

A 'Brief' Overview of History

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This is a brief guide to the history of the SCA period. It is intended to help people to choose a persona by looking at the background events that occurred. Some events outside Europe are included. This is to help place Europe in its context. Sometimes these dates will vary from others seen in other books. This is not always due to faulty copying, but due to my sources differing. I pick what seems the best-supported date from what I have in front of me. Where a 'junior ruler' has been chosen, generally in Constantinople, I have often ignored this. Throughout in this text I have followed period practice and referred to, what many today call the 'Byzantine' Empire, as Roman. The term 'Roman' is out of period.

The first part of our period represents a very confused and bloody story with Romans and Arabs fighting over Asia Minor and barbarians squabbling over the rest of Europe. The first major outbreak of plague in 541 had resulted in an infection rate of 90%+ and a death rate of 60%. St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, had reached the Saxons in 595 temporarily converting Kent. They were almost entirely Christian by 700.

The rulers the world in 600AD are: Maurice – Roman Emperor; Reccared I - Visigothic King in Spain; Clothar - Frankish King of Neustria, Childebert II Frankish King of Austrasia and Burgundy; Agilulf - King of the Lombards in Italy, Æthelbert I - King of Kent; Æthelric - King of Deira; Æthelfrith - first King of Northumbria; Ceolwulf - King of Wessex; Colmán Rimid of the Cenél nEógain branch of the Uí Néill and Aed Sláine of the Sil nÁedo Sláine branch are co-regents of the Irish for the young High King, Áed Uaridnach of the Cenél nEógain; In China, Emperor Wên Ti is the founder of the short Sui Dynasty. In Japan Suiko of the Yamato dynasty is Queen. Gregory I (called the Great) is Pope.

Part One - From the Start

- 602 Phocas becomes Roman Emperor.
Start of the Sasanian-Roman war, which lasts until 627.
- 604 Sabinian becomes Pope.
- 605 A new cover is built for the Ka'ba at Mecca.
- 607 Boniface III becomes Pope.
- 608 St. Boniface IV becomes Pope.
- 610 Heraclius becomes first Heraclian Roman Emperor and loses most of the Eastern Empire to Sassanids and barbarians. Eventually reformed the military and regained much of the Empire.
Muhammad experiences his first vision of Gabriel.
- 613 Constantine III becomes Roman Emperor.
Sigebert II becomes Frankish King in Burgundy and Austrasia.
Battle of Chester, the last stand of the Christian British under Selim in England against the pagan Saxons led by Aethilfrith of Northumbria
- 614 Sasanians take Jerusalem
- 615 St. Adeodatus I becomes Pope. He ordained the first priests since the death of Gregory I
- 616 Edwin becomes King of Northumbria.
- 617 Edwin founds (and names) Edinburgh.
- 609 Boniface V becomes Pope.
- 620 Vikings start invading Ireland.
- 621 Last Roman portion of Spain lost to the Visigothic King Suintila.
- 623 The first military victory of Mohammed who, with a force of 313 troops defeated a force of 950 Quraysh (his own original tribe) protecting a major caravan of camels at Bedr.
Mohammed is defeated and wounded by the Qurayshi at Ohud. They delay their pursuit giving Mohammed time to prepare for their assault.
A major Qurayshi force besieges Mohammed in Medina. Although outnumbered, Mohammed drives off the attackers after a siege of 20 days.

- 624 St Mellitus, first Bishop of London, is proclaimed third Archbishop of Canterbury.
Sutton Hoo ship burial occurs. Showing the influence of the East, it contains several items of Roman manufacture.
- 625 Muhammad begins dictating the *Qu'ran* (he was illiterate).
Honorius I becomes Pope.
- 626 Avars besiege Constantinople.
- 627 Edwin of Northumbria converts to Christianity.
The Emperor Heraclius defeats the Persians under Rhazates at Nineveh. This led the way to the restoration of most of the Roman lands near the Euphrates to the Empire
Banu Bakr (also called Bakr ibn Wā'il), an Arabic tribe, defeat the Sasanians at Dhū Qār. This is the start of the first expansion of Islam from Arabia.
- 628 The Roman victory over Persia at Nineveh, occurring during a major bubonic plague period, so exhausted both Empires that they became easy prey to Islamic conquest. Arabia was not affected by the plague.
- 629 At Honain, Muhammad defeats one of the last pagan Arab armies.
- 630 Muhammad conquers Mecca.
- 632 Death of Muhammad. Abu-Bakr, father of Muhammad's wife Ayesha, becomes the first Caliph and launches the great wave of conquests over Persia, Iraq and the Middle East.
- 633 Northumbria is defeated and the Kingdom of Mercia founded by Penda. Edwin of Northumbria is slain.
- 634 The invading Anglo-Saxons under Oswald of Northumbria rout a major British force under Cadwallon. In the battle of Aiznadin a force of 70,000 Eastern Roman troops were defeated by 45,000 Muslims under Khaled 'with great slaughter'. Muslim losses were only admitted as 470.
- 635 Muslims begin their conquest of Syria and Persia.
Cynegils, King of Wessex, becomes Christian.
St Aidan becomes first Bishop of Lindisfarne.
- 636 110,000 Imperial troops under Manuel are defeated by 50,000 Arabs under Khaled at Yarmuk. The Muslims lost about 4,000, while Roman losses were 'enormous'.
Muslim forces defeat Roman troops in a battle lasting two days at Muta after the Arabs lost three commanders in succession, including Khaled.
The Caliph 'Umar takes Jerusalem. Later, in the battle of Cadesia, his forces (30,000 men) under Said defeat a Persian force of 120,000 under Rustam.
- 637 The Muslims under Said defeat the Persians under Yezdegerd at Jalula.
- 638 Heracleonas becomes Roman Emperor.
After the bloody siege of Aleppo, Syria is lost to the Muslims.
The Muslims take the city of Memphis after a siege of several months.
- 639 Jerusalem is fiercely besieged by the Muslims. After a gallant defence by the Patriarch Sophronius, the city is surrendered.
- 640 Severinus becomes Pope.
John IV becomes Pope.
The Celtic Church is censured by the Pope for heretical tendencies. John IV is also responsible for some of the first major resistance to the religious edicts of the Emperor.
Cairo founded by Amrou out of the camp from the siege of Memphis.
- 641 Constantine II becomes Roman Emperor until throne is regained by Heracleonas.
At Nehavend, Persian resistance to the Muslims is ended.
Constantine II becomes Roman Emperor.
- 642 Theodore I becomes Pope.
Final defeat of Persia by the Arabs under the 2nd Caliph Omar.
- 643 After a siege of 18 months, Alexandria surrenders to the Muslims who lost 23,000 men. The victors remain in absolute control of Egypt. This victory was followed up by a further victory at Tripoli over 120,000 Imperial and African troops.
First Roman Embassy to China seeking help against the Muslims.

- 649 St. Martin I becomes Pope and breaks with Constantinople due to a long running disagreement over the doctrine of monothelism.
- 653 Pope Martin is captured by the Romans and exiled to the Crimea.
- 654 St. Eugene I becomes Pope.
- 657 Mercia gains independence under Wulfhere.
St. Vitalian becomes Pope.
The Caliph Ali fights a rebel force under Moawiyeh in an indecisive battle at Siffin. A compromise peace ensues.
- 658 Muslim capital moved from Medina to Damascus (Dimashq).
- 659 Heraclius becomes Roman Emperor.
- 661 The Omayyad dynasty is founded when the Caliph Ali is assassinated and succeeded by Moawiyeh.
- 664 Synod at the Monastery of Whitby (under Abbess Hilda) where it is decided that the Church brought from Rome by Augustine has supremacy over the native Celtic Church in the British Isles.
- 665 In the battle of Basra, the forces allied to the Prophet's widow, Ayesha, were defeated by those of the Caliph Moawiyeh.
- 668 Constantine IV Pogonatus becomes Emperor and abandons monothelism.
- 672 Adeodatus II becomes Pope.
- 673 The birth of the Venerable Bede, author of some 40 books including the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*.
First recorded use of Greek fire by the Romans.
- 674 The Arab invasion reaches the Indus.
- 675 The Saracens, under Sophian, abandon a siege of Constantinople that has lasted seven years.
- 676 Donus becomes Pope.
- 678 St. Agatho becomes Pope.
- 680 Khan Asparukh, claiming descent from Attila, crosses the Danube and founds the Bulgarian Kingdom.
- 682 St. Leo II becomes Pope.
- 683 Donald Bree, King of Dalriada, defeats an invasion by the Angles.
- 684 Ecgrith of Northumbria invades Ireland.
St. Benedict II becomes Pope.
- 685 John V becomes Pope.
Justinian II Rhinotmetus becomes Roman Emperor.
- 686 Conon becomes Pope.
- 687 The Anti-Pope Theodore takes the Throne before willingly submitting to St. Sergius. Another Anti-Pope, Paschal, had to be forced to submit.
A Neustrian force under Thierry III is routed by the Austrasians under Pepin d'Héristal, the Mayor of the Palace.
- 694 A large force of Imperials and Goth mercenaries are defeated by Muslims under Hassan at Utica in North Africa.
- 695 The usurper Leontius becomes Roman Emperor.
- 697 Arab victory over the Romans at Utica.
Adoman writes *Life of St Columba* which, with its conjuring of snakes from the sea et al, is taken as fact by many until modern times.
- 698 Tiberius III becomes Roman Emperor until deposed by Apsimar who restores the Heraclian dynasty.
After their victory at Utica, Carthage is taken and destroyed by the Arabs. It leaves the history books except as a small village. This marks the end of a Roman presence in Africa.

- 700 Arabs capture the area and found a city at Tunis.
Caliph Abl al-Malik decrees that Arabic will be the sole language used for official documents and on coins.
Around this time the Arabs invented distillation of spirits (al-Cohol).
- 701 John VI becomes Pope.
- 702 In Japan the Taika Laws are introduced.
- 705 John VII becomes Pope, the first such to be a son of a Roman official.
Justinian II Rhinotmetrius is restored to the throne of the Roman Empire.
- 706 Tiberius becomes junior Roman Emperor.
- 708 Sisinnius, a Syrian, becomes Pope.
Constantine becomes Pope and does much to reconcile Rome and Byzantium.
- 710 Japanese Imperial capital moved from Asuka to Nara, which was laid out on the model of Ch'ang-an, the T'ang capital.
- 711 Philippicus Bardanes becomes Roman Emperor after murdering Justinian.
Moors enter Spain.
90,000 Visigothic Spaniards under Roderic are defeated by a force of 12,300 Muslims with African auxiliaries under Tarik at Xerxes after Count Julian defects with a large part of the Christian force. The battle lasted eight days and marks the real end of the Visigothic Kingdom of Spain and the start of Moorish domination of the peninsula.
Transoxonia and the Indus conquered by Muslims.
- 712 The Kojiki (History of Japan) written.
- 713 Anastasius II Artemius becomes Roman Emperor.
- 714 The Visigothic Kingdom of Spain, under Agila II, is extinguished by the Moors.
- 715 St. Gregory II becomes Pope.
- 716 Theodosius III becomes Roman Emperor.
The Saracens are repulsed from the city of Constantinople after a siege of 13 months and the destruction of their fleet of 1,800 ships by Greek fire from (allegedly) three dromonds equipped with flame throwers.
- 717 Leo III, the Isaurian becomes the first Isaurian Roman Emperor.
- 718 Failed Muslim assault on Constantinople.
- 720 Constantine V becomes Roman Emperor.
Moors enter France.
Charles Martel re-unites the Franks.
- 712 Muslims establish the state of Sind.
- 716 With the death of Pepin, Charles Martel becomes effective ruler of the Franks as Mayor of the Palace.
- 718 Pelayo, leader of a revolt against the Moors, is elected King of Asturias in what was to become León and Castile.
- 725 Copts rebel against Arabs in Egypt, partly over language rules.
- 726 Iconoclasm (the breaking of the Icons) proclaimed by Emperor Leo III.
After revolting from Roman rule, the Venetians choose Orso as their *dux*.
- 729 Roman troops are defeated and massacred by the forces of Gregory II, who is fighting as an Iconodule (venerators of the Icons).
- 731 Ethelbald of Mercia acknowledged as 'over-king' of England.
St. Gregory III becomes the last Pope to seek the permission of the Emperor before being consecrated.
- 732 Charles Martel (the Hammer), Mayor of the Palace (French), defeats the Moors at Tours.
In order to maintain the numbers of mounts needed to defeat the Moors, Pope Gregory III bans the consumption of horseflesh.
- 740 Constantine V Copronymus becomes Roman Emperor.
Thrace and Asia Minor are devastated by earthquakes.

- 741 St. Zacharius becomes Pope, the last Easterner to do so. He plays down the controversy over iconoclasm.
- 746 Syria and Palestine are devastated by earthquakes.
- 751 Arabs defeat Chinese at Samarkand (Samarqand). They capture papermakers and thus gain the use of paper.
Lombards take Ravenna (Italy) from the Romans.
With the deposition of the Merovingian Childeric III, Pepin the Short becomes the first Carolingian King of the Franks.
- 752 Stephen II is elected Pope. He died four days later, never having been consecrated. He is thus not reckoned as a Pope in the medieval period.
Stephen II (or III) becomes Pope.
- 756 In a deal between Pope Stephen II (or III) and Pepin the Short, backed up by a forged 'donation of Constantine' the Papal States were founded in Italy out of the territories of the Lombards and the Romans. The Roman Church was thus able to become the free of the Metropolitan of Constantinople. In exchange Pepin was anointed, a powerful symbol of Papal favour, as rightful King.
Caliphate of Cordoba founded by Abd al-Rahman I.
- 757 Offa becomes King of Mercia.
St Paul I becomes Pope. He fought against a brief bout of renewed iconoclasm in Constantinople, attempting to consolidate the Papal States with the aid of the Franks. He was a harsh ruler.
The wind organ is introduced into the West by Constantine V as a gift to Pepin
- 760 The *Annales Cambriae* become solely concerned with Wales. This implies that Britain was given up as lost to the Cymraeg.
- 764 London suffers severely from fires.
- 767 Antipope Constantine was part of an Italian contest over the Throne. Despite being consecrated, with the approval of the clergy, he was deposed, blinded and imprisoned in a monastery. Acting for the Lombards, other priests installed the antipope Phillip. It was realised that he was an innocent tool, and he was allowed to return to his monastery.
- 768 Stephen III (or IV) becomes Pope. He was also the creature of a faction and enmeshed in politics.
Charlemagne crowned King of the Franks.
- 772 Hadrian I becomes Pope. As a result of his actions, Charlemagne destroyed the Lombards (774). He restored much of Rome from centuries of neglect and temporarily reconciled Rome and Constantinople but laid the foundations for centuries of Papal nepotism and simonism.
- 775 Leo IV, the Chazar, becomes Roman Emperor.
- 778 After a cattle raid on the Basques and Gascons, the retreating army of Charlemagne is defeated at Roncevalles. The rearguard under Roland was annihilated.
- 780 Constantine VI becomes Roman Emperor
- 787 Harun al-Rashid becomes Caliph at Baghdad (to 809).
- 789 Danes enter England with three ships, killing the official sent to meet them.
- 790 The famous illuminated manuscript called the Book of Kells was completed at about this time. This time is often regarded as the high point of indigenous Irish Celtic culture.
- 792 Lindisfarne sacked by Vikings.
- 795 First Viking raid in Ireland.
St. Leo III becomes Pope.
Charlemagne makes Aachen his capital.
- 797 The Empress Irene gains control of the Roman Empire
- 798 London suffers severely from fires.
- 800 Charlemagne anointed by Pope Leo III as the new Emperor of the Romans as a reward for supporting him against charges (probably true) of fornication and perjury. He became the first Western Emperor since 476 and virtual ruler of Rome.
Tibetan Empire stretches from Siberia to the Bay of Bengal.

The Danevirke, a 19km wall across the Jutland peninsula is built at around this time.

At around this time the Vikings defeat the resident Picts and conquer the Orkneys as well the remaining Picts are fully subdued by the invading Scotti (an exiled Irish tribe). Documentable Scottish history begins.

