

1800-1899 (A.D.) World History

1800

Napoleon conquers Italy, firmly establishes himself as First Consul in France. In the U.S., federal government moves to Washington, D.C. Robert Owen's social reforms in England. William Herschel discovers infrared rays. Alessandro Volta produces electricity.

1801

Austria makes temporary peace with France. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland established with one monarch and one parliament; Catholics excluded from voting.

1803

U.S. negotiates [Louisiana Purchase](#) from France: for \$15 million, U.S. doubles its domain, increasing its territory by 827,000 sq mi (2,144,500 sq km), from Mississippi River to Rockies and from Gulf of Mexico to British North America.

1804

Haiti declares independence from France; first black nation to gain freedom from European colonial rule. Napoleon transforms the Consulate of France into an empire, proclaims himself emperor of France, systematizes French law under *Code Napoleon*. In the U.S., [Alexander Hamilton](#) is mortally wounded in duel with [Aaron Burr](#). [Lewis and Clark expedition](#) begins exploration of what is now northwest U.S.

1805

[Lord Nelson](#) defeats the French-Spanish fleets in the Battle of Trafalgar. Napoleon victorious over Austrian and Russian forces at the Battle of Austerlitz.

1807

Robert Fulton makes first successful steamboat trip on *Clermont* between New York City and Albany.

1808

French armies occupy Rome and Spain, extending Napoleon's empire. Britain begins aiding Spanish guerrillas against Napoleon in Peninsular War. In the U.S., Congress bars importation of slaves. Beethoven's *Fifth* and *Sixth Symphonies* performed.

1812

Napoleon's Grand Army invades Russia in June. Forced to retreat in winter, most of Napoleon's 600,000 men are lost. In the U.S., war with Britain declared over freedom of the seas for U.S. vessels (War of 1812). USS *Constitution* (For detailed chronology, see [War of 1812](#).) sinks British frigate.

1814

French defeated by allies (Britain, Austria, Russia, Prussia, Sweden, and Portugal) in War of Liberation. Napoleon exiled to Elba, off Italian coast. Bourbon king Louis XVIII takes French throne. George Stephenson builds first practical steam locomotive.

1815

Napoleon returns: "Hundred Days" begin. Napoleon defeated by Wellington at Waterloo, banished again to St. Helena in South Atlantic. Congress of Vienna: victorious allies change the map of Europe. War of 1812 ends with Treaty of Ghent.

1819

[Simón Bolívar](#) liberates New Granada (now Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador) as Spain loses hold on South American countries; named president of Colombia.

1820

[Missouri Compromise](#) > Missouri admitted as slave state but slavery barred in rest of Louisiana Purchase north of 36°30' N.

1821

Guatemala, Panama, and Santo Domingo proclaim independence from Spain.

1822

Greeks proclaim a republic and independence from Turkey. Turks invade Greece. Russia declares war on Turkey (1828). Greece also aided by France and Britain. War ends and Turks recognize Greek independence (1829). Brazil becomes independent of Portugal. [Schubert's Eighth Symphony](#) ("The Unfinished").

1823

U.S. [Monroe Doctrine](#) warns European nations not to interfere in Western Hemisphere.

1824

Mexico becomes a republic, three years after declaring independence from Spain. Bolívar liberates Peru, becomes its president. Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*.

