman official

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · FOLLOWING THE CHAIN THAT BROKE THE REPUBLIC

Explain in steps how winning wars abroad led to armies loyal to generals.

STEP 1 · LONG WARS

Campaigns in Spain could keep a farmer-soldier away for six years, so his farm failed.

STEP 2 · LATIFUNDIA

Rich men bought the plots and worked them with captives from the same wars.

STEP 3 · THE POOL SHRINKS

Service required property, so landless men could not be recruited. Rome was running out of soldiers because it had won too much.

STEP 4 · THE FIX

Marius enlisted men with no property in 107 BCE and equipped them at state expense.

STEP 5 · THE SIDE EFFECT

Landless veterans needed their general to win them land, so the army became his clientele.

CONCLUSION

Sulla proved it in 88 BCE: his soldiers followed him into Rome while all but one of his officers refused.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Calling the Republic a democracy.** It was an oligarchy with popular ratification; the rich voted first in blocs.
- **Thinking the Struggle of the Orders freed the poor.** Rich plebeians won office; the poor got no land.
- **Crediting Roman victory to tactics alone.** Graded citizenship supplied the manpower that survived Cannae.
- **Saying Rome salted Carthage's fields.** No ancient source says so; the razing was real, the salt is modern.

Chapter 3 self-test · six items

1. What did the Lex Hortensia of 287 BCE do?

A. Wrote the law down as the Twelve Tables
B. Allowed plebeians and patricians to marry each other
C. Opened the consulship to the plebeians
D. Made plebeian assembly resolutions binding on all

D. Made plebeian assembly resolutions binding on all It was the last big step in the Struggle of the Orders. The Tables came about 450, intermarriage 445, the consulship 367.

2. Which Roman general was called the Delayer?

A. Fabius Maximus
B. Scipio Africanus
C. Gaius Marius
D. Lucius Sulla

A. Fabius Maximus Fabius shadowed Hannibal without fighting a pitched battle. Scipio won at Zama in 202 BCE.

3. What is a latifundium?

A. A list of citizens marked to be killed
B. A colony of veterans on the frontier
C. An assembly vote taken in wealth blocs
D. A large estate worked by enslaved people

D. A large estate worked by enslaved people Latifundia spread after the conquests and pushed out the small farmers who filled the legions.

4. Which battle in 9 CE fixed Rome's frontier at the Rhine?

A. Actium
B. Teutoburg Forest
C. Adrianople in Thrace
D. Cannae

B. Teutoburg Forest Three legions under Varus were destroyed, ending expansion into Germany.

5. What best explains the fall of the Republic, according to the chapter?

A. Romans grew lazy after they learned Greek ways
B. Christianity drained the civic spirit of the elite
C. A city-state government could not run an empire
D. Lead pipes poisoned the senators and generals

C. A city-state government could not run an empire Annual magistrates, unpaid governors and landless soldiers did not fit a Mediterranean empire. It was a mismatch, not moral decline.

6. Why does the chapter call 476 a convenient marker rather than an end?

A. Odoacer ruled for the eastern emperor and the Senate kept meeting
B. The western emperor regained all of Italy only three years later
C. Rome had already been rebuilt as a Christian republic
D. No barbarian group had yet entered the empire by then

A. Odoacer ruled for the eastern emperor and the Senate kept meeting Contemporaries did not see 476 as the end; the eastern empire still called itself Roman until 1453.

CHAPTER 4

Late Antiquity and the Rise of Christianity

Read it in full: **Chapter 4 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **Who Pays the Army?** and **The Eighty-Year Tilt**.

What to know

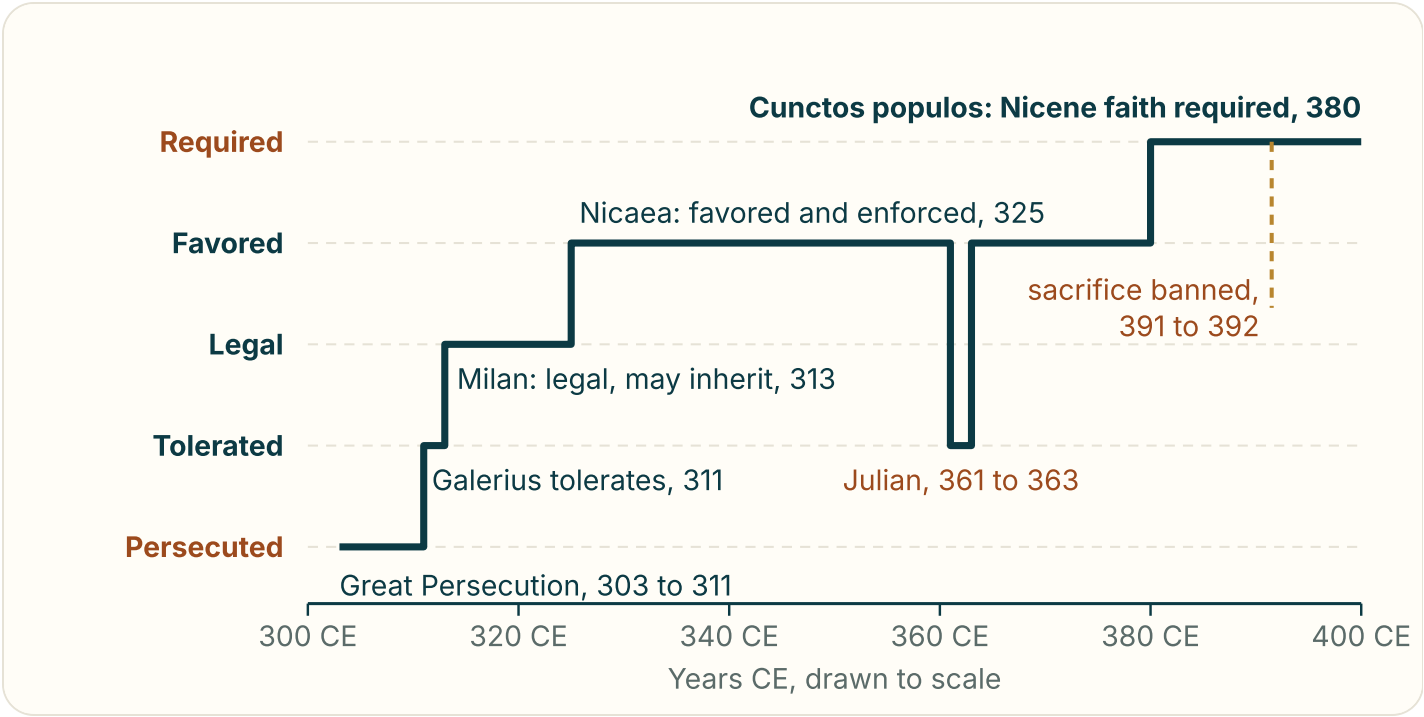
From 235 to 284 Rome had dozens of emperors, invasions, plague and debased coins. Diocletian answered with the tetrarchy, smaller provinces, split commands and taxation in kind; his persecution and price edict failed.

Constantine won at the Milvian Bridge in 312, legalized and favored Christianity in 313 and founded Constantinople in 330. Theodosius made Nicene Christianity required in 380. The church gained a canon, the Vulgate, a creed from Nicaea (325) and Chalcedon (451), bishops and a monastic movement shaped by Benedict.

Goths, Vandals and Franks moved inside the frontier; Adrianople (378), the sack of Rome (410) and the loss of Carthage (439) drained the West, and the western imperial office lapsed in 476. Augustine separated the earthly and heavenly cities. Historians still debate catastrophe against transformation.

LOCK THESE IN

- No succession rule: twenty to thirty emperors from 235 to 284.
- Diocletian's tetrarchy failed as succession, succeeded as administration.
- Constantine legalized and favored Christianity (313); Theodosius required it (380) and banned sacrifice (391 to 392).
- Nicaea 325: homoousios against Arius. Chalcedon 451: one person, two natures.
- Eremitic is solitary (Antony); cenobitic is communal (Pachomius); Benedict's Rule about 530.



The eighty-year tilt. Constantine moved Christianity from illegal to legal and favored; Theodosius made it required in 380. Julian's brief reversal is the only dip.

Chapter 4 terms and comparisons

Council	Year	Question	Outcome
Nicaea I	325	Is the Son co-eternal with the Father?	Homoousios; Arianism condemned but thrives for 60 years
Constantinople I	381	Holy Spirit; Arianism	Nicene creed in familiar form; Trinity settled
Ephesus	431	Is Mary Theotokos?	Nestorius deposed; Church of the East separates
Chalcedon	451	One person, how many natures?	Two natures in one person; Miaphysite churches separate

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · MEASURING COIN DEBASEMENT

The antoninianus fell from about fifty percent silver to under five percent. How many debased coins hold the silver of ten early ones?

STEP 1 · SILVER IN TEN EARLY COINS

10 coins × 0.50 = 5 coin weights of silver.

STEP 2 · SILVER PER DEBASED COIN

At 5 percent, one coin holds 0.05 coin weights.

STEP 3 · DIVIDE

5 ÷ 0.05 = **100 coins**.

STEP 4 · READ IT

A soldier paid the same number of coins got a tenth of the silver. Trust in coined money collapsed, so the state collected taxes in kind.

CHECK IT A SECOND WAY

The ratio 50 ÷ 5 = 10, and 10 coins × 10 = 100.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying Constantine made Christianity official.** He legalized and favored it; Theodosius required it in 380.
- **Calling the tetrarchy a simple failure.** It failed as succession but its administration lasted centuries.

- **Calling the Edict of Milan a formal edict from Milan.** It was an agreement known from a letter of Licinius.
- **Mixing up Nicaea and Chalcedon.** Nicaea (325) is about the Son and the Father; Chalcedon (451) is about Christ's two natures.

Chapter 4 self-test · six items

1. Which emperor made Nicene Christianity the required faith in 380?

A. Constantine the Great
B. Theodosius I
C. Julian
D. Diocletian

B. Theodosius I Cunctos populos (380) and the bans of 391 to 392 established the church. Constantine never required it.

2. Who translated the Bible into the Latin Vulgate?

A. Jerome
B. Ambrose
C. Athanasius
D. Augustine

A. Jerome Jerome began the Vulgate in 382; it served the West for over a thousand years.

3. What did Arius teach?

A. Human nature can choose good without grace
B. Sacraments from lapsed priests are invalid
C. Christ has one united nature, not two
D. The Son was a created being, not co-eternal

D. The Son was a created being, not co-eternal Nicaea answered Arius with homoousios. The others are Donatist, Pelagian and Miaphysite positions.

4. Which work did Augustine write after the sack of Rome?

A. The City of God
B. The Life of Antony
C. The Corpus Iuris Civilis
D. The Consolation of Philosophy

A. The City of God Augustine wrote it from 413 to 426. Boethius wrote the Consolation; Athanasius the Life of Antony; Justinian commissioned the Corpus.

5. What did Pirenne argue?

A. The West fell mainly from lead in its water
B. Mediterranean unity broke only with the Arab conquests
C. Barbarians were invented by Roman writers
D. Christianity drained Rome of its civic and military energy

B. Mediterranean unity broke only with the Arab conquests Pirenne: without Muhammad, Charlemagne is inconceivable. Gibbon blamed Christianity.

6. Which loss gutted western finances in 439?

A. Gaul and the Rhine lands to the Franks under Clovis
B. Spain to the Visigothic kings
C. Carthage and North Africa to the Vandals
D. Britain to the Saxon kingdoms

C. Carthage and North Africa to the Vandals Africa supplied grain and the richest tax base; without it the West could not pay armies.

Byzantium, Islam and the Early Middle Ages

Read it in full: **Chapter 5 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Empire That Shrank to Survive** and **Fast Sword, Slow Faith**.

