

AP European History Cheat Sheet

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Unit 1: Renaissance and Exploration

- **Columbian Exchange:** Exchange of plants (potatoes, tobacco), animals, and diseases (measles, smallpox).
- Exploration & Trade:
- **Triangle Trade:** Transatlantic slave trade involving Europe, Africa, and the Americas.
- **Mercantilism:** Maximizing exports while minimizing imports.
- Slave labor was utilized in the production of cash crops and mining.
- Cultural and Intellectual Movements:
- **Italian Renaissance:** Focus on individualism and secularism (e.g., Petrarch, Michelangelo).
- **Northern Renaissance:** Christian humanism (e.g., Erasmus, Shakespeare).
- **Political Changes:** Rise of city-states, new monarchies in Spain and Great Britain.
- **Economic Developments:** Shift from serfdom to free peasantry in Western Europe, while serfdom continued in Eastern Europe.
- **Technological Advancements:** The use of compasses, horses, guns, and gunpowder to aid exploration

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Unit 2: Age of Reformation

- **Wars of Religion:**
- Thirty Years' War ended with the Peace of Westphalia.
- French Wars of Religion culminated with the Edict of Nantes.
- **Economic Changes:** Emergence of market economies, joint-stock companies, and new financial systems.
- Cultural and Religious Shifts:
- **Baroque art and Mannerism.**
- Protestant Reformation (e.g., Luther's 95 Theses) and Catholic Reformation.
- The printing press (Guttenberg) helped spread ideas rapidly.

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Unit 3: Absolutism and Constitutionalism

- **Power and Governance:** Rise of centralized states (e.g., Louis XIV) and the concept of divine right.
- **Revolutions and Political Thought:** Glorious Revolution led to the English Bill of Rights.
- **Economic Developments:** Commercial agriculture, the Dutch Golden Age, and the Price Revolution.
- **Scientific Advancements:** Enlightenment thinking (reason over religion) and scientific methods became prominent.

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Unit 4: Scientific, Philosophical, and Political Developments

- **Economic and Cultural Changes:**
- Growth of consumer culture and global trade.
- Enlightenment ideals (e.g., natural rights, feminism) challenged traditional authority.
- Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment: Notable contributions in medicine, vaccinations, and the scientific method.
- **Political Reforms:** Introduction of constitutional monarchies and reforms by Enlightened Absolutists (e.g., Catherine the Great, Frederick the Great).

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Unit 5: Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction in the Late 18th Century.

○ **Revolutions:**

- Haitian and French Revolutions inspired movements across the globe.
- Napoleon's rise disrupted the European balance of power.
- Philosophical and Political Movements:
- Romanticism emphasized emotion and spirituality.
- The Congress of Vienna led to the establishment of the Concert of Europe.

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Unit 6: Industrialization and Its Effects

- **Industrial Revolution:**
- Great Britain led industrialization, followed by France, Prussia, and Germany.
- Innovations such as railroads, steamships, and mechanized production transformed economies.
- **Social Changes:**
- Rise of the working class, urbanization, and social reforms in response to industrialization.
- Isms such as liberalism, socialism, nationalism, and conservatism shaped political thought.

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Unit 7: 19th-Century Perspectives and Political Developments

- **New Imperialism:** European nations sought new markets and resources, driven by nationalism, economic gain, and ideologies such as Social Darwinism.
- **National Unification:** Italy and Germany unified in the latter half of the 19th century.
- **Technological Advances:** Innovations in electricity, steel production, and the development of automobiles and radios.

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Unit 8: 20th-Century Global Conflicts

- **World Wars:**
- World War I and World War II reshaped global geopolitics, leading to widespread devastation and the rise of totalitarian regimes.
- The Great Depression affected economies worldwide.
- **Ideological Conflicts:** Fascism, socialism, and communism competed for dominance.
- **Technological and Social Progress:** The use of tanks, machine guns, and nuclear weapons changed warfare.

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Unit 9: Cold War and Contemporary Europe

- **Cold War Era:**
- Tensions between the US and USSR defined the geopolitical landscape, leading to proxy wars and the division between Western and Eastern Europe.
- **Globalization and Technological Advances:** The rise of the internet, space exploration, and global trade marked the end of the century.
- **Social Movements:** Women's rights movements gained momentum, leading to increased political representation and social freedoms.

Additional Notes: