**Important Dates in European History**

1347 – The bubonic plague is introduced to Europe; kills up to 40% population in hardest hit areas of northern Europe

1453 – Fall of Constantinople and end of Hundred Years War:

1492 – Columbus opens new world, begins Spanish colonization of New Spain

1517 –Martin Luther’s *95 Theses*

1555 – Peace of Augsburg issued by Charles V – ends Prot/Cath. disputes in the HRE for a while (until Thirty Years War)

1588 – the Queen Elizabeth, the virgin queen of England, defeats Philip II of Spain’s Spanish Armada

1598 – Huguenot Wars in France (French Wars of Religion) ended by Edict of Nantes (Henry IV – beginning of Bourbon lines)

1618-1648 – Thirty Years war ending with Treaty of Westphalia (4 phases of War: Bohemian, Danish, Swedish, French)

1641-1648 – English Civil War, Commonwealth/Protectorate until 1660, Restoration of the Stuarts

1643-1715 Louis XIV, The Sun King rules France

1688 – Glorious Revolution and 1689 English Bill of Rights signed by William and Mary

1701-1713 – War of Spanish Succession and Treaty of Utrecht – most important of Louis XIV’s Wars

1750 – Half of English farmland is enclosed – early Agricultural Revolution and beginning of early Industrial Revolution

1756-1763 – Seven Years war culminating in Treaty of Paris of 1763 – gives N. Am. to GB, step toward world domination

1776 – Adam Smith’s *Inquiry into the Nature of Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (good date to know to anchor Enlightenment); most Enlightenment dates fall between 1730s and continue through 1780s as precursor to French Revolution

1789 – Outbreak of French Revolution; gets progressively more radical – other various dates of French Rev: 1793-94 Reign of Terror; 1799 Napoleon overthrows Directory; 1804 Napoleon crowned Emperor of the French

1815 – Battle of Waterloo and the Congress of Vienna

1830 – Revolutions in France, Belgium, and Greece – all successful in their own way

1832 – Reform Bill of 1832 in England begins voter reform – move toward Liberalism in Europe, later 1867 expands rights

1848 – Every major country in Europe goes through a Revolution – most fail as Conservatives win out

1848 – Karl Marx’s *The Communist Manifesto* is published

1859 – the *On the Origin of Species by the Means of Natural Selection* (Darwin) is published – good date to anchor “Cult of Science”

1861 – Unification of Italy achieved by Cavour, Garibaldi in the south

1871 – Unification of Germany achieved by Bismarck after a series of 3 wars, beginning 2nd German Empire under Kaiser Wilhelm I

1884-1884 – Berlin Conference held to deal with Congo situation and divide up Africa “peacefully” by setting rules of engagement with native populations

1900 – Almost all of Africa has been taken over by European rule (Liberia, Ethiopia, Egypt holdouts even though Suez canal still administered by the British until 1952)

1914-1918 – WWI years and the Treaty of Versailles at Paris Peace Conference signed 1919

1917 – Russian Revolution begins

1929 – American Stock market crashes – beginning of world-wide depression, throws most of Eur. into economic turmoil, really hurts Weimar Republic’s success

1919-1939 – Interwar Years

* GB’s National Gov’t, France’s Popular Front, Stresemann Years of Weimar Republic
* Rise of Fascism, Mussolini, Nazis, Hitler b/v of nationalism, hatred of T of V, economic turmoil, Western appeasement

1939-1945 – WWII years (both war in Europe and the Pacific), Holocaust, and the United Nations formed

1945-1989 – Cold War start to finish, in the West: growth of welfare state, 5th Republic begun in France, Africa, Middle East decolonized & mandates end, growth of Eur. economic unity (EEC formed 1957)

1990 – Reunification of Germany

1991 – Formation of Russian Republic – USSR is gone…for good?

1993 – Treaty of Maastricht forms European Union – still here today but experiencing economic problems

21st century – Eur. participation in War on Terror at 1st popular but support of US actions waning