What to know

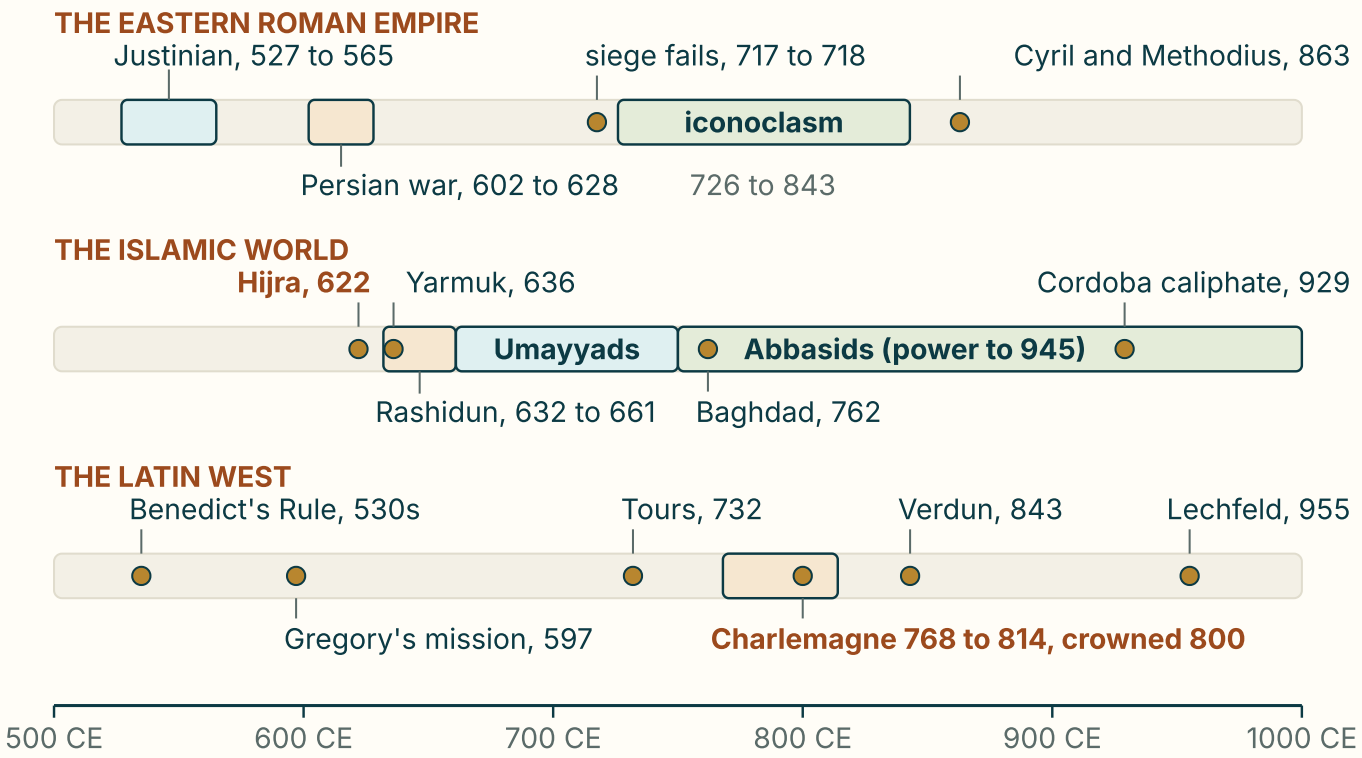
Justinian's reconquest of the West failed to last, but his Corpus Juris Civilis endured. After the Persian war and the Arab conquests, the eastern Roman empire survived by shrinking: themes, walls, Greek fire and a Greek-speaking state that spread its faith and alphabet to the Slavs.

Muhammad's community, founded at the Hijra of 622, became a state and then an empire from Spain to the Indus. Succession disputes produced the Sunni and Shia division. The Abbasids in Baghdad translated Greek learning and then advanced it.

In the Latin West, bishops, Benedictine monasteries and Frankish kings rebuilt order. Charlemagne was crowned in 800 and reformed literacy; his empire split at Verdun (843), and Viking, Magyar and Muslim raids pushed power to local lords.

LOCK THESE IN

- Justinian's reconquest failed to last; his Corpus Juris Civilis lasted for centuries.
- Byzantines called themselves Romans; themes, walls and Greek fire kept the empire alive.
- Hijra 622 is year 1 because it founded a self-governing community, the umma.
- Sunni and Shia began as a succession dispute; Karbala (680) made it a religious identity.
- The conquests were fast militarily and slow religiously: they taxed rather than converted.



One inheritance, three answers. The three worlds ran side by side. The Abbasid golden age and the eastern empire's survival overlap with the Latin West's poorest centuries and Charlemagne's brief empire.

Chapter 5 terms and comparisons

Feature	Umayyad (661 to 750)	Abbasid (750 to 1258; real power to 945)
Capital	Damascus, Mediterranean and Roman-facing	Baghdad, Mesopotamian and Persian-facing
Ruling elite	Arab tribal aristocracy; converts second-class	Cosmopolitan service class; convert status equalized
Style of rule	Accessible tribal chief with Byzantine machinery	Screened sacral monarch with a vizier
Signature monument	Dome of the Rock; Great Mosque of Damascus	Round City of Baghdad; Samarra
Cultural output	Arabic coinage and administration	Translation movement; algebra, optics, medicine
Fatal weakness	Arab versus convert resentment; overextension	Provincial secession; Turkish slave soldiers

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · WHY THE CONQUESTS WERE SO FAST

A student writes that the Arab conquests succeeded because of religious zeal alone. Build a fuller answer.

STEP 1 · KEEP WHAT IS RIGHT

Zeal was real and the umma gave a new kind of unity.

STEP 2 · EXHAUSTED EMPIRES

Rome and Persia had just spent everything in the war of 602 to 628 and had no reserves.

STEP 3 · PLAGUE AND MOBILITY

Plague thinned Mediterranean populations; desert mobility beat heavy imperial armies.

STEP 4 · THE TERMS

No forced conversion, local officials kept, and a jizya often lighter than old imperial taxes, especially for Miaphysite Christians Constantinople had persecuted.

CONCLUSION

Fast sword, slow faith: military success in a decade, Muslim majorities only by the ninth to eleventh centuries.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Calling the eastern empire Byzantine as its own name.** They called themselves Romans; the label dates from 1557.
- **Crediting Heraclius with inventing the themes in one stroke.** Most specialists see them developing gradually.
- **Saying the Arab conquests forced conversion.** They taxed non-Muslims; majorities came centuries later.
- **Listing the Five Pillars as Islam's starting point.** They are a later systematization of Quranic practice.

Chapter 5 self-test · six items

1. Which Abbasid-era scholar gave us the words algebra and algorithm?

A. Ibn Sina
B. Hunayn ibn Ishaq
C. Ibn al-Haytham
D. Al-Khwarizmi

D. Al-Khwarizmi His treatise on restoring and balancing equations gave algebra its name; his Latinized name gave algorithm.

2. Who crowned Charlemagne emperor in 800?

A. Pope Zacharias
B. Pope Leo III
C. Pope Gregory the Great
D. Pope Stephen II

B. Pope Leo III Leo III crowned him on Christmas Day 800 in Saint Peter's.

3. Which battle in 955 ended the Magyar raids?

A. The Lechfeld
B. Yarmuk
C. Vouillé
D. Tours and Poitiers

A. The Lechfeld Otto I destroyed the Magyars; they settled and became Christian Hungary.

4. What was iconoclasm?

A. A Muslim revolt against the Umayyad caliphs
B. A campaign against religious images in Byzantium
C. A Viking practice of burning monasteries
D. A Frankish war against the pagan Saxons

B. A campaign against religious images in Byzantium It began about 726 and ended in 843, the Triumph of Orthodoxy.

5. Whose mission led to the Cyrillic script?

A. Alcuin and Theodulf
B. Columba and Columbanus
C. Cyril and Methodius
D. Benedict and Cassiodorus

C. Cyril and Methodius In 863 they devised Glagolitic for Slavic speech; their disciples developed Cyrillic.

6. Which Spanish city became the seat of a caliphate in 929?

A. Seville
B. Toledo
C. Cordoba
D. Granada

C. Cordoba Abd al-Rahman III declared himself caliph in 929; Cordoba grew larger than any Christian city west of Constantinople.

CHAPTER 6

The High Middle Ages

Read it in full: **Chapter 6 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Calorie Engine** and **Splitting the Bishop**.

What to know

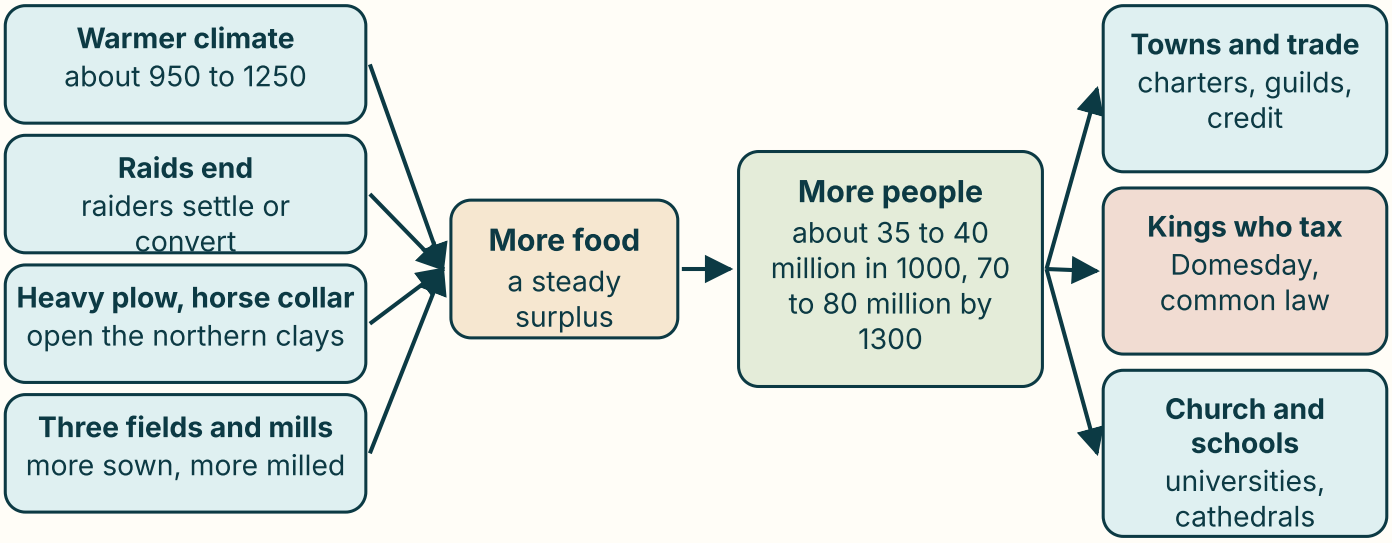
A warmer climate, the end of the raids and ordinary tools (heavy plow, horse collar, three fields, mills) produced a surplus. Europe's population roughly doubled from 1000 to 1300, towns bought charters, guilds organized work and merchants invented credit.

Popes and rulers collided over who installed bishops; Canossa (1077) and Worms (1122) left authority divided. England built common law and Magna Carta; France built a strong monarchy; the Empire fragmented. Innocent III's papacy acted like a monarchy.

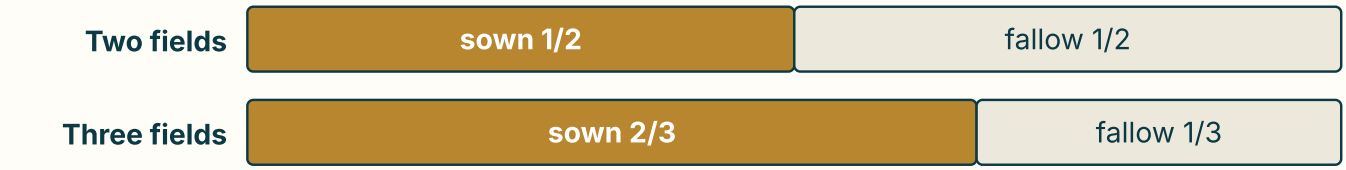
The same confident society launched crusades to Jerusalem, Spain and the Baltic and turned holy war inward on Cathars and Jews. Universities, scholasticism, the friars and Gothic cathedrals made systematic argument and civic ambition normal.

LOCK THESE IN

- Climate, peace and ordinary tools (plow, collar, three fields, mills) made the surplus.
- Three fields: fallow falls from one half to one third, so sown land rises by a third.
- Serf is not slave: tied to land, but not sold apart from it, with property and court standing.
- Town air makes you free: a year and a day in a chartered town.
- Canossa 1077; Concordat of Worms 1122 settled procedure, not principle.



Share of arable sown each year, drawn to scale



Two thirds is a third more than one half: of 600 acres, 300 are sown under two fields and 400 under three.

Surplus first, everything else after. Ordinary tools plus good weather and peace fed the towns, states and schools of the High Middle Ages. The bars show why the three-field rotation mattered: a third more land in crop.

Chapter 6 terms and comparisons

Feature	England	France	Holy Roman Empire
Succession	Hereditary, often disputed	Hereditary; direct male line 987 to 1328	Elective; princes choose
Key instrument	Writs, itinerant justices, juries	Salaried baillis; confiscation	Bishops; Italian revenue
Landmark	Domesday 1086; Magna Carta 1215	Bouvines 1214; Louis IX's courts	Worms 1122; Melfi 1231
With the papacy	Becket 1170; John submits 1213	Cooperative, then hostile under Philip IV	Constant conflict
By 1300	Centralized law; tax by consent	Strongest monarchy in Europe	Fragmented into princely lands

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · THE ARITHMETIC OF THE THREE-FIELD SYSTEM

A village has 600 acres of arable. How much is sown each year under two fields and under three fields?

STEP 1 · TWO FIELDS

Half lies fallow, so 600 × 1/2 = **300 acres** sown.

STEP 2 · THREE FIELDS

One third lies fallow, so 600 × 2/3 = **400 acres** sown.

STEP 3 · THE GAIN

400 − 300 = 100 acres; 100 ÷ 300 = 33.3 percent more land in crop.

STEP 4 · THE BONUS

The spring legumes fix nitrogen and add protein, so the land and the diet both improve.

CHECK IT A SECOND WAY

Two thirds divided by one half is 4/3, which is a third more.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying the Medieval Warm Period shows modern warming is natural.** It was regionally uneven and below present global levels.
- **Equating serfs with slaves.** Serfs held property and had court standing; slaves were property.
- **Calling Canossa a clean defeat for Henry.** He won the round; the symbolic precedent was the loss.
- **Saying Worms settled who was supreme.** It settled a procedure, not the principle.

Chapter 6 self-test · six items

1. Who argued that reason and revelation cannot truly conflict?

A. Gregory VII
B. Bernard of Clairvaux
C. Thomas Aquinas
D. Peter Abelard

C. Thomas Aquinas His Summa Theologiae held that both come from God, and that grace perfects nature.

2. Which pope preached the First Crusade at Clermont in 1095?

A. Gregory VII
B. Urban II
C. Innocent III
D. Boniface VIII

B. Urban II He offered remission of penance due for confessed sins.

3. Which battle in 1212 broke Almohad power in Spain?

A. Las Navas de Tolosa
B. Legnano
C. Bouvines in Flanders
D. Hattin

A. Las Navas de Tolosa Cordoba fell in 1236, Valencia in 1238 and Seville in 1248.

4. Which council in 1215 required yearly confession for every Christian?

A. The Synod of Whitby
B. The Council of Nicaea
C. The Fourth Lateran Council
D. The Council of Clermont

C. The Fourth Lateran Council Innocent III's council also defined transubstantiation and ended clerical part in ordeals.

5. At Bologna, who ran the university guild?

A. The city council
B. The masters
C. The bishop
D. The students

D. The students Students hired and fined professors at Bologna; at Paris the masters formed the guild.

6. Where is Gothic building usually said to begin?

A. Notre-Dame de Paris, 1163
B. Beauvais Cathedral, 1284
C. Chartres Cathedral, 1194
D. The choir of Saint-Denis, 1144

D. The choir of Saint-Denis, 1144 Abbot Suger's rebuilt choir is the usual starting point; Beauvais' vault collapsed in 1284.

CHAPTER 7

The Renaissance

Read it in full: **Chapter 7 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Philologist's Desk** and **Building the Window**.

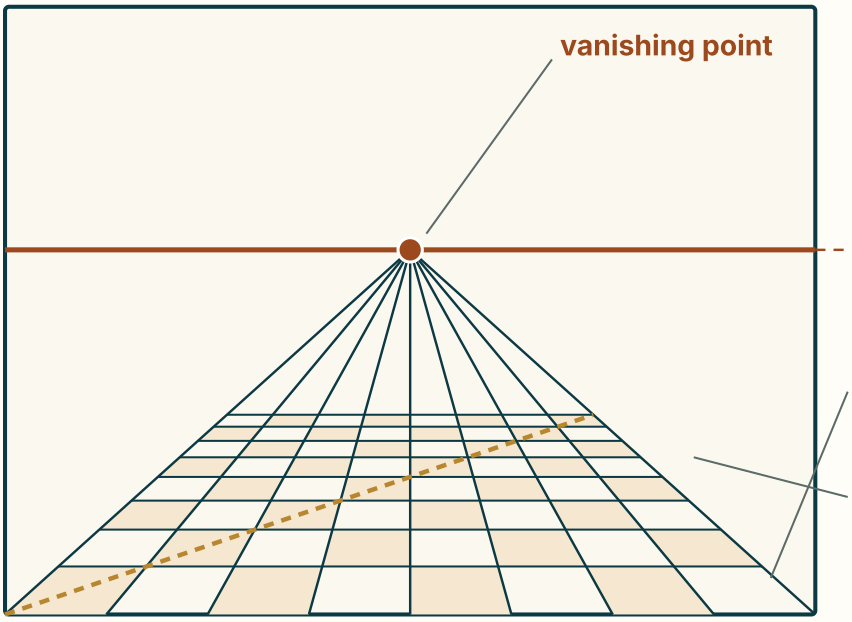
What to know

Plague concentrated wealth in rival Italian cities with no king above them, and merchants, guilds and popes spent it on art. Humanists, from Petrarch on, recovered classical Latin and Greek and built philology; Valla used it to expose the Donation of Constantine.

Artists solved technical problems: perspective, oil glazing, bronze casting, dome building. In 1494 France invaded and the Italian Wars ended Italian independence, prompting Machiavelli's unsentimental analysis of power.

Printing made identical copies cheap and carried humanism north, where Erasmus aimed philology at Scripture. The period changed tools, not human morals; slavery and expulsions belong to the same decades.

> **LOCK THESE IN**
>
> - Plague concentrated wealth; much Renaissance art is funeral and family spending.
> - Humanism is a curriculum (studia humanitatis), not secular unbelief.
> - Petrarch invented the dark age label; Vasari, Michelet and Burckhardt named the Renaissance later.
> - Valla (1440) used philology to prove the Donation of Constantine a forgery.
> - Perspective (Brunelleschi about 1413, Alberti 1435) and oil (van Eyck) were technical solutions.



Horizon line
at the viewer's eye level

Orthogonals
lines running into the picture all meet at the vanishing point

Transversals
rows of tiles stay level but crowd together with distance

Gold diagonal
runs to a distance point and fixes the row spacing

Alberti: treat the picture as a window, one fixed eye, one vanishing point (De pictura, 1435).
Brunelleschi demonstrated it about 1413; Masaccio's Holy Trinity used it about 1427.

Alberti's window. Every line running into the picture meets at one vanishing point on the horizon, and a diagonal fixes how the rows shrink. The rows are computed, not guessed, which is why perspective could be taught.

Chapter 7 terms and comparisons

Term or innovation	Who or when	What it changed
Studia humanitatis	Humanist curriculum	Grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history, moral philosophy
Philology	Valla, 1440	Dating texts by their language; the Donation exposed
Civic humanism	Salutati, Bruni, about 1400	The ideal life is service to a free republic
Linear perspective	Brunelleschi about 1413; Alberti 1435	One measurable space; a fixed viewer
Oil glazing	Jan van Eyck, 1430s	Deep color, slow correction, art that travels on canvas
Contrapposto	Donatello's David, about 1440s	Weighted, living bodies in the round
Virtù and fortuna	Machiavelli, 1513	Skill and timing against chance
Sprezzatura	Castiglione, 1528	Studied ease that hides effort

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · HOW PHILOLOGY UNMADE A DOCUMENT

A charter claims to date from the fourth century. Show how Valla's method tests it.

STEP 1 · THE CLAIM

The Donation of Constantine said Constantine gave the popes rule over the western empire.

STEP 2 · THE METHOD

Languages change over time. Words and usages can be dated.

STEP 3 · THE TEST

Valla found Latin words and usages that did not exist in the fourth century.

STEP 4 · THE VERDICT

On internal evidence alone, the text was written centuries later: a forgery.

WHY IT MATTERED

A scholarly method dismantled an institution's legal claim, and the same method found errors in the Vulgate, both used in the Reformation.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Treating humanism as atheism.** It was a curriculum; most humanists were Christians and some were popes.
- **Saying refugees from 1453 started the Renaissance.** Greek was taught in Florence from 1397.
- **Calling the Medici bank a modern bank.** No public deposits, no banknotes; a set of family partnerships.
- **Believing people in 1450 said they lived in the Renaissance.** The label came from Vasari, Michelet and Burckhardt.

Chapter 7 self-test · six items

1. Which treaty of 1454 began forty years of balance among Italian states?

A. The League of Cambrai
B. The Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis
C. The Peace of Lodi
D. The Peace of Constance

C. The Peace of Lodi Lodi and the Italian League of 1455 created a balance-of-power system with resident ambassadors.

2. Who wrote On Painting (De pictura) in 1435?

A. Filippo Brunelleschi
B. Tommaso di Ser Giovanni (Masaccio)
C. Giorgio Vasari
D. Leon Battista Alberti

D. Leon Battista Alberti Alberti made perspective teachable; Brunelleschi demonstrated it around 1413.

3. What did Castiglione call the studied ease that hides effort?

A. Sprezzatura
B. Sfumato
C. Virtù
D. Chiaroscuro

A. Sprezzatura The Book of the Courtier (1528) made it a court ideal.

4. What was Erasmus' most consequential book of 1516?

A. Utopia, a Latin fiction
B. The Praise of Folly
C. The Adages, a collection of ancient proverbs
D. The first published Greek New Testament

D. The first published Greek New Testament The Novum Instrumentum showed where the Vulgate had gone astray. Utopia was Thomas More's.

5. Roughly how many editions were printed in Europe before 1501?

A. About 280,000 to 300,000
B. About 28,000 to 30,000
C. About 250 to 300
D. About 2,800 to 3,000

B. About 28,000 to 30,000 These are the incunabula; total copies ran into the millions, as orders of magnitude.

6. Which painter is tied to the refinement of oil glazing in the Netherlands?

A. Jan van Eyck
B. Sofonisba Anguissola
C. Albrecht Dürer
D. Titian

A. Jan van Eyck Van Eyck and his contemporaries worked oil to a high standard in the 1420s and 1430s.

CHAPTER 8

Reformation and the Wars of Religion

Read it in full: **Chapter 8 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Indulgence Machine** and **Terms of Exhaustion**.

What to know

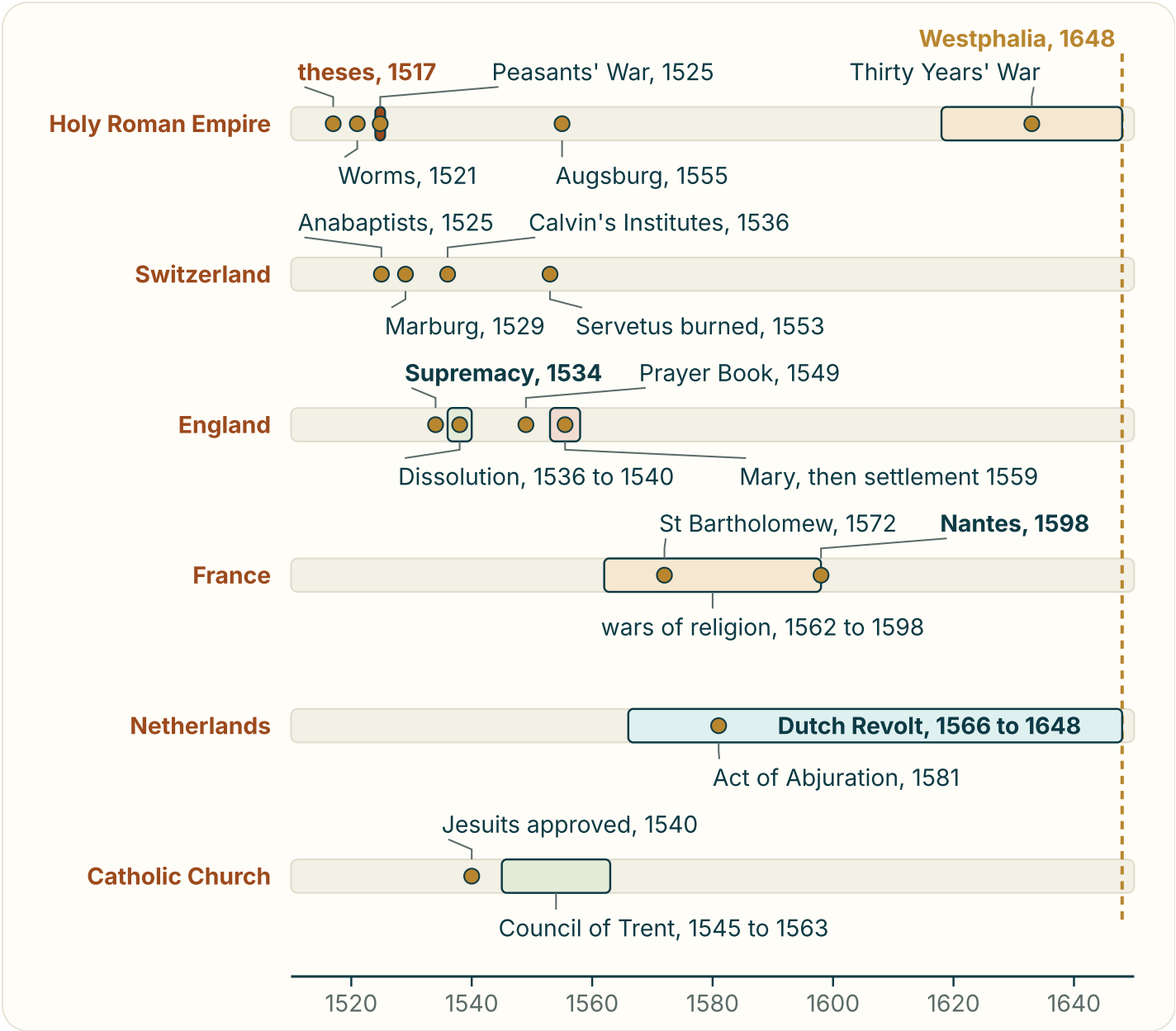
A vigorous but badly governed Church met Luther's conclusion that salvation is a gift, and a press that spread it in weeks. The 1517 protest against indulgences became a break with Rome by 1520 and outlawry at Worms in 1521; German princes protected him.

Scripture alone fractured the movement: peasants were crushed in 1525, Luther and Zwingli split at Marburg, Anabaptists were drowned, and Calvin built Geneva's exportable model. England broke with Rome by statute. Rome answered with Trent and the Jesuits.

Religious wars ran in France (1562 to 1598), the Netherlands and the Empire (1618 to 1648). Augsburg, Nantes and Westphalia were armistices. Stronger states, wider literacy and a toleration born of exhaustion followed.

LOCK THESE IN

- An indulgence remitted temporal punishment for forgiven sin; the abuse was the commercial campaign.
- Justification by faith alone, sola scriptura, priesthood of all believers.
- 1517 theses; 1519 Leipzig; 1520 treatises; 1521 Worms.
- Print plus princely protection explain why Luther survived when Hus did not.
- Marburg 1529: Lutheran real presence against Zwingli's memorial.



One protest, six stories. The break of 1517 to 1521 spread into separate national and confessional paths, and the wars ran for most of a century before the armistices of Augsburg, Nantes and Westphalia.

Chapter 8 terms and comparisons

Position	Lord's Supper	Church and state	Who governs	Baptism
Catholic	Transubstantiation; the Mass a sacrifice	Two swords; clergy exempt from lay courts	Pope and bishops	Infants
Lutheran	Real bodily presence in, with and under	Two kingdoms; prince as emergency bishop	Prince and superintendents	Infants
Reformed	Memorial (Zwingli) or spiritual feeding (Calvin)	Distinct spheres; church disciplines its own	Pastors and elders	Infants, as covenant sign
Anabaptist	Memorial meal of a gathered community	Total separation; no oath, office or sword	The congregation	Believing adults only

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · FOLLOWING THE MONEY IN 1517

Explain how theology and finance fused in the indulgence campaign Luther attacked.

STEP 1 · THE DOCTRINE

An indulgence remitted the temporal punishment still owed for sins already forgiven.

STEP 2 · THE DEBT

Albrecht of Brandenburg paid roughly 24,000 ducats, borrowed from the Fuggers, for a dispensation to hold a third see.

STEP 3 · THE DEAL

Leo X licensed an indulgence campaign in Albrecht's lands: half to Rome for St Peter's, half to repay the Fuggers.

STEP 4 · THE GAP

Preachers like Tetzel had a financial motive to promise villagers more than doctrine allowed.

CONCLUSION

The scandal was the gap between a careful definition and a sales campaign the institution had every reason not to police.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying the Church was simply corrupt and dying.** Popular piety was intense; the failure was institutional reform.
- **Saying indulgences sold forgiveness or licenses to sin.** Officially they remitted temporal punishment for forgiven sins.
- **Saying the Ninety-Five Theses attacked the papacy and taught faith alone.** Those came later, between 1518 and 1520.
- **Saying print caused the Reformation.** Print gave speed; princes gave protection.

Chapter 8 self-test · six items

1. Which 1598 edict ended France's wars of religion?

A. The Peace of Augsburg
B. The Edict of Nantes
C. The Edict of Restitution
D. The Edict of Worms

B. The Edict of Nantes Henry IV granted Huguenots conscience, limited worship and fortified towns; Louis XIV revoked it in 1685.

2. Who founded the Society of Jesus?

A. John Knox of Scotland
B. Thomas Müntzer
C. Menno Simons
D. Ignatius Loyola

D. Ignatius Loyola Paul III approved the Society in 1540.

3. What did Westphalia fix as the normative year?

A. 1618
B. 1555
C. 1624
D. 1648

C. 1624 Each territory's legal confession was fixed as of 1 January 1624.

4. What event began the Thirty Years' War in 1618?

A. The sack of Magdeburg
B. The Defenestration of Prague
C. The battle of the White Mountain
D. The Edict of Restitution

B. The Defenestration of Prague Protestant nobles threw royal governors from a window of Prague Castle.

5. Who argued that a Protestant ethic helped make capitalism?

A. Max Weber
B. Heinz Schilling
C. Eamon Duffy
D. Heiko Oberman

A. Max Weber Weber (1904 to 1905); the thesis remains contested.

6. What did Elizabeth I's settlement of 1559 make her?

A. Supreme Governor of the Church of England
B. Archbishop of Canterbury
C. Supreme Head of the Church of England
D. Protector of the Catholic faith

A. Supreme Governor of the Church of England Henry VIII had been Supreme Head; Elizabeth's title was Supreme Governor.

CHAPTER 9

Exploration, Encounter and Empire

Read it in full: **Chapter 9 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Line and the Coast** and **Where Did It Go?**.

What to know

A poor, peripheral Europe combined borrowed tools with ocean sailing techniques to reach Asian goods directly. Portugal built a chain of forts from Elmina to Malacca; Spain, aiming at Asia, reached the Americas.

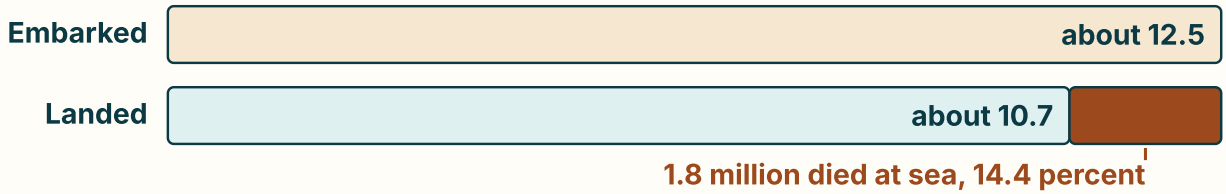
Conquest succeeded through indigenous alliances, civil war and epidemic collapse; populations fell by 80 to 95 percent. The Columbian Exchange reshaped diets and ecologies; Potosí silver, pulled by China, made the first global trade circuit; sugar drove the trade in about 12.5 million enslaved Africans.

The Dutch and English overtook Iberia with joint-stock companies and credit. Europeans argued from the start about the justice of conquest and slavery, from Montesinos to Las Casas and Montaigne.

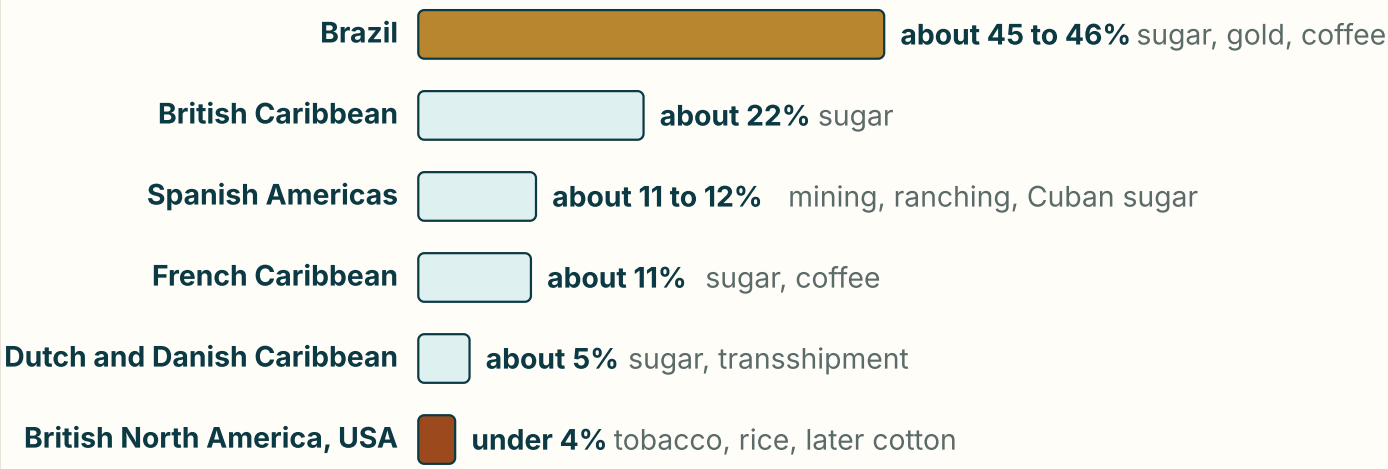
LOCK THESE IN

- Europe went to sea because it was peripheral, using mostly borrowed tools and the volta do mar.
- Columbus' critics were right about the earth's size; nobody thought it was flat.
- Tordesillas 1494: line 370 leagues west of Cape Verde; Brazil to Portugal.
- Conquest turned on allies, civil war and smallpox more than on steel.
- Population collapse of 80 to 95 percent: disease plus forced labor and dispossession.

Embarked and landed, 1501 to 1866 (millions of people, drawn to scale)



Where those who survived the crossing landed (share of arrivals, drawn to scale)



Figures from the chapter, based on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database.
Millions more died on marches and in barracoons before boarding; they are not shown.
Under 4 percent is about 390,000 people.

Sugar drove the trade. Brazil and the Caribbean received the great majority of the people who survived the crossing; under 4 percent landed in what became the United States.

Chapter 9 terms and comparisons

Power	Model	Main assets by 1700	Chief instrument
Portugal	Trading posts plus plantation Brazil	Goa, Macau, Angola, Brazil	Royal monopoly, cartaz
Spain	Territorial, extractive	Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Caribbean	Viceroyalties, flota, encomienda and mita
Netherlands	Commercial monopoly	Batavia, Ceylon, Cape, Surinam	VOC and WIC joint-stock companies
England	Settler colonies plus company trade	Mainland colonies, Barbados, Jamaica	EIC, Navigation Acts, charters
France	Fur trade plus sugar islands	New France, Saint-Domingue, Louisiana	Alliances, royal companies

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · THE ARITHMETIC OF THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

About 12.5 million Africans were embarked between 1501 and 1866 and about 10.7 million disembarked. How many died at sea, and what share is that?

STEP 1 · SUBTRACT

12.5 − 10.7 = **1.8 million** deaths at sea.

STEP 2 · DIVIDE BY THOSE EMBARKED

1.8 ÷ 12.5 = 0.144, or **14.4 percent**, the chapter's roughly 15 percent.

STEP 3 · BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

About 390,000 landed there: 0.39 ÷ 10.7 = 3.6 percent, under 4 percent.

STEP 4 · WHAT THE NUMBERS LEAVE OUT

Millions more died on marches to the coast and in barracoons before boarding.

CONCLUSION

Sugar, not cotton, drove most of the trade, and Brazil and the Caribbean were the main destinations.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying Columbus proved the earth was round.** Sphericity was standard since antiquity; the flat-earth story is from the 1800s.
- **Calling 1400 Europe the world's leader.** Ming China, the Ottomans and Indian states were larger and richer.
- **Crediting conquest to guns.** Allies, civil war and smallpox mattered more.
- **Using disease as an alibi.** It explains the scale of death, not the loss of land, labor and autonomy.

Chapter 9 self-test · six items

1. Who reached Calicut in India by sea in 1498?

A. Afonso de Albuquerque
B. Vasco da Gama
C. Pedro Álvares Cabral
D. Bartolomeu Dias

B. Vasco da Gama Dias rounded the Cape in 1488; Cabral reached Brazil in 1500; Albuquerque took Goa in 1510.

2. Who named the Columbian Exchange?

A. Alfred Crosby
B. Walter Rodney
C. Nathan Nunn
D. Earl Hamilton

A. Alfred Crosby Crosby coined the term in 1972.

3. What was the mita under Spanish rule?

A. A ranking of people by their ancestry
B. A royal fleet carrying silver to Seville
C. A rotational labor draft for the silver mines
D. A pass for ships in the Indian Ocean

C. A rotational labor draft for the silver mines Adapted from an Inca institution, it supplied coerced workers to Potosí.

4. Who argued at Valladolid that some peoples are natural slaves?

A. Antonio de Montesinos
B. Bartolomé de las Casas
C. Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda
D. Francisco de Vitoria of Salamanca

C. Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda He drew on Aristotle; Las Casas argued against him in 1550 to 1551.

5. Which crop made the plantation system so deadly?

A. Tobacco
B. Cotton
C. Maize
D. Sugar

D. Sugar Cane had to be cut and processed within hours; mortality outran births, so planters kept buying people.

6. What did mercantilism assume about world wealth?

A. It grows without any limit through free exchange between nations
B. It is roughly fixed, so one nation gains as another loses
C. It depends mainly on farming, not trade
D. It should be shared equally among colonies

B. It is roughly fixed, so one nation gains as another loses Adam Smith would attack this view in 1776.

CHAPTER 10

Absolutism, the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

Read it in full: **Chapter 10 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Credit of Kings** and **Which Cosmos Survives**.

What to know

After the religious wars, rulers claimed undivided sovereignty. Louis XIV's intendants, army and Versailles became the model; Prussia and Russia copied it while serfdom deepened in the east. England and the Dutch Republic divided power and found that accountable government borrowed more cheaply.

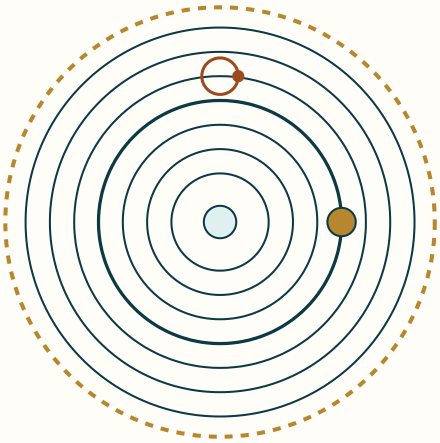
Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Harvey and Newton replaced Aristotle's cosmos with a mathematical one, and the Royal Society made knowledge public and testable.

Enlightenment writers turned that method on society: separation of powers, toleration, penal reform, markets and the general will, argued in a new public sphere. Enlightened absolutists borrowed the language; vaccination and statistics delivered more than decrees. Slavery, race and women's rights remained the unfinished business.

LOCK THESE IN

- Absolutism claimed undivided sovereignty; in practice it negotiated with entrenched privilege.
- Intendants, a standing army and Versailles were Louis XIV's real tools.
- England 1689: Parliament controls taxes and armies; consent made credit cheaper.
- Copernicus 1543, Kepler 1609 and 1619, Galileo 1610, Newton 1687.
- Empiricism builds up from observation (Bacon); rationalism deduces from first principles (Descartes).