- 801 London sacked by Vikings.
- 802 Egbert becomes King of Wessex.
Iona sacked by Vikings.
Nicephoros I becomes Roman Emperor.
Angar (Cambodian) Empire founded.
- 804 Muslims under Haroun al-Raschid defeat the Romans under Nicephoros I at Mount Taurus. 40,000 men are lost and the Emperor is wounded and barely escapes alive.
- 808 Fez founded by Idris II of Morocco.
- 811 Stauracius becomes Roman Emperor (briefly)
Michael I, Rhangabe becomes Roman Emperor.
- 813 Leo V, the Armenian, becomes Roman Emperor.
- 814 Louis the Pious crowned King of Franks.
- 816 Stephen IV (or V) becomes Pope. He anoints Louis as Holy Roman Emperor.
- 817 Paschal I becomes Pope. He caused his political opponents to be blinded and murdered. He was so disliked that, on his death, the Roman mob refused burial to his body.
- 820 Michael II, the Amorian, becomes Roman Emperor, the first of the Amorian Dynasty.
The Oseberg ship is built around this time.
- 824 Eugene II, the candidate of the Holy Roman Emperor, becomes Pope.
- 825 Essex annexed to Wessex after the battle of Ellandune.
- 826 Arabs take Crete.
- 827 Valentine becomes Pope.
Gregory IV becomes Pope. He became embroiled in the dynastic struggle on the death of Louis the Pious and in the defence of Italy from the Arabs.
- 828 Arabs invade and partly take Sicily
- 829 Theophilus becomes Roman Emperor.
Egbert of Wessex, conquers Mercia.
- 831 The first Order of Chivalry – the Venetian Order of St Mark is founded.
Around this time, polo is introduced to Byzantium from Persia by Theophilus
- 832 Kenneth MacAlpin unites Scotland.
- 837 In the battle of Hengestesdun the men of Wessex, under Egbert, defeat the Cornish Britons and Danish allies.
- 838 Arabs conquer parts of southern Italy.
In the battle of Amorium, the Muslims under Caliph Motassem defeated an Eastern Roman army under Theophilus. This is despite a rout of their cavalry by 30,000 Persian refugee cavalry. After a further siege, the city was lost by treachery despite a Muslim loss of 70,000 men. The garrison of 30,000 was massacred.
- 839 Ethelwulf becomes King of Mercia.
- 840 Louis the Pious dies. The Empire is split between Lothair I (as titular Emperor) and Charles in France with Louis the German getting a minor portion.
Dublin and Limerick founded by Viking settlers.
Danes settle in Normandy.
- 841 London sacked by Vikings.
- 842 Michael III, the Drunkard, becomes Roman Emperor.

- 844 Kenneth MacAlpine unites Scotland.
John is elected as antipope by the laity, but Sergius II prevailed and confined him to a monastery. After the confusion, Sergius had to concede to Lothair I that the Pope must be confirmed by the Holy Roman Emperor in order to keep his seat. Simony flourished at this time.
- 846 Saracens sack Rome. Many contemporaries accorded it as punishment for the sins of Sergius II.
- 847 St. Leo IV becomes Pope. He built new walls for Rome and reformed much of the Church.
- 849 A navy organised by Leo IV from the fleets of Naples, Amalfi and Gaeta, defeats the Arabs off Ostia.
- 850 Acropolis of Zimbabwe built.
- 851 The Danes are defeated by the West Saxons under Ethelwulf.
- 852 London sacked by Vikings.
- 853 Godfrey MacFergus proclaimed first Jarl of the Isles
- 855 Louis II becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Benedict III becomes Pope despite the opposition of Louis who had Anastasius Bibliothecarius installed as antipope, despite the latter's current ex-communication. Anastasius later became secretary to Nicholas I, accused of complicity in the rape and murder Hadrian II's wife and daughter, ex-communicated again and again restored to favour. He is partly responsible for the breakdown of relations with Constantinople. Ethelbald crowned co-King of Wessex.
According to apocrypha Benedict III is really Pope Joan, an Englishwoman who disguised herself as a priest in order to gain an education. Medieval chronicles tell us she died after giving birth in a street in Rome that is still called the Via Pappessa.
- 858 Ethelbald becomes sole King of Wessex.
St. Nicholas I becomes Pope. As a major advocate of the supremacy of the Roman Church he was responsible for major breaches between Rome and Byzantium, but much admired in the West.
Fjiwara Regency established in Japan.
- 860 Ethelbert crowned King of Wessex.
- 861 Novgorod is founded by the Russ lord Rurik.
Iceland discovered by Vikings.
The invading Vikings are defeated by a Neustrian army under Louis III at Saucourt.
- 864 Kiev founded by Rurik as a Principality.
Sts Cyril and Methodius convert the Bulgars to Christianity.
- 865 Ethelred I becomes King of Wessex. York is captured from the Vikings.
- 867 A married priest, Hadrian II, becomes Pope, an elderly and vacillating man installed at a crucial time in the breakdown of relations between East and West.
Basil I becomes Roman Emperor, the first of the Macedonian Dynasty.
- 870 Edward of East Anglia is defeated and killed by Danish invaders at Thetford.
- 871 The West Saxons under Ethelred defeat the Danes
The Danes gain the upper hand at Reading, the Saxons suffering great loss.
Ethelred defeats the Danes under Bag Secg and Halfdene at Ashdown. Danish losses include one of the Kings and 5 jarls.
London taken by Vikings it is occupied until 878.
Alfred I (the Great) becomes King of Wessex..
At the battle of Merton Alfred is defeated by the Danes.
- 872 John VIII becomes Pope. He personally led the army and navy of the Papal States against the Arabs but ended up buying them off. He miscalculated badly in his interference in the affairs of the Holy Roman Empire and the Roman Empire. He was the first Pope definitely to be assassinated, being poisoned by members of his entourage and then stabbed to death.
- 874 Approximate date of settling of Iceland.
- 875 Charles II (the Bald) briefly becomes Holy Roman Emperor. The term rapidly starts to lose any meaning, becoming a gift of the Pope to whomever could give the most support to the Papacy.

- Danish invaders under Thorstem defeat the men of Alban under Constantine at Dollar. The Danes take possession of Caithness, Sutherlandshire, Ross and Moray.
- 878 At the battle of Chippenham, Alfred's army is decimated during a Twelfth Night feast. Alfred is forced to refuge in Athelny. Despite having lost all of England later, at the battle of Edington, Alfred forces a peace on the Vikings. Alfred becomes King of a united England and insists on literacy for all sons of free men. King Guthrun is baptised.
London moves back to the Roman site as being more defensible.
- 880 The Roman Emperor Basil I recaptures southern Italy from the Arabs.
- 882 Marinus I, the son of a priest. becomes Pope. He did much to repair the damage of the previous reign.
- 883 Alfred the Great sends Athelstan and Sighelm to the shrine of the Apostle St Thomas at Mailapur on the Indian East Coast.
St Cuthbert buried at Chester-le-Street by the monks of Lindisfarne.
- 884 Charles III (the Fat) becomes Holy Roman Emperor. He is the first member of the family since 817 to exercise control over the whole 'Empire'.
St. Hadrian III becomes Pope. He appears to have taken part in the same bloody vendettas that had plagued previous reigns. It is suspected that he was murdered.
- 885 Vikings besiege Paris and are bought off.
Stephen V (or VI) becomes Pope. His failure to act wisely led to the spread of Orthodox Churches through the Slavonic lands.
- 886 Alfred captures the site of modern London from the Danes, rebuilding it, and completes the unification of the non-Danelaw part of England.
The Normans are defeated at Montfaucon by the French who relieve the siege of Paris.
Leo IV, the Wise, becomes Roman Emperor.
- 887 Arnulf deposes Charles the Fat and he retires to the Black Forest. Arnulf becomes King of the Germans and claims the title of Holy Roman Emperor. The title becomes totally meaningless and ignored.
Partly in reaction to this continued disorder, the feudal system starts to take shape.
- 890 Harold I unites Norway.
- 891 Guido III, Duke of Spoleto and adopted son of the Pope, is proclaimed Holy Roman Emperor by his father, making the son virtual ruler over the father.
Formosus becomes Pope. A brilliant missionary who was exiled from Rome for political reasons, he was an extreme ascete who had the extreme misfortune to have his cadaver exhumed, put on trial and his acts annulled. This annulment was later revoked and his body, which had been flung into the Tiber, reburied.
- 888 Odo of Paris becomes King of France.
- 889 Guido becomes King in Italy and is made Emperor by Pope Stephen V.
First recorded appearance of the Magyar who appear to have been pushed west by the Petchenegs. They rapidly find employment as mercenaries for Arnulf and the Holy Romans Empire (against the Bulgars).
- 891 Lambert of Spoleto becomes King of Italy.
- 893 Aberdeen founded.
- 894 The new defences of London are tested as the Danes attack. Many of their ships are destroyed.
- 895 Alfred defeats a Danish invasion fleet.
- 896 Arnulf becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Boniface VI becomes Pope. He had twice been demoted for immorality.
A Norman invasion of Germany is routed by the Emperor Arnulf.
Stephen VI (or VII) becomes Pope. His general behaviour, particularly the treatment of the body of Formosus enraged the Romans who rose in rebellion, stripped him of office and threw him in gaol where he was later strangled. The Papacy becomes as disorganised as the title of Holy Roman Emperor.
- 897 Romanus becomes Pope. He only lasted four months before being deposed and confined to a monastery.
Theodore II becomes Pope. He is a man of peace who annulled the cadaver synod but died after only twenty days of unknown causes.

- 898 John IX becomes Pope. He is a pro-Formosan who bans all trials of the dead and, despite his partisanship, tried to repair the damage done to the Church.
- 899 Louis the Child (age 6) becomes King of Germany.
Alfred dies and Edward the Elder becomes 'King of the Angles and Saxons'.
Magyars invade Moravia.
- 900 Alfonso the Great of Castille attacks the Moors.
Benedict IV becomes Pope. A moderate, he misjudged the politics of the Holy Roman Empire and was probably murdered.
Bulgars become Orthodox Christian.
In the battle of Augsburg, the forces of the Holy Roman Empire are overwhelmed by the Magyar cavalry.
The Gokstad ship is built at around this time.
Easter Island is settled at around this time.
- 901 Louis IV becomes King of France.
Alfonso the Great, King of Asturias, defeats the Moors under Abdullah, King of Cordova, at Zamora.
- 902 Arabs expel the Romans from Sicily.
- 903 Leo V becomes Pope. An outsider to Roman politics, he is deposed after a month by the antipope Christopher who led a splinter faction of the pro-Formosans.
- 904 The election of Sergius III as Pope. He is the twelfth Pope in 20 years. He throws Christopher in the same jail as Leo. Later, 'moved by pity' for the plight of the two, Sergius has them executed. Sergius was a passionate anti-Formosan who had a brief career as anti-pope in 897. On his ascension he dated his reign from this time, annulling the acts of his predecessors and confirming the results of Formosus' trial. This caused turmoil in the Church. He acted in the interests of the noble families of Rome and had a son (John XI) with the daughter of one of his 'advisors'.
Saracens attack Salonika.
- 906 Magyars invade Germany, Moravia falls.
In a gesture of respect for the Sabbath, Edward the Elder bans executions from taking place on a Sunday.
- 907 Civil war breaks out in China as the T'ang collapse into ten states.
Mongols begin their capture of Inner Mongolia.
- 909 The Fatimids seize power from the Aghlabids in Sicily.
- 910 A Danish invasion is crushed by West Saxons under Edward the Elder. Edward extends his kingdom to the Humber.
The Abbey at Cluny, in Burgundy, is established. The Cluniacs would go on to be one of the more influential of the medieval monastic Orders.

Part Two - The Rise of the Normans

This period saw the evolution of the feudal system and the first glimmers of stability in the barbarian West. The Church was still dominated by the Emperor in Constantinople and with the Pope merely a Bishop with major pretensions.

- 911 Hrölf the Ganger (the Walker) is granted Normandy (which his family already owns) by Charles III of France. He becomes the first Duke of Normandy.
Edward the Elder defeats a force of Danes at Wednesfield
Anastasias III becomes Pope, but the Papacy is actually ruled by Theophylact and Theodora, the parents of Sergius' paramour.
Louis the Child dies, the last of the eastern branch of the Carolingians. Conrad I becomes King of Germany.
- 912 Hrölf of Normandy is baptised as Duke Robert.
- 913 Edward the Elder recaptures Essex from the Danes.
Lando becomes Pope, again under the control of Theophylact and Theodora.
Constantine VII Porphyrogenetus becomes Roman Emperor.
- 914 John X becomes Pope, still as a tool of Theophylact and Theodora. This time, however, they selected an able leader who was able to repair much of the damage of both the Formosan issue and with the Roman Empire.
- 915 The last Saracens in Italy are defeated by Pope John X.
- 919 Henry I (Henry the Fowler) becomes King of Germany.
Romanus I, Lecapenus usurps and becomes Roman Emperor briefly.
Constantine VII regains the throne, naming other members of the Lecapenus family as his successors.
- 920 All rulers of England and Scotland acknowledge Edward the Elder as ruler.
Golden Age of the Ghanaian Empire (to 1050).
- 922 Fatimid dynasty seizes Morocco.
- 925 Athelstan becomes King of England. One of his first Acts is to ban trading on a Sunday.
Constantine Lecapenus briefly usurps control as Roman Emperor, before Constantine VII again regains the throne.
- 928 John X is deposed by Sergius III's paramour Marozia, since the death of her parents, ruler of Rome. He was gaoled until he died from suffocation, allegedly by a pillow.
Leo VI becomes Pope at the behest of Marozia as a recognized stopgap until her son is old enough to take the position.
Stephen VII (or VIII) becomes Pope, again under Marozia's control.
- 929 Wencelaus of Bohemia murdered.
- 930 All the land of Iceland is claimed.
- 931 Pope John XI, son of Pope Sergius III, is elevated aged 18.
Most of the inhabitants of the area of Bari (Italy) are taken by Muslim slavers.
- 932 First reference in China to the start of wood block printing.
Alberic, the half-brother of John XI, at the head of an armed mob, arrests and imprisons his mother and brother. Marozia disappears, while John is kept as a ceremonial prisoner by Alberic who rules Rome.
- 934 Henry the Fowler inflicts the first major reverse on the Magyar at Merseberg. They ceased to be a problem for twenty years.
- 935 Haakon I starts trying to convert Norway to Christianity.
Taira Masakado's insurrection in Japan.
- 936 Otto I, the Great, becomes King of Germany.
Leo VII becomes Pope at the instigation of Alberic who continues his family's domination of the Papacy. Although restricted to a ceremonial role, he did much to advance the monastic ideal.
- 937 Athelstan of England defeats a combined invasion of Anlaf the Dane, Owen of Cumberland and King Constantine III of Scotland in the battle of Brunnangurh.

- 939 Civil wars break out in Japan.
Edmund I, the Magnificent becomes King of England.
Stephen VIII (or IX) becomes Pope under Alberic. He established some independence in foreign affairs and later fell foul of Alberic who had him imprisoned, and mutilated until he died of his injuries.
Ramiro II of León defeats a Moorish force of around 100,000 killing up to 60,000 in the battle of Alhandega.
- 940 Wars begin in the north of Japan which last until 1080 and see the emergence of the Taira and Minamoto as the leading warrior clans.
- 941 University of Cairo founded.
- 942 Marinus II becomes another Alberic Pope.
- 944 Romanus I extends the Eastern Roman Empire back to the Euphrates.
- 946 Edred becomes King of England.
Alberic 'appoints' Agapitus II as Pope. Agapitus is very active in monastic reform and (increasingly) in foreign affairs.
- 955 Edwy the Fair becomes King of England.
Magyar power broken at the river Lech by Otto I.
John XII bastard son of the Alberic, Prince of Rome, becomes Pope. He is the most dissolute ruler of the Church until the Renaissance, but seized every opportunity to assert papal temporal and spiritual authority. He was eventually deposed as an apostate by the synod.
- 956 Hugh Capet becomes Duke of the French.
- 959 Edgar the Peaceful becomes King of England.
Romanus II becomes Roman Emperor.
- 960 Sung dynasty founded in China.
Mieszko I first King of Poland.
Basil II Bulgaroctonus becomes Roman Emperor.
Denmark becomes Christian at around this time.
- 961 Crete recovered by the Eastern Roman Empire.
The Scots defeat a Viking force at the battle of the Bands. The Scots King, Indulph is killed.
- 962 Title of Holy Roman Emperor revived for Otto I by John XII. The title remains in use until 1806.
- 963 London bridge built.
Leo VIII, a layman, becomes Pope at the behest of the Holy Roman Emperor. He is deposed by John XII.
- 964 Pope John XII dies of a stroke while in bed with a married woman. He was 27 years of age. He is succeeded by Leo VIII (again) but the Romans refuse to accept him. Benedict V, a deeply holy man, is elected Pope until deposed after a long siege of Rome by the troops of the Holy Roman Emperor. He was allowed to live out his life in a monastery in Hamburg.
- 965 The Emperor Nicephorus Phocas regains Cyprus for Constantinople.
John XIII, at one time Bishop of Narnia, becomes Pope. He serves initially the interests of the Roman patriciate, but eventually of the Holy Roman Emperor.
- 969 An embassy of reapproachment from Otto I to Nicephorus Phocas is sabotaged by the Ambassador, Liutprand.
- 969 Nicephorus Phocas retakes Antioch.
Fatimids seize Egypt.
- 971 Kenneth II, King of Scots.
- 972 Last Saracen brigands chased out of the Alps.
- 973 Pope Benedict VI is elected.
- 973 Pope Benedict VII is elected after the murder of his predecessor by the antipope Boniface VII. These problems of succession are a part of the conflict over the power of the Church, whether it is subject to Constantinople or the Holy Roman Emperor, or if the Pope is indeed a temporal sovereign in his own right. Benedict promoted monastic reform, but was generally a puppet of the Holy Roman Emperor.

