

Teachers notes for the Premium TimeMaps Unit

Early Modern Europe

Europe 1450 to 1750 CE

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Introduction

This Premium TimeMaps unit is a sequence of maps which follows the history of Early Modern Europe from 1450 through to 1750 CE.

The unit's aim is to quickly and clearly show the main episodes in European history during these centuries. It shows the map of Europe as it was shaped by great episodes such as the rise and decline of Spain and of Sweden, and the rise of France under Louis XIV.

Teachers of AP World History, who have a huge amount of ground to cover, may not wish to spend too much time on this period. In these circumstances you can use this TimeMap to skate through Europe's early modern history, picking out points you wish to draw your students' attention to. The bullet points in the Presentation notes will help you do this.

For those who have the opportunity to go into more depth, the Additional teaching notes provide comprehensive coverage of all the thinking skills, themes and key concepts relevant to this Period 4 topic.

How to use this unit

The unit can be used in two ways:

(1) Whole-class presentation

or

(2) Student-based enquiry work

Teachers may wish to use both approaches, perhaps using (1) as a quick introduction, and then (2) for students to carry out a more in-depth enquiry using the student-based questions; or (if you feel your students can manage this) starting them off with (2), to allow them to find out for themselves what happened at this period, before using (1) as a reinforcement exercise.

How does this unit fit in with other Premium TimeMaps units?

This unit follows on from the Premium Unit **Medieval Europe II**, and is followed by the Premium Unit on the **Modern Europe**, which covers European history between 1750 to 1900.

Section 1: Whole-class presentation

Using a big screen, show the map sequence to your class, talking through each map. To help you do this, we have prepared accompanying Presentation Notes, which are set out below. You can use these either as a script or *aide-memoire*.

This activity can be used as a wrap up / reinforcement exercise, or as a stand-alone unit.

For each map, these notes mostly follow the same formula:

1. Date and introduction

The date to which the map refers, followed by a small introductory paragraph which seeks to encapsulate in a sentence or two what's going on in the map. These are in **bold**.

2. Bullet points

One or more bullet points cover different points of interest in the map, or in the period it covers.

If you are not wanting to spend much time on the topic, these bullet points will be all you need to give your students a clear overview.

3. Additional Notes

The premium map sequence offers a superb framework on which to hang a large amount of information. This more in-depth information is offered in additional notes. If the aim is to give a brief overview of the topic, then skip them.

If you wish to use these Additional Notes, we suggest that, prior to showing the Presentation to your class, you read them through and highlight sections you want to draw on.

These notes cover the vast majority of, if not all, the points referred to in the AP World History course document (these are covered in even more depth in the TimeMaps articles listed at the end of this guidance.)

Some key words or phrases are in **bold**; they are also there to help you see at a glance the key points in a paragraph.

Why not ask questions?

To keep the students engaged, you might like to pepper the presentation with questions. One that could be asked when a new map appears is, how has this map changed from the last one? (This will of course involve skipping between the two maps, which is easy to do).

Before moving on to the next map, you could ask the question, what's the most important thing happening in Europe at this date, do you think?

Presentation Notes

If using these in class it might be helpful to print these notes out.

1450

Europe is beginning its transition from Medieval to Modern Europe: the Italian Renaissance and the Age of Discovery have both begun.

- The long series of wars between England and France, called the **Hundred Years' War**, is coming to an end, with the French successfully expelling the English from their country (note 1).
- In Spain, the **Reconquista**, centuries-long struggle between Christians and Muslims is also nearing its end (note 2).
- The Portuguese are sending ships down the coast of West Africa in a systematic programme of **exploration** (note 3).
- The city-states of central and northern Italy are experiencing a revolutionary cultural movement, known to history as the **Italian Renaissance** (note 4).
- In the rest of Europe, the **Hanseatic League** in the north is at its height, the power of the **Poland-Lithuania** is growing in the east, and the **Ottoman empire** is expanding in the south (note 5).

Additional notes

1. France, England and Burgundy: the end of the Hundred Years' War

The long series of wars between England and France, called the **Hundred Years' War**, is at last coming to an end, with the French successfully expelling the English from their country.

The stresses of the wars have welded **France**, which before had been little more than a collection of semi-independent duchies owing only loose allegiance to the king, into something like a single nation. A string of victories has given the king of France greater prestige and authority than he or his predecessors have ever had before, and the **French monarchy** will build on this to create the most centralized state in Europe.

France can not rest on its laurels, however. The aggressive new state of **Burgundy** has appeared on its eastern borders. This is the product of an amalgam of marriage alliances and brute force. Burgundy's territories included **Flanders**, the richest slice of European land outside Italy. Its cities, such as Bruges and Ghent, are wealthy centers of commerce and industry.

The **English**, meanwhile, have never been more demoralized. Their returning forces will shortly be at each others' throats in a series of civil wars known to history as the "**Wars of**

the Roses". For a generation no king will be able to successfully establish an authority which the whole country (or more precisely, the whole nobility) can accept.

2. Spain - an old chapter closes

The **Reconquista** - that centuries-long struggle by the Christians against the Muslims (who had conquered most of the peninsula seven centuries before) - is nearing its end. The Christian kingdoms have confined the Muslims to just one small emirate, **Granada**, in the far south.

The Christian kingdoms are now dominated by **Castile** and **Aragon**, and to a lesser extent, **Portugal**.

Castile - "land of the castles" - occupies the arid central regions, and is home to a military aristocracy whose main purpose (in their own eyes) is war and conquest. Aragon, on the other hand, is a maritime power, with territories scattered throughout the western **Mediterranean**.

3. Portugal - a base for exploration

The many small Atlantic ports of **Portugal** are the bases for a thriving fishery. Their people venture far out into the ocean for their catches, to service the huge demand for fish in Europe.

This has given the Portuguese unparalleled experience of **ocean navigation**. It has also caused them to develop a new kind of ocean-going ship, the **caravel**, which, with its sleek lines and **lateen** sail, is much more maneuverable than previous types.

The Portuguese are now putting this development to good use. Shut out of the **Mediterranean** by Aragonese sea power, they look to the **Atlantic** for further overseas expansion. They have already established a small base on the coast of North Africa at **Ceuta**, and their ships are now probing down the coast of **West Africa** in a systematic and thorough manner, under the direction of a remarkable prince of the royal family, **Henry "the Navigator"**.

4. Italy - politically divided, culturally splendid

Italy remains divided into a multitude of states. The south - the **kingdom of Naples** - is under the rule of kings of Spanish (Aragonese) origin, and in central Italy the **Papal States** are headed by the **pope**. To their north, many **city-republics** compete, regularly at war with one another.

The Italian Renaissance

Despite their quarrels, the city-states of central and northern Italy are experiencing a revolutionary cultural movement, known to history as the **Italian Renaissance**.

This is centered on a renewed interest in the art and learning of ancient Greece and Rome; and with it has come a new attitude to knowledge. More critical than before, less accepting of received wisdom (especially that of the Church), men began to search for

evidence and **proof**; ancient authority is no longer enough. From these roots will grow the **Scientific** mindset of Europe and the West.

The most influential of these city-states are **Florence, Milan, Genoa** and **Venice**. The latter two have long maritime and commercial histories, but it is Florence which has emerged as the epicenter of the Renaissance. This is thanks largely to the inspired patronage provided by its leading family, the **Medici**.

5. Around Europe

The Holy Roman Empire - a motley collection of states

North of Italy and covering much of central Europe, is the **Holy Roman Empire**. Its ruler, the Holy Roman emperor, is the most prestigious monarch in Christendom. Theoretically, he is elected by a small council of leading princes (the **Electors**); in reality, the office is hereditary within the **Hapsburg** family.

The Holy Roman Empire is not a centralized state; it is made up of numerous states - free cities, prince-bishoprics, counties, dukedoms, even a kingdom (**Bohemia**); over time these are becoming more and more self-governing, leaving the emperor with less and less authority over them.

Religious unrest in central Europe

A large part of central Europe is ruled by the **Luxembourg** family, which, though originally from the Low Countries, has through marriage come to inherit the crowns of Hungary and Bohemia.

Bohemia, however, is in a state of unrest; it has recently been ravaged by the **Hussite** religious movement, which called for a simpler, less corrupt form of **Christianity** than was commonly practiced by the **Catholic** Church of the time. This had caused a major war (1419-34); and in its aftermath no legitimate ruler has emerged. Bohemia has therefore been ruled by a council of nobles.

Poland, Lithuania and the Baltic lands

The huge dual monarchy of **Poland-Lithuania** - two states, but under a single monarch - dominates eastern Europe. Its power has been growing, while that of its traditional enemy, the **Teutonic Knights**, has been waning.

In northern Europe, the Scandinavian countries of **Denmark, Sweden** and **Norway** have been united under one monarch in the **Union of Kalmar**. This is widely perceived as serving Denmark's interests most, and is unpopular in Denmark's rival, Sweden.

The trade of the Baltic Sea, and to a lesser extent the North Sea, is under the control of the **Hanseatic League**. This is an association of trading ports, whose merchants cooperate to protect and expand their trade. Their success is arousing the hostility of the kings and nobles of the countries surrounding these seas.

The League is now at its height, but in the coming century it will be squeezed by the rise of more centralized states in the region, such as Denmark and Sweden, and will enter a long decline (though it will not actually cease to exist until 1872).

Russia - under the Mongol yoke

To the east, the **Russian** states are under the theoretical rule of the **Golden Horde**, a survival of the former **Mongol empire**.

The heartland of the Golden Horde lies in the steppes north of Black Sea, at a considerable distance from the Russian lands; this means that real control lies with the Grand Prince of **Muscovy**, who acts as the deputy of the Khan of the Golden Horde but who is assuming more and more power of his own. In any case, the Golden Horde's power is now in decline; the **Crimean Khanate** has recently broken away from it.

Southeast Europe - an ancient empire passing, a new empire rising

In southeast Europe, the past century or so has seen the rise of the **Ottoman sultanate**, expanding outwards from its homeland in Asia Minor.

The Ottomans have progressively squeezed the ancient **Byzantine empire** until this now consists only of a few small territories. These include the historic city of **Constantinople**; but all know that its status as a great Christian capital is now under grave threat.

As well as the Byzantines, the Ottomans are pressing far up into the Balkans, on the small Christian states of **Serbia**, **Croatia**, **Moldavia** and **Transylvania**.

1500

Europe continues its transition from medieval to modern with the continuing development of the Renaissance, the coming of printing and the discovery of the Americas.

- This is the age of the **High Renaissance**, of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo (note 1).
- **Printing**, a technology new to Europe, has been aiding new ideas and knowledge from Italy and elsewhere spread around Europe (note 2).
- Portuguese **explorers** have now reached India, and **Christopher Columbus** has discovered an entirely new landmass, the Americas (note 3).
- In 1453 the **Ottoman** army captured the historic Christian city of **Constantinople**, an event traditionally seen as marking the divided between the Middle Ages and the Modern Age (note 4).
- At the other end of the Mediterranean has been formed the united kingdom of **Spain**, which will be the leading power in Europe throughout this century (note 5).
- In the rest of Europe **French** and **English** kings are consolidating their power, and the **Russian** principalities have now become united under the Grand Prince of **Muscovy**, **Ivan III** (note 6).

Additional notes

1. The High Renaissance

The **Italian Renaissance** has continued to flower. It is now in the phase known to historians as the High Renaissance, the age of **Leonardo da Vinci**, **Raphael** and **Michelangelo**. It sees **Rome** replace Florence as the cultural center of the Renaissance as a succession of **popes** beautify the city with magnificent buildings and art.

The start of the Italian Wars

Recently the monarchs of **France** and **Spain** have become embroiled in the first of a long series of wars in Italy.

They have been drawn in by conflicting claims to the throne of the south Italian **kingdom of Naples** - and at a more fundamental level, by a desire to advance their prestige. Both France and Spain see the domination of Italy as the key to becoming the leading power within Europe.

During these wars, the north Italian cities will lose their independence and their place at the forefront of European civilization.

2. Printing

One of the factors which has been aiding the spread of new ideas and knowledge around Europe is the new technology of **printing**. The German metalworker **Johannes Gutenberg** was the first to develop metal movable type printing, in Europe at any rate (some scholars think that the idea of printing had actually come to Europe from the East before Gutenberg's time).

By 1500 there were hundreds of printing presses in every European country, spreading information about **humanistic ideas** of Renaissance thinkers, **overseas discoveries** of Portuguese and Spanish explorers, and **scientific discoveries** by European astronomers and others, to educated people all over Europe.

3. The Age of Discovery

To India

The **Portuguese** have continued their voyages along the coast of **Africa** and their ships have now rounded the southern tip of Africa and have reached the coast of **India**. They have returned with their holds full of **spices**, sold at vast profit in the markets of Europe.

A new continent

Even more dramatically, the **Spanish** crown, in rivalry to the Portuguese, has sponsored the voyages of the Italian explorer **Christopher Columbus**. In 1492 he discovered a whole new **landmass**, thousands of miles to the west on the other side of the Atlantic ocean.

It will shortly come to be called "**America**".

The Treaty of Tordesillas

A Portuguese expedition has also reached **Brazil**, in **South America**. Portuguese and Spanish claims and counter-claims to overseas discoveries have led the **pope** to divide the non-European world between the Spanish and Portuguese at an arbitrary north-west line through the Americas (**The Treaty of Tordesillas**, 1494).

This gives the Spanish most of this "New World", leaving Portugal a large slice of South America and the whole of Africa and Asia.

The opening of a new trade

The Portuguese have set up trading posts on the West African coast, from where they have started sending back Black slaves to Europe: the **Atlantic Slave Trade** has started.

4. The capture of Constantinople

In 1453 the forces of the **Ottoman** sultan captured the famous Christian city of **Constantinople**.

This had been the capital of the **Byzantine empire** for more than a thousand years. Its fall to the Muslim Turks was an event that shocked the whole of Christian Europe (Christendom).

Within a few years the Ottomans had swallowed up the few remaining Byzantine territories and continued their expansion in the **Balkans**.

5. A united Spain

At the other end of the Mediterranean, the crowns of the two leading Spanish kingdoms have been united by the marriage of **Ferdinand of Aragon** with **Isabella of Castile**. This has created the united **kingdom of Spain**.

The united Spanish crown has brought to an end the centuries-long **Reconquista** with the conquest of **Granada**, the last Muslim emirate in Spain.

The Spanish monarchs have set about vigorously imposing their authority over their large kingdom. They have centralized the structure of **administration** more firmly in their own hands and brought the proud nobility under their control.

They have also imposed the harsh **Inquisition** on the newly-conquered inhabitants of the south of the country, to root out dissent against their Christian rule by the large **Muslim** and **Jewish** populations there. This is provoking a flood of **refugees** to leave the country, taking their skills with them.

6. Around Europe

France and England

In the wake of their victory over England in the Hundred Years' War, the **French** kings have been able to further stamp their authority on rebellious **nobles**, expanding royal power and strengthening the economic development of their country.

In 1477 French forces eliminated **Burgundy** as an independent state. Burgundy's former lands have been divided between the kings of France and the **Hapsburg** emperors of the **Holy Roman Empire**.

In **England**, a series of dynastic struggles known as the **Wars of Roses** lasted for more than a generation before Henry Tudor (**Henry VII**) was able to establish his family on the throne (1485).

He has followed the example of the monarchs of France and Spain by **centralizing** power in his own hands at the expense of the nobles. In England, though, there is a major difference: Henry asserts his authority with the support of **parliament**, which is only too glad to see the end of the instability which the nobility's ambitions have inflicted on the country.

Central Europe and Russia

The crowns of **Hungary** and **Bohemia** remain united, now under a branch of the **Jagiellon** dynasty (which originally ruled Lithuania).

Poland and **Lithuania** remain in union under rulers of their own branch of the Jagiellon dynasty.

This dual kingdom now has a potentially formidable new opponent to the east. The **Russian** principalities have now become united under the firm rule of the Grand Prince of **Muscovy, Ivan III**. Ivan has defeated the armies of the **Golden Horde** and thereby established Muscovy's independence. More than any other ruler, he is considered the founder of the modern Russian state.

1556

Renaissance ideas are continuing to spread and develop around Europe. They have given birth to the the Scientific Revolution, on the one hand, and the Reformation, on the other.

- **Renaissance** art and ideas are spreading around Europe, and being developed further. The publication of the Polish astronomer **Nicolaus Copernicus**' theories marks the beginning of the **Scientific Revolution** (note 1).
- In 1517 a German monk called **Martin Luther** started calling for major reform in the Catholic Church. This sparks the **Reformation**, the biggest religious upheaval Europe would ever experience (note 2).
- **Gunpowder** weapons are now playing a much more important part in European warfare - a development which reinforces the power of rulers at the expense of the nobility (note 3).
- European expeditions have charted the Atlantic coasts of the **Americas**, and the **Spanish** are conquering a **huge empire** in Central and South America (note 4).
- In the rest of Europe, the **Hapsburg** lands are divided into two, the Reformation is causing unrest and change, and the **Ottoman** empire continues to expand (note 5).

