

# RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

## 1450–1750

Europe after 1450 benefited from a scientific as much as a philosophical revolution. The Renaissance was more than a matter of the rediscovery of the continent's ancient learning—it sparked a spirit of scientific inquiry that provided key technological advantages over the rest of the world. It was as much a desire for knowledge for its own sake, as for commerce and

colonization, that underpinned the voyages of exploration that established mid-18th century Europe as the world's first global power. This expansion was made in the face of formidable opposition. At least until 1700, Ming, later Qing, China; Mughal India; and Safavid Persia were Europe's equals, while Ottoman Turkey presented a persistent threat.

1450	1470	1490	1510	1530	1550	1570	1590
<p><b>1455</b> Wars of the Roses, a dynastic struggle for the English throne.</p> <p>▼ Gutenberg Bible</p> 	<p><b>1477</b> Battle of Nancy: Charles the Bold killed; Habsburgs acquire most of the Burgundian territories.</p> <p><b>1479</b> Union of Castile and Aragon (modern-day Spain) through marriage of Isabella I and Ferdinand.</p>	<p><b>1497</b> John Cabot reaches Newfoundland.</p> <p><b>1498</b> First European voyage to India around Cape of Good Hope, Vasco da Gama. Columbus first European to reach South America.</p> <p>▼ Columbus's landing</p>	 <p><b>1520</b> First Portuguese trading mission to China. Magellan discovers navigable route south, around tip of South America.</p> <p>◀ Self-portrait of Leonardo da Vinci</p>	 <p><b>1534</b> Henry VIII of England breaks with Rome. Ottoman–Safavid war; Ottoman capture of Baghdad. Jacques Cartier explores Strait of Belle Isle and St. Lawrence.</p> <p>◀ Henry VIII</p>	 <p><b>1550</b> Suleyman mosque begun in Istanbul.</p> <p><b>1552</b> Henri II of France assists the German protestants in overturning authority of Charles V in Germany.</p> <p>▶ Sultan Suleyman</p>	<p><b>1571</b> Battle of Lepanto: Ottoman expansion in Mediterranean halted. Portuguese invasion of Zambezi.</p> <p><b>1576</b> Mughal forces capture Bengal in north India.</p> <p>▼ Battle of Lepanto</p> 	 <p><b>c. 1590</b> Maori population rise causes strain on resources; warfare increases.</p> <p><b>1592</b> Japan invades Korea; Repulsed by Chinese troops and Korean navy.</p> <p>◀ <i>Mariner's Mirror</i> c. 1590</p>
<p><b>1453</b> Constantinople captured by the Ottomans; Byzantine Empire falls.</p> <p><b>c. 1454</b> Gutenberg Bible printed in Germany.</p>	<p><b>1471</b> Annamites expand south, invading Hindu state of Champa, South Vietnam. Final decline of Khmer civilization begins. Portuguese take Tangiers from Moors.</p> <p>▼ Inca army supply depot</p> 	 <p><b>1480</b> Muscovy under Ivan III escapes Tatar Mongol domination.</p> <p><b>1485</b> Battle of Bosworth: Henry VII of England defeats Richard III and establishes Tudor dynasty.</p>	<p><b>c. 1510</b> Height of Italian renaissance.</p> <p><b>1513</b> Ponce de León claims Florida for Spain.</p> <p><b>1514</b> Battle of Caldiran: Ottomans defeat Safavid Persians.</p>	 <p>▲ Gold Inca amulets</p> <p><b>1536</b> Wales and England formally united under Act of Union. Henry VIII begins dissolution of monasteries in England; crushes Catholic rebellion.</p>	<p><b>1555</b> Charles V concedes "Accord of Augsburg," giving German princes freedom to select protestant or Catholic religion.</p> <p><b>1556</b> Mughal Emperor Akbar begins personal rule.</p>	 <p><b>c. 1570</b> Flemish cartographer Mercator presents new world-map projection.</p> <p><b>1570</b> Portugal founds colony in Angola; starts slave trading.</p> <p>▼ Mercator map</p>	 <p><b>1593</b> Beginning of "Long Turkish War" between Habsburgs and Ottomans.</p> <p><b>1595</b> Henri IV seeks to unite religious divisions in France by declaring war on Spain.</p> <p>◀ Maori eel trap</p>
<p><b>1467</b> Onin War in Japan begins marking start of century-long "Era of Warring States."</p>	<p><b>1472</b> Marriage of Ivan III of Russia to Zoe, niece of Byzantine emperor; Ivan takes title of czar.</p> <p><b>1475</b> Chimú conquered by Incas; greatest imperial expansion begins.</p> <p>▶ Isabella I</p> 	 <p><b>1492</b> Christian reconquest of Spain completed as Muslim Granada falls to Spain. Christopher Columbus makes first Atlantic crossing and lands in Caribbean Islands off the coast of the Americas.</p>	<p><b>1502</b> First shipment of African slaves sent to Cuba to work in Spanish settlements, beginning triangular slave trade between Europe, West Africa, and Americas.</p> <p><b>1516</b> Ottomans under Selim II conquer Syria, Egypt, Hejaz, and Yemen.</p> <p><b>1517</b> Martin Luther writes the <i>95 Theses</i>, triggering the Reformation.</p> <p>▶ Ferdinand Magellan</p> 	<p><b>1532</b> Francisco Pizarro lands in Peru and encounters, captures, and kills Inca emperor Atahuallpa.</p> <p><b>1533</b> Pizarro conquers Inca capital, Cuzco.</p> <p>▼ Silver censer</p> 	<p><b>1545</b> Council of Trent called to counter threat of Protestantism. Silver discovered at Potosí, Bolivia.</p> <p><b>1547</b> Battle of Mühlberg: Protestant League of Schmalkalden defeated by Emperor Charles V.</p>	 <p>▲ Elizabeth I</p> <p><b>1565</b> Beginning of Ivan IV's "reign of terror" in Russia. Spain claims Philippines. South American Indian population decimated by European diseases.</p>	 <p><b>1590</b> Peace treaty negotiated between Safavid Persia and Ottomans. Toyotomi Hideyoshi achieves unification of Japan: capital moved to Edo (modern Tokyo).</p> <p>▼ Japanese tea ceremony</p>
<p>◀ Printing press</p>  <p><b>1468</b> Songhay recapture Timbuktu from the Tuaregs and become leading power in West Africa.</p>	 <p><b>1494</b> Treaty of Tordesillas: the New World divided between Spain and Portugal. Italian wars begin with Charles VIII's invasion of Italy to lay claim to Naples.</p> <p>▶ Seville port</p>	 <p><b>1529</b> Vienna besieged by Ottomans. Peace of Cambrai relinquishes France's rights in Italy, Flanders, and Artois. Charles V renounces claims to Burgundy.</p> <p>◀ Martin Luther</p> 	<p><b>1558</b> Elizabeth I becomes Queen of England. Akbar conquers region of Gwalior in central India. England loses Calais, last French possession.</p> <p>▶ Smallpox in Americas</p> 	<p><b>1586</b> Japan begins reunification.</p> <p><b>1588</b> Accession of Shah Abbas to throne of Safavid Persia rolls back Ottoman territorial gains. Spanish Armada fails to conquer England.</p> 			