- 975 The Danes invade Germany and are defeated by the new Holy Roman Emperor, Otto II. Edward the Martyr becomes King of England. The Councils of Le Puy first proclaim the Peace of God movement. This sets out the rules a Christian warrior should follow, including the protection of widows, and no sacking of churches. Despite theoretical allegiance, the rules did not gain a wide practical acceptance. The fortification of Dristen on the Danube is taken from the Russ, under Duke Swatoslaus, by the Romans. This ends Russ attempts to take Roman territory.
- 978 The Chinese begin production of a 1000 volume printed encyclopaedia. First (unsuccessful) attempt to colonise Greenland.
- 979 First reign of Ethelred II, the Redeless, as King of England. Sung re-unify 'China'.
- 980 Kenneth III of Scotland defeats a Danish invasion at Luncarty. Arabs begin settlement of east coast of Africa.
- 981 Pope Benedict VII prohibits simony (the sale of Church offices).
- 982 A German force invades Italy and is repulsed at Crotona by an allied force of Romans and 40,000 Saracens under the Caliph of Egypt.
- 983 Otto III becomes Holy Roman Emperor aged 3.
- 984 John XIV is appointed Pope by the Holy Roman Emperor. Resistance was so great to this imposition that, when he died of malaria, Boniface was brought back again as antipope.
- 985 Sweyn Forkbeard becomes Sven I, King of Denmark. Boniface dies and John XV is elected as Pope. He is notable for mediating a settlement between Aethelred II of England and Richard I of Normandy. Generally he was hated for his avarice and nepotism.
- 986 Possible date for when Greenland colonised by Eric the Red (982 & 984 also possible). Thorvald Far-farer, first Icelandic Christian apostle, outlawed and exiled by the Althing.
- 987 Louis V dies and Hugh Capet becomes King of France as the founder of the Capetian dynasty. Vinland (America) sighted by Bjarni Herjólfsson.
- 988 Vladimir (of Kiev) marries Anna, daughter of the Roman Emperor. Vladimir, later made a Saint, converts to Orthodox Christianity under influence of his wife.
- 992 Duke Mieszko of Poland presents his realm to the Pope as a means of protection from the depredations of the Germans and Bohemians. England equips a fleet to seek out and destroy the Danes.
- 993 Sweden becomes Christian (although this is only temporary). John XV performs the first ritual canonisation of a Saint (Ulrich of Augsburg)
- 994 94 ships, led by Anlaf of Norway and Swein of Denmark attack London and are repulsed. The 4.5 metre wide bridge is a key to the defence.
- 995 Olaf I forces Norway to become Christian. Durham Cathedral is founded and the body of St Cuthbert is brought there.
- 996 Robert II becomes King of France. Gregory V becomes the first German Pope at the 'election' of his uncle, the Holy Roman Emperor Otto III. Despite this he sided with the Church against the Imperial interests.
- 997 John XVI becomes antipope. He is captured and, with the consent of Pope and Holy Roman Emperor, blinded and mutilated in the nose, tongue, lips and hands and then incarcerated until he died in 1001. Adalbert-Wojciech martyred by the East Prussians.
- 998 Mahmuds found dynasty in India.
- 999 Baguda, first King of Kano. Greenland adopts Christianity. Pope Gregory excommunicates Robert II of France for marrying his cousin. The Magyar St Stephen accepts the Crown as first King of a Christian Hungary. Gerbert of Aurillac installed as Silvester II becomes the first French Pope. He denounces simony and nepotism and became one of the first to call for clerical celibacy as a requirement (against Biblical

- instruction). He was a brilliant man and a pioneer promoter of the abacus and terrestrial and celestial globes as well as being a patron of scholarship and the arts (he encouraged the use of the organ).
- 1000 Norway becomes Christian (Roman rite)
 The Althing votes to accept Christianity in Iceland.
 Bohemia becomes a Christian Kingdom.
 Poland and Hungary granted their first Archbishoprics
 Approximate start of the maximum effect of the Little Climatic Optimum with global warming melting snows allowing cultivation of crops much further north. This was the global event that encouraged the Viking expansion.
 Otto III goes on pilgrimage to Poland opens Charlemagne's tomb.
 At around this time all of Honshu is finally added to the Japanese Empire.
 Normans begin arriving in southern Italy
 Turkic tribes begin crossing the Caucasus Mountains into Asia Minor.
- 1001 A Magyar Prince, Vaik, a descendant of Arpad become the first Hungarian King under the baptismal name of Stephen.
- 1002 America 'discovered' by Leif Eriksson.
 Brian Boru is crowned as the first and last King of a Unified Ireland.
 Henry II becomes Holy Roman Emperor after Otto III dies aged 21.
- 1003 John XVII becomes Pope.
 John XVIII becomes Pope.
- 1005 Malcolm II reunites Scotland.
- 1009 Malcolm II is defeated by Sven of Denmark at Kinloss.
 The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is destroyed by the mad Caliph al-Hakim.
 Sergius IV becomes Pope. His death appears suspicious.
- 1010 An allied force of Berbers and Castilians defeats the Moors of Cordova, who lose 20,000 men.
 Malcolm II defeats the Danes at Morlack. Malcolm is reputed to have had every available fighter in Scotland in his last ditch defence.
- 1012 Benedict VIII becomes Pope in an atmosphere of intense intrigue. He is the first Pope to visit Germany (seeking help against Byzantium in the south of Italy). He promulgates drastic canons against the marriage or concubinage of all clerics and reduces the children of such unions to serfdom. It is known that his chief concern was the dissipation of Church property, rather than any pious concerns.
 Gregory becomes antipope briefly.
- 1013 Sven I of Denmark, son of Harald Bluetooth, invades England and becomes King.
- 1014 Canute I becomes King of Denmark and England.
 London bridge is burnt by Olaf (future King Olaf II of Norway) in defence of the city when in service to Ethelred II. This is commemorated in the nursery rhyme.
 Ethelred II recaptures England.
 Brian Boru dies defeating the Vikings at the battle of Clontarf.
 After the battle of Balathista the victorious Emperor Basil II blinds 15,000 Bulgar prisoners leaving 1 in 100 with one eye to lead the rest home.
- 1015 Canute invades England.
- 1016 Ethelred dies and Edmund Ironside is proclaimed King. The parliament of England, the Witan, who actually have the power to do the choosing, elect Canute (now The Great). Edmund is defeated over five battles.
 Corsica and Sardinia taken from the Muslims by Venetians and Genoese.
- 1018 Boleslav the Mighty becomes Christian and Poland's first King.
- 1019 Balkans reconquered by Basil II.
- 1020 Canute places a ban on trading or assembling in groups on a Sunday. Church is obviously exempt.
 In Arezzo in Italy Guido Monaco begins using a musical notation that makes use of lines. This is the beginning of written music, as we know it.
- 1021 Caliph al-Hakim founds Druse sect.

- 1024 Conrad II becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
John XIX, the younger brother of Benedict VIII, becomes Pope, going from layman to Pope in one day. His election is usually attributed to extensive bribery by his family. He completes the breach between the Papacy and Constantinople.
- 1025 Constantine VIII becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1027 Canute makes a pilgrimage to Rome.
The Peace of God movement is extended into the Truce of God by the Council of Charroux, which bans fighting on Holy Days. Like its predecessor, it is ignored when convenient.
- 1028 Romanus III, Argyrus becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1031 Henri I becomes King of France.
Collapse of the Umayyad caliphate of Cordoba. The Muslims in Spain were not to re-unite until 1090.
- 1032 Benedict IX, the nephew of John XIX becomes Pope. Again the election is undertaken by bribery. He was a fairly able pontiff, attempting to centralise the power of the Roman Church.
- 1034 Michael IV, the Paphlagonian, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
Venetians and Genoese attack Bône in North Africa.
- 1035 Canute dies; Harold I Harefoot becomes King of England and Sven II becomes King of Denmark.
William I, known as the Bastard, becomes Duke of Normandy.
- 1037 Death of the Arab physician Avicenna (born 980) who is often regarded as the father of modern medicine.
- 1039 Henry III becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1040 Hardicanute becomes King of England.
Macbeth kills Duncan I to become King of the south of Scotland.
- 1041 Michael V, the Caulker, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1042 End of Danish rule as Edward the Confessor becomes King of England.
The Empresses Zoë and Theodora Porphyrogenetae rule the Eastern Roman Empire briefly.
Michael VI, Stratioticus, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1044 Benedict IX is ejected from Rome and Silvester III installed as Pope. He was in turn eventually ejected and continued to hold his bishopric until his (natural) death.
- 1045 Armenia re-taken by the Eastern Roman Empire.
First appearance of the story of Prester John. It is told by Bishop Hugh of Gabala (near Antioch) to Pope Silvester III.
Pope Gregory VI bribes (possibly unwittingly) Benedict IX to relinquish the throne and nominate him as successor. He was in turn deposed by a synod for simony.
- 1046 A German, Clement II becomes Pope. He is installed by the Holy Roman Emperor as a part of an effort to rescue the office from feuding Italian families who had three rival popes in play by this stage. He was noted as a reformer and died of lead poisoning.
- 1047 Normans under William, with aid from Henry I of France, crush a revolt of the Norman Barons at Val-ès-Dunes. This establishes William's supremacy in Normandy.
- 1048 Damascus II becomes Pope before being deposed by a briefly returning Benedict IX.
- 1049 Bruno of Tours is elected Pope Leo IX. He was a staunch advocate of the primacy of the Pope as a spiritual ruler over all Christians and reform of the Church. He decreed that bishops should be elected by their clergy and people (the Investiture Controversy which racked the Christendom until 1123). He denied the Miracle of Transubstantiation and deposed simoniacal bishops. He is noted for trying to make alliance with Constantinople against the Normans of southern Italy. This led to a fatal breach with the Patriarch, Michael Cerularias, with Leo's envoy, Humbert of Silva Candida, excommunicating Michael. His impact on the Papacy was so great that he was soon hailed as a Saint.
- 1051 William of Normandy named heir by Edward (which he has no right to do).
- 1052 Edward founds Westminster Abbey.
- 1054 The Council of Narbonne proclaimed that no Christian should kill another Christian - it outlawed war. This was the ultimate extension of the Peace of God and, like the others, doomed.

- Pope Leo IX defeated by the southern Normans at Civitate.
First mention of plenary indulgences in return for fighting for the Church.
- 1053 Harold Godwinson becomes Earl of Wessex.
- 1054 Eastern Church declares it is not bound by Rome.
A supernova is recorded that allowed reading outside at night. It was visible during daylight for 22 months. We know its remains today as the Crab Nebula.
Macbeth is defeated by the English under Siward, Earl of Northumberland at Dunsinane. The English are supporting Malcolm Canmore, son of Duncan.
- 1055 Theodora regains control briefly in Constantinople.
Tostig (brother of Harold Godwinson) becomes Earl of Northumbria.
Victor II is installed as Pope by the Holy Roman Emperor.
Seljuks occupy Baghdad.
- 1056 Henry IV becomes Holy Roman Emperor at the age of five. His mother Agnes is his regent until 1065.
Michael VI regains control as Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1057 Malcolm Canmore kills Macbeth at the battle of Lumphanan. Macbeth is succeeded by his nephew Lulach as King of Scotland.
Stephen IX (or X) becomes Pope. He denounces clerical marriage and promotes radical reform (including that of Peter Damiani).
Isaac I, Comnenus, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1058 Boleslav II, the Bold, becomes King of Poland.
William of Normandy completely defeats a force of French and Angevins at Varaville who are fighting under his old ally Henry I. This establishes a virtual Norman independence from France.
Benedict X is elected antipope on the death of Stephen. His installation was an attempt to halt the pace of reform in the Church.
Nicholas II is elected Pope by the reformers and approved their charter on the election of the Pope, which aimed to remove the elective powers of the Holy Roman Emperor and the Roman patriciate. He allied with the Normans of Italy and confirmed earlier teachings against the Miracle of Transubstantiation. He aroused the ire of both the German Church and the Regent Agnes, but died before events could come to a head.
Malcolm III Canmore becomes King of Scotland after killing Lulach.
- 1059 Constantine X, Ducas, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor, the first of the Ducas Dynasty.
The Synod of Melfi prohibits clerical marriage or concubinage. It was much ignored.
The Treaty of Melfi, mediated by Abbot Desiderius of Monte Cassino, allies the southern Normans with the Papacy.
Nicholas II decrees that all future Popes are to be elected by the College of Cardinals, not appointed by the Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1060 Philippe I becomes King of France.
- 1061 Pope Alexander II is elevated. He forbade attendance at masses celebrated by married priests, attacked simony and reformed the Church. He started a reconciliation with Constantinople.
Honorius is installed as antipope by the Regent Agnes. Despite initial military success, when Agnes was replaced as Regent by Anno (1062) he was eventually deposed and returned to his See of Parma.
Amoravid Dynasty founded in Morocco
- 1062 Yusuf ben Tashfin of Morocco founds Marrakech.
- 1063 Pope Alexander II sends indulgences to Norman warriors and French knights fighting the Saracens in Sicily and Spain. Genoese and Venetian ships destroy the Muslim arsenal at Palermo.
Harold and Tostig subdue the Welsh.
- 1064 The Danish fleet under Sven II is defeated by the Norwegians under Harold Haardraada at Nissa. Sven is defeated and his fleet destroyed.
Harold of Wessex is forced to swear allegiance to William of Normandy.
The pilgrimage season saw in excess of seven thousand Western visitors to Jerusalem.
With the death of Thorfinn, Jarl of Orkney, Viking dominance of Scotland ends.

1065 Northumbria rebels against Tostig, who is exiled.

Bishop Gunther of Bamberg leads 7,000 German pilgrims towards Jerusalem to free it by their holy presence. Few make it there except as slaves.

1066 Edward dies, Witan names Harold II as the King.

Harold Haardraada, King of Norway, invades England with Tostig. Haardraada claims the throne as the closest relative of Edward. After an initial victory at Fulford, they are defeated at Stamford Bridge (near York).

William I, the Bastard, invades 3 days later and defeats the weakened forces of Harold II 19 days after Stamford at the battle of Senlac (Hastings).

Henry IV actually takes control of the Holy Roman Empire, ending the Regency.

Part Three - The 'Crusades' Period or the 'real' Middle Ages.

It is important to note that early Crusaders used the term 'peregrinato' to describe themselves. The term 'Crusader' is a later invention. It is during this time, mostly from around 1100, that noble families began to obtain surnames. Usually these were taken from the most important castle held by the family. Early examples include Montfort, Clare and Hohenstaufen. Another notable feature of the period is the rise of violent anti-semiticism, and racism generally, in the West. These features are usually associated with the Crusades movement. The conflict between the increasingly imperial style of the Papacy, on one hand, and the growing power of the Holy Roman Empire and the declining theocracy of Constantinople on the other (not that the two were allied) dominated the religious and political scenes.

1067 Eudoces, widow of Constantine X, becomes sole Empress

Tower of London started.

First record of the use of astrolabes by Arabs

1068 William I subdues the north of England by devastating it. This is known as 'the Harrying of the North'.
Romanus Diogenes marries Michael VII, Parapinaces, making him Emperor

1069 Major famine in Egypt (until 1072).

1070 Hereward the Wake begins a Saxon revolt in the fens of Eastern England.

1071 Knights of St John founded.

In the battle of Manzikert, the Seljuk leader Alp Arslan defeats the Romans and captures most of Asia Minor and Romanus IV. He releases Romanus, but during his captivity he is deposed by his wife and step-son, Michael Ducas (Parapinaces), son of Constantine X, who rules as Michael VII.

The Norman, Robert Guiscard, defeats the Empire at Bari and ends Roman rule in southern Italy.

1072 William I invades Scotland,

Hereward the Wake's rebellion is crushed.

Death of Peter Damiani.