Additional notes

1. The Renaissance spreads, and gives birth to the Scientific Revolution.

The Italian Wars and the rise of Spain

The 60-year long **Italian Wars** (1494-1559) are at last drawing to their close, leaving Hapsburg **Spain** as the major power in Italy: it now controls the kingdom of **Naples** in the south, and dominates northern Italy.

The Italian Wars have included the terrible **sack of Rome** by **Charles V**'s troops in 1527 (Charles had inherited the position of Holy Roman emperor as well as king of Spain). This event shocked all Italy, and is generally considered to mark the end of the strictly Italian phase of the **Renaissance**.

These wars have brought other Europeans into direct contact with the cultural advances of the Italian Renaissance. Renaissance styles in **art, architecture** and **literature**, appear in France and Spain - and soon in Flanders, Germany and central Europe as well.

Copernicus

Probably the single most important product of this "**Northern Renaissance**" is the publication of the theory by the Polish astronomer **Nicolaus Copernicus** (1473-1543) that the Earth orbits the Sun - and is therefore not the center of the universe.

The majority of scholars at the time, as well as the **Catholic Church** (which was wedded to the ancient Greek concept of orbs swirling around the Earth), find this a radical and disturbing idea, and most are not ready to accept it.

The Scientific Revolution

The publication of Copernicus' theory in 1543 is often held to mark the beginning of the **Scientific Revolution**. Indeed, in the same year, the Italian **Andreas Vesalius** published his acute descriptions of human **anatomy**, correcting many previous errors from ancient and medieval times.

The **methodology** of both these scientists (empiricism, observation, experimentation) was based on those pioneered by the Italian Renaissance. Both stimulated excitement and controversy amongst educated Europeans.

2. The Reformation and Counter Reformation

In 1517 a German monk called **Martin Luther** started calling for major reform in the Catholic Church. The Catholic hierarchy responded by excommunicating him and his followers. The latter have therefore formed their own "**Protestant**" church - the first of many - and started the episode known to European history as the "**Reformation**".

The Reformation owes a great deal to the Renaissance. It is based on the idea that **individuals** are responsible for finding their own spiritual path, rather than relying on external authorities (e.g. the Catholic Church) to do this for them.

Protestantism has divided into a number of different branches. Luther's followers formed the **Lutheran** movement, which is becoming powerful in northern Germany and Scandinavia. The Swiss preacher Huldrych **Zwingly** founded the Swiss Reformed Church in 1519. The most influential of the new protestant movements is Calvinism, inspired by the teacher and preacher **John Calvin**, who calls for a simpler, purer kind of Christianity than Luther had done (hence the English term "**Puritan**").

Counter-Reformation

Meanwhile, the Reformation was provoking a **Counter-Reformation** within the Catholic Church. The popes from Paul II's time (1534-49) have begun to attack corruption within the Church, and the **Council of Trent** (1545-63) defined the Catholic Church's teachings viz-a-viz the teachings of the Protestant churches.

Spain is a main center of the Counter-Reformation. Here, one **Ignatius Loyola** has founded the **Jesuit** order (1534). This is a missionary society which seeks to bring protestants back to the Catholic faith as well as convert members of other faiths around the world to Christianity.

3. Artillery and Royal Power

Largely thanks to the intense campaigns of Italian Wars and the experiments in military tactics that these inspired, the cannon now plays a much more important part in European warfare.

This development has reinforced the power of **rulers** at the expense of the **nobility**, due to the sheer expense and organization needed to field batteries of cannon. Only national rulers can really afford them, and since these weapons can demolish castles, the strongholds of noble power, this period sees the development of nation-states in which **monarchs** and their **ministers** and **officials** have much more power than before.

The nobles increasingly see their role and status as bound up in service to their monarchs rather than in the lost cause of fighting for their independent authority.

Increasing royal power is evident in Spain, France and England, the first **nation-states** in Europe.

The Infantry

The **infantry** of this time are predominantly **pikemen**, increasingly supplemented by soldiers armed with **muskets**.

To be deployed as effectively as possible, this combination needs to fight in large formations which are able to move and act as one. **Armies** are therefore becoming **larger** and more **disciplined** - another development which favors royal authority over that of nobles.

The **Spanish** lead the way in this process; their **tercio** formation is feared throughout Europe.

A new kind of warship

The early 16th century has seen the development of **warships** carrying large numbers of guns along their sides (or *broadships*, as they are known); they have become nothing less than sailing **gun-platforms**.

No other kind of warship can stand up to these **galleons**, as they are called; their development has given European sailors a decisive advantage in their dealings with non-European naval forces. This new kind of warship can also be used to bombard coastal positions effectively.

4. Overseas expansion

The **Spanish** and **Portuguese** crowns have continued to sponsor overseas exploration, settlement and trade. The voyages of Christopher Columbus were followed by many expeditions, which have charted much of the Atlantic coast of the **Americas**.

In 1519 to 1522, a Spanish-sponsored expedition led by **Ferdinand Magellan** (until his death in the East Indies) undertook the first **circumnavigation** of the world.

The Spanish empire in Central and South America

Meanwhile the Spanish had begun to settle their "**New World**". They colonized the largest of the **Caribbean** islands, Cuba and Hispaniola, and then turned their attention to the mainland. The conquistador **Hernán Cortéz** conquered the Aztec Empire, in Mexico, while **Francisco Pizarro** carried out the conquest of the huge Inca Empire in South America.

Spanish expeditions are now moving out from Peru and Mexico to claim the rest of **Central** and **South America** (except Brazil, which belongs to Portugal).

The Spanish have also conquered the **Philippines**, in South East Asia.

Riches from the New World

In the heartland of their empire, present-day Peru and Bolivia, the Spanish have discovered and developed rich **silver**-mines. It is these which are largely funding the military power of Spain back in Europe.

The Portuguese trading network

The **Portuguese**, meanwhile, have concentrated their efforts on dominating the **spice** trade with the **East Indies**. They have set up trading bases in the Persian Gulf, on the Indian coast, on the Malacca Straits in South East Asia, and on some small islands in the East Indies themselves.

The French

The **French** have now also got into overseas exploration and expansion, with **Jacques Cartier's** expeditions to the St Lawrence river in what is now **Canada**.

5. Around Europe

The Hapsburgs

From their base in **Austria**, the **Hapsburg** family has risen to rule many lands - not (by and large) through conquest, but through **marriage** and inheritance over several generations.

The Hapsburg ruler **Charles V** (reigned 1519-1556) came to inherit Austria, **Burgundy**, **Spain** and **Naples**, plus some smaller Mediterranean territories, as well as holding the office of **Holy Roman emperor**. His brother **Ferdinand** is **king of Hungary** and **Bohemia**, which the Hapsburgs inherited from the Jagellion monarchs.

Charles V abdicated in this year, 1556, worn out by the cares of office. Realizing that his domains were far too scattered for one person to rule effectively, he has divided the Hapsburg lands into two. His brother Ferdinand I has taken the Austrian Hapsburg lands to add to his Hungarian and Bohemian realms. He also fills the office of Holy Roman emperor.

Charles' son, **Philip** has taken the Spanish, Italian and Burgundian lands.

Philip's Spanish possessions make him the most powerful monarch in Europe. The wealth of his kingdom is boosted by the silver and gold now flowing in from its American possessions (see above).

The Ottoman threat

Ferdinand has had to deal with the formidable **Ottoman empire**, under its famous sultan **Suleiman the Magnificent** (reigned 1520-66).

The Ottoman empire has kept up its expansion into central Europe (as well as taking over much of the Middle East: Syria, Iraq and North Africa: it is now one the **greatest empires** in all world history).

Suleiman occupied large parts of Hungary (the Hungarian nobles have rejected Hapsburg claims to its throne and elected one of their own as their king). In 1529 the Ottomans laid siege to the Hapsburg capital of **Vienna**. Suleiman's forces were eventually forced to withdraw, but the whole of Christian Europe had had a major shock.

Germany

Luther's protests in **Germany** started as a purely religious phenomenon, but given the links between church and state in Europe at that time, unsurprisingly it soon gained a strong political dimension as well.

Germany at that time was divided into hundreds of small states under the loose sovereignty of the **Holy Roman Empire**. With the spread of Lutheranism, the individual princes chose one side or the other, and soon a **Catholic versus Protestant war** was raging.

This struggle has recently ended in the **Peace of Augsburg** (1555), which is based on the principle that the prince determines the religion of his subjects.

Scandinavia and the Baltic

The **Reformation** soon spread from Germany (and **Switzerland**) to other lands (thanks largely to the **printing** press).

Indeed it has redrawn the map of Europe. The Protestant nobles of **Sweden** have rebelled against the Catholic king of **Denmark** (the head of the Union of Kalmar, which joined the whole of Scandinavia under one monarch), to regain their country's independence.

On the southern coast of the Baltic Sea, the German grand master of the **Teutonic Knights** has converted to Protestantism, and at the same time converted the Knights' territory into a secular principality, the duchy of **Prussia**. This is under the overlordship of the king of Poland.

Poland-Lithuania

In central and eastern Europe, **Poland** and **Lithuania** are gradually becoming more unified. This process is encouraged by the growing aggression of its Russians, Crimean and Ottoman neighbours.

The process is accompanied by the rising importance of the Polish parliament (the **Sejm**). This is controlled by the **nobility**, who use it to win more and more power at the expense of the kings. Poland is thus bucking the trend towards stronger monarchies.

Russia

Muscovy is beginning to flex its muscles and has expanded at Poland's expense.

Muscovy is now ruled by the despotic **Ivan "the Terrible"** (reigns 1530-1584). He has been terrorizing the turbulent Russian nobility into submission to his autocratic will.

Since 1547 he has styled himself “**Tsar** (Caesar) of all the Russias”.

England

The Reformation has caused turmoil in **England**, where the forceful **Tudor** monarch, **Henry VIII** (reigned 1509-1547), took the country out of the Catholic fold. He did so with the support of **parliament**, which voted him Supreme Head of the Church of England.

Under his young son **Edward VI** (reigned 1547-53) a more radical form of Protestantism came to the fore, only to be violently put down by his sister and successor, “Bloody” **Mary** (1553-58).

In these twists and turns many people, both Catholic and Protestant, have lost their lives for their faith. It is clear the Mary’s Catholic policy does not have the support of the people at large.

France

In **France**, the royal authorities have tried in vain to suppress the spread of Protestantism.

1603

This period in Europe has been characterized by many wars caused, in large part, by clashes in religion.

- **Spain** is the center of the Catholic **Counter-Reformation**, but the expense of its many wars is undermining its strength (note 1).
- The **Dutch** and **English** are experiencing a new spirit of **enterprise**, illustrated in their development of new kinds of commercial institutions (note 2).
- **Renaissance** ideas in art, literature and science continue to advance European culture (note 3).
- Around Europe **Ottoman** ambitions to dominate the western Mediterranean are thwarted, many religious wars are ending, and **Poland** is a beacon of toleration (note 4).

Additional notes

1. Spain under Philip II

Spain has been the major military power in Europe. Under its devout king, **Philip II** (reigned 1556-98), the country has been the center of **Catholic** attempts to keep **Protestantism** at bay.

Spain has intervened in the **Wars of Religion** in **France** (see below) to add strength to the Catholic cause there, and has strenuously sought to keep **England** within the Catholic fold. The climax to this effort came when Philip sent a Great **Armada** to carry an army of invasion across to England in 1588. This ambitious project was defeated by a combination of misfortune, stormy weather and inspired English naval action.

Philip's forces have also been at work attempting to stamp out a rebellion in the **Low Countries** (modern-day Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg), which, though not exclusively religious in its causes, does involve a strong element of Protestant dissent against hard-line Catholic rule.

Philip's army has become thoroughly bogged down here, being fought to a stand-still by the Dutch rebels.

Economic decline

These many military commitments have been enormously **expensive** for the Spanish government. Despite the precious metals flowing into the country from America, only marginally disrupted by the depredations of Dutch and English raiders, Philip was chronically short of money, and his government defaulted on loans several times. The Spanish government and people have become progressively poorer as time went by.

Portugal

Almost as a side show, Philip II took advantage of a succession crisis in **Portugal** to claim it throne (1581). Although Portugal remains theoretically independent, no one doubts where real power lies.

As a result of this situation, Portugal's communications and trade with its overseas interests have, like Spain's, become subject to attacks from Spain's enemies, the Dutch and English.

2. English and Dutch adventurism

The wars between Spain on the one hand and the **Dutch** and **English** on the other, has involved Dutch and English **sea raiders** harrying Spanish shipping bringing precious metals from America to Europe, as well as raids on ports in both Spain and the Americas.

With the Spanish takeover of its smaller neighbor, Portugal (1581), Portuguese ships and territory have been fair game as well.

Linked to this new kind of oceanic warfare, the Netherlands and England are experiencing a new spirit of overseas commercial adventurism. This is most clearly illustrated in the appearance of a novel commercial institution, the **joint-stock company**. This enables merchants and other investors to pool resources and share the risks when undertaking ambitious and speculative projects.

The most notable of these joint-stock companies are the English and Dutch **East India companies** (founded in 1600 and 1603 respectively). Others are the English **Muscovy Company**, formed to trade with Russia, and the **Levant Company**, to trade in the Mediterranean.

The impact of this innovation is greatly enhanced by the emergence of the first real **stock exchanges**, in **Amsterdam** and **London**. In these, shares in joint-stock companies can be bought and sold.

These changes are helping to lay the foundations for a modern **capitalist** economy.

3. The Spread of the Renaissance

Throughout Europe, **Renaissance** culture has continued to flower. It has now reached England and other northern countries. The **Elizabethan** period in England is the age of such brilliant poets and dramatists as **Edmund Spenser**, **Christopher Marlow** and above all **William Shakespeare**; and the Danish scientist **Tycho Brahe** has used careful observation to build up a large body of **astronomical** data.

The Renaissance has also continued to run strongly in older centers. Spain's most famous writer, **Cervantes**, has flourished at this time, and in Italy, Venice has produced great artists (**Tintoretto**, **Titian**), architects (**Palladio**) and composers (**Palestrina**).

4. Around Europe

The Ottoman empire

The later 16th century has seen the **Ottoman empire** continue to expand. It has all but swallowed one of the major kingdoms of Christian Europe, **Hungary** (while leaving a chunk under local puppet rulers), and conquered up into the southern Ukraine on the northern coast of the Black Sea.

Already in control of the eastern **Mediterranean**, the Ottomans then made a bid to dominate the western half as well. Their ambitions in this direction posed a direct threat to Spain, and King Philip II organized an alliance of Christian powers against the Turkish advance.

This alliance involving the leading remaining Christian states bordering the Mediterranean: **Venice, Genoa, the Papacy** and the **Knights of Malta** (who ruled that strategic island and had already endured a long siege by the Ottomans).

The combined Christian fleet destroyed the Ottoman navy at the **Battle of Lepanto** in 1571, thus ending the threat.

France

In **France**, tensions between Catholics and Protestants (or **Huguenots**) led to the country tearing itself apart in the **French Wars of Religion** (1562-1598).

These end in 1598 when the protestant leader, Henry of **Bourbon**, converts to Catholicism and takes the French throne as king **Henry IV** (reigns 1598-1610). He makes a peace settlement which gives Protestants protection and rights within their own communities.

England

Elizabeth I (reigns 1558-1603) came to the throne on her sister **Mary's** death and immediately put a stop to the religious persecutions. Instead, Elizabeth, with the support of **parliament**, has established the **Church of England** as a moderate Protestant church. The failure of the **Spanish Armada** in 1588 (see above) did more than anything to rally the English people behind the new situation.

On the death of Elizabeth without heirs in 1603, the English throne passes to her cousin the king of Scotland, James (**James VI** of Scotland and **I** of England). The Scottish **Stuart** family has thus become the rulers of both kingdoms.

Poland

Poland is a country unique in Europe for its high level of religious **toleration**. Although officially a Catholic country, Protestants are allowed to follow their own practices and beliefs without fear of persecution.

Previously two kingdoms under one monarch, in the **Union of Lublin** (1569) a single kingdom with shared institutions was declared.

A few years later, the state became an **elective monarchy** (1572). The elections were strictly the preserve of the **nobles**, meeting in the parliament (**Sejm**).

A tradition of electing foreigners as kings was begun, allowing the nobility to maintain and extend its privileges.

Ivan the Terrible and the Time of Troubles

In Russia, **Ivan the Terrible** (1530-1584), whilst terrorizing the **nobility**, virtually wiped out the royal family as well, and it did in fact die out shortly after his death.

This ushered in a time of instability and civil war known to Russian history as the “**Time of Troubles**” (1598-1613). During this time, Russia experienced several major invasions from **Poland** and **Denmark**.

Under Ivan the Russian colonization of **Siberia** began, in the wake of the declining power of the **Golden Horde**. Peasants, traders and groups of free-lance soldiers called **Cossacks** are settling the vast region, moving ever eastwards.

1648

The major event of this period has been the Thirty Years War, in Germany, the last and most terrible of the wars of religion in Europe.