- 1825 First passenger-carrying [railroad](#) in England.
- 1826 Joseph-Nicéphore Niepce takes the world's first [photograph](#).
- 1830 French invade Algeria. Louis Philippe becomes "Citizen King" as revolution forces Charles X to abdicate. [Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#) formed in U.S. by Joseph Smith.
- 1831 Polish revolt against Russia fails. Belgium separates from the Netherlands. In U.S., [Nat Turner](#) leads unsuccessful slave rebellion.
- 1833 Slavery abolished in British Empire.
- 1834 Charles Babbage invents "analytical engine," precursor of computer. McCormick patents reaper.
- 1836 [Boer](#) farmers start "Great Trek"—Natal, Transvaal, and Orange Free State founded in South Africa. Mexican army besieges Texans in [Alamo](#). Entire garrison, including Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, wiped out. Texans gain independence from Mexico after winning Battle of San Jacinto. [Dickens's](#) *Pickwick Papers*.
- 1837 [Victoria](#) becomes queen of Great Britain. Mob kills Elijah P. Lovejoy, Illinois abolitionist publisher.
- 1839 First [Opium War](#) (to 1842) between Britain and China, over importation of drug into China.
- 1840 Lower and Upper Canada united.
- 1841 U.S. President Harrison dies (**April 4**) one month after inauguration; John Tyler becomes first vice president to succeed to presidency.
- 1842 Crawford Long uses first anesthetic (ether).
- 1843 [Wagner's](#) opera *The Flying Dutchman*.
- 1844 Democratic convention calls for annexation of Texas and acquisition of Oregon ("Fifty-four-forty-or-fight"). Five Chinese ports opened to U.S. ships. Samuel F. B. [Morse](#) patents telegraph.
- 1845 Congress adopts joint resolution for annexation of Texas. [Edgar Allan Poe](#) publishes *The Raven and Other Poems*.
- 1846 [U.S. declares war on Mexico](#). California and New Mexico annexed by U.S. Brigham Young leads Mormons to Great Salt Lake. W. T. Morton uses ether as anesthetic. Sewing machine patented by Elias Howe. [Frederick Douglass](#) launches abolitionist newspaper *The North Star*. Failure of potato crop causes famine in Ireland.
- 1848 Revolt in Paris: Louis Philippe abdicates; Louis Napoleon elected president of French Republic. Revolutions in Vienna, Venice, Berlin, Milan, Rome, and Warsaw. Put down by royal troops in 1848–1849. U.S.-Mexico War ends; Mexico cedes claims to Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada. U.S. treaty with Britain sets Oregon Territory boundary at 49th parallel. [Karl Marx](#) and Friedrich Engels's *Communist Manifesto*. Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and joins the [Underground Railroad](#). Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y.
- 1849 California gold rush begins.
- 1850 [Henry Clay](#) opens great debate on slavery, warns South against secession.
- 1851 [Herman Melville's](#) *Moby-Dick*.
- 1852 South African Republic established. Louis Napoleon proclaims himself Napoleon III ("Second Empire"). [Harriet Beecher Stowe's](#) *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- 1853