1073 Gregory VII (Hildebrand of Soana, later a Saint) becomes Pope under some very suspicious circumstances. He had been a close associate of the earlier reforming pontiffs (but there was evidence to indicate possible complicity with their deaths). His inflexibility led to conflict with the Holy Roman Empire. He attempts to bind all Christendom by feudal ties to the Papacy. Despite this he attempted a reconciliation with the Roman Empire and remained on good terms with the Emperor.
Amalfi is captured by Robert Guiscard. This ends a long history of this city trading throughout the Mediterranean.

1074 Gregory VII imposes an absolute ban on marriage on a (largely unwilling) clergy and preaches a Crusade (with the backing of the influential Countess Matilda of Tuscany) to free the Roman Empire and the Holy Land, with all freed land being held directly from the Pope.

1075 The Seljuk leader Malik Shah conquers Syria and Palestine.

Adam of Bremen completes his history of Northern Europe between the 8th and 11th Centuries. It contains the first written reference to the discovery of Vinland.

250 shiploads of refugee Anglo-Saxon boat people enlist in the Varangian Guard.

1076 Aragon annexes Navarre.

At the Synod of Worms Pope Gregory VII is deposed by the Bishops and Henry IV over who has the right to appoint bishops and the irregularities of his election. Gregory refuses to accept this, excommunicates Henry, and Germany is plunged into civil war.

1077 Bishop Odo, the brother of William the Bastard, opens his new cathedral at Bayeux. It is decorated with a tapestry of his brother's exploits.

Henry IV does penance to Gregory VII at Canossa.

1078 Nicephorus III, Botaniates, becomes Roman Emperor.

King Alfonso VI of Castile prepares to siege the Moors of Seville under Al-Mutamid. Hearing that Alfonso was a chess enthusiast, Al-Mutamid challenges him to a chess tourney with the winner to take the city and sends his champion Ibn-Ammar to contest the challenge. Ibn-Ammar wins and the Castilians withdraw.

1080 Henry IV is victorious and Gregory is re-deposed at the Synod of Brixen. Clement III, an anti-Pope, is elected. He maintains his claim until 1100.

- Robert fitzWilliam, with French assistance, rebels against his father William I of England. He is defeated at Gerberoi and renounces his claim to Normandy.
 Robert Guiscard does homage to Gregory VII as his temporal lord.
 Rodrigo Diaz de Bivar, later known as El Cid, is expelled from Castile and begins his military career with the Moors.
 Canute IV becomes King of Denmark.
- 1081 Alexius I, Comnenus, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor, the first of the Comnenian Dynasty.
 Robert Guiscard, his wife Sichelgaita and son Bohemond, invade the Balkans, which were mainly Roman.
- 1082 Emperor Alexius I grants Venice extraordinary concessions for its help against Robert.
- 1083 Normans defeated by Romans at Larissa.
 Henry IV besieges Rome; Gregory seeks help from Robert Guiscard.
 Benedictines build a monastery on Lindisfarne.
- 1084 Robert Guiscard returns from the Balkans, drives off Henry and then sacks Rome himself.
- 1085 Gregory VII and Robert Guiscard both die (in Salerno and on Cephallonia). Normans expelled from Balkans.
 Alfonso VI of Castile takes Toledo, the ancient capital of Spain, from the Muslims.
- 1086 Domesday Book completed.
 Canute IV, the last Danish claimant to the English throne, dies.
 Victor III becomes Pope after a long interregnum. He was regarded as an anti-reformer and driven out of Rome by the reformers. He sadly put aside his office and returned to his monastery but was persuaded to return and gained the trust of the reformers by continuing Gregory's policies.
 Almoravids under Yusuf-ibn-Tashfin invade Spain and defeat Alfonso VI at Zalaca, sending 40,000 heads to Africa as a trophy.
- 1087 William I dies. His lands are split between his eldest son, Robert II Curthose who becomes Duke of Normandy (having been forgiven his revolt) and William II Rufus who becomes King of England.
 Pisa and Genoa launch a naval expedition and sack the city of Mahdia in Tunisia.
 Relics of St Nicholas stolen from Myra by forces of the city of Bari.
 Nizam al-Mulik grants the first hereditary fiefdoms in the Caliphate.
- 1088 Odo rebels against Rufus and is banished from England.
 In an atmosphere of intense politics, Urban II becomes Pope.
 Bologna University is founded.
- 1089 Henry IV marries the Princess of Kiev.
 Pope Urban takes Rome from Henry IV
 Pope Urban II tries to distract attention from internal problems and himself by starting to preach in favour of a Crusade
 David the Restorer becomes Tsar of Georgia (Russia)
- 1090 Henry IV defeats Urban.
 Chinese build first water clock.
 Yusuf ben Tashfin takes Granada and founds the Almoravid dynasty.
 Hasan ibn al-Sabbah founds the Assassins in Persia.
 Norman conquest of Sicily complete.
- 1091 Alexius Comnenus defeats the Petchenegs at Leburnium.
- 1092 After the fall of Nicea to the Turks, the Emperor Alexius writes a letter to the Pope requesting some troops to help expel them.
 First recorded use of an astrolabe in western Europe.
- 1093 Donald Bane becomes King of Scotland following his brother, Malcolm III's, death in the battle of Alnwick against the English.
 Construction started on the current cathedral at Durham.
 St Anselm becomes Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1094 Valencia falls to the Muslim army led by El Cid.
 Floods and pestilence affect most of Europe.

- 1095 Drought and famine affect most of Europe.
 In April, a major shower of meteorites presages great change and movement.
 Urban II actually starts what is later named the First Crusade with a sermon at Clermont.
 Henry of Burgundy first Count of Portugal.
 Alexius Comnenus defeats the Cumans at Adrianople.
 In the battle of Alarcos the Moors under Yakub el Mansur defeated the Castilians under Alfonso VIII.
 Very few Spanish escaped to Calatrava with estimates of 30,000 prisoners being taken.
- 1096 Crusade begins with Bohemund of Otranto, Raymond of Toulouse, Baldwin of Flanders and Godfrey de Bouillon as leaders. The first victims are the Jews of the Rhine Valley.
- 1097 Major storms damage London Bridge so that traffic cannot use it.
 Edgar, second son of Malcolm III of Scotland, defeats Donald Bane with the help of William II of England.
 Troops of the First Crusade, under Godfrey de Bouillon, capture Nicaea from the Turks.
 After initial reverses, 70,000 Crusaders defeat 250,000 Saracens under Sultan Suliman at Dorylaeum.
- 1098 The first Cistercian monastery is founded by St Robert at Citreux in France.
 Urban II summons the Council of Bari dealing, among other things, with the theft of relics. He came very close to fully reconciling Rome and Constantinople.
 The Crusader state of Edessa is founded by Baldwin of Boulogne.
 Crusaders defeat the Saracens at Antioch despite a very inept siege. After gaining entry 'by stratagem', the Crusaders massacred the inhabitants of the town. Bohemund founds a state there, despite it only leaving Roman control in 1085 and his specific promise to restore it to them.
- 1099 After the battle of Ascalon, Jerusalem is taken from the Egyptians. They had only regained it from the Turks the year before. Godfrey of Bouillon is proclaimed King of Jerusalem.
 Paschal II is elected Pope. He characterised as being weak, timid and inflexible.
- 1100 Chanson de Roland written.
 William Rufus is assassinated in a hunting 'accident'. Henry I Beauclerc becomes King of England.
 Godfrey of Jerusalem dies and Baldwin of Flanders becomes King of Jerusalem.
 Theoderic succeeds Clement III as antipope. He is defeated and confined to a monastery.
 At around this time the windlass assisted crossbow came into being.
 First mention of distilled spirits in the west at Salerno.
- 1101 Albert becomes antipope. He is likewise confined to a monastery.
- 1104 Acre captured by Crusaders.
 The army of Edessa is destroyed by the Muslims.
- 1105 Silvester IV becomes antipope. He is installed by a different faction to that of Theoderic and Albert. He was militarily successful, and only fell when abandoned by the Holy Roman Emperor. He was then used as a weapon to threaten Paschal, but also ended his days as a monk.
- 1106 Henry I defeats his brother Robert II at the battle of Tinchebrai and gains control of Normandy. Robert is kept captive for the rest of his life.
 Henry IV dies and plunges the Holy Roman Empire into chaos. Henry V survives as Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1107 Alexander I, younger brother of Edgar, becomes King of Scotland.
- 1108 Louis VI (the Fat) becomes King of France.
- 1109 War begins between England and France.
 The County of Tripoli is founded by Bertram of Toulouse.
 Spaniards under Don Sancho of Castile are defeated by Moors under Ali at Ucles. Many knights are killed including Don Sancho.
- 1110 Sidon and Beirut captured with the aid of a fleet from Norway led by King Sigurd.
 Polo was very popular in Byzantium; the area called Tzykanisterin, in Constantinople was the Palace Polo Grounds.
- 1111 Henry V forces Pope Paschal II to acknowledge the power of the Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1113 The founding of the Order of St John is formally acknowledged by the Papacy.

- 1114 Princess Matilda, daughter of Henry I of England, marries the Holy Roman Emperor, Henry V.
- 1115 Stephen II becomes King of Hungary.
St Bernard founds the Abbey of Clairvaux.
- 1118 John II, Calojohannes, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
Gelasius II becomes Pope during a more troubled period than is usual.
Gregory becomes antipope.
The armies of Baldwin I of Jerusalem reach the Nile.
- 1119 Hugues de Payens founds the Order of Knights Templar.
Callistus II becomes Pope at the election of a rump of bishops in Cluny (where Gelasius died). He provided penalties for violators of the Truce of God.
In a small, but decisive, battle of Brenneville Henry I defeats Louis VI.
Chinese invent the modern compass (with a needle that points south).
- 1120 William, heir of Henry I, is drowned in the wreck of the 'White Ship'.
- 1122 Concordat of Worms temporarily ends the dispute between Pope and Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1123 Death of the Persian poet, Omar Khayyám.
Venetians destroy the Egyptian fleet.
- 1124 David I, younger brother of Alexander I, becomes King of Scotland.
Arnald appointed first Bishop of Greenland
- 1125 Lothair II becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1126 Alfonso VII becomes King of Castile.
- 1128 The Knights Templar authorised by the Papacy.
- 1129 The Empress Matilda, the widow of Henry V, marries Geoffrey the Handsome, Count of Anjou whose nickname was Plantagenet.
- 1130 Almohad Dynasty, founded by the preacher ibn Tumart rises to power in Morocco.
- 1135 Henry I dies and Stephen of Boulogne seizes the throne ignoring Henry's daughter Matilda, whom he had freely sworn acknowledgement to as heir of the throne. He does this with the support of his brother Henry, Bishop of Winchester who seizes the treasury. This is used to bribe Matilda's uncle, David of Scotland and others. After this it gets confusing.
- 1136 The first major Great Fire of London destroys the bridge.
- 1137 Louis VII becomes King of France.
Conrad III becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1138 David I of Scotland, now on the side of his niece Matilda, is defeated by English forces in the battle of the Standard (named because of the existence of the banners of St Cuthbert and others in the English army to ensure victory).
Geoffrey of Monmouth writes his apocryphal *History of the Kings of Britain*. This is one of the most inaccurate histories ever written and gave rise to Hamlet, King Lear and the movement of the Arthur legends to the west of England and Wales for the first time.
- 1139 Matilda invades England and the first major English Civil War begins. This is the time written about by Ellis Peters in the Brother Cadfael series.
- 1143 Alfonso Henriques becomes first King of Portugal.
Manuel I becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
Draughts gains great popularity in Constantinople.
- 1144 Stephen loses Normandy to Geoffrey of Anjou.
The first of the great cathedrals, Saint-Denis in Paris, is consecrated.
The Hospitallers accept responsibility for the Krak du Chevaliers when the County of Tripoli cannot afford its upkeep.
The County of Edessa falls to the Turk, Zengi.
- 1145 Second Crusade is preached by Pope Eugenius III.

- 1147 Lisbon is taken from the Moors.
 Portuguese Order of St Benedict founded as an Order of Knighthood.
 Second Crusade starts. Leaders are Conrad III and Louis VII.
 The Wendish Crusade is proclaimed is the first of the German crusades in the Baltic. It has little military effect, but establishes a pattern that lasts until the early sixteenth century.
- 1149 Second Crusade fails after ignoring the main threat to the Crusader Kingdoms (Nur al-Din) and attacking the only powerful Muslim who was a Christian ally, the Emir of Damascus.
- 1150 Henry FitzEmpress gains Normandy from his father, Geoffrey of Anjou.
 Present castle built at Bamburgh.
- 1151 Henry inherits Anjou, Maine and Touraine.
- 1152 Henry marries Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine, and ex-wife of Louis VII of France. She was 11 years Henry's senior and had numerous lovers (as did he).
- 1153 The Kingdom of Jerusalem takes the major Egyptian seaport of Ascalon.
- 1154 Stephen dies and, following an agreement, Matilda's son Henry II Curtmantle becomes King of England.
 Nicholas Breakspear becomes Adrian IV, the only English Pope.
 Adrian IV gives Ireland to Henry II without asking the Irish.
 Fredrick I Barbarossa is made Holy Roman Emperor by Adrian IV. Their relationship deteriorated when Adrian attempted to impose feudal overlordship on Fredrick.
- 1156 Hogen Insurrection around Kyoto in Japan.
- 1158 The Order of Calatrava (Knighthood) is founded in Spain by Sancho III.
 The first University (of modern form) granted Imperial priviledges in Bologna.
- 1160 At around this time the 'Welsh' longbow became recognisable in the British Isles as distinct from the earlier types of self bows.
- 1162 Thomas a'Beckett made Archbishop of Canterbury.
 Cadiz is taken from the Moors.
- 1164 Amalric I of Jerusalem occupies Cairo.
- 1167 Oxford University founded.
 First known battle of Sir William Marshall. Although having lost his horse he individually defeats an estimated 40 others in the battle of Drincourt.
- 1168 A five-year long invasion of Roman territory by Hungarians ends in their defeat at Zeugminium by the Emperor Manuel.
- 1169 The fort of Havn is build in Denmark by Axel, Bishop of Roskilde. It later grew to become Copenhagen.
- 1170 Thomas a'Beckett murdered at the unwitting instigation of Henry II
 University of Paris founded.
 Antioch and Tripoli destroyed by earthquakes.
 The knightly Order of St James of the Sword is established by Raniro II of Leon.
 Salah al-Din (Saladin) becomes Vizier in Egypt.
 First recorded case of seppuku in Japan.
- 1173 William the Marshall, acting for Henry II, crushes a revolt by Henry's sons (Richard and John) in Normandy. See the film *The Lion in Winter*.
- 1176 Imperialist knights under Frederick Barbarossa are defeated at Legnano by the infantry of the Lombard League, aided by Venice and the Pope. Frederick is forced to flee Italy in disguise.
 Seljuks defeat Manuel I at Myriokephalon.
 Work begins of the first stone London Bridge. It has shops and houses along it and the largest pier has a chapel to St Thomas a'Beckett. Much of the length is covered over. There are 20 piers and the bridge is over 300m long with a drawbridge at one end. The tolls to cross are ¼ penny per person on foot, a penny for one on horse and a ½ penny per pack of goods. It costs one penny to open the drawbridge and pass under. This is usually only done once each day with the tides.
- 1177 Saladin is defeated by the army of Jerusalem under Renaud de Châtillon at Ramla.

