

# TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY

## Date 1492:

**Event:** Columbus discovery of America began the exploration, settlement, and development (exploitation) of the New World.

**Other Events:** Machiavelli's *Prince* – The works of Michelangelo – The Commercial Revolution

## Date 1517:

**Event:** Luther's Ninety-Five Theses marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

**Other Events:** The discoveries of Copernicus – The Council of Trent – Economic decline of Germany and Italian City States

## Date 1588:

**Event:** England's defeat of the Spanish Armada led to the rise of Britain and the decline of Spain.

**Other Events:** The rise of the Dutch East India Companies – the works of Shakespeare, Cervantes, Galileo, and Kepler – The Rise of Baroque art

## Date 1648:

**Event:** The **Treaty of Westphalia** ending the **Thirty Years' War** brought widespread economic ruin and gave Calvinist as well as Catholic and Lutheran rulers in Germany the right to determine the religion of their people (**Cuius Regio, Eius Religio**).

**Other Events:** **European colonialism** and the works of Newton, Descartes, Milton, Moliere, and Racine.

## Date 1688:

**Event:** Britain's **Glorious Revolution** ended divine right to rule and reaffirmed the supremacy of Parliament.

**Other Events:** The **Enclosure Movement**; the **Westernization of Russia**; and the Works of Bach

## Date 1740:

**Event:** **Frederick the Great** and **Catherine the Great** assumed the throne of Prussia and Russia, respectively, the **balance of power in the German states shifted from Austria to Prussia**.

**Other Events:** The **Enlightenment – Rococo** – the works of Mozart – **The Industrial Revolution**

## **Date 1776:**

**Event:** The American Declaration of Independence marked the first time a people declared their intention to establish a government based on equality.

**Other Events:** **Smith's Wealth of Nations** – the works of Beethoven, Goethe, and Schiller.

## **Date 1789:**

**Event:** As a result of the French Revolution, the New Order set in motion a continuing struggle between the proponents and opponents of “Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.”

**Other Events:** Railroads; the spread of the Industrial Revolution from Britain to the Continent; the legal codes of Napoleon, the U.S. Constitution, and Romanticism.

## **Date 1815:**

**Event:** Congress of Vienna attempts to restore the conservative Old Order which was doomed to fail.

**Other Events:** Humanitarianism – the factory system – Reform Bill of 1832 in Britain.

## **Date 1848:**

**Event:** Failure of liberals to establish national states led a variety of politicians to grasp nationalism.

**Other Events:** Works of Darwin, Marx, and the realists in art.

## **Date 1870:**

**Event:** The unification of Germany ended a period of nation building in Italy and Germany.

**Other Events:** Impressionism – Imperialism – Urbanization – Socialism

## **Date 1918:**

**Event:** The end of WWI marked the full acceptance of government resting on the consent of the governed.

**Other Events:** The development of skyscrapers – Cubism – mass production – Freudian psychology

## **Date 1929:**

**Event:** The Stock Market Crash of 1929 ushered in the Great Depression and led to the end of laissez-faire economics

**Other Events:** The Welfare State – the jet engine – talking movies

## **Date 1945:**

**Event:** The end of WWII led quickly to the Cold War.

**Other Events:** Decolonization and the end of Imperialism – Korean War – the Atomic Age – era of mass communication

## **Date 1989:**

**Event:** The year brought the end of the Berlin Wall and the dismantling of the totalitarian Communist world.

**Other Events:** German unification – inroads of capitalism in Communist countries – the Computer Age – and the internet