

Name _____

Test: Major Dates in Western History

(Fill in the blanks with the century – expressed as “hundreds” – in which the event took place)

- _____ Roman Emperor Justinian attempts to strengthen Roman civilization in the East
- _____ The Height of the Renaissance: Commercial families and princely/kingly families in Italy and Northern Europe come to a prominence rivaling the Christian Pope and Christian Emperor
- _____ Black Death and Pope’s “Babylonian Captivity” undermining Christianity’s moral/political hold – and help end the “Middle Ages”
- _____ Normans (Vikings) are Christianized and brought into political-military service for the West
- _____ Luther and Calvin develop Protestantism as a separate Christian branch
- _____ Napoleon and France are defeated and attempts are made to restore the aristocratic “Old Order”
- _____ Democratic impulses collapse France into a chaotic, bloody “Revolution”
- _____ Alexander the Great conquers from the Nile to the Indus and Hellenistic culture is thus born
- _____ England torn by Civil War between Royalists and Puritans
- _____ Golden Age of Greece / the “Age of Pericles” in Athens / Height of Hellenic (Greek) culture
- _____ Muslim Arabs drive Crusaders out of the Middle East at the end of the century but allow new commercial + intellectual relations to continue
- _____ Charlemagne crowned Emperor by Pope in Rome (hope for revived Rome)
- _____ Christian Crusaders invade the Muslim East to “liberate” the Holy Lands
- _____ A fierce conflict between Yankee and Southern nationalisms erupts in America
- _____ Very Catholic Hapsburg Spain (Charles V and Philip I) rules supreme in Europe based on plundered wealth from Mexico + Peru
- _____ German tribes (Visigoths, Vandals, etc.) sweep through a collapsing Roman West
- _____ Roman Emperor Constantine accepts Christianity, ending persecution of Christians
- _____ Karl Marx demonstrates “scientifically” that a workers’ revolution would inevitably bring about a state-less, property-less society – *Communist Manifesto* and *Capital*
- _____ French *philosophes* (Voltaire, Diderot, Condorcet, etc.) call for a rule in France of Human Reason – or Human Instinct, untainted by traditional social conventions (Rousseau)
- _____ Rome reaches the height of her power under Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus, Marcus Aurelius
- _____ Muhammad’s Arabs conquer huge portions of Eastern (Byzantine) Rome (+ Persia)
- _____ Rome burned by the Gauls, recovers, and begins its gradual expansion in northern Italy

- _____ The settling of English America: Puritans to New England, aristocratic “wannabes” to Virginia, other religious refugees to the Middle Colonies
- _____ England (Henry VIII and Elizabeth I) and France (Francis I) on the rise politically
- _____ Cavour, Mazzini and Garibaldi birth the nation-state of Italy
- _____ Theodosius makes Christianity the only authorized religion for Rome
- _____ Beginning of Age of Exploration – in the quest of a direct route to the wealth of East Asia
- _____ The Age of northern (Gothic) cathedrals and cathedral schools (future universities)
- _____ Socrates
- _____ France comes under “Absolutist” King Louis XIV, bringing French culture to a position of dominance in Europe
- _____ Rome is supreme in the Mediterranean: Carthage destroyed / Greece defeated
- _____ The Thirty Years War between Protestants + Catholics exhausts Europe spiritually
- _____ Victoria becomes queen – and symbol of mighty Victorian England
- _____ Hegel lays out the case for all history evolving through the work of a “World Spirit”
- _____ Julius Caesar + Roman army lay the foundations for the military-run Roman Empire
- _____ The Absolutist hold of the French monarchy slips as royal wealth dries up
- _____ Viking raids are beginning to be a regular feature of life in Europe – throwing it back into very dark times
- _____ The nation-state of Germany is founded by Bismarck
- _____ The division of Charlemagne's lands among his warring grandsons
- _____ Saxon England conquered by French Normans at Hastings
- _____ Louis Napoleon creates the 2nd French Empire – and brings Paris to splendor
- _____ Christian Popes and Christian Emperors compete for control of Christian Europe
- _____ Rome in a state of material and moral decline; 25 emperors made and unmade in 50 years
- _____ Rise of Greek philosophy in Ionia + Southern Italy / Jewish culture in the East
- _____ Augustus Caesar builds up Imperial Rome
- _____ Solon reforms Athens' constitution along democratic lines
- _____ Spain lost to Islam