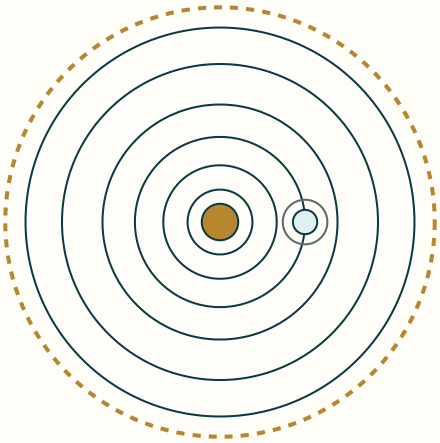
Ptolemy
Earth at the center; circles



Earth (center), then Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, fixed stars

small red circle: an epicycle

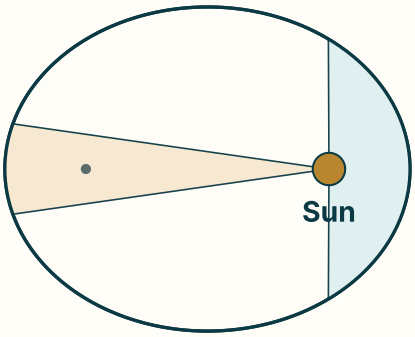
Copernicus, 1543
Sun at the center; still circles



Sun (center), then Mercury, Venus, Earth with Moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, fixed stars

simpler retrograde loops

Kepler, 1609
Ellipse; sun at one focus



Equal areas in equal times: the two shaded slices take the same time, so the planet moves faster near the Sun

Ellipse drawn with eccentricity 0.6 so the effect is visible; real planetary orbits are much closer to circles.

From circles to laws. Copernicus moved the center but kept circles; Kepler, using Tycho's data, found ellipses and equal areas in equal times, which Newton later derived from gravitation.

Chapter 10 terms and comparisons

Text	Author and year	Central claim	Effect
The Spirit of the Laws	Montesquieu, 1748	Separate and balance the powers	US Constitution; French debates
Encyclopédie	Diderot and d'Alembert, 1751 to 1772	All useful knowledge belongs to the public	Model for reference works; spread of critique
The Social Contract	Rousseau, 1762	Sovereignty lies in the general will	Jacobins; democratic theory
On Crimes and Punishments	Beccaria, 1764	Certain, proportionate punishment; no torture	Penal codes in Tuscany and Austria
The Wealth of Nations	Smith, 1776	Specialization and exchange create wealth	Free trade; economics
What Is Enlightenment?	Kant, 1784	Dare to think; free public use of reason	The movement's self-definition

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · WHY BRITAIN COULD OUTSPEND FRANCE

France was larger and richer, yet Britain kept winning long wars. Explain using the chapter.

STEP 1 · WHO GUARANTEES THE DEBT

After 1689 Parliament controlled taxes and audited the budget, so the king could not repudiate debts alone.

STEP 2 · THE LENDER'S VIEW

A borrower who cannot default at will is a better credit risk, so lenders accept lower interest.

STEP 3 · THE TOOLS

The Bank of England (1694) and a funded national debt.

STEP 4 · THE RESULT

Cheaper borrowing let a smaller country pay for longer wars.

CONCLUSION

Consent was cheaper than coercion. Dividing sovereignty increased the state's power.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Equating absolute with totalitarian.** Louis XIV could not touch noble and clergy tax exemptions.
- **Quoting "L'état, c'est moi" as fact.** It is almost certainly a later invention.
- **Calling 1689 England a democracy.** Perhaps four or five percent could vote; it was accountable, not democratic.
- **Saying Copernicus proved ellipses.** He kept circles; Kepler found ellipses.

Chapter 10 self-test · six items

1. Who wrote the Two Treatises of Government?

A. Thomas Hobbes
B. Jean Bodin
C. Montesquieu
D. John Locke

D. John Locke Locke argued for natural rights and government by consent; Hobbes wrote Leviathan.

2. What was the motto of the Royal Society?

A. Cogito ergo sum, I think therefore I am
B. Sapere aude, dare to know
C. Hypotheses non fingo, I frame no hypotheses
D. Nullius in verba, take nobody's word for it

D. Nullius in verba, take nobody's word for it Sapere aude was Kant's motto for the Enlightenment.

3. Which law did Newton add that unified heaven and earth?

A. Equal areas in equal times
B. Elliptical orbits
C. Universal gravitation
D. Circulation of the blood

C. Universal gravitation The Principia (1687) derived Kepler's laws from gravitation.

4. Which ruler issued the Patent of Toleration in 1781?

A. Frederick II of Prussia
B. Joseph II of Austria
C. Louis XIV of France
D. Catherine II of Russia

B. Joseph II of Austria It granted Lutherans, Calvinists and Orthodox private worship and civil rights.

5. Who ran an early controlled trial on scurvy in 1747?

A. William Harvey
B. Edward Jenner
C. James Lind
D. John Graunt

C. James Lind He gave six pairs different remedies; the pair on oranges and lemons recovered.

6. Who wrote A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)?

A. Mary Wollstonecraft
B. Olympe de Gouges
C. Émilie du Châtelet
D. Madame Marie-Thérèse Geoffrin

A. Mary Wollstonecraft Olympe de Gouges wrote the Declaration of the Rights of Woman (1791).

CHAPTER 11

An Age of Revolutions: American, French and Industrial

Read it in full: **Chapter 11 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **Where Does Sovereignty Live?** and **Why Britain? Build an Industrial Revolution**.

What to know

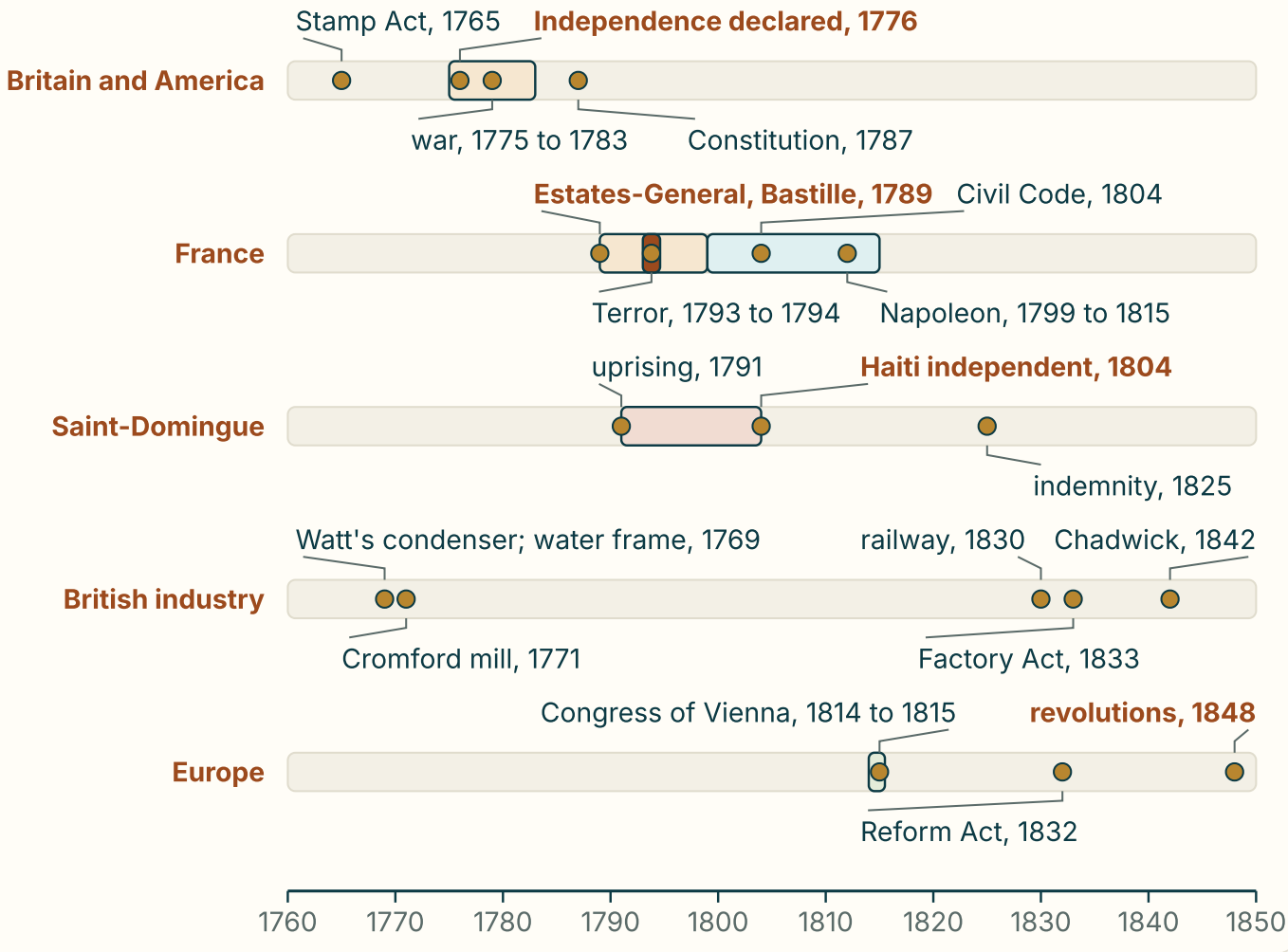
British war debt led to colonial taxes; Americans fought over consent, won independence with French help, and built a durable federal republic that protected slavery. France, bankrupted partly by that war, summoned the Estates-General, and the claim that sovereignty belongs to the nation ran through the Rights of Man, regicide, the Terror and Napoleon.

In Saint-Domingue the enslaved took the Declaration at its word and founded Haiti in 1804. In Britain, farming, coal, credit, markets and empire combined to break the old ceiling on output, at a heavy cost to the first industrial generation.

Liberalism, conservatism, nationalism and socialism took shape. In 1848 they collided; the old order survived, but serfdom in Austria ended and conservatives learned to harness nationalism.

LOCK THESE IN

- The American fight was over who could tax, not how much; colonial taxes were light.
- France broke from debt, privilege and hunger; voting by head was a claim to sovereignty.
- 1789: National Assembly, Bastille, 4 August, Declaration of the Rights of Man.
- Varennes (1791) killed constitutional monarchy; the Terror ran 1793 to 1794.
- Napoleon kept legal equality (Civil Code 1804) and took away political liberty.



Three revolutions, one convulsion. The political revolutions run one after another across the Atlantic, while the industrial one runs underneath the whole period and its social costs bring the first reforms.

Chapter 11 terms and comparisons

Feature	American	French	Haitian
Dates	1765 to 1789	1789 to 1799	1791 to 1804
Core grievance	Taxation without consent	Privilege and fiscal collapse	Slavery itself
Social violence	Limited; about 60,000 loyalists exiled	High; about 17,000 executed, Vendée war	Extreme; a decade of total war
Slavery outcome	Preserved in the South	Abolished 1794, restored 1802	Abolished permanently
Final regime	Federal republic, durable	Empire, then restored monarchy	Independent state, burdened by indemnity

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · SIZING THE BRITISH DEBT PROBLEM

Britain's debt rose from about £75 million to about £133 million in the Seven Years' War. Check the chapter's word "roughly doubled" and explain why it led to colonial taxes.

STEP 1 · THE RATIO

133 ÷ 75 = 1.77, so the debt grew by about 77 percent: nearly, not exactly, double.

STEP 2 · THE BURDEN

Servicing it took more than half of ordinary peacetime revenue.

STEP 3 · THE REASONING IN LONDON

Colonists defended by British troops should help pay.

STEP 4 · THE COLONIAL REPLY

Assemblies had voted their own taxes for a century; a Parliament with no colonists in it had no right to tax them.

CONCLUSION

A money problem became a constitutional one, because the dispute was over consent, not amount.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying colonists were crushed by taxes.** Their per capita taxes were below a tenth of Britain's.
- **Calling the Revolution of 1789 simply a bourgeois class war.** Revisionists show many nobles were commercial and many leaders were officeholders.
- **Thinking the Bastille held crowds of prisoners.** It held seven prisoners, but a great deal of gunpowder.
- **Treating the Declaration of the Rights of Man as including everyone.** Olympe de Gouges pointed out the gap in 1791.

Chapter 11 self-test · six items

1. Which battle persuaded France to join the American war?

A. Bunker Hill (1775)

B. Lexington (1775)

C. Saratoga (1777)

D. Yorktown (1781)

C. Saratoga (1777) France intervened openly in 1778; Yorktown ended the war in 1781.

2. What was the Tennis Court Oath?

A. Market women vowed to bring the king to Paris

B. Clergy vowed loyalty to the new state church

C. Peasants vowed to burn every one of the archives kept by their lords

D. Deputies vowed not to disperse until France had a constitution

D. Deputies vowed not to disperse until France had a constitution Locked out of their hall on 20 June 1789, the deputies swore it.

3. Who led the Haitian Revolution before his capture in 1802?

A. Jean-Jacques Dessalines
B. Toussaint Louverture
C. Georges Danton
D. Charles Leclerc

B. Toussaint Louverture Dessalines finished the war and declared independence in 1804.

4. Who wrote Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790)?

A. John Stuart Mill
B. Joseph de Maistre
C. Thomas Paine
D. Edmund Burke

D. Edmund Burke Burke founded modern conservatism: gradual reform grafted onto inherited institutions.

5. What did Watt's separate condenser achieve?

A. It cut fuel use by about three quarters
B. It powered the first railway locomotive
C. It replaced coal with water power
D. It spun cotton into strong yarn

A. It cut fuel use by about three quarters With rotary motion it freed the engine from the coalfield.

6. What did the British Factory Act of 1833 create?

A. Paid inspectors to enforce limits on child labor
B. A ten-hour day for all adult workers
C. The legal right to form and join trade unions across Britain
D. Universal male suffrage in Britain

A. Paid inspectors to enforce limits on child labor It was the first labor law with teeth; the Ten Hours Act came in 1847.