- Between 1618 and 1648 Germany especially was the scene of the ghastly **Thirty Years War**, which has just been ended by the **Peace of Westphalia** (note 1).
- The period of the Renaissance has now been succeeded by different movements: the **Baroque** (art, architecture and music), the **Scientific Revolution**, and the **Enlightenment** (philosophy) (note 2).
- The Dutch, English and French have greatly expanded their **overseas trade**, and have also established colonies in **North America** (note 3).
- Around Europe **Spain's** power is waning, **Dutch** wealth and culture is growing, and **Sweden** is becoming a major force (note 4).

Additional notes

1. The Thirty Years' War

Within the **Holy Roman Empire**, religious conflict had died down in the mid-16th century, but it flared up again with a vengeance in the early 17th century. Between 1618 and 1648 **Germany** especially was the scene of the ghastly **Thirty Years War**, when perhaps a third of the German population perished by massacre, disease, starvation and exposure. Neighboring countries also became involved, above all France and Denmark.

The Treaty of Westphalia

The war ended by the **Peace of Westphalia**. This thankfully marked the end of the religious wars in Germany (and in Europe as a whole) and marked the end of the period in European history marked by the Reformation and Counter-Reformation.

For Germany, the treaty confirmed the decree of the Peace of Augsburg, almost a century before. This had stated that the religion of the ruler of each of the numerous small states into which Germany was divided - whether Catholic or Protestant - should be the religion of the inhabitants of that state.

The other main provisions of the treaty were that **France** and **Sweden** were confirmed in the territorial gains that they had made during the war, and the existence of the **Dutch Republic** as an independent state was confirmed (though in reality it had been successful in its struggle against **Spain** in the early 17th century).

2. Cultural developments

Art and architecture

In art and architecture, the classical styles of the Renaissance have been succeeded by the **Baroque**, with its exuberant complexity and sensuous realism. It reaches its high point in the work of the Italian sculptor and architect Gianlorenzo **Bernini** (1598-1680).

Science

In science, the Renaissance has developed into the **Scientific Revolution**, which at this period has as its most striking achievement the discoveries of the astronomer and physicist **Galileo Galilei** (1564-1642). His observations have confirmed the theories of **Copernicus** and he has developed theories about **motion** and **gravity**.

This period sees the development of **optical instruments** such as the telescope and microscope, which open up the possibilities of scientific investigation (including those of Galileo) enormously.

The Enlightenment

In philosophy, the Renaissance and Reformation have given way to the **Enlightenment**.

Educated people in Europe have become progressively more disgusted with the bloodshed in the name of religion, and this has encouraged leading thinkers to turn towards more materialistic solutions to difficult questions.

Men such as René **Descartes** (1596-1650) and Thomas **Hobbes** (1586-1678) applied rigorous rationalism to political, social and philosophical issues.

The distinction between art, science and philosophy is blurred. Descartes, for example, is a major mathematician and scientist as well as a philosopher. The Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution rest on the same pillars - observation, experimentation, reason. Many historians regard them as one and the same.

3. Overseas trade

This period has seen northern European countries expand their overseas activities enormously. The **Dutch** have captured many Portuguese bases in the **Indian Ocean** and **East Indies**, and established a trading network of their own.

The Dutch and the **English**, along with the **French**, have also become heavily involved in the Atlantic trading system, which revolves around the **slave trade**. All these countries have taken control of small islands in the **West Indies**, on which they produce **sugar**. This is grown on **plantations** worked by African slaves. To get this workforce, these countries have also set up slaving bases on the **West African** coast, from where they transport captives across the Atlantic to the West Indies.

The European taste for sugar products is beginning to grow dramatically and this trading system is therefore expanding strongly.

All three countries have also been establishing colonies along the coast of **North America**. Some of the **English colonies** have been settled by **Puritan** settlers to escape religious pressures at home; others are looking for a better life.

4. Around Europe

Spain and Portugal

Since the mid-16th century at the latest, **Spain** had been regarded as Europe's leading power. Now, however, the country is clearly perceived as in decline.

Portugal has won its freedom from its larger neighbor (1640).

France

Under the rule of the **Bourbon** kings **Henry IV** (1598-1610) and **Louis XIII** (1610-43), **France** has recovered from the religious wars of the later 16th century. Through the (sometimes ruthless) centralizing policies of the great ministers, Cardinals **Richelieu** and **Mazarin**, royal power has encroached more and more upon the traditional rights of the nobles.

This is a development which the aristocrats of course do not like, and this year (1648) a major rebellion, known as the **Fronde**, breaks out to reassert their ancient freedoms.

England

The religious differences within the country at this time have mingled with growing political tensions between the Stuart kings **James I** (reigns 1603-25) and **Charles I** (1625-49), on the one hand, and **parliament**, on the other. The kings are impatient with what they see as parliamentary interference in affairs of state, and try to minimize its role in government; parliament of course resists this and is determined to limit royal power.

These tensions produce a series of sharp **civil wars**, from 1642. In 1648 the country is experiencing an uneasy peace, which will not last long.

Ireland

England has been taking its first steps to establish overseas colonies under the early Stuarts (see above), but at this period it is the neighboring island of **Ireland** which is feeling the impact of English colonization most keenly.

Under both Elizabeth and the early Stuarts, the English government has officially sponsored the colonization by English and Scottish settlers. In this process, many of the Irish population become second-class citizens within their own country.

The Dutch Republic

The **Dutch Republic** effectively gained its freedom from Spain in 1609, when a 12 Year Truce was signed between the two sides. This gave the Dutch a valuable breathing space in which to recover their strength, and although hostilities with Spain resumed after 1621, they never really threatened the existence of the Republic again. The Republic's independence is recognized throughout Europe in the Peace of Westphalia.

The Dutch Republic, though comparatively small, is admired for its wealth and culture. The two go hand in hand, as wealthy merchants, their fortunes made largely in overseas ventures, patronize some of the finest artists in Europe (most famously, **Rembrandt**).

In the early decades of the 17th century the **Dutch East India Company** acquired extensive possessions by seizing Portuguese bases in the **East Indies** and establishing new trading posts of their own, all with the purpose of dominating the **spice** trade.

The **Dutch West India Company**, meanwhile, has been active in the expanding **Atlantic** trading system based on **African slavery** and the production of **sugar**.

Between them, these two companies have brought great wealth into the country, much of which has been invested into its thriving and technically advanced **agriculture**.

Brandenburg-Prussia

In **northern Germany**, there has emerged a state larger than most of the others (which are mostly tiny). This was formed in 1618 by the union (through marriage) between the German principality of **Brandenburg** and the duchy of **Prussia**.

Like other areas of Germany, it has been badly mauled in the Thirty Years' War. However, it is now under the rule of **Frederick William**, the "**Great Elector**" (its princes are called electors, being members of the council of the **Holy Roman Empire** which - at least theoretically - elects the emperors).

He is busy rebuilding his state's strength.

Sweden

Under a succession of able kings, above all **Gustavus Adolphus** (reigned 1617-32), **Sweden** has become a major power in Europe. It participated with great success in the Thirty Years War, and came out of it with considerably added territory around the Baltic.

The Swedish army is generally regarded as the finest in Europe.

Russia

Russia experienced its **Time of Troubles** - a period of instability and civil war - until 1613. In that year the nobles elected one of their number, Michael **Romanov**, as tsar. There has followed a period of recovery.

Meanwhile, the settlement of **Siberia** by Russian peasants and traders has been continuing, and around the middle of the 17th century they reach the **Pacific** coast in the Far East.

Poland-Lithuania

Poland-Lithuania has not been involved in the Thirty Years' War, and though waging wars with the Ottomans, the Russians and the Swedes at this time, had come through the period comparatively unscathed.

1690

France, under its forceful king Louis XIV, is now the leading power in Europe.

- Under king **Louis XIV** (reigned 1643-1715) **France** has become a centralized, **absolutist** state; and it is aggressively pushing out its borders (note 1).
- The **Ottoman** Turks laid siege to **Vienna**, the Hapsburg capital for a second time, in 1683; they were only driven off with the help of a Polish army (note 2).
- **England** has become a **constitutional monarchy**, with king and parliament ruling the country in partnership (note 3).
- The **Scientific Revolution** and the **Enlightenment** have both been gathering pace (note 4).
- The later 17th century sees a transformation in **naval warfare** as the British, Dutch and French expand their overseas territories (note 5).
- Around Europe, **Sweden**, **Russia** and **Brandenburg Prussia** are stable under powerful rulers, but **Poland** is experiencing turbulence - the **Cossacks** have formed self-governing states (note 6).

