TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY

Date 1492:
Event: Columbus discovery of America began the exploration, settlement, and development (exploitation) of the New World.
Other Events: Machiavelli’s *Prince* – The works of Michelangelo – The Commercial Revolution

Date 1517:
Event: Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.
Other Events: The discoveries of Copernicus – The Council of Trent – Economic decline of Germany and Italian City States

Date 1588:
Event: England’s defeat of the Spanish Armada led to the rise of Britain and the decline of Spain.
Other Events: The rise of the Dutch East India Companies – the works of Shakespeare, Cervantes, Galileo, and Kepler – The Rise of Baroque art
Date 1648:
**Event:** The Treaty of Westphalia ending the Thirty Years’ War brought widespread economic ruin and gave Calvinist as well as Catholic and Lutheran rulers in Germany the right to determine the religion of their people (Cuius Regio, Eius Religio).

**Other Events:** European colonialism and the works of Newton, Descartes, Milton, Moliere, and Racine.

Date 1688:
**Event:** Britain’s Glorious Revolution ended divine right to rule and reaffirmed the supremacy of Parliament.

**Other Events:** The Enclosure Movement; the Westernization of Russia; and the Works of Bach

Date 1740:
**Event:** Frederick the Great and Catherine the Great assumed the throne of Prussia and Russia, respectively, the balance of power in the German states shifted from Austria to Prussia.

**Other Events:** The Enlightenment – Rococo – the works of Mozart – The Industrial Revolution
Date 1776:
Event: The American Declaration of Independence marked the first time a people declared their intention to establish a government based on equality.
Other Events: Smith’s Wealth of Nations – the works of Beethoven, Goethe, and Schiller.

Date 1789:
Event: As a result of the French Revolution, the New Order set in motion a continuing struggle between the proponents and opponents of “Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.”
Other Events: Railroads; the spread of the Industrial Revolution from Britain to the Continent; the legal codes of Napoleon, the U.S. Constitution, and Romanticism.

Date 1815:
Event: Congress of Vienna attempts to restore the conservative Old Order which was doomed to fail.
Other Events: Humanitarianism – the factory system – Reform Bill of 1832 in Britain.
Date 1848:
Event: Failure of liberals to establish national states led a variety of politicians to grasp nationalism.
Other Events: Works of Darwin, Marx, and the realists in art.

Date 1870:
Event: The unification of Germany ended a period of nation building in Italy and Germany.
Other Events: Impressionism – Imperialism – Urbanization – Socialism

Date 1918:
Event: The end of WWI marked the full acceptance of government resting on the consent of the governed.
Other Events: The development of skyscrapers – Cubism – mass production – Freudian psychology

Date 1929:
Event: The Stock Market Crash of 1929 ushered in the Great Depression and led to the end of laissez-faire economics
Other Events: The Welfare State – the jet engine – talking movies
Date 1945:

Event: The end of WWII led quickly to the Cold War.

Other Events: Decolonization and the end of Imperialism – Korean War – the Atomic Age – era of mass communication

Date 1989:

Event: The year brought the end of the Berlin Wall and the dismantling of the totalitarian Communist world.

Other Events: German unification – inroads of capitalism in Communist countries – the Computer Age – and the internet