CHAPTER 12

Nationalism, Imperialism and the Nineteenth Century

Read it in full: **Chapter 12 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Realpolitik Desk** and **The Fuse: Europe's Alliances**.

What to know

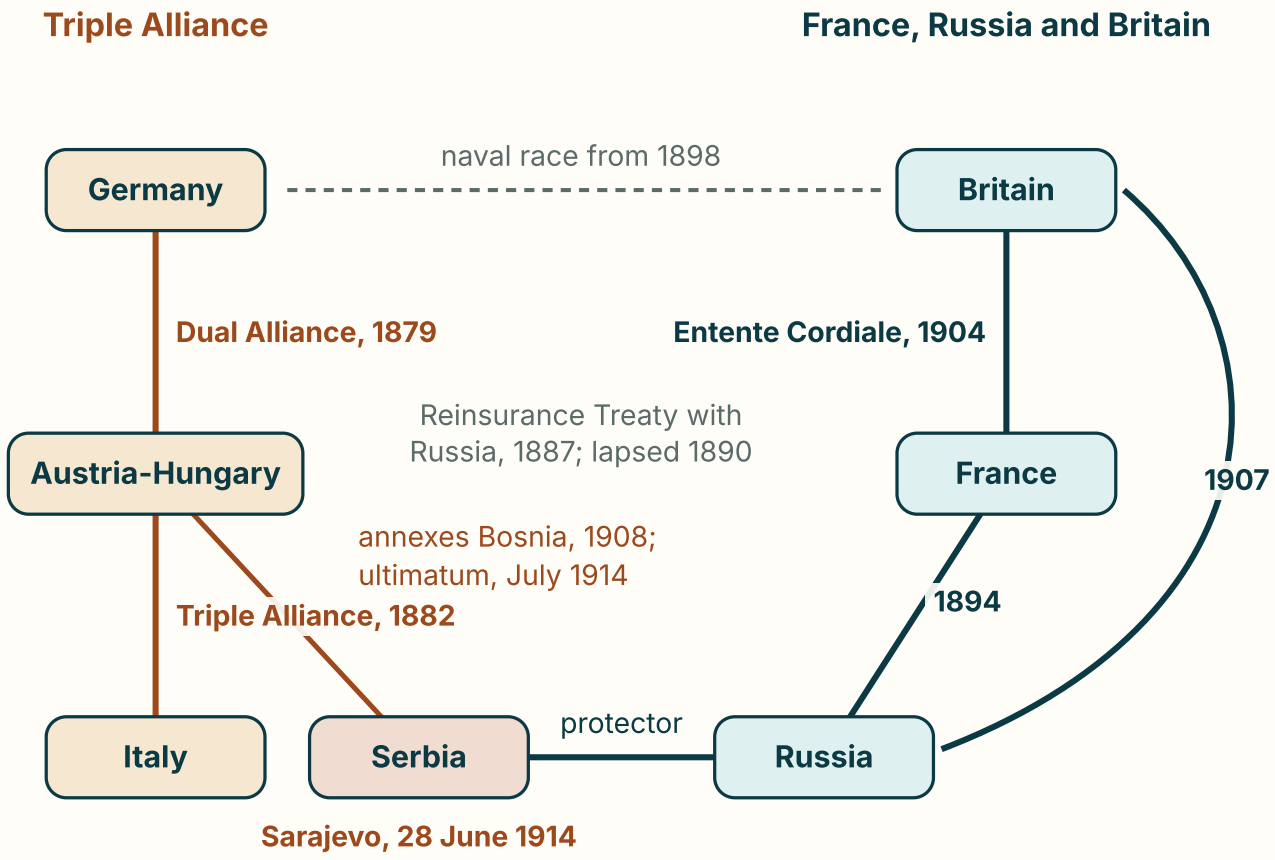
Vienna restored dynasties and ignored nationality. Herder's cultural nationalism became a political program, and after 1848 failed, Cavour and Bismarck unified Italy and Germany with diplomacy, armies and staged crises.

The Second Industrial Revolution concentrated people in cities that sanitary engineering, nursing and germ theory made survivable; mass electorates forced every ideology to answer the social question.

Industrial power let Europe seize most of Africa and pry open China, justified by racial pseudo-science and resisted from Adwa to the Indian National Congress. Nationalism and the alliance system then turned a Balkan assassination into a continental war in 1914.

LOCK THESE IN

- Vienna (1815) restored dynasties and ignored nationality; the Concert kept the great powers at peace for decades.
- Herder's Volksgeist became Mazzini's program; civic versus ethnic nationalism.
- Italy: Cavour's diplomacy plus Garibaldi, 1859 to 1870.
- Germany: Bismarck's Realpolitik and three wars, 1864, 1866, 1870 to 1871.
- Second Industrial Revolution: steel, chemicals, electricity; Germany and the United States lead.



A Balkan quarrel, two armed blocs and mobilization plans that could not be paused: within five weeks a regional crisis became a continental war.

Two blocs and a fuse. Once the Reinsurance Treaty lapsed in 1890, Europe sorted into two armed camps; a quarrel between Austria-Hungary and Serbia could now pull in every great power.

Chapter 12 terms and comparisons

Feature	Italy	Germany
Leader	Cavour, with Garibaldi and Victor Emmanuel II	Bismarck, with Moltke's army
Method	Diplomacy, a foreign ally, popular insurgency	State-directed war by a professional army
Key wars	1859 with France against Austria	1864 Denmark, 1866 Austria, 1870 to 1871 France
Proclaimed	Kingdom of Italy, March 1861	German Empire, Versailles, 18 January 1871
Completed	Venetia 1866, Rome 1870	Austria excluded; Alsace-Lorraine annexed
Cost left behind	Irredenta; conflict with the papacy; southern war	French grievance; Poles, Danes, Alsatians inside

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · WHY BISMARCK TREATED AUSTRIA AND FRANCE DIFFERENTLY

Bismarck imposed light terms on Austria in 1866 and harsh terms on France in 1871. Explain the logic and the cost.

STEP 1 · AUSTRIA 1866

No territory from Austria proper, no triumphal entry into Vienna: he wanted Austria neutral later, not vengeful.

STEP 2 · FRANCE 1871

Alsace and most of Lorraine annexed and five billion francs demanded: France was a rival to isolate.

STEP 3 · THE METHOD

Realpolitik: calculation of power and interest, not sentiment or principle.

STEP 4 · THE COST

France gained a permanent grievance; Bismarck spent twenty years building alliances to isolate it.

CONCLUSION

Lenient where he needed a partner, harsh where he expected an enemy, and the harsh peace shaped 1914.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying the Concert of Europe prevented all war.** It kept peace among the great powers for decades; the Crimean War broke it.
- **Treating nations as ancient and timeless.** Nationalism used older materials to build something new.
- **Crediting unification to romantics.** Cavour and Bismarck used armies, alliances and staged crises.
- **Calling Bismarck a master planner.** Most historians see a brilliant opportunist.

Chapter 12 self-test · six items

1. Where was the German Empire proclaimed in 1871?

A. Frankfurt am Main
B. Versailles
C. Sedan
D. Berlin

B. Versailles It was proclaimed at Versailles on 18 January 1871, during the defeat of France.

2. Who argued in 1899 that socialism should come through parliament?

A. Eduard Bernstein
B. Karl Marx
C. Karl Kautsky
D. Robert Owen of New Lanark

A. Eduard Bernstein His revisionism split reformists from revolutionaries.

3. Which encyclical defended a living wage and workers' associations?

A. Regnans in Excelsis (1570)
B. Cunctos populos (380)
C. Exsurge Domine (1520)
D. Rerum Novarum (1891)

D. Rerum Novarum (1891) Leo XIII condemned both socialism and unrestrained capitalism.

4. Who wrote J'accuse in 1898?

A. Alfred Dreyfus
B. Karl Lueger
C. Émile Zola
D. Theodor Herzl

C. Émile Zola Zola's open letter split France over the Dreyfus affair.

5. What was the Ausgleich of 1867?

A. The agreement dividing China into spheres
B. The compromise creating the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary
C. The treaty ending the Franco-Prussian War and creating the German Empire
D. The customs union of the German states

B. The compromise creating the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary It satisfied Hungarians and inflamed the other nationalities.

6. Which historian placed primary blame for 1914 on Germany?

A. Fritz Fischer
B. Christopher Clark
C. A. J. P. Taylor
D. Eric Hobsbawm

A. Fritz Fischer Clark spreads responsibility across all capitals; Taylor stressed mobilization timetables.

CHAPTER 13

The World Wars and Totalitarianism

Read it in full: **Chapter 13 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The July Machine** and **Escalation and Evidence**.

What to know

A Sarajevo assassination, a blank check, mobilization plans and the invasion of Belgium turned a Balkan crisis into four years of industrial war that taught states to command whole societies. Russia's collapse gave Lenin power; the Paris settlement replaced four empires with fragile states and humiliated Germany without disabling it.

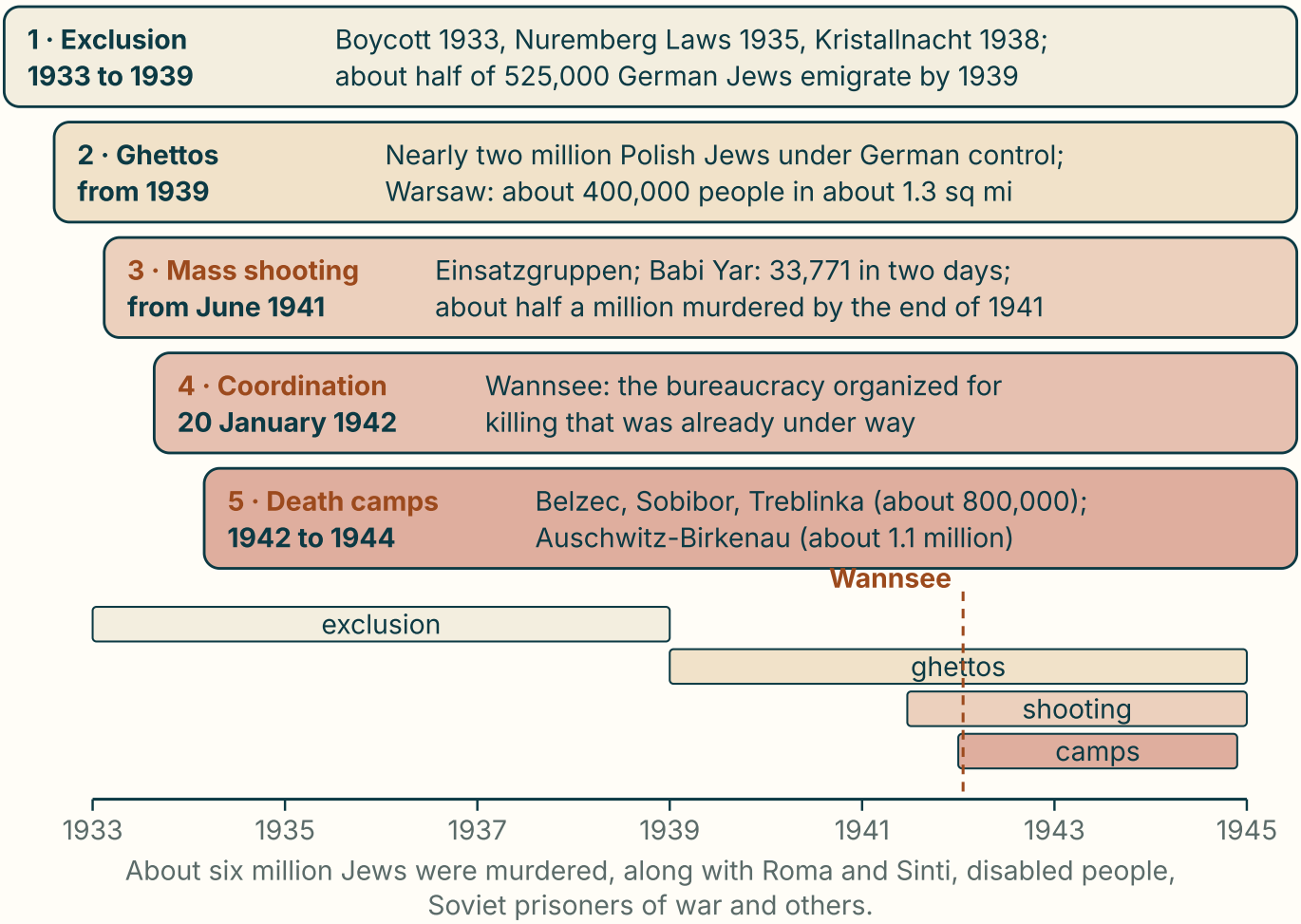
The Depression destroyed liberal government where its roots were shallow: Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin each claimed all of life and answered opposition with terror. Appeasement failed and the Nazi-Soviet Pact opened the war.

The war was decided mainly in the east and in the factories. Within it, a modern state murdered six million Jews through an escalating process. Nuremberg and the postwar treaties created the language of genocide, crimes against humanity and informed consent.

LOCK THESE IN

- 1914: blank check, ultimatum, mobilization, Belgium; most blame falls on Germany and Austria-Hungary, but it is debated.
- Total war made the state an economic manager and civilians targets.
- October 1917 was a disciplined coup; the civil war killed far more than the revolution.
- Versailles enraged Germany without disabling it; enforcement and unity failed.
- Depression plus deflation lifted the Nazis to 37.3 percent; an elite bargain made Hitler chancellor.

