

Attachment B: European Nation States (Class Notes)

NOTE: If desired, enlarge the font and print on an overhead transparency.

England

- 1066—Battle of Hastings between King Harold of England and William the Conqueror of Normandy. William the Conqueror wins and now possesses lands in both France and England.
- 1154—1189: Henry II rules England and owns more than one-half the land in France due to his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine.
- 1189—1199: Richard I (Richard the Lion-Hearted) defends English properties and takes part in the “King’s Crusade” (3rd Crusade).
- 1199—1216: John (also known as “John Softsword” and John “Lackland”) takes the throne, but the barons rebel against this weak king. Barons force King John to sign the Magna Carta in 1215 at Runnymede.
 - No taxation without representation
 - Right to a jury trial
 - Due process of law
 - Limited monarchy
- 1216—1272: Henry III takes the throne for a long and unhappy reign marked by further land losses to France.
- 1272—1307: Edward I ascends the throne and strengthens the administration and monarchy in England. He raises taxes from the burgesses (merchants) and creates the Model Parliament in 1295.
 - Bicameral government: House of Commons and House of Lords
 - Provides a check on royal power
 - Increases the power of the nobility
 - Laws passed in Parliament are applied to entire country
- 1337—1453: Hundred Years’ War between England and France. This war is mostly fought in France over land and hereditary rights. Although England wins many battles early on, France ultimately wins the war, and Britain is pushed out of France (with the exception of Calais.)
- 1455—1485: War of the Roses—This Civil War is fought between the Yorks (white rose) and the Lancasters (red rose) for accession to the throne. Richard III is defeated at Bosworth Field (considered the last “Medieval King of England”) and Henry Tudor (Henry VII) ascends the throne.
 - Appoints many of his advisors from the middle class
 - Uses local government
 - Taxes land and tonnage (imported goods) to gain revenue
 - Avoids war; business and trade prosper
 - Creates the Court of the Star Chamber, a personal court that meets in secrecy, and gives the King ultimate power. Peace and stability characterize Henry’s reign, although torture is used.

France

- 987—1180: Capetian Dynasty begins with Hugh Capet, a relatively weak king chosen by the French nobles. Gradually, the Capetian kings strengthen their power and increase their territory outward from Paris.

- 1180—1226: Philip II (Augustus) further strengthens the monarchy through the use of bailiffs (royal officials who collect taxes).
- 1226—1270: Louis IX (also known as Saint Louis) ascends the throne as a pious, popular, and just leader. He creates the Parliament of Paris, which acts as a Supreme Court.
- 1300s—Philip IV (also known as “the fair”) creates the Estates General:
 - First Estate—Clergy.
 - Second Estate—Nobility.
 - Third Estate — Bourgeoisie
 - Not as powerful as Parliament; kings can decide when the Estates General will meet
- 1337—1453: The Hundred Years’ War is fought between England and France over land and hereditary rights. Although France is losing many battles, Joan of Arc rallies the French troops to stunning victories in the Battle of Orleans. She is later captured by the English and burned at the stake as a heretic. She is canonized as a saint in 1920, almost 500 years after her death.
- 1429—1461: Charles VII ascends the throne due to Joan of Arc’s military aid.
 - First permanent French army
 - Creates a Royal Council
 - Taxes land (*taille*) and salt (*gabelle*) to ensure revenue
- 1461—1483: Louis XI (also known as “the spider king”) ascends the throne.
 - Uses trickery, bribery, and a spy network in European courts
 - Expands France to include Burgundy
 - Does not use the Estates General

Spain

- 1063—Start of the Reconquista—the reconquest of Spain from the Muslims
- 1400s—Muslims only hold Granada.
- 1469—Marriage of Isabella (of Castile) and Ferdinand (of Aragon) unifies two separate kingdoms of Spain.
- 1492—Granada falls to the Spanish; Spain becomes a unified country in religion.
 - Inquisition courts are set up to subdue heretics.
 - Jews and Muslims are expelled from Spain (2,000 killed); those who stay are forced to convert. Many Jews go to the near Middle East. This hurts Spain economically, because the Jews and Muslims make up a prosperous merchant class.
 - Exploration begins with Columbus discovering the New World. Spain begins an ambitious exploration and colonization program.

Russia

- 700s—Russia is composed of a mix of Slavic peoples. Kiev is the capital, and there are many Byzantine influences, including the Eastern Orthodox Church and Byzantine architecture (onion-shaped domes).
- 1200s—Mongols invade Russia.
- 1240—1480: The Mongol Yoke
 - Destroys Kiev
 - Uses Russian princes to rule kingdoms
 - Collects “tribute” from Russians
 - Maintains loose control over Russians
- 1328—1341: Ivan I serves Mongols as a tax collector in Moscow and gradually enlarges the Kingdom of Moscow.

- 1462—1505: Ivan III (also known as “The Great”) is considered the first czar/tsar (marries the niece of the last Byzantine Emperor) and frees Russia from the Mongol Yoke in 1480.
- 1547—1584: Ivan IV (a.k.a .“The Terrible”) struggles for power among Russia’s nobility (the boyars).
 - Marries into the Romanov family
 - Codifies laws
 - Uses secret police force called the oprichniki
 - Kills thousands of boyars and even his eldest son