

Period Two Timeline (c. 1648 - c. 1815)

The timeline provides a reference of key events from this time period. Some of the events included fit into this time period, but will also be discussed in other units laid out by the College Board.¹ As you prepare for the exam, do not obsess over memorizing every date. Instead, use the time period as a review of key events and works to create a point of reference to study for questions from this time period.

Year(s)	Event	Notes
1610	Assassination of Henry IV	
1610	Galileo begins astronomical observations with his telescope	
1613	Galileo publishes <i>Letters on Sunspots</i>	
1616	William Harvey announces his discovery of the circulatory system	
1618	Johannes Kepler reveals his third and final law of planetary motion	
1618	Beginning of the Thirty Years' War	
1620	Battle of White Mountain	
1620	Founding of Plymouth Colony	
1620	Francis Bacon published <i>Novum Organum</i>	
1624	Cardinal Richelieu becomes Louis XIII's chief minister	
1625	Charles I becomes king upon death of James I	
1628	Petition of Right	
1628	Murder of Duke of Buckingham	
1629	Edict of Restitution	
1632	Personal Rule of Charles I begins and will last 11 years	
1632	Gustavus Adolphus dies at the Battle of Lutzen	
1632	Galileo's <i>Dialogue on the Two Chief Systems of the World</i>	
1633	Trial of Galileo	
1633	Murder of Albrecht von Wallenstein	
1633	France enters the Thirty Years' War	
1637	Charles introduces the Book of Common Prayer in Scotland	

¹ *The Princeton Review: Cracking the AP European History Exam*, 2021. (2020). New York: Penguin Random House.

- 1637 René Descartes published *Discourse on Method*
- 1640 Beginning of reign of Frederick William (Great Elector)
- 1640 Charles forces to summon Parliament to deal with Scottish revolt
- 1641 Rebellion in Ireland
- 1642 Execution of Archbishop Laud
- 1648 Peace of Westphalia
- 1649 Beginning of the Fronde
- 1649 Execution of Charles I and establishment of English republic
- 1653 Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector
- 1659 Death of Cromwell
- 1660 Restoration of Charles II
- 1661 Death of Cardinal Mazarin; Louis XIV becomes his own chief minister
- 1662 Royal Society established by Charles II
- 1664 Chartering of the French East India Company
- 1669 Louis XIV begins construction of the Palace of Versailles
- 1669 posthumous publication of Pascal's *Penées*
- 1682 Beginning of the reign of Peter the Great
- 1682 Rembrandt paints *The Night Watch*
- 1685 Revocation of the Edict of Nantes
- 1685 James II, a Catholic, becomes King of England
- 1687 Newton publishes his *Principles*
- 1688 John Locke's *Two Treatises on Government*
- 1688 Glorious Revolution
- 1689 Act of Toleration
- 1690 John Locke's *Essay on Human Understanding*
- 1701 Prussia becomes a kingdom
- 1701 Act of Settlement passed to bypass potential Catholic kings

- 1703 Cornerstone laid for the new city of St. Petersburg
- 1707 Act of Union brings about political unification of England and Scotland
- 1713 Treaty of Utrecht marks the end of the War of Spanish Succession
- 1714 George I becomes first Hanoverian King of England
- 1721 End of the Great Northern War between Russia and Sweden
- 1721 Start of Sir Robert Walpole's tenure as a prime minister
- 1739 Hume's *Inquiry into Human Nature*
- 1740 Fredrick the Great becomes King of Prussia
- 1740 Start of the War of Austrian Succession
- 1746 Battle of Culloden
- 1748 Montesquieu's *Spirit of Laws*
- 1748 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle marks end of War of Austrian Succession
- 1751 The first volume of Diderot's *Encyclopedia* appears
- 1755 Lisbon earthquake
- 1756 Maria Theresa carries out the "Diplomatic Revolution"
- 1756 Beginning of the Seven Years' War
- 1759 Voltaire's *Candide*
- 1762 Rousseau's *The Social Contract*
- 1762 Rousseau's *Émile* is published
- 1762 Start of the reign of Catherine the Great
- 1763 Voltaire pushes for reexamination in the trial of Jean Calas
- 1763 Peace of Paris marks end of Seven Years' War
- 1764 Beccaria's *On Crime and Punishment*
- 1765 Stamp Act
- 1770 Burke writes *Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontent*
- 1770 Marriage of Louis XVI to Marie Antoinette
- 1774 Louis XVI becomes King of France

