

European History
Version 1.2

SCOP European History

England

Name	Years	Events
Alfred the Great	Ruled 871-899	Defeated the Danes; encouraged the recording of literature in English (instead of Latin)
William I “The Conqueror” of Normandy	Ruled 1066-1087	Captured the crown of England after defeating Harold II at the Battle of Hastings; brought French culture (chivalry and courtly love) and language influence to England
Richard I “Coeur de Lion” Plantagenet	Ruled 1189-1199	Led forces in the Crusades
John Plantagenet	Ruled 1199-1216	Signed Magna Carta in 1215
Lancasters and Yorks	Ruled 1399-1485 during the Wars of the Roses	Included Edwards IV-V, Henrys IV-VI, and Richards I-III; competed for the throne of England, with each house citing ties to the Plantagenets as reason for their rule; Henry V won the Battle of Agincourt in 1415; Richard III finally fell at the Battle of Bosworth Field, after which the Tudors took over under Henry VII
Henry VIII Tudor	Ruled 1509-1547	Broke with the Catholic church to form the Church of England so he could divorce Catherine of Aragon, the first of his six wives
Elizabeth I Tudor	Ruled 1558-1603	Ruled during the British Renaissance (Shakespeare) and the sinking of the Spanish Armada; daughter of Henry VIII by Anne Boleyn, his second wife
Sir Francis Drake	Lived 1540-1596	Second in command of the sinking of the Spanish Armada in 1588
Oliver Cromwell	Ruled 1649-1658 as Lord Protector of the British Commonwealth	Led the New Model Army during the English Civil War (1642-1651); composed the Instrument of Government, a constitution; Rump Parliament; defeated Charles I, later replaced by Charles II, both of the House of Stuart
Charles II Stuart	Ruled 1660-1685	Ruled during the English Restoration
George III Hanover	Ruled 1760-1820	Presided over American Revolution; suffered bouts of insanity
Victoria Hanover	Ruled 1837-1910	Longest reign in English history; married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the ancestor of the Windsors, England’s current rulers
Benjamin Disraeli	Prime Minister 1868, 1874-1880	Conservative leader, rival of Gladstone, friend of Victoria
William Gladstone	Prime Minister, four stints in late 19 th century	Liberal leader; rival of Disraeli
David Lloyd George	Prime Minister 1916-1922	Member, Big Four at Versailles Peace Conference
Margaret Thatcher	Prime Minister 1979-1990	First female British PM and leader of Conservative Party

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Rome

Julius Caesar	100-44 BCE	Fought the Gallic Wars, wrote a notable <i>Commentaries</i> on the experience; crossed the Rubicon River to fight civil war against Pompey; was named Dictator of Rome; part of first Triumvirate with Crassus and Pompey; assassinated on 15 March 44 BCE by members of the Senate; assassination led to war between Antony and Augustus
Marc Antony	83-30 BCE	Friend/ally of Julius Caesar; allied with Augustus and Marcus Lepidus in the Second Triumvirate; defeated at Battle of Actium by Augustus
Augustus (Octavian)	63 BCE – 14 CE	First Roman emperor; defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra to claim the throne; established Pax Romana
Caligula	12 BCE – 41 CE	Insane: appointed his horse to the Senate
Claudius	10 BCE – 54 CE	Conquered Britain
Nero	37 – 68 CE	Supposedly fiddled during the 64 CE Great Fire of Rome; suicide ended the Julio-Claudian dynasty, leading to the Year of the Four Emperors, 69 CE
Galba, Otho, Vitellius		The 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd of the Four Emperors of 69 CE
Vespasian	9 – 79 CE	Last ruler of the Year of Four Emperors, founding the Flavian dynasty; began constructing Colosseum
Trajan	53 – 117	Constructed landmarks such as Trajan’s Column
Hadrian	76 – 138	Constructed Hadrian’s Wall, the northern border of Roman territory in Britain; built Pantheon
Marcus Aurelius	121 – 180	Stoic philosopher, wrote <i>Meditations</i>
Diocletian	244 – 311	Persecuted Christians
Constantine	272 – 337	Issued 313 Edict of Milan, ending religious persecution; first Christian emperor of Rome