- 1180 Phillip II Augustus becomes King of France.
Alexius II becomes Roman Emperor.
- 1181 Agreement is reached to merge the Maronite Church into the Roman.
Unrecorded supernova would have been clearly visible.
Death of Kiyomori in Japan leads to the Gempi (or Minamoti-Taira) Wars.
- 1183 Andronicus I becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1184 Cyprus becomes independent from the Eastern Roman Empire.
Peter Waldo is excommunicated for advocating a form of Christian asceticism including surrender of all worldly wealth and luxury. The Church interpreted this (rightly) as a attack on its materialism. Peter and several thousand Waldesians fled into the Piedmontese Alps to escape persecution.
- 1185 Isaac II, Angelus, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor, first of the Angelus Dynasty.
Destruction of the Taira clan at Dan-no-ura ends the Gempi Wars.
- 1187 The armies of Jerusalem are defeated by Saladin at the Horns of Hattin and many of their leaders captured.
Saladin takes Jerusalem from the last Christian King of Jerusalem, Guy de Lusignan. The Christians are given forty days to leave. Saladin is congratulated by Isaac II who asks for the return of the Holy places to Orthodox control. This is done.
- 1189 Richard I Coeur de Lion becomes England's first gay King.
Third Crusade starts with Richard I, Fredrick I Barbarossa and Philip II Augustus as leaders.
In the battle of Arsouf the Crusaders, under Richard I, defeat a force of 300,000 Saracens under Saladin.
The monk Nehkei held the Gojo Bridge in Kyoto alone against up to 1,000 attackers before being slain.
- 1190 Henry VI becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Barbarossa drowns in an accident.
- 1191 Acre falls to the Crusaders after a two-year siege. Crusader loses are estimated at 120,000 men.
- 1192 Cyprus' independence crushed by Richard I of England, who sells the island to Guy de Lusignan whose descendants ruled there for several centuries.
Minamoto Yoritomo becomes Shogun in Japan. Start of the Kamakura period.
- 1193 Temujin's first victory at Germaghah over his father-in-law Sankun.
- 1194 Richard I of England defeats his Crusader ally, Philip II Augustus at Freteval.
- 1195 Alexius III becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1197 Otto IV becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Richard I again defeats Philip II at Gisors.
- 1198 Teutonic Knights become a Military Order.
- 1199 John becomes King of England after his brother dies as the result of a crossbow wound taken at the siege of Chaluz.
- 1200 John marries Isabella of Angouleme, who was betrothed to Hugh of Lusignan.
Approximate end of the Little Climactic Optimum. Agriculture becomes more restricted in the north, as the weather turns colder.
Around this time the Maori settled New Zealand.
- 1202 Start of Fourth Crusade.
Start of Anglo-French War.
- 1203 Alexius IV Comnenus, the Usurper, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1204 Alexius V Murtuphlus becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
Constantinople is treacherously captured by Crusaders, acting for the Venetians, who loot most of the city and debate moving their entire population and taking over the Empire. Baldwin of Flanders is named as their 'Emperor'. Theodore I Lascaris continued to reign most of the rest of the Empire from Nicea as the founder of the Lascarid Dynasty.
At the time of the sack Constantinople had around 3,600 relics of 476 Saints.
Alexius IV Comnenus forms the Empire of Trebizond as a rump state.
- 1205 In the battle of Adrianople, 15 April, the 'Emperor' Baldwin is defeated and captured by the Bulgars.

- 1206 Temujin proclaims himself as Genghis Khan (Universal Ruler) having united the Mongols, Tartars, Keraites, Naimans and Merkits.
Henry becomes 'Emperor' in Constantinople.
- 1207 John of England quarrels with the Pope.
End of the siege at De-An (China) which lasted over a year. The Jurchen attackers had around 100,000 men as well as trebuchets and siege towers. The defenders under Wang Yunchu numbered only 6,000.
- 1208 England is placed under the Interdict earning its King the sobriquet 'Lackland'.
- 1209 John Lackland is ex-communicated.
- 1210 Francis of Assisi receives permission to start preaching.
Aristotle's books on natural philosophy banned in Paris.
- 1211 Frederick II becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Genghis Khan attacks China with 75,000 troops. The conquest is complete within two years.
- 1212 The ill-conceived Children's Crusade under 12-year old Stephen of Cloyes starts and ends when its 'army' is sold into Moorish slavery by the Christian ship-owners transporting it. This appears to have been the sole intent of its instigators.
Moorish power in Iberia is broken at the battle of Las Navas de Tolosa when the allied armies of the Kings of Castile, Léon, Aragon, Navarre and Portugal defeat and massacre a force of 600,000 Moors under Mohammed al Nasin. Because of Christian disunity, fighting would continue for many centuries.
Teutonic Knights amalgamate several smaller Baltic Orders.
- 1213 Order of the Bear (Knighthood) in Austria.
Catholics under one of the Simon de Montforts end the infamous Albigensian Crusade with the massacre at Muret. Pedro II of Aragon is killed fighting for the independence of the area. The book *Montaillou*, a compilation from the records of the Dominican inquisitors, details much of the life of the time.
- 1214 A mixed force of Germans, Flemish and English, is defeated by the French under Philip Augustus. This broke up the coalition.
- 1215 John capitulates to the Pope and his Barons. The Magna Carta is signed at Runnymede.
The knightly Order of Alcantra founded in Spain by Salamanca.
Genghis Khan takes Beijing.
The Catholic Church declares marriage to be a sacrament and requires ecclesiastic involvement in what had previously been a secular arrangement.
Catholic Church declares Transubstantiation to be dogma.
- 1216 Henry III crowned King of England at the age of 9. William the Marshall becomes Regent.
Peter of Courtenay becomes 'Emperor' in Byzantium.
- 1217 In the battle of the Fair of Lincoln, Royalist troops under the Earl of Pembroke defeat a rebel force of Barons supporting the Dauphin Louis as pretender to the English throne.
First mention of brie cheese.
- 1218 The empire of the Kara Khitai is destroyed by Genghis Khan. They are remembered as their name gave rise to the term 'Cathay' for a land to the east of Europe.
Genghis Khan (400,000 men) and the Sultan of Khwarizm (200,000 men) fight to a standstill with heavy losses on both sides.
Proclamation of the Fifth Crusade.
The Order of Our Lady of Ransom founded in Aragon by St Peter Nolasco for the redemption of captured crusaders.
- 1219 William the Marshall, who served under four Kings of England, dies. Hubert de Burgh becomes regent.
Order of Dannebrog (Knighthood) founded in Denmark.
- 1220 After a gallant defence of Samarkand from Genghis Khan, the garrison (originally numbering 110,000 men) was betrayed by citizens who sought to avoid a sack. The Governor, Alub Khan, cut his way out of the city with 1,000 men. The remaining garrison of less than 30,000 were executed.
- 1221 Robert becomes Latin 'Emperor' in Byzantium.
Herat is taken by Tartars from the Afghans, lost to Shems-ed-din, who held it as an independent chieftain and retaken for the Tartars by Tuli Khan. All inhabitants are slain after they surrendered.

- After the death of a favourite grandson to the defenders of the city of Bamian, Ghenghis Khan orders the city to be wiped out utterly.
- 1222 The Prose Edda is written by Snorri Sturluson in Iceland.
John III, Ducas Vatatzes, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor in Nicea.
- 1223 Louis VIII becomes King of France.
- 1224 Latins expelled from Anatolia.
Russian forces are defeated by the Mongols at the battle of Kalka.
Nine ragged beggars of the Friars Minor arrive at Dover. Within six months they have established permanent Houses in Canterbury, London and Oxford.
- 1225 Robert Hud, *fugitivus*, of Barnsdale, Yorkshire, is arraigned and declared outlaw at the York Sessions.
This is one of the more likely origins for the Robin Hood legends.
- 1226 Genghis Khan (200,000 men) defeats an allied army of Turk, Chinese and other forces (350,000) at Karamuran. The allies lose 200,000 slain.
Louis IX (afterwards made Saint) becomes King of France.
- 1227 The province of Dithmarsh wins independence from the Danes by defeating Valdemar II in the battle of Bornhöved.
Genghis Khan dies.
- 1228 Baldwin II and John of Brienne become 'co-Emperors' in Byzantium.
Sixth Crusade starts.
- 1229 Ogadai becomes Great Khan.
Fulfilling an impossible penance imposed upon him and without striking a blow, the excommunicated Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II makes a treaty with the Sultan al-Kamil. Jerusalem is restored to Christian control, Muslim access is assured and the city was not to be fortified. This treaty holds for ten years until the city is taken by Khwarismian forces.
- 1231 After reaching a treaty with the ruler of Tunis, exchanging gold for corn, the Emperor Frederick strikes a gold coin, the first such struck in the West since the fall of Rome. Previous gold coinage had all come from either Constantinople or (rarely) Arab lands.
Pope allows study of Aristotle again.
- 1232 The town of Kai-feng-fu (in China) defends itself against the Mongols using war rockets. This is the first recorded use of rockets as a weapon.
- 1234 Pope Gregory IX declares that, as a part of the Canon Law of the Church, no servile labour may take place on Sundays.
- 1235 In England, the Statute of Merton confirms the rights over the soil of the Lord of the Manor - even over Common Land. It also confirmed the economic rights of the other users of the same land from surrounding vills.
- 1236 Cordoba captured from the Moors.
- 1237 Baldwin II becomes sole Latin 'Emperor' in Byzantium.
The Imperialist Ghibellines defeat the Lombard Guelfs at Corte Nuova, capturing the *carroccio* of Milan.
- 1238 The Mongols under Subadai attack Russia destroying the cities of Suzdal and Vladimir. Novgorod is only saved by floods.
- 1240 Alexander Nevsky defeats the Swedes at the Neva River.
Mongols destroy Kiev.
- 1241 A combined army of Germans and Poles, together with Teutonic Knights and Knights Templar under Duke Henry of Silesia is annihilated near Liegnitz by Mongols. Nine sacks of ears are taken from the fallen Knights. Two days later the same fate befalls the army of Hungary at Mohacs. The Hungarian King is pursued to the Dalmatic coast where he escaped to an island. The death of Ogadai sends the armies home to elect another Khan.
- 1242 At the Ice Slaughter, a battle fought on a frozen lake, the Russ under Nevsky massacre the Teutonic Knights and an allied Lithuanian army. See the Eisenstein film *Alexander Nevsky*.

- An allied force of English and rebel French under Henry III is defeated by a French force under Louis IX at Taillebourg. Henry is forced to withdraw from France.
- 1245 Pope Innocent IV appoints Giovanni di Piano Carpini, a Franciscan, as an ambassador to the Khan. He travels to the court of the Khan. On his return he writes *Historia Mongolorum*.
- 1246 Latins expelled from Salonika.
Küyük elected Mongol Khan.
- 1247 After visiting Karakorum with Carpini and Benedict (each of whom also wrote accounts), De Bridia writes his History of the Mongols.
- 1250 Conrad IV becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Kublai Khan begins the conquest of China.
- 1251 Lithuania nominally becomes Christian.
- 1254 With the death of Conrad there is an interregnum and civil war.
Theodore II, Lascaris Vatatzes, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor in Nicea. He sends embassies to the Mongols.
- 1257 Moors in Iberia are confined to the Kingdom of Granada.
Finished Chinese silk appears on the market in Genoa.
- 1258 John IV Ducas Vatatzes briefly becomes Roman Emperor in Nicea.
Michael VIII, Palaeologus, becomes Roman Emperor in Nicea.
Mongols take Baghdad and destroy the Abbasid caliphate. Hülegü becomes the first Il-khan. He goes on to take Damascus and Aleppo with assistance from the Bohemond VI, Prince of Antioch.
- 1259 Large volcanic eruption of El Chicón in Mexico results in dust clouds that are dense enough to cause crop failures in much of the world.
- 1260 The Florentine Guelfs are routed by the Ghibellines and driven from the city.
A Mongol holding force under Kitbuka is defeated at Ain Jalud, in Galilee while Hülegü is away for the election of the next Khan. The Mongols are expelled from Syria.
Niccolo and Maffeo Polo set out on a trading journey that, due to a series of accidents, ended up in China.
- 1261 Michael VIII Paleologus takes the Latins by surprise (they have send all their forces to sea), ejects Baldwin II and retakes Constantinople with 500 troops.
Greenland accepts rule from Norway.
- 1262 The Althing votes and asks Norway to rule them.
- 1263 A Norse invasion of Scotland is forced to land by a storm. They are attacked and defeated at Largs by a Scots force. The invasion is abandoned.
The Barons, under a Simon de Montfort, revolt in England.
- 1264 Simon de Montfort defeats Henry III at Lewes.
- 1265 Henry's son Edward defeats the Barons and kills Simon de Montfort at Evesham. This brings to an end the Baron's War.
Juan Gil of Zamora mentions the early guitar in *Ars Musica*.
- 1266 At the battle of Benevento, the son of the Emperor Frederick II, Manfred, is defeated by French forces under Charles of Anjou. After a second battle at Grandella, Manfred is killed and Charles proclaims himself King of Naples and Sicily (the Two Sicilies).
- 1267 Beijing founded by Kublai Khan
Llwellyn ap Gruffyd recognised as Prince of Wales.
- 1268 The Guelf and Ghibellines fight at the battle of Tagliacozzo. The Ghibellines are totally defeated and their leaders were captured and executed.
Antioch is lost to the Muslims.
- 1269 The Polos return to Europe bringing a request from the Khan for the Pope to send several hundred learned men to teach Christianity to the Mongols. This, and many later requests, would be ignored.
- 1270 Eighth Crusade starts. The main feature is the siege of Tunis by Crusaders under Louis IX, who dies there of disease. This is the last formal Crusade attacking the Muslims. All future actions were defensive or

- regaining lost ground.
Phillipe III becomes King of France.
- 1271 Polos leave on their second trip taking Marco.
As a side part of the Crusade, Prince Edward of England commands a mixed force of English and Mongols (from the Persian Ilkhans) in Palestine. Neither ally had enough troops available and both withdrew.
- 1272 Edward I becomes King of England.
Assassins cease to exist after the Mongols decide to eliminate them.
First mention fo a mechanical clock in Norwich
- 1273 Rudolf I becomes the first Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperor.
The first mechanical clock in the west is build in Norwich
- 1274 Mongols invade Japan and are defeated.
After a tourney, at Châlon, where Edward I was endangered by alleged foul play, a battle broke out between the knights. The French were defeated and many killed.
- 1275 Glastonbury is destroyed in an earthquake.
The first Statute of Westminster declares that a vessel is technically not abandoned so long as any member of the crew, including the dog or the cat, remains on board.
- 1276 Llwellyn ap Gruffyd refuses to do homage to Edward I.
First paper mill mentioned in central Italy.
- 1277 Edward I is visited in London by Mongol envoys seeking allies against the Egyptians.
The Condemnation of Paris (by the Bishop) attempts to reconcile Christianity and Aristotle.
- 1278 Alexander III of Scotland does do homage to Edward I.
With the death of Gregory X, the Ninth Crusade is abandoned.
The Huguenots, under Henry of Navarre, defeat a Catholic French army, wiping it out.
- 1281 Kublai Khan's second attempt to invade Japan defeated by kamikaze.
- 1282 Andronicus II becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
First Knight Banneret created in England.
Erik V of Denmark is forced to sign a Magna Carta by his Barons.
Llwellyn ap Gruffyd killed and the last free parts of Wales are annexed to England.
- 1283-1350 Guitarra Latina & Guitar Moresca are mentioned multiple times in the poems of the Archpriest of Hita
- 1284 The French under Charles of Anjou are defeated by the Aragonese in a naval battle at Messina. This results in the abandonment of the French claim to Sicily and the domination of the area by Aragon.
- 1285 Phillip IV (the Fair) becomes King of France.
The knightly Order of the Seraphim founded in Sweden by Magnus I
A game called 'Dane's Head' is recorded as being played in England. This may be the first reference to football.
- 1288 Osman I becomes the first Ottoman Sultan of the Turks.
- 1289 In the final battle of the Florentine Guelf and Ghibelline Wars, the battle of Campaldino, the Guelfs were victorious. Dante was among the victors.
The County of Tripoli falls to Muslim forces under Qalawun.
- 1290 University of Lisbon founded.
- 1291 League of the Three Forest Cantons formed from the Oath of Rütli, which was signed in August. This marks the start of the formation of Switzerland. Despite legend, William Tell did not exist and did not sign the Oath. He was later made up from a Danish story.
Adolph of Nassau becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
The Genoese Admiral Benedetto Zaccaria breaks the Moroccan blockade to Christians of the Straits of Gibraltar, opening up trade from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic.
The Genoese brothers Vivaldi sailed out of the Straits of Gibraltar in two galleys with the intention of opening a trade route to India around Africa. Their family had many trading connections in India.

Acre is lost to the Muslims under Malek al Aschraf, Sultan of Egypt. This was the last Christian stronghold in the Holy Land and marked the end of the real Crusades.

Part Four - The End of Feudalism and the old order

This period was to see a major decline in the importance of feudal forms of relationship and a vast increase in the importance of the cash economy as a form of relations.