- [Crimean War](#) begins as Turkey declares war on Russia. [Commodore Perry](#) reaches Tokyo.
- 1854 Britain and France join Turkey in war on Russia. In U.S., [Kansas-Nebraska Act](#) permits local option on slavery; rioting and bloodshed. Japanese allow American trade. Antislavery men in Michigan form Republican Party. [Tennyson's Charge of the Light Brigade](#). [Thoreau's Walden](#).
- 1855 Armed clashes in Kansas between pro- and anti-slavery forces. [Florence Nightingale](#) nurses wounded in Crimea. [Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass](#).
- 1856 [Flaubert's Madame Bovary](#).
- 1857 Supreme Court, in [Dred Scott](#) decision, rules that a slave is not a citizen. Financial crisis in Europe and U.S. Great Mutiny ([Sepoy Rebellion](#)) begins in India. India placed under crown rule as a result.
- 1858 Pro-slavery constitution rejected in Kansas. [Abraham Lincoln](#) makes strong antislavery speech in Springfield, Ill.: "This Government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." Lincoln-Douglas debates. First trans-Atlantic telegraph cable completed by [Cyrus W. Field](#).
- 1859 [John Brown](#) raids Harpers Ferry; is captured and hanged. Work begins on [Suez Canal](#). Unification of Italy starts under leadership of Count Cavour, Sardinian premier. Joined by France in war against Austria. Jean-Joseph-Étienne Lenoir builds first practical internal-combustion engine. Edward Fitzgerald's translation of *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. [Charles Darwin's Origin of Species](#). [J. S. Mill's On Liberty](#).
- 1860 South Carolina secedes from the Union.
- 1861 [U.S. Civil War](#) begins as attempts at compromise fail. Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas secede; with South Carolina, they form the Confederate States of America, with Jefferson Davis as president. Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina secede and join Confederacy. First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas). (For detailed chronology, see [The Civil War](#).) Congress creates Colorado, Dakota, and Nevada territories; adopts income tax; Lincoln inaugurated. Serfs emancipated in Russia. [Pasteur's](#) theory of germs. Independent Kingdom of Italy proclaimed under Sardinian king Victor Emmanuel II.
- 1862 Several major Civil War battles: Battle of Shiloh, Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas), Battle of Antietam. Salon des Refusés introduces impressionism.
- 1863 French capture Mexico City; proclaim [Archduke Maximilian](#) of Austria emperor. Battle of Gettysburg.
- 1864 Gen. Sherman's Atlanta campaign and "march to the sea."
- 1865 Gen. Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox; the Civil War is over. Lincoln fatally shot at Ford's Theater by [John Wilkes Booth](#). Vice President Johnson sworn as successor. Booth caught and dies of gunshot wounds; four conspirators are hanged. [Joseph Lister](#) begins antiseptic surgery. [Gregor Mendel's Law of Heredity](#). [Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#).
- 1866 [Alfred Nobel](#) invents dynamite (patented in Britain, 1867). [Seven Weeks' War](#): Austria defeated by Prussia and Italy.
- 1867 Austria-Hungary Dual Monarchy established. French leave Mexico; Maximilian executed. Dominion of Canada established. U.S. buys Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000. South African diamond field discovered. Japan ends 675-year shogun rule. Volume I of Marx's *Das Kapital*. [Strauss's Blue Danube](#).
- 1868 Revolution in Spain; Queen Isabella deposed, flees to France. In U.S., [Fourteenth Amendment](#) giving civil rights to blacks is ratified. Georgia under military government after legislature expels blacks.
- 1869

- First U.S. transcontinental rail route completed. [James Fisk](#) and [Jay Gould](#)'s attempt to control gold market causes Black Friday panic. [Suez Canal](#) opens. [Mendeleev](#)'s periodic table of elements.
- 1870** [Franco-Prussian War](#) (to 1871): Napoleon III capitulates at Sedan. Revolt in Paris; Third Republic proclaimed.
- 1871** France surrenders Alsace-Lorraine to Germany; war ends. German Empire proclaimed with Prussian King as [Kaiser Wilhelm I](#). Fighting with Apaches begins in American West. [Boss Tweed](#) corruption exposed in New York. The Chicago Fire, with 250 deaths and \$196-million damage. [Stanley](#) meets [Livingstone](#) in Africa.
- 1872** Congress gives amnesty to most Confederates. [Jules Verne](#)'s *Around the World in 80 Days*.
- 1873** Economic crisis in Europe. U.S. establishes [gold standard](#).
- 1875** First [Kentucky Derby](#).
- 1876** Sioux kill Gen. [George A. Custer](#) and 264 troopers at Little Big Horn River. [Alexander Graham Bell](#) patents the telephone.
- 1877** After presidential election of 1876, electoral commission gives disputed electoral college votes to Rutherford B. Hayes despite Tilden's popular majority. [Russo-Turkish war](#) (ends in 1878 with power of Turkey in Europe broken). [Reconstruction](#) ends in the American South. [Thomas Edison](#) patents phonograph. The Nez Perce leader [Chief Joseph](#) is forced to surrender. [Tchaikovsky](#)'s *Swan Lake*.
- 1878** [Congress of Berlin](#) revises Treaty of San Stefano, ending Russo-Turkish War; makes extensive redivision of southeast Europe. First commercial telephone exchange opened in New Haven, Conn.
- 1879** Thomas A. Edison invents practical electric light.
- 1880** U.S.-China treaty allows U.S. to restrict immigration of Chinese labor.
- 1881** President [Garfield](#) fatally shot by assassin; Vice President Arthur succeeds him. Charles J. Guiteau convicted and executed (1882).
- 1882** Terrorism in Ireland after land evictions. Britain invades and conquers Egypt. Germany, Austria, and Italy form [Triple Alliance](#). In U.S., Congress adopts [Chinese Exclusion Act](#). [Rockefeller](#)'s Standard Oil Trust is first industrial monopoly. In Berlin, [Robert Koch](#) announces discovery of tuberculosis germ.
- 1883** Congress creates Civil Service Commission. Brooklyn Bridge and [Metropolitan Opera](#) House completed.
- 1884** Berlin West Africa Conference held in Berlin (lasting until **Feb. 1885**), at which the major European nations discuss expansion in Africa.
- 1885** British general [Charles G. "Chinese" Gordon](#) killed at Khartoum in Egyptian Sudan. World's first skyscraper built in Chicago.
- 1886** Bombing at [Haymarket Square](#), Chicago, kills seven policemen and injures many others. Eight alleged anarchists accused—three imprisoned, one commits suicide, four hanged. (In 1893, Illinois governor Altgeld, critical of trial, pardons three survivors.) [Statue of Liberty](#) dedicated. [Geronimo](#), Apache Indian chief, surrenders.
- 1887** Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Sir [Arthur Conan Doyle](#)'s first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*.
- 1888** Historic March blizzard in northeast U.S.—many perish, property damage exceeds \$25 million. [George Eastman](#)'s box camera (the Kodak). J. B. Dunlop invents pneumatic tire. Jack the Ripper murders in London.

- 1889** Second (Socialist) International founded in Paris. Indian Territory in Oklahoma opened to settlement. Thousands die in Johnstown, Pa. flood. Eiffel Tower built for the Paris exposition. [Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court](#).
- 1890** Congress votes to pass [Sherman Antitrust Act](#). Sioux chief [Sitting Bull](#) arrested and killed by police on Pine Ridge reservation; two weeks later, U.S. troops kill over 200 Sioux at Battle of [Wounded Knee](#).
- 1892** Battle between steel strikers and Pinkerton guards at [Homestead](#), Pa.; union defeated after militia intervenes. Silver mine strikers in Idaho fight non-union workers; U.S. troops dispatched. [Diesel engine](#) patented.
- 1893** New Zealand becomes first country in the world to grant women the vote.
- 1894** [Sino-Japanese War](#) begins (ends in 1895 with China's defeat). In France, Capt. Alfred [Dreyfus](#) convicted on false treason charge (pardoned in [1906](#)). In U.S., [Jacob S. Coxey](#) of Ohio leads "Coxey's Army" of unemployed on Washington. [Eugene V. Debs](#) calls general strike of rail workers to support Pullman Company strikers; strike broken, Debs jailed for six months. [Edison's](#) kinetoscope given first public showing in New York City.
- 1895** X-rays discovered by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen. Auguste and Louis Lumière premiere motion pictures at a café in Paris.
- 1896** Supreme Court's [Plessy v. Ferguson](#) decision—"separate but equal" doctrine. Alfred Nobel's will establishes [prizes](#) for peace, science, and literature. [Marconi](#) receives first wireless patent in Britain. [William Jennings Bryan](#) delivers "Cross of Gold" speech at Democratic Convention in Chicago. First modern [Olympic games](#) held in Athens, Greece.
- 1897** Theodor Herzl launches Zionist movement.
- 1898** Chinese "[Boxers](#)," anti-foreign organization, established. They stage uprisings against Europeans in 1900; U.S. and other Western troops relieve Peking legations. U.S. Battleship *Maine* is sunk in Havana Harbor. [Spanish-American War](#) begins. U.S. destroys Spanish fleet near Santiago, Cuba. (For detailed chronology, see [Spanish-American War](#).) Pierre and Marie [Curie](#) discover radium and polonium.
- 1899** [Boer War](#) (or South African War): conflict between British and Boers (descendants of Dutch settlers of South Africa). Causes rooted in longstanding territorial disputes and in friction over political rights for English and other "uitlanders" following 1886 discovery of vast gold deposits in Transvaal. (British victorious as war ends in 1902.) Casualties: 5,774 British dead, about 4,000 Boers. Union of South Africa established in [1908](#) as confederation of colonies; becomes British dominion in 1910.