

Please note well: The following timeline is *illustrative and suggestive*. Check all dates and definitions before using them in other courses! Note also that not all historians agree on the labels and dates as presented here. Discover the biases of your teachers **before** insulting them.

BC = "Before Christ"

a.k.a. "Before Common Era" (BCE)

1800 BC	Development of alphabet allows growth in abstraction & literacy.	
1700	The patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob (a.k.a. Israel)	Fight for monotheism
1290-1200	Moses, Passover, Exodus from Egypt, conquest of Promised Land, Yhwhism	
1200-1000	Judges , animal sacrifice, early psalter. Alphabet reaches the form we know today.	
1010-970	David displaces Saul as King of Israel. -- Messiah (Hebrew) = Christ (Greek) = The Anointed One --> always think "King" . . . -- Oriental potentate with his harem. Chooses Jerusalem as his capital. His son, Solomon (son of Bathsheba), builds the first Temple .	
922	Northern Kingdom (Israel; 10 tribes) divides from Judah (Southern Kingdom; 2 tribes) .	
722	Northern Kingdom destroyed by the Assyrians (Syrians); "Israel" eventually becomes a religious title, while "Judah" becomes an ethnic title (hence, " Jews "-- <i>the Jews are all that is left of the Israelites</i>).	
700	Deuteronomic tradition well-established in this century. Rise of prophets criticizing hollow observance of law and infidelity to God.	
586	Babylonian Captivity -- destruction of First Temple; loss of Kingship: <i>no more Messiahs!</i>	
515	Restoration of the Temple. 515 BC--70 AD = "Second Temple Judaism"	Monotheism wins

CLASSICAL PERIOD -- 6th BC to 5th AD

Greece (**Hellenism**) -- began to hit its stride in 6th century BC
 Socrates (470-399)
 Plato (427-347)
 Aristotle (384-322)
 Alexander the Great (356-323)

Roman Empire -- rose to power in about 3rd century BC

AD = "Anno Domini," "Year of the Lord"

a.k.a. "Common Era" (CE)

4 BC - 29 AD	historical life of Jesus (traditional dates). • Apostolic era: ends with death of last apostle.	
66-70	Jews revolt against Rome ; Temple & nation destroyed • Patristic Era: 1st to 6th or 7th Trinity: three persons in one God Incarnation: one person in two natures	Jesus is Lord
381	Christianity made the official religion of the Roman Empire.	Jesus is divine and human <i>Roman style in West</i> <i>Byzantine in the East</i>

DARK AGES -- from fall of Rome in CE 476 until around 1000

525	Dionysius Exiguus (aka "Denny the Dwarf") invented BC/AD system; equated 1 AD with 754 AUC (" Ab Urbe Condita "--from the founding of Rome).
571-632	Muhammed , "Seal of the Prophets"
622	Hegira: flight from Mecca to Medina; by his death in 632, Muhammed ruled most of Arabia
733	Muslims repelled at Battle of Tours--their empire extends from Spain to India.

MIDDLE AGES -- 11th to 14th

	• Scholasticism	Faith and reason work together
1054	• Schism between Eastern Orthodox churches and the Roman Catholic Church.	<i>Romanesque</i>
1095-1291	Series of crusades (Christian holy wars) against Muslims. Muslims call their holy war a "jihad."	<i>Gothic: 12th-16th</i>
1348	Black Death reaches Europe. Killed 50% in two years, 75% over 20 years!	
1492	Moors (Spanish Muslims) driven out of Spain by our good friends, Ferdinand and Isabella	

RENAISSANCE -- 14th to 16th

Back to the long-lost Golden Age

1453	Turks conquer Constantinople; later renamed Istanbul. • " Reformation "--October 31, 1517. Birth of Protestantism .
1529	Suleiman the Magnificent besieges Vienna.
1683	Second Siege of Vienna by Muslims; John Sobieski rode to the rescue.

Baroque: 17th

ENLIGHTENMENT -- 17th to 18th (Deism; "**critical reason**")

Science promises a Golden Future

Age of Revolutions -- 1776 - 1917: American Revolution to Russian Revolution; Industrial Revolution; final overthrow of royal system.
Rococo, then Neo-Classical
Romanticism vs. Classicism
Impressionism, Abstract art, Cubism

Modernity -- World War I - 1960s or so. Some other name will be invented eventually.
Art Deco; Streamline/Futuristic

1939-45	The Holocaust: 6 million Jews (and many millions of other races) slaughtered by Hitler.
1947-8	Modern state of Israel founded. Palestinians flee during 1948 war (launched by Arab nations). In the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel occupies "the West Bank" and Old Jerusalem. No happy campers anywhere in Middle East ever since.

Post-Modernity -- late 20th ("**post-critical reason**")

Turn to the subject: feelings vs. faith

Postmodern architecture

1991	The United States goes to war with Babylon (Iraq).
2000	Jesus didn't return in glory! (Next up: Anniversary of Death-Res-Ascension ... 2029 - 2033)
2001	The longstanding war with Islam comes to North America.
2007	The United States continues its war on Babylon.

Page references are to Rodney Stark, *For the Glory of God: How Monotheism Led to Reformations, Science, Witch-Hunts, and the End of Slavery* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003).