Each stage built on the last: the killing escalated rather than following one single order



From exclusion to extermination. The stages overlapped and radicalized under war, carried out by a modern bureaucracy. Historians debate how the decisions were made, never whether the murder happened.

Chapter 13 terms and comparisons

Feature	Fascist Italy	Nazi Germany	Stalin's USSR
Core claim	The nation-state as supreme organism	Race and living space	Class struggle and building socialism
Route to power	Street violence plus royal appointment, 1922	Electoral surge plus elite bargain, 1933	Coup 1917; apparatus control by 1929
Property	Private, under corporatist direction	Private, subordinated to rearmament	Abolished; state planning
Terror organ	OVRA	Gestapo, SS, SD	Cheka, OGPU, NKVD
Scale of killing	Thousands at home; more in Libya and Ethiopia	Millions, mostly abroad in wartime	Millions, mostly at home in peacetime

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · TRACING THE FIVE WEEKS OF JULY 1914

Explain how a murder in Sarajevo became a continental war, step by step.

STEP 1 · THE BACKING

On 5 to 6 July Germany promised unconditional support: the blank check.

STEP 2 · THE ULTIMATUM

Austria's 23 July ultimatum was written to be refused; Serbia accepted nearly all of it, and Austria declared war on 28 July.

STEP 3 · RUSSIA

Russia, Serbia's patron, would not be humiliated again after 1908 and mobilized on 30 July.

STEP 4 · THE PLAN

Germany's plan meant beating France first, so mobilization meant invasion: war on Russia and France, then Belgium.

CONCLUSION

Belgium brought Britain in on 4 August. Alliances plus timetables turned a regional quarrel continental, but people chose each step.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Calling 1914 an accident.** Leaders chose war in about five weeks.
- **Saying generals were simply stupid.** Defense had outrun offense; the learning curve cost millions.
- **Calling October 1917 a mass uprising.** It was a well-timed coup; the Bolsheviks won about a quarter in the Assembly vote.
- **Saying Versailles alone caused the Second World War.** It took the Depression, Allied disunity and American withdrawal.

Chapter 13 self-test · six items

1. Who argued in 1961 that Germany sought a continental war for world power?

A. Christopher Clark
B. Fritz Fischer
C. A. J. P. Taylor
D. Hannah Arendt

B. Fritz Fischer Clark's Sleepwalkers (2012) spread responsibility more widely.

2. What treaty took Russia out of the First World War in 1918?

A. Versailles
B. Trianon of 1920
C. Brest-Litovsk
D. Locarno

C. Brest-Litovsk Russia gave up Poland, the Baltic provinces, Finland and Ukraine.

3. Who coined the word genocide in 1944?

A. Robert Jackson
B. Hannah Arendt
C. Raphael Lemkin
D. Raoul Wallenberg

C. Raphael Lemkin Existing law had no name for the destruction of a people.

4. What was the Nuremberg Code?

A. Rules on informed consent in human experimentation
B. The list of German war criminals to be tried
C. The charter of the United Nations
D. The 1935 laws stripping German Jews of rights

A. Rules on informed consent in human experimentation It came from the Doctors' Trial and still underlies research ethics.

5. Which battle ended with about 91,000 German soldiers surrendering in 1943?

A. El Alamein
B. Stalingrad
C. Midway
D. Kursk

B. Stalingrad Roughly 5,000 of them ever came home.

6. Who led Italy's fascist movement to power in 1922?

A. Victor Emmanuel III
B. Francisco Franco
C. Giacomo Matteotti
D. Benito Mussolini

D. Benito Mussolini The king appointed him after the March on Rome.

CHAPTER 14

The Cold War and the Contemporary World

Read it in full: **Chapter 14 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Spiral** and **1989: Structure, Contingency and the Choice Not to Shoot**.

What to know

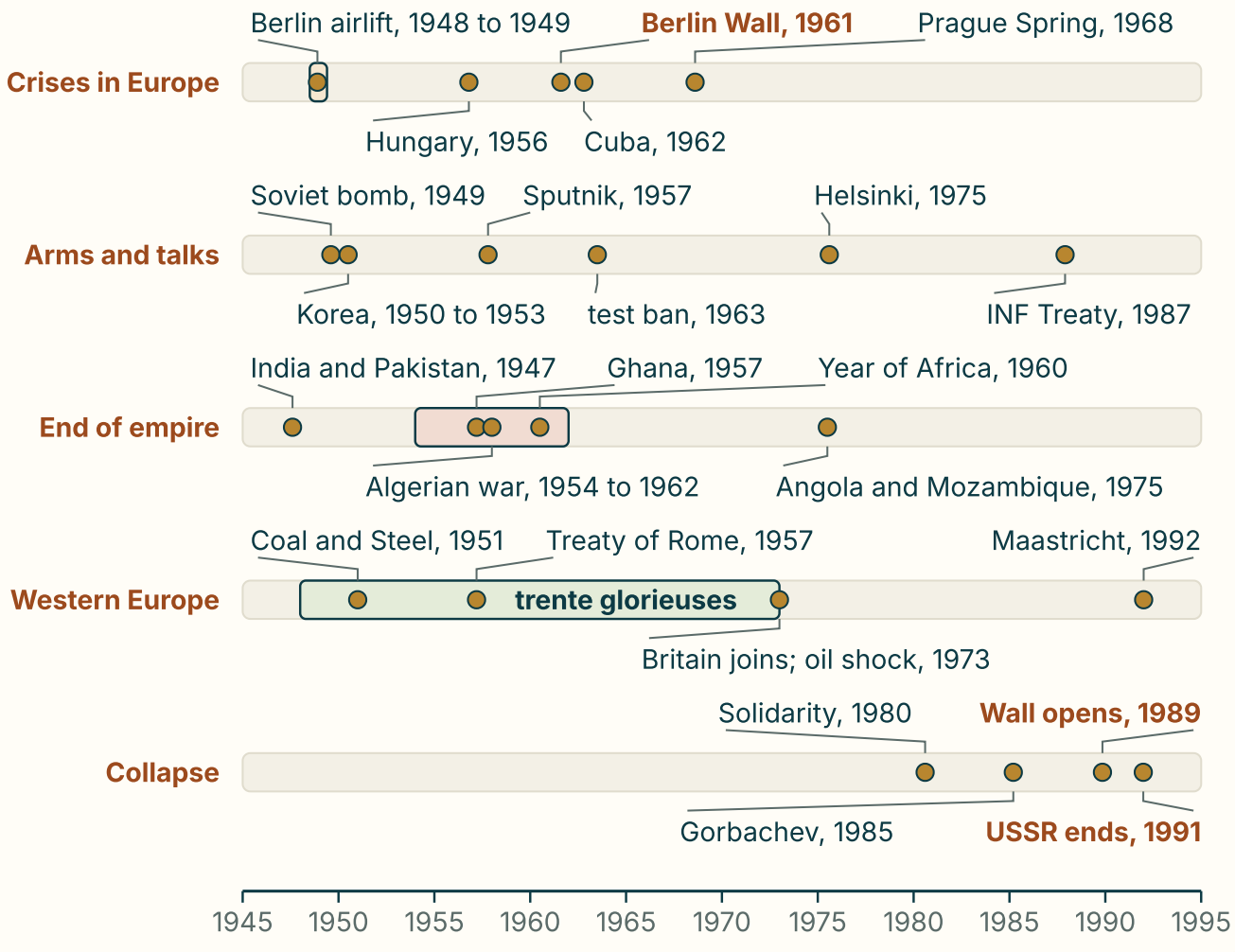
A chain of defensive moves from 1945 to 1950, Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Berlin airlift and NATO, hardened an occupation line into two blocs. Nuclear weapons then froze it, and the rivalry ran through proxies, crises in Berlin and Cuba, and crushed reforms in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Under the nuclear umbrella, Europe's empires dissolved within thirty years, often by war and often into proxy conflicts. Western Europe built welfare states and an integrating community on a quarter-century boom that ended in the early 1970s.

In the East, stagnation, Helsinki-inspired dissent, Solidarity and Gorbachev's refusal to shoot brought the bloc down in 1989 and the USSR in 1991. The world since has been shaped by globalization, terrorism, financial crisis, migration, climate change and the return of war in Europe.

LOCK THESE IN

- The Cold War began as a chain of defensive moves, 1945 to 1950: the security dilemma.
- Containment: Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, then NSC-68 and Korea.
- Mutually assured destruction froze Europe and pushed conflict into proxies.
- Hungary 1956 and Prague 1968: Moscow tolerated adjustments, not exits.
- Cuba 1962: public withdrawal, a no-invasion pledge and a secret Jupiter deal.



A frozen line and a moving world. Europe's crises cluster in the first two decades; decolonization and Western integration run alongside; the collapse comes fast at the end, after years of stagnation and dissent.

Chapter 14 terms and comparisons

Crisis	Date	Trigger	Outcome
Berlin Blockade	1948 to 1949	Western currency reform	Airlift; two German states; NATO
Hungarian Revolution	October to November 1956	Withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact	Soviet invasion; about 2,500 killed
Suez	October to November 1956	Nasser nationalized the canal	US pressure forced British and French withdrawal
Berlin Wall	August 1961	Mass emigration through West Berlin	Border sealed until 1989
Cuban Missile Crisis	October 1962	Soviet missiles in Cuba	Withdrawal; secret Jupiter deal; hotline
Prague Spring	1968	Socialism with a human face	Invasion; Brezhnev Doctrine

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · SEEING THE SECURITY DILEMMA AT WORK

Take the Marshall Plan and the Berlin Blockade. Show how each side's defensive step looked aggressive to the other.

STEP 1 · THE WESTERN VIEW

Aid and a new currency would rebuild Western Europe and its zones and resist communism.

STEP 2 · THE SOVIET VIEW

A recovering western Germany tied to America looked like a threat to a country that lost about twenty-seven million people.

STEP 3 · THE SOVIET MOVE

Stalin barred the bloc from the Marshall Plan and blockaded West Berlin in June 1948.

STEP 4 · THE RESULT

The airlift (about 2.3 million tons, about 153,000 tons a month over fifteen months) succeeded, and NATO and two German states followed.

CONCLUSION

Each defensive step hardened the division, the reverse of what Stalin wanted.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying the Cold War began with a declaration.** It grew from a chain of moves from 1945 to 1949.
- **Equating containment with global military commitment.** Kennan meant patient political and economic pressure.
- **Thinking the West would back Eastern European revolts.** It protested in 1956 and 1968 but did not intervene.
- **Telling Cuba as a pure American win.** The US secretly agreed to remove its Jupiters from Turkey.

Chapter 14 self-test · six items

1. Where did Churchill give his Iron Curtain speech in 1946?

A. Potsdam, Germany
B. Yalta, Crimea
C. Fulton, Missouri
D. Westminster, London

C. Fulton, Missouri He named a line from Stettin to Trieste.

2. When did the Berlin Wall go up?

A. 24 June 1948
B. 4 April 1949
C. 13 August 1961
D. 9 November 1989

C. 13 August 1961 The blockade began 24 June 1948; the Wall opened 9 November 1989; NATO was signed 4 April 1949.

3. Which treaty of 1957 created the European Economic Community?

A. The Treaty of Rome
B. The Schuman Declaration
C. The Single European Act
D. The Maastricht Treaty

A. The Treaty of Rome Maastricht (1992) created the European Union.

4. Who coined the term tiers monde, Third World?

A. Kwame Nkrumah
B. Alfred Sauvy
C. George Kennan
D. Jawaharlal Nehru

B. Alfred Sauvy He compared it to the Third Estate in 1952.

5. What was Solidarity?

A. A Hungarian reform party that opened the border with Austria
B. A Czech dissident group formed in 1977
C. A Soviet reform program of the 1980s
D. An independent Polish trade union born at Gdańsk in 1980

D. An independent Polish trade union born at Gdańsk in 1980 It reached close to ten million members within a year.

6. When did the Soviet Union dissolve?

A. 9 November 1989
B. 3 October 1990
C. 25 December 1989
D. 26 December 1991

D. 26 December 1991 Germany reunified on 3 October 1990; Ceaușescu was shot on 25 December 1989.

THE WHOLE COURSE

Cram sheet

The key dates, terms and arguments of the course, two chapters at a time. Cover the right column and rebuild each row. If a row will not come back, go to that chapter's exam guide.