- 1774 First Continental Congress
- 1775 Fighting begins between American colonists and British
- 1776 Jefferson writes the Declaration of Independence
- 1776 First volume of Edward Gibbon's *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* is published
- 1776 Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*
- 1778 France goes to war against Britain in support of the American colonies
- 1781 Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*
- 1781 Joseph II of Austria issues Edicts of Toleration
- 1786 Calonne, finance minister to Louis XVI, informs him that the crown is bankrupt
- 1787 Assembly of Notables meets
- 1788 Abbé Siéyès writes *What is the Third Estate?*
- 1789 Estates General meets for the first time (May 5)
- 1789 Third Estate declare that they will only meet as a National Assembly (June 17)
- 1789 Tennis Court Oath (June 20)
- 1789 Storming of the Bastille (July 14)
- 1789 Lafayette selected as commander of the National Guard
- 1789 Great Fear (July-August)
- 1789 Renunciation of aristocratic privileges (August 24)
- 1789 *Declaration of the Rights of Man* is adopted by the Constituent Assembly (August 26)
- 1789 Women's march on Versailles (October 5)
- 1789 Jeremy Bentham's *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*
- 1790 Civil Constitution of the Clergy
- 1790 Edmund Burke's *Reflection on the Revolution in France*
- 1791 Constitution adopted
- 1791 Revolt breaks out in French colony of St. Domingue
- 1791 Louis XVI attempts to flee Paris (June 20)
- 1792 Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*

- 1792 France declares war on Austria (April 20)
- 1792 Mob of *sans-culottes* storms the Tuileries palace (August 10)
- 1792 September Massacres
- 1792 Battle of Valmy (September 20)
- 1792 France becomes a republic (September 21)
- 1793 Execution of Louis XVI (January 21)
- 1793 Universal conscription for the French armies begins (February 24)
- 1793 Execution of Marie Antoinette (October 16)
- 1793 Britain enters the war against France
- 1793 Counter-revolution breaks out in Vendee (March)
- 1793 Establishment of the Committee of Public Safety (April)
- 1793 Expulsion of Girondins from the Convention (June 2)
- 1793 Ratification of new republican constitution (June 24)
- 1793 *Murder of Marat* by Charlotte Corday (July 13)
- 1793 Napoleon retakes Toulon from counter-revolutionaries
- 1794 Execution of Danton (April 6)
- 1794 Festival of the Supreme Being (June 8)
- 1794 Fall of Robespierre and the Jacobins (July 27)
- 1795 Establishment of the Directory
- 1795 Napoleon puts down royalist revolt (October 5)
- 1796 Napoleon launches invasion of northern Italy
- 1798 Napoleon begins invasion of Egypt
- 1798 French fleet defeated at the Battle of the Nile (August)
- 1789 Thomas Malthus's *Essay on Population*
- 1799 Napoleon involved in coup overthrowing Directory
- 1799 Napoleon becomes First Consul
- 1800 Eli Whitney's cotton gin

- 1801 Napoleon and Pope Pius VII sign concordat
- 1802 Plebiscite establishes Napoleon as Consul for Life
- 1803 Treaty of Amiens between Britain and France
- 1803 Napoleon sells Louisiana Territory to the United States
- 1804 Napoleon crowned Emperor
- 1804 Murder of the Duke of Enghien
- 1804 Promulgation of the Civil Code
- 1805 British victory over French-Spanish fleet at Trafalgar
- 1805 Defeat of the Prussians at the Battle of Jena
- 1805 Formation of the Third Coalition
- 1805 Defeat of the Austrians and Russians at Austerlitz
- 1806 Abolition of the Holy Roman Empire
- 1807 Napoleon and Alexander I sign Treaty of Tilsit
- 1807 Continental system implemented
- 1807 Invasion of Spain by French forces
- 1807 British Parliament votes for the end of the slave trade
- 1807 First passenger train line
- 1812 Napoleon's invasion of Russia
- 1812 Occupation of Moscow (September)
- 1813 Retreat from Russia
- 1813 Battle of Leipzig (October)
- 1814 Napoleon forced to abdicate and the reign of Louis XVIII begins
- 1814 Congress of Vienna convenes (September)
- 1815 Napoleon escapes from Elba (March 15)
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo marks end of the Hundred Days (June 18)
- 1815 Napoleon sent into exile on St. Helena
- 1821 Death of Napoleon