- 1292 Edward gives the Crown of Scotland to John de Baliol.
Kublai Khan mounts expedition to Java.
- 1296 Edward I invades Scotland, deposing John and massacring the 7-8,000 inhabitants of Berwick-on-Tweed over three days. He calls off the slaughter after watching his men hack a pregnant woman to death.
Edward defeats the Scots at Dunbar. Edward proclaims himself King of Scotland.
- 1297 Sir William Wallace's revolt asserts Scots independence. He defeats the English at Stirling Bridge.
The Church forces Icelandic landholders to give the Churches to the Catholic Church. Until this time all Churches were owned by their builder's families who collected tithes and forwarded some of them to Rome.
- 1298 Albrecht I becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Edward I defeats Wallace at Falkirk. Half the Scots force was destroyed for negligible English losses.
Wallace escaped, but the rebellion was broken.
- 1300 Pope Boniface creates the traffic rule that pilgrims should keep to left hand side of the road and allow people to pass them on their right. This is the origin of 'driving on the left' (driving on the right is out of period).
First mention of spectacles as being over 10 years old
- 1301 Edward II, the first English Prince of Wales, is born at Caernavon. This fulfills his father's promise to the Welsh that their next Prince would be born in Wales and speaking that tongue as his first language.
Osman I, the first Ottoman, defeats Romans at the battle of Baophaion.
- 1302 French knights and crossbowmen, under Robert d'Artois are defeated by Flemish billmen under Guy de Namur at Coutrai. So many French are killed that 600 gilded spurs are presented to the local Cathedral in thanksgiving. The battle is sometimes called 'The Battle of the Spurs'.
The Flemish fleet is destroyed at Ziezicksee by Genoese galleys in the service of the French.
- 1303 Very severe winter in Northern Europe marks the start of a Little Ice Age. The Baltic freezes over.
- 1304 Mongol invasion of India defeated by the Muslim Sultanate of Delhi.
- 1305 Wallace is captured and killed.
Second very severe winter in Northern Europe. The Baltic freezes over again.
- 1306 Robert the Bruce revolts in Scotland and is proclaimed King Robert I.
Robert is defeated by the English at Methven.
Third very severe winter in Northern Europe. The Baltic freezes over.
Homosexual marriage formally banned in the Empire (although legal texts still mentioned it a hundred years later).
A 'gitarer' was played at the Feast of Westminster in England.
Second Mongol invasion of India defeated by the Muslim Sultanate of Delhi.
- 1307 Persecution of the Knights Templar begins.
Robert I defeats an English army under the Regent, the Earl of Pembroke. at Loudon Hill.
Clement V appoints John of Monte Corvino the first Catholic Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Peking.
John had been working and building churches in China for some years, catering both to the growing merchant community and to native converts.
Edward II becomes King of England. He is England's second gay King.
In one of its major exploits, the Catalan 'Great Band' (9,500) defeated the forces of the Doux of Athens (15,000) at the Battle of Cephisus.
- 1308 Henry VII becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1309 Union of Aragon and Valencia.
Start of the Avignon Captivity of the Papacy.
- 1311 Robert I of Scotland invades England.

- 1312 Knights Templar abolished.
The Western Isles are ceded from Norway to Scotland as part of a marriage settlement.
Ludwig IV becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1314 Last Grand Master of the Templars burned for heresy.
Louis X (the Quarrelsome) becomes King of France.
The Scots under Robert the Bruce defeat an English invasion under Edward II.
- 1315 The Canton of Schwyz (1,400 men), defeats the Archduke Leopold of Austria (9,000 men) after ambushing his force in a pass and rolling boulders down on them. This was the start of Swiss independence.
Raymond Lull is stoned by a mob in Bougie (North Africa) after many years of preaching in that area.
Due to cold weather there is massive crop failure across Europe. Prices for grain in England rose eightfold over those from around ten years previously.
Death of Lanfranc, regarded as the father of modern surgery.
- 1316 John I becomes King of France briefly.
Phillip V (the Tall) becomes King of France.
Due to crop failure Ypres loses over 10 percent of its population from starvation. This is typical for the period. Records show widespread cannibalism and outbreaks of ergotism and erysipelas from the eating of mouldy grain. The French wine harvest failed.
In the Battle of Athenry an English force defeat the O'Connors killing 11,000. The O'Connors disappear, as a clan, from Irish history.
- 1317 An English invasion of Scotland is defeated at Inverkeithing, largely due to leadership from the Bishop of Dunkeld.
Famine in England
- 1318 A Scots invasion of Ireland is defeated at Dundalk by an English and Irish force.
The knightly Order of Christ founded for the See of Rome by Diniz of Portugal.
- 1319 A Spanish army is defeated at Granada by the Moors with the loss of the Regents of Spain (Pedro and John of Castile).
Sir James Douglas defeats a force made up largely of armed monks under the Archbishop of York at Mytton. This feint forces Edward II to raise the siege of Berwick and return home.
- 1320 Vela supernova clearly visible and would have lit up the night sky.
- 1322 Charles IV (the Fair) becomes King of France.
Edward II defeats a rebellion by the Earls of Hereford and Lancaster (and most of the Marcher nobility) at the Battle of Boroughbridge.
Emperor Louis the Bavarian defeats rebels under Frederick, Duke of Austria.
- 1323 Thomas Aquinas canonised.
- 1325 During the War of Guelfs and Ghibellines, the Florentine Guelfs were defeated by Ghibelline forces, losing their *carroccio* and many men in the Battle of Alto Pascio.
The Empire of Mali completes the Great Mosque at Timbuktu.
- 1327 Edward II of England is deposed and murdered. Edward III becomes King of England.
Cecco d'Ascoli burnt for subjecting God to astrology.
- 1328 Andronicus III becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
Ivan I, Kalita, becomes Grand Prince of Muscovy.
Phillip VI becomes the first Valois King of France.
- 1329 In their first battle with the Ottomans, Imperial forces under Andronicus III are defeated at Pelekanon.
- 1332 Scots Barons, under Edward of Baliol, with English support, defeat the army of King David of Scotland at Dupplin. Baliol is crowned King.
Floods devastate China. Several million people are killed and much wildlife is displaced. This leads to new and severe outbreaks of bubonic plague.
- 1333 Edward III defeats Edward Baliol at Halidon Hill. Baliol was asserting Scots independence and is thus forced to do homage.
- 1335 William Heytesbury's *Rules for Solving Logical Puzzles* published. It contains the mean speed theorem.

- 1336 The Canary Islands were re-discovered by Lancelotto Malocello of Genoa (working for the Portuguese) at around this time.
- 1337 Edward III claims the French throne, with quite some justification.
The Royal Militia of the Island of Jersey founded. With a brief hiatus this unit is the oldest in the British Army
- 1339 Burgundian forces, despite greatly superior numbers, are defeated by Swiss troops at Laupen.
The English, under the Earl of Salisbury, are driven from Dunbar by the Scots under Agnes, Countess of March (known to the English as Black Agnes of Dunbar).
- 1340 An English fleet destroys a French fleet at L'Ecluse. The French lose 90 ships and 30,000 men.
An English fleet of 200 sail under Sir Robert Morley and Richard Fitzalan attack and destroy a French fleet of about 70 lying in Sluys harbour.
The forces of Alfonso IV of Portugal and Alfonso XI of Castile defeat a Moorish force under Abu Hamed, Emir of Morocco at Salado. Alfonso IV so distinguished himself in battle that he was hence called 'the Brave'.
- 1341 John V becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1344 The knightly Order of the Garter is established in England.
- 1345 Breaking a siege of Auberoche the Earl of Derby, with 1,200 troops routes a French force of 7,000 under Louis of Poitiers
- 1346 After a siege of a year, Calais is surrendered to Edward III by the French.
A Scots invasion of England is defeated at Neville's Cross by Henry de Percy and Ralph de Neville. King David II and many other nobles are held to ransom.
The Black Death arrives at the Roman city of Caffa, in the Crimea, which is being sieged by the Mongols. This was probably due to infected corpses being catapulted into the city by Tatar de Musis. Refugees return to Europe with the disease.
- 1347 John VI, Cantacuzene, becomes Eastern Roman Emperor with the aid of the Turks.
Karl IV becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
'Foteball' is banned from being played in English churchyards at the Synod of Exeter.
Last recorded ship from Vinland to reach Iceland (but probably not the last ship ever).
- 1348 There is a very hot and dry summer in Europe with deaths from heat. This may be linked to the start of the Black Death in Europe in that year.
- 1349-50 Black Death in Norway kills around 50% of the population.
- 1350 Jean II becomes King of France.
- 1351 Switzerland formed.
- 1353 First Turkish settlement in Europe.
In the Battle of Alghero the Aragonese under Pedro IV, the Great, drive the Genoese out of Sardinia.
- 1356 Despite being attacked while retreating, Edward the Black Prince, with 6,000 men, defeats a French force of 20,500 under Jean II at Poitiers. The French lose heavily.
- 1357 Turks take Adrianople.
- 1362 In one of his few reverses, the Getes defeat Tamerlane at The Gihon, but are unable to follow this up due to illness in their horses.
The knightly Order of Annunziata is founded by Amadeus VI of Savoy.
- 1364 Charles V becomes King of France
Bertrand du Guesclin defeats a force of Navarrese and English under Captal de Buch at the Battle of Cocherel.
In the Battle of Auray, du Guesclin is captured when the French supporters of a claimant to the Dukedom of Brittany are defeated by English supporters of a rival under Sir John Chandos.
- 1365 Peter I of Cyprus takes and sacks Alexandria. This non-flattering event is referred to by Chaucer in the introduction to The Knight in *The Canterbury Tales*.
- 1366 Statute of Kilkenny passed. This legally prevents English from marrying the Irish.
John V visits the west to attempt to get aid to hold Constantinople.

- 1367 Although outnumbered 24,000 to 60,000, the English forces of Edward the Black Prince defeat the French soldiers of Bertrand du Guesclin at Navarette.
Guy de Chauliac dies (born 1300). A student of Lanfranc, he wrote *Chirurgia Magna*, the first 'modern' surgical text.
In the battle of Kauthal 40,000 Muslim troops of the Bahmani Sultinate defeat possibly 540,000 troops of the kingdom of Vijayanagar by superior cavalry tactics after their foot had already been defeated.
- 1369 At the battle of Montiel, the French under Bertrand du Guesclin defeat the Spaniards under Pedro II of Castile. Henry de Trastamara is placed on the Castilian throne.
- 1370 The English are defeated by Bertrand du Guesclin at Pont Valain after he surprises them in their camp.
- 1371 Robert II becomes the first Stuart King of Scotland.
- 1372 An English fleet is defeated and destroyed by the Spanish at La Rochelle
The French, under Bertrand du Guesclin, defeat the English and capture Chizai. This leads to the English loss of the towns of Saintonge and Poitou.
- 1376 Andronicus IV becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
Bernese forces defeat, at the battle of Fraubrunnen, a French and English mercenary force (the Guglers), which is attempting to gain control of the Canton of Aargau.
- 1377 Richard II becomes King of England at age 10.
- 1378 Wenzel becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Pope Urban VI moves back to Rome.
Rebel Bishops elect Clement VII as an anti-pope based at Avignon.
In the Battle of Antium, a Venetian fleet defeated a Genoese fleet.
- 1380 Charles VI becomes King of France.
The Venetian fleet under Pisano was defeated by the Genoese under Luciano Doria at Pola.
Genoese power was broken by Venice for some time in the Battle of Chioggia. Doria is killed.
Extensive period of drought in northern Europe (until around 1420).
Faroes come under Danish rule from that of Norway.
- 1381 The peasants revolt in England under Watt Tyler and others.
- 1382 40,000 Flemings are defeated by the French at Rosbecque with great loss.
- 1386 Manuel II becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
In the battle of Sempach, 4,000 Austrians under Duke Leopold are soundly defeated by 1,500 Swiss Confederates with a loss of 1,500 killed and wounded. The Swiss losses were 120, one of whom was Arnold von Windelried who charged and broke a gap in the Austrian lines at the cost of his life.
Last pagan Balts converted to Christianity.
- 1387 The Earls of Arundel and Nottingham (Admirals of England) defeat a Franco-Castilian fleet of 100 ships attempting to invade England off Margate.
The Baron's War ends with defeat of the forces of Richard II at Radcot Bridge. His forces, under de Vere, Earl of Oxford fled without much resistance before the forces of the Lords Appellant under the Earl of Derby (later Henry IV).
- 1388 Richard II passes a Law that bans the frivolous activities of tennis and football, which promote gambling, drunkenness and crowd violence, from taking place on Sundays. Worthwhile pursuits, such as archery, vaulting and leaping were encouraged.
Although greatly outnumbering his foe, Henry Percy (Hotspur) succeeds in losing to the Scots, under the Earls Douglas and Murray at Otterburn. This battle is celebrated in the ballad *Chevy Chase*.
500 men of Glarus defeat 6,000 Austrians at Naefels in what is now Switzerland.
- 1390 Anatolia finally lost to the Turks.
- 1391 300,000 Russians under Tokatnich are defeat by a similar force of Tatars under Tamerlane at Lake Kerguel.
- 1396 Tenth Crusade proclaimed.
A French and Hungarian Crusader army is defeated at Nicopolis by the Turks under Bajazet after the usual impetuous French charge. The Turks were only stopped by Timur's invasion of their territory in the

- east.
Duke of Burgundy ransoms his son back from the Turks with 12 Greenland gyrfalcons.
- 1397 Crowns of Denmark, Norway and Sweden are united.
- 1398 Turkey defeats a combined force of Serbs, Magyar, Bosnians and Albanians at Kossova. The Turks gain control of the Balkans.
Tamerlane starts a siege of the 'impregnable' fortress of Meerat. This was too slow for his followers who carried the fortress by storm, massacring all of the inhabitants.
Tamerlane crushes the Sultanate of Delhi.
- 1399 Henry IV deposes Richard II of England.
John VII becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1400 Frederick III becomes Holy Roman Emperor (and dies soon after).
Rupert of the Palatinate becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
In the Battle of Aleppo the Turks are first defeated in the field and then the city is sieged and taken by Tamerlane and the Tatars.
Richard II dies in prison.
- 1401 Tamerlane takes Baghdad. The city is razed and the inhabitants massacred. He also takes Damascus.
- 1402 In the Battle of Angora the Turks (under Bajazet) are defeated by Tamerlane. The forces involved in the battle numbered between 1 and 2 million men.
5,000 troops of the Swiss Imperial towns defeated 900 rebels from Appenzel and Schwyz at Vögelinseck.
The Percies ambush a raiding Scots force, under Murdach Stewart and the Earl of Douglas, and rout it.
The Scots lose Stewart, four Peers and 80 gentleman of rank.
Owen Glendower revolts in Wales.
- 1403 A rebellion by Sir Henry Percy (Hotspur) is put down at Shrewsbury by a Royal army under Henry IV.
This is the first battle of Henry, Prince of Wales (later Henry V).
- 1404 *Der mynnen regein* by Eberhard Von Cersne makes reference to a 'quinterne'.
- 1408 A rebellion by the Earl of Northumberland is crushed by Sir Thomas Rokeby, Sheriff of Yorkshire at the battle of Branham Moor.
- 1409 Latest date for the end of the Greenland colonies.
Council of Pisa repudiates both Popes and elects Alexander V.
Glendower's revolt suppressed.
- 1410 Sigismund of Luxembourg becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
The power of the Teutonic Knights is broken at Tannenberg when they are defeated by a Polish army under Vladisas II. They were never to fully recover from this defeat.
- 1411 Highlanders under Donald, Lord of the Isles, rout the Lowlanders under the Earl of Mar at Harlaw. This gave some independence to the Highlands.
- 1413 Henry V becomes King of England. He is usually acknowledged to be the first King of England who was literate in English.
- 1414 The Lollards (religious schismatics and 'levellers') revolt and are crushed.
- 1415 In the battle of Agincourt 25,000 French are defeated by 5,700 English (mainly archers) under Henry V.
The French lost 8,000, the English 400.
A Portuguese army under King João I attack and capture the Moroccan city of Ceuta. This eventually provided the impetus to the Portuguese expansion down the African coast.
- 1416 12,000 Austrians under Duke Earnest of Styria defeat 20,000 Turks under Ahmed Bey whom were besieging the town of Rakersberg. Turkish losses were more than the Christian army total.
An English fleet under the Duke of Bedford defeated a French fleet, which included 8 large Genoese carracks in the Seine mouth allowing the resupply of Harfleur (which the French were besieging). Five carracks and five other ships were lost.
- 1417 The election of Martin V ends the Great Schism.
- 1419 After capturing Rouen from the French in a protracted siege, Henry V ransoms the town for 300,000 Crowns.