Chapters 1 and 2: dates to know

Item	Date	Note
Farming and Göbekli Tepe begin	About 9500 BCE	Fertile Crescent; three-thousand-year shift
Uruk becomes a city; writing	About 3500; about 3300 to 3200 BCE	Writing begins as accounting
Unification of Egypt	About 3100 BCE	Narmer Palette; Two Lands
Old Kingdom; Great Pyramid	2686 to 2181; about 2560 BCE	Pyramid age
Sargon of Akkad	About 2334 BCE	First territorial empire
Hammurabi	About 1792 to 1750 BCE	Stele of 282 provisions
New Kingdom	1550 to 1069 BCE	Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Ramesses II
Bronze Age collapse	About 1200 to 1150 BCE	Many interacting causes
Solon; Cleisthenes	594; 508 to 507 BCE	Debt reform; ten tribes
Marathon; Salamis	490; 480 BCE	Persian Wars
Peloponnesian War	431 to 404 BCE	Democracy restored 403 BCE
Socrates executed; Alexander dies	399; 323 BCE	Hellenistic age follows

Chapters 1 and 2: terms to know

Term	Meaning
Neolithic Revolution	Slow shift from foraging to farming and herding
Cuneiform	Wedge-shaped writing on clay, first for Sumerian
Lugal	Sumerian war leader who became a hereditary king
Lex talionis	Retaliation in kind, only between equals at Babylon
Ma'at	Egyptian truth, justice and cosmic order against isfet
Polis	Self-governing Greek citizen state
Helot	State-owned unfree farmer under Sparta
Ekklesia, Boule, dikasteria	Assembly, Council of 500, citizen courts
Ostracism	Ten-year exile by potsherd vote
Elenchus	Socratic cross-examination

Chapters 1 and 2: arguments that score points

Question	The strong answer
Why did farming spread?	Population growth, not individual welfare
Was Hammurabi's stele law?	Monument to ideal justice and teaching text more than statute
Why did Egypt unify early?	Timely flood, simple irrigation, natural defenses
Why the collapse?	Interacting stresses in a tightly linked system
Why the polis?	Collapse of kingship, then local landholders
Was Athens a democracy?	Direct for citizen men, exclusive for everyone else
Why the Peloponnesian War?	Athenian growth and Spartan fear, plus triggers

Chapters 3 and 4: dates to know

Item	Date	Note
Varro's founding date; end of monarchy	753; 509 BCE	Legend; approximate
Twelve Tables; Lex Hortensia	About 450; 287 BCE	Struggle of the Orders
Latin League dissolved	338 BCE	Graded citizenship begins
Punic Wars	264 to 241; 218 to 201; 149 to 146 BCE	Cannae 216; Zama 202
Tiberius Gracchus killed	133 BCE	Political murder normal
Marius; Sulla's march	107; 88 BCE	Armies loyal to generals
Rubicon; Ides of March; Actium	49; 44; 31 BCE	Octavian last man standing
Augustus named; dies	27 BCE; 14 CE	Principate
Universal citizenship	212 CE	Constitutio Antoniniana
Crisis; Diocletian	235 to 284; 284 to 305	Tetrarchy
Milvian Bridge; Milan; Nicaea; Constantinople	312; 313; 325; 330	Constantine
Theodosius: required faith; bans	380; 391 to 392	Establishment
Adrianople; sack; Carthage; Odoacer	378; 410; 439; 476	End of the West
Chalcedon; Benedict's Rule	451; about 530	Two natures; monastic standard

Chapters 3 and 4: terms to know

Term	Meaning
Res publica	The public thing; the Roman state
Tribune of the plebs	Sacrosanct officer with a veto
Socii	Allies who kept their laws but sent troops
Proscription	List of outlaws whose killers were rewarded
Princeps	First citizen; Augustus' title
Tetrarchy	Rule of four under Diocletian
Homoousios	Of the same substance (Nicaea)
Cenobitic	Communal monastic life under a rule
Foederati	Allied groups settled inside the empire

Chapters 3 and 4: arguments that score points

Question	The strong answer
Why did Rome win?	Graded citizenship turned enemies into soldiers
Why did the Republic fall?	City-state institutions could not run an empire
How did Augustus rule?	Republican powers, permanently combined
Why did Christianity win?	Organization, charity and belonging, then imperial money
Fall or transformation?	East transformed; western economy truly contracted
Why did the East survive?	Richer, walled capital, shorter frontier

Chapters 5 and 6: dates to know

Item	Date	Note
Justinian; Nika; Corpus	527 to 565; 532; 529 to 534	Gothic War 535 to 554; plague 541
Hijra; death of Muhammad	622; 632	Year 1 of the Islamic calendar
Yarmuk; Karbala	636; 680	Conquest; Sunni and Shia
Umayyads; Abbasids; Baghdad	661 to 750; from 750; 762	Damascus to Baghdad
Siege of Constantinople; iconoclasm ends	717 to 718; 843	Greek fire; Triumph of Orthodoxy
Clovis; Benedict's Rule	481 to 511; about 530s to 540s	Catholic baptism; monastic engine
Charlemagne; coronation; Verdun	768 to 814; 800; 843	Empire splits three ways
Lindisfarne; Normandy; Lechfeld	793; 911; 955	Second wave of raids
Hastings; Domesday	1066; 1086	Norman England
Canossa; Worms	1077; 1122	Investiture Controversy
Clermont; Jerusalem; Hattin; Constantinople; Acre	1095; 1099; 1187; 1204; 1291	Crusades
Magna Carta; Fourth Lateran	1215; 1215	King under law; yearly confession

Chapters 5 and 6: terms to know

Term	Meaning
Theme	Byzantine district with soldiers on the land
Umma	Community of believers
Caliph	Successor or deputy of the Prophet
Translation movement	Greek science into Arabic, then advanced
Missi dominici	Charlemagne's paired inspectors
Manor; demesne	Estate; the lord's own land
Commune; guild	Self-governing town; craft association
Lay investiture	Ruler gives a bishop ring and staff
Scholasticism	Resolving contradictions by distinction

Chapters 5 and 6: arguments that score points

Question	The strong answer
How did Byzantium survive?	By shrinking into a compact, militarized Greek state
Why were the conquests fast?	Exhausted empires, plague, mobility, light terms
Preserved or advanced?	Advanced: optics, medicine, algebra
Was there feudalism?	Decentralization real; the pyramid a later construct
What drove the High Middle Ages?	Food surplus from climate, peace and tools
Who won the investiture fight?	No one outright; authority stayed divided
Crusades as clash of civilizations?	Anachronistic on both sides

Chapters 7 and 8: dates to know

Item	Date	Note
Black Death in Italy	1347 to 1349	A third to a half die
Petrarch finds Cicero's letters; Chrysoloras	1345; 1397 to 1400	Humanism; Greek in Florence
Valla on the Donation	1440	Philology
Peace of Lodi; Gutenberg Bible	1454; about 1455	Balance of power; print
France invades Italy	1494	Italian Wars to 1559
The Prince; Erasmus' Greek New Testament	1513; 1516	Effective truth; Scripture
Ninety-Five Theses; Worms	1517; 1521	Luther outlawed
Peasants' War; Marburg	1524 to 1525; 1529	Magisterial reform; Supper split
Act of Supremacy; Jesuits	1534; 1540	England; Catholic renewal
Trent; Augsburg	1545 to 1563; 1555	Doctrine and discipline; prince chooses
St Bartholomew; Nantes	1572; 1598	French wars
Thirty Years' War; Westphalia	1618 to 1648; 1648	Normative year 1624

Chapters 7 and 8: terms to know

Term	Meaning
Studia humanitatis	The humanist curriculum
Philology	Dating and correcting texts by language
Linear perspective	Orthogonals to one vanishing point
Virtù and fortuna	Skill against chance
Indulgence	Remission of temporal punishment
Sola scriptura	Scripture as sole final authority
Anabaptist	Believers' baptism; mostly pacifist
Predestination	Salvation by God's prior choice
Confessionalization	States built discipline around a creed

Chapters 7 and 8: arguments that score points

Question	The strong answer
Was the Renaissance a rebirth?	A change in tools, not morals
Was humanism secular?	No; a curriculum of Christian scholars
Why did Luther survive?	Princely protection and print
Why did Protestantism split?	Scripture alone had no single reader
Counter-Reformation or Catholic Reformation?	Both, after Jedin
Did Westphalia invent sovereignty?	No; a later myth, though a real settlement

Chapters 9 and 10: dates to know

Item	Date	Note
Ceuta; Elmina; Dias	1415; 1482; 1488	Portugal down Africa
Columbus; Tordesillas	1492; 1494	Line 370 leagues west of Cape Verde
Da Gama at Calicut; Cabral in Brazil	1498; 1500	Sea route; Portuguese Brazil
Cortés; Pizarro	1519 to 1521; 1532 to 1533	Allies, disease, civil war
Potosí; New Laws; Valladolid	1545; 1542; 1550 to 1551	Silver; Las Casas
VOC; Bank of Amsterdam	1602; 1609	Joint-stock company
Copernicus; Kepler; Galileo	1543; 1609 and 1619; 1610	Heliocentrism to ellipses
Execution of Charles I; Restoration	1649; 1660	English revolution
Louis XIV's personal rule	1661 to 1715	Intendants, Versailles
Newton's Principia; Bill of Rights	1687; 1689	Gravitation; consent
Spirit of the Laws; Social Contract	1748; 1762	Separation of powers; general will
Wealth of Nations; Jenner	1776; 1796	Markets; vaccination

Chapters 9 and 10: terms to know

Term	Meaning
Volta do mar	Wide Atlantic arc to catch winds home
Columbian Exchange	Two-way transfer after 1492
Middle Passage	Atlantic crossing; roughly 15 percent died
Joint-stock company	Permanent, tradable shares
Absolutism	Undivided sovereignty in a monarch
Fiscal-military state	Revenue machine for war
Empiricism; rationalism	Observation; deduction
Public sphere	Salons, coffeehouses, journals
Enlightened absolutism	Reform language, sovereign power kept

Chapters 9 and 10: arguments that score points

Question	The strong answer
Why did Europe go to sea?	Peripheral, hungry for Asian goods, borrowed tools
Why did the conquests succeed?	Allies, civil war, smallpox
Where did the silver go?	East, pulled by Ming China
Why did the Dutch overtake Portugal?	Institutions: the joint-stock company
Was absolutism total?	No; it bargained with privilege
Why did Britain win long wars?	Consent made credit cheap
What was the Enlightenment?	A public argument, not a creed

Chapters 11 and 12: dates to know

Item	Date	Note
Seven Years' War; Stamp Act	1756 to 1763; 1765	Debt, then taxes
Declaration of Independence; Yorktown	1776; 1781	Paris treaty 1783
Constitution; Bill of Rights	1787; 1791	Slavery compromises
Bastille; Rights of Man	14 July 1789; 26 August 1789	Sovereignty to the nation
Republic; Louis XVI executed; Thermidor	1792; 1793; 1794	The Terror
Napoleon's coup; Civil Code	1799; 1804	Equality, not liberty
Haitian independence	1 January 1804	Revolt of the enslaved
Congress of Vienna	1814 to 1815	Concert of Europe
Revolutions of 1848	1848 to 1849	Mostly reversed
Italy proclaimed; German Empire	1861; 1871	Cavour; Bismarck
Berlin Conference; Adwa	1884 to 1885; 1896	Scramble; Ethiopian victory
Entente Cordiale; Sarajevo	1904; 28 June 1914	Two blocs; the fuse

Chapters 11 and 12: terms to know

Term	Meaning
Virtual representation	MPs represent all, voters or not
Third Estate	Commoners, about 97 percent
Thermidor	Fall of Robespierre, 1794
Factory system	Machines and clock discipline under one roof
Liberalism; conservatism	Liberty and property; continuity (Burke)
Realpolitik	Power and interest over ideals
Sanitary movement	Water and drains before germ theory
New Imperialism	Rapid partition, about 1870 to 1914
Irredentism	Claim to co-nationals under foreign rule

Chapters 11 and 12: arguments that score points

Question	The strong answer
What did Americans fight over?	Consent to taxation, not its size
Why did France break?	Debt, privilege and hunger at once
Ideology or emergency for the Terror?	Both explain part (Furet, Lefebvre)
Why Britain first?	Coal, wages, institutions, markets, empire
Why did 1848 fail?	Liberals chose order; nationalisms clashed
Who unified Italy and Germany?	Statesmen with armies, not romantics
Was empire about profit?	A blend of strategy, prestige and profit

Chapters 13 and 14: dates to know

Item	Date	Note
Sarajevo; Britain enters	28 June 1914; 4 August 1914	Five weeks
Somme first day; Russian revolutions	1 July 1916; March and November 1917	57,470 British casualties
Armistice; Versailles	11 November 1918; 28 June 1919	Article 231
March on Rome; Hitler chancellor	1922; 30 January 1933	Appointed, not elected
Munich; Nazi-Soviet Pact; Poland	September 1938; 23 August 1939; 1 September 1939	War begins
Barbarossa; Wannsee; Stalingrad	22 June 1941; January 1942; February 1943	Eastern Front
D-Day; German surrender	6 June 1944; 8 May 1945	Japan, August 1945
Truman Doctrine; Berlin airlift; NATO	1947; 1948 to 1949; 1949	Containment
Hungary; Berlin Wall; Cuba	1956; 1961; 1962	Frozen order
Ghana; Treaty of Rome; Algeria	1957; 1957; 1962	Decolonization, integration
Helsinki; Solidarity; Gorbachev	1975; 1980; 1985	Erosion
Wall opens; USSR dissolves	9 November 1989; 26 December 1991	Unforeseen

Chapters 13 and 14: terms to know

Term	Meaning
Total war	Whole society mobilized
Dual power	Provisional Government and Soviet, 1917
Gleichschaltung	Nazi coordination of all life
Holodomor	Ukrainian famine of 1932 to 1933
Einsatzgruppen	Mobile killing units
Genocide	Lemkin's word, 1944
Containment	Kennan's strategy
Mutually assured destruction	Survivable second strike on both sides
Brezhnev Doctrine	Right to intervene to save socialism

Chapters 13 and 14: arguments that score points

Question	The strong answer
Who caused 1914?	Heaviest share Germany and Austria-Hungary; debated
Did Versailles cause 1939?	Not alone: Depression and disunity too
Is totalitarian useful?	As comparison, not explanation
Where was the war won?	Mainly the Eastern Front, plus production
How did the Holocaust happen?	Escalation through a bureaucracy at war
Who started the Cold War?	Post-revisionist: misperception, not equivalence
Why 1989?	Structure plus Gorbachev's choice not to shoot

Dr. Garg Learning · CC BY-SA 4.0