

1500-1599 (A.D.) World History

1501

First black slaves in America brought to Spanish colony of Santo Domingo.

c. 1503

[Leonardo da Vinci](#) paints the *Mona Lisa*. Michelangelo sculpts the *David* (1504).

1506

St. Peter's Church started in Rome; designed and decorated by such artists and architects as Bramante, Michelangelo, da Vinci, Raphael, and Bernini before its completion in 1626.

1509

[Henry VIII](#) ascends English throne. Michelangelo paints the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

1513

Balboa becomes the first European to encounter the Pacific Ocean. Machiavelli writes *The Prince*.

1517

Turks conquer Egypt, control Arabia. [Martin Luther](#) posts his 95 theses denouncing church abuses on church door in Wittenberg—start of the [Reformation](#) in Germany.

1519

Ulrich Zwingli begins Reformation in Switzerland. Hernando Cortes conquers Mexico for Spain. Charles I of Spain is chosen Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan sets out to circumnavigate the globe.

1520

Luther excommunicated by Pope Leo X. [Suleiman I](#) ("the Magnificent") becomes Sultan of Turkey, invades Hungary (1521), Rhodes (1522), attacks Austria (1529), annexes Hungary (1541), Tripoli (1551), makes peace with Persia (1553), destroys Spanish fleet (1560), dies (1566). Magellan reaches the Pacific, is killed by Philippine natives (1521). One of his ships under Juan Sebastián del Cano continues around the world, reaches Spain (1522).

1524

Verrazano, sailing under the French flag, explores the New England coast and New York Bay.

1527

Troops of the Holy Roman Empire attack Rome, imprison Pope Clement VII—the end of the Italian Renaissance. Castiglione writes *The Courtier*. The Medici family expelled from Florence.

1532

Pizarro marches from Panama to Peru, kills the Inca chieftain, Atahualpa, of Peru (1533). Machiavelli's *The Prince* published posthumously.

1535

Reformation begins as Henry VIII makes himself head of English Church after being excommunicated by Pope. [Sir Thomas More](#) executed as traitor for refusal to acknowledge king's religious authority. Jacques Cartier sails up the St. Lawrence River, basis of French claims to Canada.

1536

Henry VIII executes second wife, Anne Boleyn. John Calvin establishes Reformed and Presbyterian form of Protestantism in Switzerland, writes *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Danish and Norwegian Reformations. Michelangelo's *Last Judgment*.

1541

John Knox leads Reformation in Scotland, establishes Presbyterian church there (1560).

1543

Publication of *On the Revolution of Heavenly Bodies* by Polish scholar Nicolaus Copernicus—giving his theory that the earth revolves around the sun.

1545

Council of Trent to meet intermittently until 1563 to define Catholic dogma and doctrine, reiterate papal authority.

1547

[Ivan IV](#) ("the Terrible") crowned as czar of Russia, begins conquest of Astrakhan and Kazan (1552), battles nobles (boyars) for power (1564), kills his son (1580), dies, and is succeeded by his weak and feeble-minded son, Fyodor I.

1553

Roman Catholicism restored in England by Queen Mary I.

1556

Akbar the Great becomes [Mogul](#) emperor of India, conquers Afghanistan (1581), continues wars of conquest (until 1605).

- 1558** Queen [Elizabeth I](#) ascends the throne (rules to 1603). Restores Protestantism, establishes state Church of England (Anglicanism). Renaissance will reach height in England—[Shakespeare](#), Marlowe, Spenser.
- 1561** Persecution of [Huguenots](#) in France stopped by Edict of Orleans. French religious wars begin again with massacre of Huguenots at Vassy. St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre—thousands of Huguenots murdered (1572). Amnesty granted (1573). Persecution continues periodically until Edict of Nantes (1598) gives Huguenots religious freedom (until 1685).
- 1568** Protestant Netherlands revolts against Catholic Spain; independence will be acknowledged by Spain in 1648.
- 1570** Japan permits visits of foreign ships. Queen Elizabeth I excommunicated by Pope. Turks attack Cyprus and war on Venice. Turkish fleet defeated at Battle of Lepanto by Spanish and Italian fleets (1571). Peace of Constantinople (1572) ends Turkish attacks on Europe.
- 1580** Francis Drake returns to England after circumnavigating the globe; knighted by Queen Elizabeth I (1581). Montaigne's *Essays* published.
- 1582** Pope Gregory XIII implements the Gregorian [calendar](#).
- 1583** William of Orange rules the Netherlands; assassinated on orders of Philip II of Spain (1584).
- 1587** [Mary, Queen of Scots](#), executed for treason by order of Queen Elizabeth I. Monteverdi's *First Book of Madrigals*.
- 1588** Defeat of the Spanish Armada by English. Henry, King of Navarre and Protestant leader, recognized as Henry IV, first Bourbon king of France. Converts to Roman Catholicism in 1593 in attempt to end religious wars.
- 1590** Henry IV enters Paris, wars on Spain (1595), marries Marie de Medici (1600), assassinated (1610). Spenser's *The Faerie Queen*. El Greco's *St. Jerome*. Galileo's experiments with falling objects.
- 1598** Boris Godunov becomes Russian czar. Tycho Brahe describes his astronomical experiments.