- 1421 At the battle of Beaugé, the English suffered one of their few defeats of the Hundred Year War at the hands of French Armagnacs aided by Scots mercenaries. This was due to an impetuous charge by the Duke of Clarence and the chivalric cavalry, which resulted in the death of the entire English leadership.
- 1422 Henry VI becomes King of England as an infant.
Charles VII becomes King of France, although not Crowned due to his lack of power.
First Turkish siege of Constantinople.
During the siege of Karlsejn (Germany) both corpses and up to 2,000 tonnes of manure were catapulted inside to spread disease.
- 1423 John VIII becomes Eastern Roman Emperor.
- 1424 At the battle of Verneuil, 3,000 English, under the Duke of Bedford, rout a mixed force of 18,000 French and Scots under the Constable Buchan and the Earl of Douglas. The allies lost over 4,000 dead, including both generals.
- 1425 Due to changes in orbit between the Earth, Moon and Sun tides change in amplitude every 1500 to 1800 years. This year marks a tidal maxima.
- 1426 Cyprus taken by the Mamelukes.
The Taborites, led by John Zisca, defeat the Germans under Emperor Sigismund at Aussig.
- 1428 Jeanne d'Arc appears.
- 1429 In the Battle of the Herrings near Orléans, a French attempt (led by the Bastard of France) to destroy an English supply convoy (led by Sir John Fastolfe) is soundly defeated.
The French, under Jean of Arc and the Comte de Dunois decisively defeat a long English siege of Orléans. This breaks the English capacity to continue the Hundred Years War.
Charles VII crowned.
The French follow this up and, under the Maid and the Duc d'Alençon defeat the English under Talbot and Sir John Fastolfe at Patay. Talbot is captured although Fastolfe retired in good order.
The knightly Order of the Golden Fleece is established by Phillip the Good of Burgundy.
- 1431 A Venetian fleet of 85 galleys was defeated by a slightly superior Milanese force on the Ticino near Pavia. 70 Venetian galleys and 3,000 men were lost.
Jeanne d'Arc burnt as a witch.
Henry VI of England crowned as King of France in Paris.
Angar (Cambodian) Empire destroyed by the Thai as they move south from their original home in China.
- 1434 Cape Bojadar, the gate to the Gulf of Guinea, is rounded by Portuguese ships.
- 1437 James I of Scotland was murdered in a toilet. He tried to defend himself with a pair of fire tongs.
- 1438 Albrecht II becomes the first Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1439 Maximilian I becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Crop failures in Europe.
- 1440 Frederick III becomes rival Holy Roman Emperor.
Start of a Little Ice Age.
- 1442 The Hungarians, under John Hunyadi, defeat an Ottoman force besieging Hermanstadt. The Ottomans lose 20,000 and the Hungarians 3,000.
15,000 Hungarians under Hunyadi defeat 80,000 Turks under Shiabeddin Pasha at Vasaq. The Turks lose 20,000 killed and wounded as well as 5,000 prisoners, including the Pasha.
- 1443 Hunyadi defeats the Ottomans with major losses at Morawa.
Hunyadi defeats the Ottomans under Amurath II at Kunobitza. He gains a truce of 10 years.
- 1444 A force of 30,000 Armagnacs under the Dauphin defeat a force of 1,300 Confederate Swiss at St Jakob an der Birs. The Swiss continued the fighting until the last man causing such losses that the invading army were forced to withdraw from Switzerland.
A mixed Crusade of Poles and Hungarians under King Ladislaus and Hunyadi attacked the Turks under Amurath II at Varna. They were defeated in a battle that lasted several days with Ladislaus being killed. Most of the Christians died either in the battle or afterwards.
Henry (the Navigator) of Portugal issues his first licence to explore and exploit Africa. This opens the way for exploitation of the East. He issues 30 more in the next two years alone.

- 1446 The Swiss Confederation defeats the Austrians at Ragatz gaining a peace settlement.
- 1448 Henry VI bans markets on any Saint's Feast Day as well as on Good Friday or any Sunday.
Constantine XI, Palaeologus, becomes the last Eastern Roman Emperor.
In a two day battle, outnumbered Hungarian and Wallachian forces, led by John Hunyadi, are defeated by the Ottomans after the Wallachians treacherously change sides.
- 1450 In a defeat, which ends English domination of Northern France, the Comte de Clermont beats a force of newly-landed English under Kyrielle at Formigny.
An English sally from Bordeaux is defeated at Blanquefort when the knights leave their supporting archers. Almost all of the infantry were killed.
At the battle of Sevenoaks, English rebels under Jack Cade defeat a Royal army under Sir Humphrey Stafford. Advancing on London, Cade defeated the citizens of the city under Matthew Gough at Southwark. The rebellion was crushed later after Cade was defeated at London Bridge.
Approximate date for the starvation of the Greenland settlements.
- 1451 A force of Lancastrians defending St Albans are defeated by the Duke of York in the first battle of the town.
First recorded use of a mortar (a short barrelled, high trajectory gun) in battle.
- 1453 Mohammed II (the Conqueror) extinguishes the Roman Empire by taking Constantinople (29 May, a Tuesday). Constantine XI wore plain armour and died leading his troops at the breach. The assault contained 60,000 troops (including Christian Serbs), and several large cannon designed and made by the Christian Hungarian Master Urban (including a 107cm bombard firing 543 kg stone balls with a rate of fire of 7 shots each day); the garrison had only 5,000 Imperials and 2,000 foreigners (including Muslim Arabs). To this day, Greeks often regard Tuesday as an unlucky day. Constantine was offered terms to include exile but declined with these words: "To surrender the city to you is beyond my authority or anyone else's who lives in it, for all of us, after taking the mutual decision, shall die out of free will without sparing our lives." He died defending the breach in the walls.
In the battle of Castillon, the last in the Hundred Years War, the English under Talbot are totally defeated. Bordeaux surrenders to the French leaving Calais as the last English possession on the Continent.
In an opening skirmish of the Wars of the Roses, the retainers of Sir Thomas Neville and Lord Egremont start an affray, which develops into a pitched battle.

Part Five - The Move Towards Modernity

In this period, the old systems of feudalism are finally buried under a rising tide of mercantilism and absolutism. The power of the Pope, and indeed the very ecumen of Christianity, so important during the Crusades period, are finally smashed by the rise of national Churches with very divergent views on the Gospels. A person's religion becomes an expression of their nationalism as the very idea of a nation-state takes hold for the first time. Despite their victories in the East, the Muslims have limits placed on their expansion there and are finally driven out of Iberia. The unemployed would-be Crusaders are diverted into a campaign of national expansion in the New World.

- 1454 Gutenberg invents moveable type in Europe and revolutionises printing.
Casimir IV of Poland attacks the Teutonic Knights in Poland.
- 1455 James II of Scotland crushes the Douglas Rebellion at the battle of Arkenholm. This ends Highland independence.
22 May sees the first battle of St Albans, the start of the Wars of the Roses.
Johann Gutenberg prints his Bible using moveable type.
- 1456 The Hungarian hero, John Hunyadi, defends Belgrade from the Turks, under Sultan Mohammed II, for 40 days before the siege was raised. Hunyadi died soon after.
- 1459 In the battle of Blore Heath, a Yorkist army under the Earl of Salisbury defeated a superior Lancastrian army under Henry VI.
- 1460 James II of Scotland is killed by one of his cannon exploding in the siege of Roxburgh. Despite his loss, the town is taken from the English. This was the first use of cannon in battle by the Scots.
Lancastrian forces under Somerset ambush and defeat Yorkists under Duke Richard at Wakefield.
Richard and many others were killed and Salisbury was captured and executed.
After being betrayed by Lord Grey de Ruthyn, Henry VI is defeated and captured by Yorkists under the Earl of Warwick at Northampton.
End of Little Ice Age.
Portuguese reach Sierra Leone
- 1461 Yorkist forces under Warwick are defeated and allow the escape of Henry VI to join a Lancastrian army led by Margaret of Anjou at the second battle of St Albans.
The Lancastrians are driven into Wales after the Battle of Mortimer's Cross.
Edward IV becomes King of England after defeating Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou at Towton.
Louis XI becomes King of France.
- 1462 Yorkist forces under Lord Montague defeat a Lancastrian army, under Percy and Margaret of Anjou, at Hedgeley Moor. Percy is killed.
The knightly Order of the Elephant is founded by Christian I of Denmark.
Gibraltar taken from the Moors.
Pedro de Cintra, a Portuguese, names Sierra Leone.
The last remnant of the Eastern Roman Empire disappears with the fall of the Empire of Trebizond to the Ottoman Sultan Mohammed II.
Ivan III becomes Grand Duke of Muscovy.
- 1464 In the battle of Hexham, Yorkist forces under Lord Montague surprise and defeat Lancastrians under the Duke of Somerset. The Lancastrian leaders are executed for treason.
- 1465 Louis XI of France is defeated by Burgundian forces at Montlhéry.
- 1466 Poland wins West Prussia from the Teutonic Knights.
- 1467 In the War of the Spanish Succession, the adherents of the Infante Alfonso, under the Archbishop of Toledo are defeated by Henri of Castile at Olmedo.
- 1469 The Yorkists are defeated by the Lancastrian Nevilles at Edgeworth. Edward IV is captured soon after.
- 1470 Henry VI becomes King of England again.
Edward IV routs a force of northern rebels at the battle of Empingham. This is sometimes called 'The Battle of Loosecoat Field'.
The Florentine merchant Benedetto Dei established a trading venture at Timbuktu.

- 1471 Edward IV regains the throne of England, kills Henry.
 In the battle of Barnet, Edward IV defeats a Lancastrian force under the Earl of Warwick. Warwick was slain.
 The Lancastrian forces under Prince Edward and Somerset are defeated by Edward IV at Tewkesbury. Prince Edward is slain and Margaret of Anjou surrenders.
- 1472 Orkney and Shetland pass to Scotland from Denmark as dowry.
 Zoe Palaiologina, niece of Constantine XI, marries Ivan III of Moscow and begins to teach him Byzantine ways.
- 1473 First Portuguese ship crosses the Equator. Before this it was thought that the north and south hemispheres were separated by an uncrossable 'zone of fire'.
 William Caxton's *Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye*, the first book printed in English, appears.
- 1474 The Swiss defeat a Burgundian army at Héricourt.
 The French, with overwhelming force succeed in sieging the town of Perpignan, despite Spanish attempts to relieve the town. After its fall French gain possession of Roussillon.
 An Ottoman siege of Scutari in Albania under Sulieman Pasha is unsuccessful. The Venetian garrison, under Antonio Loredano forced a raising of the siege by a hearty defence.
- 1475 40,000 Moldavian peasants, led by Stephen of Moldavia, aided by 7,000 Hungarian and Polish troops, attack a force of 100,000 Ottomans at Lake Krakovicz. The Turks are caught in a bad position, and are slaughtered. Few escape.
 The first coffee shop opens in Istanbul (Kiva Han).
 University of Buda founded.
- 1476 Isabella is placed on the throne of Castile when her supporters defeat the forces of a rival claimant (Joanna) at the battle of Toro.
 Despite numerical superiority, the Burgundian attempt, under Charles the Bold, to take Switzerland is defeated at Grandson. The campaign concluded with the massive Burgundian defeat later at Morat.
 William Caxton starts printing in England.
- 1477 Columbus visits Iceland and ventures over a hundred leagues west.
- 1478 Mohammed II again invests Scutari. The town resisted so that the siege was again raised, but the town was handed to the Ottomans later in a peace settlement. By this stage, only 600 persons survived.
 Ivan III takes Novgorod, ending its independence.
- 1479 The Union of Aragon and Castile occurs with the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella.
 University of Copenhagen founded.
- 1480 The first siege of Rhodes by a large force of Turks, aided by 160 ships, is defeated by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem with the loss 10,500 killed and wounded.
 Ivan III repudiates Tartar overlordship.
 A vessel of Bristol, under Captain John Jaye, the younger, sets out to find the Island of Brasyle supposedly half way to Cathay.
- 1482 Ferdinand of Castile is defeated by the Moors at Loja.
 Widespread crop failures in Europe.
- 1483 Edward V becomes King of England.
 Moorish forces are defeated at Lucena, losing most of their troops.
 Richard III becomes King of England.
 Charles VIII becomes King of France.
- 1485 In the battle of Bosworth Field, after pre-arranged treachery by Lord Stanley, Richard III dies defending his Crown. Henry VII becomes King of England.
 Ivan III takes Kalinin.
 Diogo Cão discovers the Congo River for the Portuguese.
 In an attempt at biological warfare the Spanish provide French opponents near Naples with wine laced with the blood of lepers.
- 1486 James III of Scotland is murdered by his nobles.
- 1487 After a siege of four months, a large force of Spaniards under Ferdinand take the Moorish city of Malaga. The inhabitants are sold into slavery.

- Voyage of Diaz down the west coast of Africa. His return to Court came as Columbus was petitioning the Portuguese King John II. Aware that the successes of Diaz will open up the east, John dismisses Columbus.
- Lambert Simnel's rebellion is crushed when Royal troops under Henry VII defeat a rebel army under John de la Pole, Duke of Lincoln at Stoke. The rebels included 2,000 German mercenaries.
- Johannes Tinctoris described the guitarra as being invented by the Catalans. This refers to the four course guitar. Each course represents one pair of double strings.
- 1488 The rebel Scots Barons under James 'Bell-the-Cat' defeat the Royal army under James III at Sauchie Burn. The King is slain in the battle.
Bartholomeo Diaz rounds (and names) the Cape of Good Hope. This disproves Ptolomey's assertion that the Indian Ocean was a lake.
- 1490 In their first naval victory in the Mediterranean, the Turks under Kemal Reis severely defeat a Venetian fleet at Sapienza.
Around 10,000 people die in Shanxi Province, China, from 'falling stones'. This was probably as a result of the explosion of a small asteroid in the atmosphere.
- 1491 After the fall of Granada, the Spanish take all of Spain from the Moors, their occupation had lasted 780 years.
The 'unprofitable sports' of football and golf are banned in Scotland.
- 1492 The Genoese Christopher Columbus, sailing under the Spanish flag, becomes the most successful 'discoverer of the Americas' so far when he reaches San Salvador.
Pope Alexander VI divides the world between Spanish and Portuguese along a line of longitude (the continuation of this line was used to mark the boundary of Western Australia several centuries later). This is the Treaty of Tordesillas.
Spain gives its Jewish population three months to either convert to Christianity or leave the country.
A Turkish army under Ali Pasha is defeated, and Ali killed, when attacked from the rear by 15,000 escaping prisoners while battling a Christian army under Rudolp de Khevenhuller at Villach.
The expulsion of the Jews from Spain.
Pope mentions that no Bishop had been able to visit Greenland for 80 years because of the ice.
- 1493 Maximilian I becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1494 During the French occupation of Rome they introduce syphilis into the large population of prostitutes there. It develops quickly into a plague and spreads through much of Europe.
- 1495 8,000 Swiss and French under Charles VIII defeat 34,000 Venetians and Mantuans under Francisco de Gonzaga at Fornovo with minor losses.
A Spanish and Neopolitan force is defeated by a superior French army at Seminara after the Neopolitans fled early in the battle.
The Pope establishes the knightly Order of the Holy Sepulcher.
- 1496 James VI of Scotland invades England.
- 1497 Perkin Warbeck's rebellion. Rebels under Flammock and Lord Audley are defeated by Henry VII in the battle of Blackheath.
John Cabot discovers a New Found Land.
Amerigo Vespucci discovers the Gulf of Mexico.
- 1498 Louis XII becomes King of France.
Vasco de Gama sails down Africa (out of sight of land for 93 days) and rounds the Cape. He reaches Calicut 20 May, the first European to the Indies by water.
Columbus reaches the mainland of South America on his third expedition.
- 1499 The Swiss defeat the Austrians (supporting the Empire) at Frastenz.
Later, a greatly outnumbered Swiss force storms and takes Imperial (under Maximilian I) entrenchments at The Calven.
Bubonic plague hits London.
First Greek language press established in Venice by refugee Byzantines. It begins to bring Greek philosophy and history to the west.
- 1500 At Ostia, in Italy, the French are attacked and defeated by the Spanish.
The island of Cephalonia is taken from the Turks by a large force of Spaniards and Venetians after a

stubborn two month defence of the town of St George by its small garrison.

Hieronymus Brunschwig publishes *Liber de arte distillandi*, the first book in the West on distillation recipes.