Ancient Greece

Lycurgus	c. 700s BCE	Legendary Spartan leader
Draco	c. 600s BCE	Harsh law code, calling for the death penalty for many crimes
Solon	638-558 BCE	Athenian democratic reformer; revolutionized the Assembly
Cleisthenes	c. 500s BCE	Athenian democratic reformer, gained power in 508-7 BCE; instituted ostracism (temporary exile from Athens)
Pericles	495-429 BCE	Led Athens during its “Golden Age,” prior to the Second Peloponnesian War (during which he died of a plague)
Hannibal	247-182 BCE	Led Carthage during the Second Punic War; defeated Rome at Cannae; was defeated by Scipio at Zama

Russia

Ivan IV (the Terrible)	Ruled 1533-1584	First Tsar of Russia; protected by <i>oprichniks</i> , secret guards
Boris Godunov	Ruled 1598-1605	Elected Tsar following turmoil after Ivan IV’s death, leading to the Time of Troubles
Peter the Great	Ruled 1682-1696	Modernized/Westernized/Imperialized Russia; fought the Great Northern War against Charles XII of Sweden
Catherine the Great	Ruled 1762-1796	Patron of the arts, education; created Hermitage museum
Alexander I	Ruled 1801-1825	Ruled during Napoleonic Wars
Nicholas I	Ruled 1825-1855	Faced Decembrist revolt after taking power; fought the Crimean War against Europe
Nicholas II	Ruled 1894-1917 (end of Russian Empire)	Last Tsar of Russia; Lost Russo-Japanese War; committed pogroms against Jews; employed the mad monk Rasputin Led during WWI, before abdication and assassination

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Soviet Union

Vladimir Lenin	In office 1917-1924	First leader of USSR; led the Bolsheviks
Leon Trotsky	In office 1918-1925	Bolshevik; founded the Red Army; exiled by Stalin to Mexico, where he was assassinated
Joseph Stalin	In office 1922-1953	Executed the Great Purge of the Communist party; Five-Year Plan
Nikita Khrushchev	In office 1953-1964	Cuban Missile Crisis
Vyacheslav Molotov	In office 1930-1941	Namesake of non-aggression pact with Nazis, known as Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact; namesake anti-tank "cocktail" bombs
Mikhail Gorbachev	President 1990-1991	Last Soviet head of state

Assorted

Charlemagne	771-814	King of the Franks; ruled during Carolingian Renaissance; crowned Emperor of Rome on Christmas Day, 800
Eric the Red	950-1003, Norway	Explorer who discovered Greenland; father of Leif Ericson
Leif Ericson	970-1020, Norway	First European explorer to land in America; son of Eric the Red
Marco Polo	1254-1324, Venice	Explorer in Asia
Johannes Gutenberg	1400-1468, Germany	Invented the printing press using movable type, allowing for the reliable mass production of books
Joan of Arc	1412-1431, France	"Maid of Orleans;" noted military leader who protected the throne of Charles VII; claimed to hear the voice of God, and was tried as a witch because of it
Vasco da Gama	1469-1524, Portugal	Explorer who first found a sea route to India
Ponce de Leon	1474-1521, Spain	Explorer; later Governor of Puerto Rico
Martin Luther	1483-1546, Germany	Leader of the Protestant Reformation; father of Lutheranism; 95 Theses (split with Catholic church over indulgences)
John Calvin	1509-1564, France	Leader of the Protestant Reformation; his namesake Calvinism evolved into the Presbyterian church; followers were known as Huguenots
Cardinal Richelieu	1585-1642, France	Minister to Louis XIII; "The Red Eminence"
Maria Theresa	1717-1780, Austria	Subject of the Pragmatic Sanction, which enabled a woman to rule Austria (War of the Austrian Succession)
Marie Antoinette	1755-1793, France	Wife of Louis XVI of France; daughter of Maria Theresa; beheaded in French Revolution; "Let them eat cake"
Napoleon Bonaparte	Emperor 1804-1814, France	Named himself Emperor of French Empire; lived in exile on Elba
Giuseppe Garibaldi	1807-1882, Italy	Led Italian Unification movement
Napoleon III	Ruled 1848-1870, France	First president of second French Republic; later, Emperor of the French
Alfred Dreyfus	1859-1935, France	Accused of being a German spy in his namesake "Affair;" Emile Zola wrote "J'Accuse" about his imprisonment
Georges Clemenceau	1841-1929, France	Member, Big Four at Versailles Peace Conference
Vittorio Orlando	1860-1952, Italy	Member, Big Four at Versailles Peace Conference
Archduke Franz Ferdinand	1863-1914, Austria-Hungary	Assassination by Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Black Hand, sparked WWI
Lech Walesa	President 1990-1995, Poland	Leader of the Solidarity labor movement in Poland; President of post-Soviet Poland