Dark Ages

- The term was **coined in 1859** by Henry Thomas Buckle to discredit Catholicism (Stark, 133-34).
- The capital of the Roman Empire--**Constantinople!**--did not fall to the barbarians.
- **Civilization changed**, but did not disappear overnight. Greek ceased to be the dominant language in the Western part of the Empire; Latin took its place as the main language used by educated people.
- Monks and nuns preserved the manuscripts that fueled the Renaissance.
- **Christian faith was not the cause of the deterioration in society**; the cause of the change was the success of the early French and German cultures in gaining military, political, and cultural independence from Italy and Greece.
- **Europeans--that is, CATHOLICS!--rejected slavery during this period.**
- **Technology developed at a rapid pace**: saddles, stirrups, armor, canon, clocks, horse collars, agricultural techniques, horse shoes, water wheels, mills, camshafts, compasses, maps, shipbuilding, metal-working, navigation. Because the people developing the technology were either not literate or not interested in writing about their inventiveness, the immense creativity of the time was invisible to historians who worked from manuscripts. There was no copyright or patent law to motivate keeping records of who invented something first. Inventions spread rapidly from one monastery to another.
- Canon law (church law) preserved and developed **Roman law**.

Middle Ages

- Invention of **universities**.
- Dedication to the **union of faith and reason**--both are gifts from God. The **scholastics** (academics) employed "precise definition and meticulous reasoning" (135).
- The universality of Latin allowed scholars to build an international community of learning.
- **"The blossoming of science was the result of centuries of normal intellectual progress"** (135). The scholastics made a "commitment to **empiricism**" (146; to *observation*, not to the empiricist philosophy).
- The scholars who translated Greek philosophy into Latin laid the groundwork for the Renaissance. "The 'rediscovery' was accomplished by exceedingly pious Christian scholars in their newly created universities" (142).
- **The scholastics did not mindlessly follow Plato or Aristotle**. They supplemented and corrected them as best they could: "medieval scholars were willing and able to dispute them!" (156).
- Scholastics laid the groundwork for modern medicine by dissecting human bodies.
- The medieval view that the earth was the "center" of the universe meant that it was in the **last, least, and lowest place**, furthest away from the "perfect" heavens that danced above the orbit of the moon (CSL, *The Discarded Image*). This is the **exact opposite** of the modern idea that *to be at the center is to be in the best place*. The medievals were **not anthropocentric** in the modern sense of the word.

Renaissance

- The recovery and imitation of Greco-Roman forms of art, architecture, poetry, literature, rhetoric, and political theory **was not entirely helpful to the development of science**. The Greeks had hit a dead-end in their assertions about the nature of the physical world. Platonic assumptions about "perfect shapes" blocked the development of astronomy--the planets do not move in perfect circles, but imperfect ellipses. **"Greek learning was a barrier to the rise of science!** It did not lead to science among the Greeks or the Romans, and it stifled intellectual progress in Islam" (154). *Some Muslims did make stunning contributions to the development of mathematics*--algebra, the Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4 ...), and the concept of zero, which vastly improved arithmetic operations.
- The exaltation of classical achievements made the people of the Renaissance blind to real developments that had taken place in the "Dark Ages."
- **Greece and Rome had both been slave societies**; the people of the Renaissance overlooked that flaw in their heroes. The Renaissance exalted the life of the rich, the famous, and the powerful upper class.

Enlightenment

- **"Scientific Revolution" was coined "to discredit the medieval Church"** (134).
- The *philosophy* and rhetoric of science as the "light enlightening all the world" was done primarily by people who were not themselves scientists.
- Although **science is based on scio, scire, the Latin word for "knowledge"** and scientists see themselves as **"knowers,"** the upheavals caused by Einstein's theory of relativity, Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, quantum-electrodynamics theory, and ecological disasters caused by technology have caused people to **doubt whether science itself is trustworthy**. This is the **post-modern or post-critical crisis** that we find ourselves in today. *Why should we trust scientists to lead us when any day another scientist may doubt today's theories and propose new theories to take their place?*

Secular vs. Church History

Approximate date	Secular History	Church history
~1800 -- 1300 BC	Ancient World Hieroglyphics in Egypt Cuneiform writing in Sumeria Semitic alphabet: growth of literacy Development of Greek and Latin alphabets (equipped with vowels)	Abraham: the original covenant ("Old Testament") Patriarchs
1290 -- 1200 BC		Moses: Torah, Exodus
1200--1100 BC		Judges: conquest of Canaan
1010 BC -- 586 BC		Kings
6th BC -- 5th AD	Classical Era: Greco-Roman civilization <i>Hellenism: Greek language and culture</i> Alexander the Great conquered "the whole world." The Romans then conquered the Greek empire. Greek language and culture dominated the Empire despite Roman rule.	6th to 1st BC: 2nd Temple Judaism conclusion of OT canon Deuteronomic reform Jesus: the new covenant 29 AD to last apostle: Apostolic era Patristic era begins
5th -- 10th AD	Dark Ages (early Middle Ages) <i>Vernacular languages develop: orally first, then taking written form</i>	Patristic era --> scholasticism <i>Romanesque</i>
11th -- 13th AD	Middle Ages (high Middle Ages) <i>Union of faith and reason in a coherent vision. Foundation of university system.</i>	Scholasticism <i>Gothic cathedrals</i>
14th -- 16th AD	Renaissance: "re-birth" of Greco-Roman civilization courtly romances --> the novel imitation of Greco-Roman statuary & paintings mastery of perspective in drawing & painting birth of modern science invention of printing press	"Reformation" (Protestantism) Foundation of the Society of Jesus Trent (<i>Tridentine reforms</i>)
17th -- 19th	Enlightenment Romanticism vs. Classicism Impressionism	<i>Baroque, Rococo</i>
20th	Modernity and Post-Modernity Abstract art, Cubism, Art Deco	<i>Aggiornamento</i> (updating) Vatican II
21st	What shall we call this age? (What will our descendants call it?)	Where do we go from here?