Additional notes

1. Louis XIV's France

France is now the undoubted leading power in Europe. The **Fronde** rebellion was put down after years of hard fighting, and under king **Louis XIV** (reigned 1643-1715) the kingdom has become a centralized, **absolutist** state. Political power is focussed on the royal court, now housed in the magnificent palace of **Versailles**, near Paris.

This is true at least at a national level. The **aristocracy**, in return for their loyalty (the higher nobility are required to live at least part of the year at court), have had their social privileges reinforced, and the myriad customs and institutions that bolster the nobles' position in the **localities** actually detract from central control. "Absolutist" France is in fact a messy compromise with the older forces of **Feudalism**.

The French **army**, on the other hand, is the largest, best-trained and best-armed military force on the continent, and Louis is using it to expand the borders of his kingdom in a series of wars with its neighbors.

One of the most important things for which Louis XIV is famous is withdrawing the privileges of the **Huguenots** (in 1685). This led to many migrating to countries where they could practice their religion in safety - England, Holland and Brandenburg-Prussia, for example - and taking their industrial skills with them.

2. The second siege of Vienna

The **Ottoman** empire has remained a formidable power since the time of Suleiman the Magnificent. This was demonstrated for all Europe to see when the Ottomans laid siege to the city of **Vienna**, the capital of the **Hapsburgs**, for a second time, in 1683.

The **Polish** army, under their king **John Sobieski**, rushed to the Hapsburg forces' aid, and played a decisive role in driving the Ottomans back from the city.

The Ottomans would never again threaten Vienna.

3. The Glorious Revolution in England

In **England, Scotland and Ireland**, the **civil wars** of the mid-century ended in victory for **parliament**. King **Charles I** was executed (1649), and parliament's leader, **Oliver Cromwell**, headed a new Republic.

The Restoration

After Cromwell's death, no figure could be found to rally the different factions behind him, and the Republic quickly began to unravel. Parliament therefore restored the monarchy, in the person of **Charles II** (reigned 1660-1685).

Tensions between monarchy and parliament naturally re-surfaced, but were contained until Charles' brother, **James II**, came to the throne. He was a Roman Catholic, while parliament was staunchly Protestant. Parliament quickly came to fear that not only would James reestablish Catholicism as the official religion in England and Scotland, but would impose an absolutist style of government on the country in the model of Louis XIV in France.

The Glorious Revolution

The inevitable collision came in 1688-9, when parliament invited the Dutch leader, **William**, Prince of Orange (who was married to James' daughter **Mary**), to come over from Holland and take the throne of England. This was accomplished in a bloodless coup known to history as the **Glorious Revolution**.

William had been invited over on condition that he would rule in partnership with parliament. The Glorious Revolution thus established the English political system as a **constitutional monarchy**.

Shortly after, parliament enacted the **Bill of Rights**, which, building on a tradition going back to Magna Carta in medieval times, confirmed the English people in their legal rights.

4. The Enlightenment and Scientific Revolution

The **Scientific Revolution** has been gathering pace, with the English scientist and mathematician **Isaac Newton** propounding the theory of gravity, one of the basic building blocks of modern science.

At the same time, **Enlightenment** thinking, which is closely linked to the Scientific Revolution, has also been progressing. This movement is felt most strongly in France, but

it is the English philosopher, **John Locke** (1632-1704), who has most clearly applied rational principles to a whole range of subjects - political, economic and psychological.

5. Overseas expansion and military developments

The later 17th century has been a difficult time for Europe in economic terms, with poor weather and continuing epidemics dampening demand. A few countries, however, have been continuing to thrive, particularly the **Dutch Republic, England** and **France**. All have been expanding their overseas trade, and adding new overseas possessions.

North America

England's **colonies** have been expanding in **North America**, and they now run in an unbroken line along the east coast of what is today the United States from South Carolina up to Maine. The English have taken New York (New Holland) from the Dutch and Delaware from the Swedes.

The French have been developing their colony of **New France** in what is now **Canada**; their fur traders range the interior at least as far west as the Great Lakes. The French are also establishing a presence to the south, with their colony of **Louisiana**.

The West Indies and the Atlantic Slave Trade

The English, Dutch and French have all been developing their sugar islands in the **West Indies**, along with the **Atlantic Slave Trade** that supplies these islands with their captive work force. The **Portuguese** also remain active in this trade, with slaves being taken from present-day **Angola** and transported to **Brazil**.

India and the East

The English, Dutch and French are also expanding their trade with the east. The **East Indies** are almost exclusively the preserve of the **Dutch East India Company**, though the Portuguese have a small presence there. The English and French are focused on **India**, where the trading bases belonging to their **East India companies** multiply along the coasts of the subcontinent.

These overseas commercial activities bring in huge wealth to their home countries. In all cases, their trading **cities** are expanding and their **middle classes** are growing; investment is flowing into their **agriculture**, which is becoming more productive, and into **mining** and **manufacturing**.

Naval warfare

The expansion of these countries' interests overseas is carried out in competition with each other. As a result, the first truly European **naval wars** have been taking place, particularly as the **English** and **Dutch** have tried to achieve dominance of the waters around their coasts, through which all their sea-borne trade has to pass.

In the three wars that the Dutch and English have fought with each other, the first real modern **navies** have been forged. Each side has built up huge fleets, along with the shore-based infrastructure (dockyards, warehouses, administrative machinery - and taxation) needed to support them. They have developed the first professional naval officer corps in the world. And they have learnt to fight fleet actions in which large numbers of

powerful warships go into action in a disciplined and orderly way - that is, they fight as a fleet, not individual ships.

Land warfare

France is the driving force behind advances in land warfare. The French army is the most modern in Europe (probably in the world). In terms of tactics, the **pike**, so important in European warfare for centuries, is now on the way out. Infantrymen are becoming almost entirely **musketeers**, a development made possible by the invention of the bayonet, which enables soldiers to defend themselves in close contact when required, rather than relying on pikemen.

The drill needed to fire volleys quickly and effectively calls for a new level of discipline and co-ordination. It is unsurprising that parade-ground **drill** becomes a major element in army training at this time.

The classic modern European army, with its large infantry formations fighting *en masse*, supported by cavalry units and mobile artillery batteries (which had made their first appearance in the Swedish army during the Thirty Years' War) are emerging, and would characterize European warfare until the 19th century.

6. Around Europe

Sweden

Sweden has maintained its position as the leading power in northern Europe.

After a major and ultimately unsuccessful war in Poland in the 1650s under king **Charles X**, Sweden has experienced a long and much-needed period of peace under its capable king, **Charles XI**. Charles uses this time to build up the country's economy and its army and navy.

Russia

Under its **Romanov** Tsars, **Russia** has experienced a period of internal stability and external expansion. The Tsarist government has imposed a more and more rigid order on Russian society; most notably, it has imposed **serfdom** on the peasantry, tying them to the estates of their masters. This allows the tsars (or their ministers, given that the tsars themselves have been mediocrities) to reward court officials with grants of land and peasants.

Russia is now ruled by a figure who is anything but a mediocrity. He will go down in history as **Peter the Great** (reigns 1682 to 1725), one of the most extraordinary figures to sit on its throne. Still a mere teenager, others govern in his name; but he will soon assume supreme power.

The Cossacks

Many Russian peasants flee to the border regions between Poland and Russia, where free land is to be had. There they join the **Cossacks**, free-booting soldier-farmers who have established self-governing states in the region after rebelling against the Polish government.

Poland

The huge kingdom of **Poland** has experienced great turbulence. The Cossack-dominated regions on its eastern frontier have risen in rebellion and formed their own independent states, and a major invasion by Sweden in the 1650s inflicted much damage. The Poles have granted full independence to the duchy of **Prussia**, under the Hohenzollern princes of **Brandenburg**, in return for help against the Swedes.

The Polish people also have had to endure destructive raids from the **Crimean Khanate**; all this plus protracted wars with Russian and **Ottoman** neighbors. In their internal politics, moreover, the government of the Polish nobles has been becoming more faction-ridden and less effective.

Brandenburg-Prussia

This state has experienced the long and capable rule of Frederick-William, the **Great Elector** (reigns 1640-88).

He has pursued policies encouraging **trade** and **industry** - for example by encouraging Protestant immigrants from France to settle there - and has formed a standing **army**. Although not afraid to use military means, he has preferred to use forceful diplomacy to gain his goals. He has gained some small slices of territory, but more importantly he has won the independence for the duchy of **Prussia** from Poland.

1750

France, with its absolutist monarchy and large army, is the leading power on continental Europe, but Britain, with its parliamentary politics and powerful navy, has the most dynamic economy.

- **France** is the leading political power on the continent, as well as being the undoubted center of the **Enlightenment**, which has taken root around Europe (note 1).
- In **Britain** a new form of government, **parliamentary** democracy, is emerging (note 2).
- **Economic expansion** has continued strongly in several countries, above all Britain, France and the Netherlands (note 3).
- A significant shift in the balance of power has taken place in eastern and northern Europe, with the rise of **Russia** to the status of a great European power (note 4).
- Elsewhere in Europe, **Prussia** has become a kingdom, and is the main rival to the **Austrian Hapsburgs** in central Europe (note 5).

Additional notes

1. France and the Enlightenment

French expansion under **Louis XIV** was checked by the combined military power of England, Holland and Hapsburg Austria; moreover, Louis' ambitions for his family to inherit the Spanish crown (on the death of the last Hapsburg monarch without an heir) were thwarted by his defeat in the **War of Spanish Succession** (1701-1714).

Despite the check to its political ambitions, France remains the leading power on the continent, with other countries looking to its **absolutist** form of government for inspiration: **Prussia, Austria, Spain, Russia** and other smaller counties all model their governments along French lines.

The Enlightenment

France is also the undoubted cultural center of Europe. French is the language of international letters and diplomacy. French cultural influences have spread the rational approach of **Enlightenment** thinking around Europe. The mid-Eighteenth century sees many of the greatest Enlightenment thinkers and writers flourishing: **Montesquieu** 1689-1755; **Voltaire** 1694-1778, **Rousseau** 1712-78 ; **Diderot** 1713-1784 and the **Encyclopedists**.

In art and architecture, the Baroque style gave way to the Late Baroque, or "**Rococo**", style - even more flamboyant than the Baroque. It has soon provoked a reaction, and a simpler, more formal "**Neoclassical**" style is on the rise.

2. Constitutional Monarchy in Britain

On continental Europe, this is the period of absolute monarchy, in which kings have consolidated their control over their states and have co-opted their nobilities to serve them as ministers, officials and army officers.

Only a handful of major European states stand out from this trend. These include the **Dutch Republic**, which continues to be governed by state councils, and **Great Britain**.

Foreign monarchs

The **Glorious Revolution** created a partnership in government between king and parliament, and events since then have tilted the balance of power in favour of **parliament**.

In the **Act of Union** of 1707, the kingdoms of **England** and **Scotland**, for more than century ruled by a single line of monarchs, were merged into the new kingdom of Great Britain. In 1714, the British throne passed to the prince of a small German state called Hanover, and since then Britain has been ruled by German-speaking monarchs.

The prime minister

These (**George I**, reigned 1714-27. and **George II**, 1740-60) have had to rely on leading ministers to handle most matters of government, and by now a new figure has appeared in British politics, the **prime minister**. Although he is technically appointed by the monarch, in fact he can only govern effectively with the support of parliament. This has opened the way for parliament to gain more power.

In the process, members of parliament have learnt to support policies which further the national interest rather than their own narrow class interests (i.e. those of the landed élite, from which most of its members are drawn).

For example, members of parliament consistently vote to tax landowners (including themselves) comparatively heavily to pay for a strong **Royal Navy**, so that British **trade** can be protected properly. This is in marked contrast to the absolutist monarchies of the continent, which are chronically under-taxed, and the taxes that are raised fall predominantly on townsmen and commerce.

3. Economic expansion and overseas rivalry

Since the early 18th century, most of Europe has been experiencing strong economic growth. The climate seems to have become milder, and the epidemics of the later 17th century have not recurred.

Several countries have continued to benefit from their growing trade with the rest of the world: **Britain**, **France** and the **Dutch Republic** are the leading nations in this. Profits from the **Atlantic Slave Trade**, sugar production in the **Caribbean**, the expanding colonies of **North America** and the trade with **India** and the **East Indies**, have all helped to reshape societies in these countries. **Towns** and **cities** are getting larger, and a prosperous **middle class** is emerging.

Britain's economy has expanded most strongly in this period, overtaking the Netherlands as the most dynamic region of Europe. It has been aided by the political stability given to the country by its maturing parliamentary democracy, and also by financial stability, with the establishment of the **Bank of England** (1694).

France and Britain at war

Inevitably, the growth of overseas trade has led to rivalry between European trading powers. The 18th century has seen growing tensions between the **British** and **French** in **North America**, the **Caribbean** and **India**. When France and Britain found themselves on opposing sides in the **War of Austrian Succession** (1740-1748), this spilled over into outright hostilities between the two countries in all these regions of the world.

For the first time nations were having to field military power on a **global scale**.

Economic expansion has been accompanied by technological advance. In the early 18th century, for example, Thomas Savery and Thomas Newcomen pioneered the development of the **steam engine** (though it is still very inefficient and mainly used to pump water out of mines) - and the iron masters Abraham Darby, father and son, have found ways to produce stronger **iron** and **steel** goods.

By mid-century the first stirrings of the **Industrial Revolution** are taking place in Britain.

4. The Rise of Russia

In eastern Europe, the **Great Northern War** (1700-1721) has resulted in a significant shift in the balance of power, with the power of **Sweden** and **Poland** reduced and that of **Russia** enhanced.

Russia, under its forceful tsar **Peter the Great** (reigned 1682-1725), gained a large chunk of territory on the Baltic coast at the expense of the Swedes. On this, Peter established a great new city, **St Petersburg**, which became the huge country's capital.

Europeanization

St Petersburg was built according to the latest **European style**, and Peter saw this as an essential part of his plan to modernize Russia. He forced his nobles to shave their beards, wear western European clothes, speak **French**, and educate their sons according to European norms. He also created a **modern army** and **navy**, and a European **administrative machinery** along the lines of other absolutist monarchies.

Peter the Great also inflicted a decisive defeat on the Swedes in the Great Northern War, and later was able to bring about the absorption of the **Cossack** Hetmanate states, on Poland's eastern border, into Russia.

A successful war against the **Ottomans** has also pushed Russian territory southwards towards the Black Sea, though this sea remains very much an Ottoman lake.

5. Around Europe

Spain and Italy

After Louis XIV of France's defeat in the **War of Spanish Succession** (1701-1714), he had to agree that it was to be a different branch of the Bourbon dynasty which sat on the throne of Spain.

At the same time, **Spain** was shorn of its European territories, with the **Austrian Hapsburgs** replacing the Spanish as the paramount power in **Italy**: they acquired **Naples, Milan, Sardinia** and the southern **Low Countries** (which had not joined the Dutch Republic).

Some other reshuffles of territory occurred later. In 1721 **Sardinia** was given to the north Italian state of **Savoy**, while Austria received **Sicily**; and in 1731 the Austrian Hapsburgs also inherited **Tuscany**.

Prussia

In 1701 the duchy of **Prussia** was upgraded to a kingdom, and the Principality of Brandenburg- Prussia was rebranded the Kingdom of Prussia.

The second king, **Frederick-William I** (reigned 1713-1740), turned Prussia into a military state; and his son, **Frederick the Great** (1740-1786) has built on these foundations. He has expanded his kingdom by suddenly seizing the rich German region of **Silesia** from the Hapsburgs, thus provoking the **War of Austrian Succession** (1740-48).

Maria-Theresa, the Hapsburg empress, arranged a powerful coalition against Frederick but was unable to regain Silesia from Frederick's grasp.

This episode marks the emergence of Prussia as the principle rival to the Austrian Hapsburgs in central Europe.

Central Europe

The forces of the Austrian Hapsburgs drove the Ottomans far to the south, and in the process re-occupied **Hungary** (by 1718) after more than a century of Turkish occupation. Since then, however, the Ottomans have retaken much territory from the Austrians, though Hungary remains in Hapsburg hands.

The Ottoman empire

European historians have tended to see the 17th and early 18th centuries as the beginning of the **Ottoman empire's** long decline. If true, this would have been hard for contemporaries to see. Although Austria and Russia occupied territory at Ottoman expense, in both cases the Ottomans were able to push back and regain some of the lost lands.

Internally, the Ottoman government has been able to carry out **reforms** which increased tax revenues and made the organs of central government more effective. The **army** was also **modernized** to some extent, and was thus able to score some important victories against European armies. In the mid-18th century, the Ottoman empire was by no means a busted flush.

After the Presentation

Here is a quick **Quiz** you might like to use to make sure your students haven't gone to sleep.

The answers are given (*in Italics*).

