

1700-1799 (A.D.) World History

1701

[War of the Spanish Succession](#) begins—the last of Louis XIV's wars for domination of the continent. The Peace of Utrecht (1714) will end the conflict and mark the rise of the British Empire. Called Queen Anne's War in America, it ends with the British taking New Foundland, Acadia, and Hudson's Bay Territory from France, and Gibraltar and Minorca from Spain.

1704

Deerfield (Mass.) Massacre of English colonists by French and Indians. [Bach](#)'s first cantata. [Jonathan Swift](#)'s *Tale of a Tub*. *Boston News Letter*—first newspaper in America.

1707

United Kingdom of Great Britain formed—England, Wales, and Scotland joined by parliamentary Act of Union.

1729

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. [Isaac Newton](#)'s *Principia* translated from Latin into English.

1732

[Benjamin Franklin](#) begins publishing *Poor Richard's Almanack*. James Oglethorpe and others found Georgia.

1735

John Peter Zenger, New York editor, acquitted of libel in New York, establishing [press freedom](#).

1740

Capt. Vitus Bering, Dane employed by Russia, discovers Alaska. Frederick II “the Great” crowned king of Prussia.

1746

British defeat Scots under Stuart Pretender Prince Charles at Culloden Moor. Last battle fought on British soil.

1751

Publication of the *Encyclopédie* begins in France, the “bible” of the [Enlightenment](#).

1755

[Samuel Johnson](#)'s *Dictionary* first published. Great earthquake in Lisbon, Portugal—over 60,000 die. U.S. postal service established.

1756

[Seven Years' War](#) (French and Indian Wars in America) (to 1763), in which Britain and Prussia defeat France, Spain, Austria, and Russia. France loses North American colonies; Spain cedes Florida to Britain in exchange for Cuba. In India, over 100 British prisoners die in “Black Hole of Calcutta.”

1757

Beginning of [British Empire](#) in India as Robert Clive, British commander, defeats Nawab of Bengal at Plassey.

1759

British capture Quebec from French. [Voltaire](#)'s *Candide*. [Haydn](#)'s *Symphony No. 1*.

1762

[Catherine II](#) (“the Great”) becomes czarina of Russia. [Jean Jacques Rousseau](#)'s *Social Contract*. [Mozart](#) tours Europe as six-year-old prodigy.

1765

James Watt invents the steam engine. Britain imposes the Stamp Act on the American colonists.

1769

Sir William Arkwright patents a spinning machine—an early step in the [Industrial Revolution](#).

1770

The Boston Massacre.

1772

[Joseph Priestley](#) and Daniel Rutherford independently discover nitrogen. Partition of Poland—in 1772, 1793, and 1795, Austria, Prussia, and Russia divide land and people of Poland, end its independence.

1773

The Boston Tea Party.

1774

First [Continental Congress](#) drafts “Declaration of Rights and Grievances.”

1775

- The [American Revolution](#) begins with battle of Lexington and Concord. Second Continental Congress. Priestley discovers hydrochloric and sulfuric acids.
- 1776 [Declaration of Independence](#). Gen. George [Washington](#) crosses the Delaware Christmas night. [Adam Smith](#)'s *Wealth of Nations*. Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. [Thomas Paine](#)'s *Common Sense*. Fragonard's *Washerwoman*. Mozart's *Haffner Serenade*.
- 1778 Capt. [James Cook](#) discovers Hawaii. Franz Mesmer uses hypnotism.
- 1781 [Immanuel Kant](#)'s *Critique of Pure Reason*. Herschel discovers Uranus.
- 1783 Revolutionary War ends with Treaty of Paris. William Blake's poems. [Beethoven](#)'s first printed works.
- 1784 Crimea annexed by Russia. [John Wesley](#)'s *Deed of Declaration*, the basic work of Methodism.
- 1785 Russians settle Aleutian Islands.
- 1787 The [Constitution of the United States](#) signed. Lavoisier's work on chemical nomenclature. Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.
- 1788 French *Parlement* presents grievances to Louis XVI who agrees to convening of Estates-General in 1789—not called since 1613. [Goethe](#)'s *Egmont*. Laplace's *Laws of the Planetary System*.
- 1789 [French Revolution](#) begins with the storming of the Bastille. (For detailed chronology, see [French Revolution \(1789–1799\)](#).) In U.S., Washington elected president with all 69 votes of the Electoral College, takes oath of office in New York City. Vice President: John Adams. Secretary of State: Thomas Jefferson. Secretary of Treasury: Alexander Hamilton.
- 1790 H.M.S. *Bounty* mutineers settle on Pitcairn Island. Aloisio Galvani experiments on electrical stimulation of the muscles. Philadelphia temporary capital of U.S. as Congress votes to establish new capital on Potomac. U.S. population about 3,929,000, including 698,000 slaves. Lavoisier formulates *Table of 31 chemical elements*.
- 1791 U.S. Bill of Rights ratified. Boswell's *Life of Johnson*.
- 1792 Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.
- 1793 [Louis XVI](#) and [Marie Antoinette](#) executed. Reign of Terror begins in France. Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin, spurring the growth of the cotton industry and helping to institutionalize slavery in the U.S. South.
- 1794 [Kosciusko](#)'s uprising in Poland quelled by the Russians. In U.S., Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania as farmers object to liquor taxes. Reign of Terror ends with execution of [Robespierre](#).
- 1796 [Napoléon Bonaparte](#), French general, defeats Austrians. In the U.S., Washington's Farewell Address (**Sept. 17**); [John Adams](#) elected president; Thomas Jefferson, vice president. Edward Jenner introduces smallpox vaccination.
- 1798 Napoleon extends French conquests to Rome and Egypt. U.S. Navy Department established.
- 1799 Rosetta Stone discovered in Egypt. Napoleon leads coup that overthrows Directory, establishes the Consulate, becomes First Consul—one of three who rule France together.