Quiz:

1. What great cultural movement took place in Italy in the 15th century? (*The Italian Renaissance, or simply The Renaissance*)
2. In the 15th century, which European country sent a series of expeditions down the coast of West Africa, thus launching the Age of European Discovery? (*Portugal*)
3. Which Muslim sultanate captured the historic Byzantine city of Constantinople in 1453? (*The Ottoman*)
4. What large European entity covered much of central Europe and was ruled by emperors of the Hapsburg family on an almost hereditary basis? (*The Holy Roman Empire*)
5. Grand Prince Ivan III led the other Russian principalities to independence from the Golden Horde - of which state was he the Grand Prince? (*Muscovy*)
6. Johannes Gutenberg established the first in Europe? (*Printing Press*)
7. The monarchs of the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon united in marriage to form which united kingdom? (*Spain*)
8. Who was the Italian voyager who first discovered America? (*Christopher Columbus*)
9. What was the name of the German monk who sparked the Reformation? (*Martin Luther*)
10. Who was the king who led England out of the Catholic Church? (*Henry VIII*)
11. Which monarch, the last of the Tudors, reigned in England for most of the second half of the 16th century, during which time religious persecutions were ended, the Spanish Armada was seen off, and William Shakespeare began writing his famous plays? (*Elizabeth I*)
12. Which terrible war wracked Germany between 1618 and 1648? (*The Thirty Years War*)
13. Name one of great European astronomers and mathematicians whose work greatly advanced European understanding of astronomy and gravity in the 16th and 17th centuries. (*Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Galileo, Isaac Newton*)
14. What was the philosophical movement which came to dominate Europe from the second half of the 17th century? (*The Enlightenment*)

15. The Atlantic trading system developed by European trading nations was mainly based on which product? (*Sugar; African slavery could also be deemed correct - though the idea that humans constituted a "product" is hardly one we should be comfortable with!*)
16. Which powerful new state emerged in north Germany in the second half of the 17th century and the first half of the 18th century? (*Brandenburg-Prussia, or Prussia*)
17. Which king of France built the magnificent palace of Versailles, expanded France's borders and was associated more than any other ruler with Absolutist monarchy? (*Louis XIV*)
18. In which country did the Glorious Revolution, in which a constitutional partnership between king and parliament was forged, take place? (*England*)
19. In 1707 two kingdoms were unified - which were these? (*England and Scotland, to create Britain - or, officially, Great Britain*)
20. In which country had the first stirrings of the Industrial Revolution taken place by the mid-18th century? (*Britain*)

Section 2: Student-based enquiry work

The students can tackle these tasks either as individuals or in small groups. They will obviously need to have access to this Premium TimeMap unit.

They can present their answers in essay form or as presentations.

The questions are designed to stimulate enquiry, thought and discussion. We have offered suggested points that students might cover in their answers. These are given in *italics* just below the questions.

Task 1.

Question: In all the ups and downs and twists and turns of European history between 1450 and 1750, what were the most important developments transforming Europe?

(My answer would include the following:

- The Renaissance, and the more scientific mode of thought that it encouraged;*
- Printing, which put a rocket under all the other developments by helping ideas and information to spread widely and quickly;*
- The Scientific Revolution, which transformed Europeans' understanding of the material universe and paved the way for the great advances of more modern times;*
- The Reformation and Counter-reformation, which broke the monopoly of the Roman Catholic Church in spiritual matters, in western Europe, and paved the way for the rise of the modern secular world-view;*
- The Enlightenment, which built on the above developments to encourage a more materialist and secular views;*
- The rise of parliamentary government in England/Britain, which would lay the foundations for representative democracy in the modern world;*
- Exploration and discovery and overseas trade and empire - which laid the foundations for the dominance of the West and greatly increased the wealth and power of European nations;*
- The triumph of gunpowder weapons in both land and sea warfare, the creation of modern(-ish), well-organized and -disciplined armies, and large navies able to put large fleets into action and operate on a global scale;*
- The beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, which would transform Europe and the world in the next period.)*

Task 2.

Divide into small groups. Each group takes one of the following countries (and in one case, family!), and charts its history from c. 1450 to c. 1750.

The groups should start with a description of the situation in 1450. In tracing events and episodes in their countries, they should identify those which are of significance to Europe as a whole, or even to World History.

You will notice that some have more information about them than others - it might be advisable to allocate those to stronger groups.

(My suggestions are in Italics, with those of European-wide or Worldwide significance in **bold**.)

- The Hapsburgs

*(Should include quasi-hereditary role as Holy Roman emperors; rulers of different countries at different times; Charles V, the **Reformation** in Germany, the wars of religion and the Peace of Augsburg; the **divide between Spanish and Austrian branches**; Philip II; the **Thirty Years War**; the Ottoman threat; the end of the Spanish Hapsburgs and the increasing reach of the Austrian Hapsburgs)*

- Spain

*(Union of Castile and Aragon; end of the Reconquesta; the Spanish Inquisition; **sponsorship of voyages of exploration, and conquests of a huge American empire; transfers of vast amounts of silver from the Americas; Charles V and the Italian Wars - domination of Italy**; the Spanish army and the feared Tercio; **Philip II and the Counter-Reformation** - the Jesuits; **resistance to Protestantism around Europe**; the Great Armada, the Dutch revolt and involvement in France; cultural achievements - Cervantes and Velasquez; the expense of these and the impoverishment of the nation, the replacement of the Spanish Hapsburgs by the Bourbons; the end of Spanish domination of Italy, and the recognition that Spain no longer the leading power in Europe)*

- England/Great Britain

*(Ending of the Hundred Years' War, the Wars of the Roses, Henry VII and rise of the Tudors, **Henry VIII and the Reformation**, religious persecutions under Mary, comparative religious peace under Elizabeth I and the establishment of the Church of England, the Armada, **Shakespeare**, the Stuarts, Ireland, kings versus parliament, the civil wars, Charles II and James II, the **Glorious Revolution; John Locke, Isaac Newton**; the Union with Scotland, **overseas trade, colonization and rivalry with the Dutch and French; the triumph of parliamentary government, the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution**)*

- France

*(Ending of the Hundred Years' War; centralization; **the Italian Wars** - the Renaissance comes to France; the French Wars of Religion; the Bourbons come to the throne; recovery and further centralization under Louis XIII and his ministers Richelieu and Mazarin; **French overseas expansion in North America, the Caribbean and India; Louis XIV**, royal absolutism, Versailles, the French army, the Huguenots, **expansion of borders: France the leading power in Europe; cultural dominance of Europe, the Enlightenment; overseas rivalry with Britain**)*

- Italy

*(**Italian Renaissance - centered on Florence under Medicis; then on Rome under popes**; Italian Wars - sack of Rome, end of Italian Renaissance, and ended with Spain dominating the peninsula; continuing cultural achievements, including Venetian artists, architects and composers, and the astronomer **Galileo**; then Italy under domination of Austrian Hapsburgs)*

- Russia

*(The Golden Horde, Muscovy, Ivan III, Ivan the Terrible, the **colonization of Siberia**, the Time of Troubles, the Romanovs, **Peter the Great**, St Petersburg and modernization, the cossacks, **westward expansion at the expense of Sweden and Poland**)*

- Poland

*(Poland and Lithuania under one monarch; **Copernicus**; religious tolerance; the power of the Polish parliament and nobles, elected monarchy, foreign monarchs; cossacks, **weakness in the face of Sweden and Russia**)*

- Prussia

*(Protestantism; electorate of Brandenburg-Prussia; from Teutonic Knights to duchy of Prussia; the Great Elector; the kingdom of Prussia; **militarization; Frederick the Great and the annexation of Silesia from Austria**)*

- Sweden

*(part of Union of Kalmar under Danish leadership; Protestantism, independence from Union of Kalmar, **Gustavus Adolphus**, Charles X, Charles XI, Charles XII, **the Great Northern War**, the Russian threat)*

- The Dutch Republic

*(Part of the duchy of Burgundy, then passed to Hapsburgs, and through them passed under Spanish control; **the rebellion against Spain and independence; expansion overseas and a prosperous nation**)*

- The Ottoman empire

*(Already had much territory in Balkans in 1450; **capture of Constantinople**; Suleiman the Magnificent, the **1st siege of Vienna; Battle of Lepanto**; further conquests up into Ukraine; 2nd siege of Vienna; withdrawal in Balkans; reforms)*

The groups present their findings to the class. They don't just list the items, but offer causes and consequences for important developments, and explain why certain of them are of European or World-wide significance.

Task 3.

Answer the question, Why was the Renaissance important?

(My answer would be to do with its fostering a spirit of individual enquiry, and what this led on to - the Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment)

APPENDIX I

Appendix 1: TimeMaps articles for further reading

A list of all TimeMaps articles for Period 4 can be found on the Encyclopedia home page. Here is a selected list of the key articles which students should find most helpful:

[Early Modern Europe](#)

[The Ottoman empire](#)

[Imperial Russia](#)

[European World Empires](#)

[The Atlantic Slave Trade](#)

[Colonial Latin America](#)

[Colonial North America](#)

[Modern Europe](#)