- 1501 In an resurgence, the Moors defeat a Spanish force at Monarda.
- 1502 After a siege of 7 months, the Neopolitan garrison of Taranto is defeated by a Spanish force under Gonsalvo de Cordoba after he drags some ships overland to attack the town from its protecting lake.
- 1503 After a victory and a massive defeat at Garigliano, the French, under Louis XII, are forced to sue for peace from the Spanish in their war over Italy.
The Portuguese build a fort at Cochin (India).
- 1506 Papal Guard formed from Swiss mercenaries.
- 1507 The sale of Indulgences authorised by Pope Julius II.
Muscat seized by the Portuguese.
A 'fever' epidemic hits England. It lasts until 1551.
- 1509 Henry VIII becomes King of England.
The Spaniards, under Navarro, invade Morocco at Oran taking the city (and still holding it).
In the battle of Agnadello the French defeated the Venetians allowing the French to occupy large parts of Northern Italy.
- 1511 After a series of fluctuating battles, the Portuguese under Afonso de Albuquerque take and hold Goa (it was first taken the year before).
Sultan Mohammed of Malacca (on the Malay peninsula), with 30,000 men is defeated by the Portuguese under Afonso de Albuquerque (1,400 men and 19 ships) after a very feeble defence.
- 1512 In the battle of The Borysthenes, the Poles under Sigismund I defeat an army of Muscovites, of around 80,000 men, with tremendous slaughter.
In the War of the Holy League, an English Fleet under Howard defeats a French fleet near Brest, causing heavy losses.
In the same war, the French under Gaston de Foix defeat a League force at Ravenna, forcing the Holy Roman Empire into the anti-French coalition. de Foix is killed near the end of the battle.
- 1513 The English under Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, defeat a strong force of Scots under James IV at Flodden. James is killed. For this victory Howard is granted an Augmentation of Arms of *The Royal Shield of Scotland, having a demi-lion only, which is pierced through the mouth with an arrow.*
The Scots allies, the French, are defeated at Guingate by English under Henry VIII and Imperialists under Maximilian I, with hardly any blows being exchanged.
Fighting in Italy, the French are defeated by the Swiss at Novara. Both sides experienced heavy losses.
Portuguese arrive in China.
The Catholic Church declares that the soul is immortal.
- 1514 Despite initial successes, a Persian army of 80,000 is defeated by an Ottoman army of 120,000 at Shaldiran. The Persian Shah, Ismael, was wounded in the fray.
Portugese begin settlement at Macao.
In England Trinity House established as a pilotage institution on the Thames, later made responsible for 'the concervation of the river' and all beacons and buoys.
- 1515 Francis I becomes King of France.
Between now and the end of our period the French experience one of the first great rounds of runaway inflation (6.25% per annum). This totally destroyed the feudal nobility who had relatively fixed incomes and ushered in the prosperity of the bourgeoisie and the King. It allowed the rise of absolutism. This was repeated in other Western European countries.
In the battle of Marignano the French, under Francis I, defeat a Swiss army re-gaining the Duchy of Milan as a result.
Afonso de Albuquerque takes Hormuz, the key to the Persian Gulf. This marks the end of Arab domination of the seas in the east.
- 1516 In the battle of Aleppo, the Turks under Selim I routed the Egyptians under Yooman Bey. Syria is added to the Ottoman Empire.
Charles V becomes King of Spain.
Portuguese sign treaty with the King of Siam and establish an embassy (still in the same building

- nowadays). In return for trading rights and religious freedom the Portuguese undertake to help defend the Kingdom against the Burmese.
- 1517 Selim I defeats and executes Tooman Bey, the last of the Mamelukes, at Cairo. This annexes Egypt to the Ottoman Empire. After the battle 50,000 inhabitants of the city were massacred.
A friar, Martin Luther, preaches the Reformation of the Church. He starts by nailing his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenberg on 31 October.
- 1518 Herman Cortez lands in America and attacks the Aztecs.
The pirate centre of Chittagong seized by the Portuguese.
- 1519 Charles V of Spain becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
Henry VIII of England takes the city of Boulogne after siege, although the inhabitants were allowed to leave with their arms and property.
Cortez is given chocolate as a drink by Montezuma.
Ferdinand Magellan sets out from Spain with three ships in a voyage that will eventually see the first circumnavigation of Earth.
- 1520 At the battle of Otumba a greatly outnumbered force of Spaniards, with Tlascalan allies, defeats a force of 200,000 Aztecs.
In the battle of Uppsala, Swedes under Christina Gyllenstierna attacked a superior Danish force entrenched in the town. Despite heroism, they were driven off.
Suliman I 'the Magnificent' becomes Ottoman Emperor.
- 1521 The Swedes under Gustavus Vasa defeated a Danish garrison in Uppsala commanded by its Bishop and re-occupy the city.
Martin Luther ex-communicated by the Roman Catholic Church when he defies Charles V at the Diet of Worms.
The first American bison is described. It was in Montezuma's menagerie at Anahuac.
Magellan's ships return.
Henry VIII fails to get financial backing to develop a colony on Cabot's New Island
- 1522 After a siege where the attackers lost 60,000 men, the Knights of St John of Jerusalem are driven from Rhodes by Suliman the Magnificent. The siege is noticeable as the first occasion where explosive bombs were used.
- 1523 The medieval syllabus is abolished at Oxford and Cambridge in favour of a Romantic return to the primacy of claccicism.
- 1524 Imperial forces under the Constable de Bourbon defeat the French at Rebec causing heavy losses.
The siege of Marseille is broken by a group of entirely female troops led by Ameline du Puget, the daughter of the Governor.
State licensed lotteries commence in the Low Countries.
Vasco de Gama, Viceroy of Portuguese Asia, dies.
- 1525 The Peasant's War ends when the forces of Saxony, Hesse and Brunswick rout the peasants, hanging their leader Thomas Münzer.
The Imperial forces of Charles V (mainly Spanish) destroy a superior force of Swiss, Italians and French under Francis I. This battle led to Spanish control of Italy.
- 1526 30,000 Hungarians under King Lewis are routed by 100,000 Turks under Suliman the Magnificent. The King, seven bishops, 28 magnates and over 500 nobles were killed. Hungary soon falls to Suliman.
- 1527 Rome is taken by the forces of Charles V. The city is sacked and many inhabitants massacred. The Pope held out in the Castle of St Angelo until a treaty put an end to the conflict.
- 1529 The city of Vienna was held by a garrison of 16,000 under the Count de Salm against 120,000 Turks under Suliman the Magnificent. Despite a further disastrous Turkish attack, made out of the SCA period, this assault marks the end of Muslim expansion in Europe.
The Spice Islands of Ternate and Tidore in the Moluccas are sold by Spain to Portugal in the Treaty of Saragossa for 350,000 crusados. Ironically, when their longitude was properly determined, they were Portuguese to start with.
- 1531 The Great Earthquake hits Lisbon. 30,000 lives are lost and most of the city is destroyed.
In an internal religious war, the Swiss Catholic Cantons defeat the greatly outnumbered army of Zurich at

- Kappel. Martin Zwingli falls on the Protestant side.
The Antwerp Exchange opens to facilitate commercial and financial transactions.
- 1532 Pizarro defeats the Incas and captures Peru.
- 1533 Henry VIII ex-communicated.
Ivan III the Terrible becomes Prince at age 3.
- 1534 The Church of England formally founded.
The Jesuit Order founded.
- 1535 The Galápagos Islands are discovered.
- 1536 The Dissolution of the Monasteries causes a revolt in the north of England.
Cartiér founds Montreal.
- 1536 The Portuguese repulse 76 Turkish ships and 7,000 soldiers, under the Pasha of Egypt, as well as 20,000 Indians under Bahadur Shah and Khojah Zofar, an Italian adventurer, in the siege of a trade 'factory' at Diu.
Niccolò Tartaglia's *New Science* shows that projectiles move in curves.
- 1537 The Honourable Artillery Company (England) given a charter as it is formed from units dating back to 1296.
- 1539 Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers founded is regarded as the oldest existing English with continuous service as the fought for the Crown in Cromwell's Rebellion.
- 1540 Construction begun on five artillery forts to protect the Thames.
Ignatius Loyola founds the Jesuits.
- 1541 Death of Theophrastus Bombastus Paracelsus (born 1490), surgeon and iconoclast. His success in curing disease and in gaining recoveries from wounds led to envy from his peers and it is generally regarded that the character of Dr Faustus is based on him.
- 1542 A Scots invasion of England is defeated at Solway Moss by a force of Borderers under Thomas Dacre and John Musgrave. Many important nobles were captured. James V of Scotland dies soon after from despair.
Witchcraft first becomes a civil crime, punishable by death in England.
The foundation of the Inquisition.
- 1543 Nicolai Copernicus suggests the Heliocentric theory in *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*.
Vesalius' *On the Fabric of the Human Body* and a first translation of Archimedes' *Works* also published.
First Portuguese (shipwrecked merchants) arrive in Japan. Their muskets start to tilt the balance of power during a turbulent period.
- 1545 The Scots defeat the English in the battle of Ancrum Moor.
The Portuguese at Diu again defend themselves from Indian troops under Zofar.
The Tudor ship, *Mary Rose*, sinks.
A French & Spanish invasion of England is defeated. Parts of the south, particularly around Southampton, are sacked.
- 1546 "Tres Libros de Musica en Cifras para Vihuela" by Alonso Mudarra is the first publication to include music for guitar.
- 1547 Protestant forces under the Elector Frederick of Saxony and the Landgrave of Hesse are defeated by an Imperial army with Papal allies under Charles V at Mühlberg.
Edward VI becomes King of England at age 10.
Henry II becomes King of France.
The Scots under the Earl of Huntly attack the English forces under the Protector Somerset at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh. After being fired on by ships in the bay they are driven back. Edinburgh is occupied.
Ivan the Terrible adopts the title of Tsar.
- 1548 peasants revolt in Norfolk.
Francis Xavier reaches Japan.
Papal Guard uniform changed to its present form.
- 1549 A rebel force under Robert Kett is crushed at Duffindale by the Earl of Warwick.
In a separate rebellion, Cornish rebels under Arundel are defeated by Lord Russell at St Mary's Clyst.

- The Cornish forces are again defeated at Farrington Bridge by Royal troops under Russell.
 In the final battle of the Rebellion, Arundel's forces are defeated at Sampford Courtney, most of the leaders being taken.
 St Francis Xavier begins his mission in Japan.
- 1550 An English fleet under Sir William Winter defeats a French fleet besieging St Helier on Jersey.
- 1551 Possibly the first known outbreak of influenza in England.
- 1551-1555 Nine books of tablature were published by Adrian Le Roy. These include the first pieces for 5 course guitar. The addition of the fifth course was attributed to Vicente Espinel
- 1552 St Francis Xavier dies off the coast of China.
- 1553 In an attempt to maintain Protestantism in England, Edward nominates Lady Jane Grey as Queen and dies. She lasts 9 days and then Mary I becomes Queen of England.
 The first great English Chartered Company 'The Mysterie and Companie of the Merchants adventurers for the Discoverie of Regions, Dominions, Islands and place unknown'. This later became the Muscovy Company.
 The Germans, under Maurice, Elector of Saxony, defeat the Brandenburgers under the Margrave Albert at the cost of the life of Maurice.
 Religious toleration granted to Protestants in Germany.
- 1554 Mary restores England to Catholicism.
 Kentish insurgents (part of Wyatt's Rebellion) under Sir Henry Isley are defeated at Wrotham Heath by Royal troops under Lord Abergavenny.
- 1555 *De Re Metallica*, by Georgius Agricola, is published.
 Treaty of Augsburg allows princes to determine whether their people are to be Catholic or Protestant.
- 1556 After the abdication of Charles V, Phillip II becomes King of Spain.
 Crop records indicate the start of a cold wet period in northern Europe that lasted until 1597.
 Bubonic plague ravages England until 1563.
- 1557 Despite having 20,000 men, a French force under the Constable Montmorency is routed by a Spanish and Flemish force of 5,000 under Count Egmont with the loss of 15,000 men.
- 1558 Ferdinand I becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
 The Duc de Guise captures Calais from the English. This was the last English possession on the continent and had been held since 1346. It fell because Mary I, under pressure from her husband Phillip II of Spain, sent nothing to its defence.
 Elizabeth I becomes Queen of England.
 The French (with German allies) are defeated by the Spanish (with German and Flemish allies) at Gravelines. The Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis is signed.
- 1559 Francis II becomes King of France. His wife, Mary of Scotland, styles herself Queen of England and Scotland.
 The Catholic Church publishes its first *Index of Prohibited Books*.
- 1559 Church of England re-established.
- 1560 Charles IX becomes King of France.
 The combined fleets of Malta, Venice, Genoa and Florence are destroyed by the Turks under Piycala Pasha at Djerba.
 John Nicot introduces tobacco to France.
- 1561 English law mandates fish to be eaten on Wednesday as well as Friday. This is to encourage the fishing fleets as a source of sailors for the Navy.
- 1562 In rebellion against Mary Queen of Scots, the Earl of Huntly is defeated and slain at Corrichie.
 In a fluctuating battle at Dreux, the Huguenots are defeated by the French Catholics.
- 1563 Start of the Bubonic Plague.
 End of the Council of Trent launches the Counter-Reformation.
- 1564 Maximilian II becomes Holy Roman Emperor.

- 1565 During a month long siege of the small town of Szigeth, garrisoned by the Hungarians under Count Zrinyi, the defenders managed to kill Sultan Sulieman the Magnificent. Despite this the town was taken and the entire small garrison died.
A mixed force of Spaniards and German mercenaries sieged and took the Dutch town of Valenciennes. The General in charge of the siege was so idle in its conduct that he and his lieutenants became known as 'the Seven Sleepers'.
The first 'lead' (actually graphite, which was called 'black lead') pencil is described and drawn by Konrad Gesner, a Swiss naturalist.
The oldest known extant violin is made by Andrea Amati in Cremona.
- 1566 Selim the Sot becomes Ottoman Emperor.
- 1567 The Huguenots are defeated by the Catholics in an indecisive battle at St Denis.
- 1568 The Rebellion of the Netherlands against Spanish rule has its first victory when the 'Beggars of the Sea', under Louis of Nassau, defeat a Spanish force under Count Aremburg. Aremburg is killed.
Mary, Queen of Scots, is defeated by rebels under the Regent, Murray. Mary escaped to England where she was imprisoned.
The Scots Brigade is formed in Holland, only moving to England and joining English forces in 1794 in rejection of being commanded to speak Dutch.
- 1569 Catholic forces under the Seigneur de Tavannes defeat the Huguenots under the Prince de Condé.
The magical practices of curing men or beasts, summoning wicked spirits and telling where things were lost are banned in England.
Catholic revolt by the northern Earls.
The Chronicon Helveticum is written by Aegidius Tschudi (Switzerland's answer to Geoffrey of Monmouth). It contains the first mention of William Tell.
Rebellion in Ireland
- 1570 Rebel Scots Borderers under Leonard Dacre are defeated by Royal troops under Lord Hunsdon at The Gelt.
The Rajah of Bijapur (with 135,000 troops and 350 guns) is repulsed by Portuguese defenders of Goa (a garrison of 700 as well as civilians and 1,300 monks).
Elizabeth I ex-communicated.
Portuguese chose Nagasaki as their Japanese headquarters.
- 1571 After a long siege, the garrison of Famagusta in Cyprus (7,000 Venetians and Cypriots under Marcantonio Bragantino) surrenders to the Turks, marching out with 'honours of war'. They are then massacred. The Turks lost 40,000 during the siege.
Don John of Austria leads a Spanish and Venetian fleet to victory over the Turks at Lepanto (each with around 200 ships). This was the last major use of oar-powered ships in a naval engagement (mainly on the losing side) and marks the end of Turkish sea-power in the Mediterranean.
It becomes compulsory for all married English women to wear a white knitted cap. All males over the age of six to also wear a woollen cap. This is done to help prop up the English woollen trade.
Sir Thomas Gresham opens the London Exchange in Lombard Street.
- 1572 The 'Beggars of the Sea', under De la Marck and Treslong, capture the fortress of Brill from the Spanish. After a long and fluctuating siege, a Netherlands garrison of 4,000 (including a Corp of Amazons) in Haarlem is defeated and massacred by a Spanish force of 30,000 under Don Federico de Toledo. Spanish losses exceeded 12,000.
Despite having a very small garrison, the fortress of Tergoes is successfully defended by the Spanish from a Patriot attack of several months after a relieving force manages to enter over flooded land.
'Tycho's star', a supernova in Cassiopeia, is clearly visible. This proves that the heavens are not unchanging.
The Buffs are formed from the London Militia to fight for the Protestants in the Netherlands. They do not become an English unit until 1665.
- 1573 The Dutch town of Alkmaar was sieged by 16,000 Spaniards. A garrison of 800 soldiers and 1,300 burghers managed to kill 1,000 and drive off their attackers with a loss of 37 men.
30 Spanish ships under Bossu are defeated by the 25 Dutch ships under Admiral Dirkzoon in the battle of the Zuyder Zee. The Spanish ships fled after losing only 5 vessels, only Bossu continuing the conflict.
His ship was taken after losing most of its crew.

- 1574 The 'Beggars of the Sea' under Boisot defeat a Spanish force of 75 ships under Romero. The Spanish lose 15 ships and 1,200 men.
 After a gallant defence of Leyden by volunteers, Spanish forces are driven off. 8,000 inhabitants of the town died of disease and starvation.
 At Moorkerheide the Dutch, under Count Louis of Nassau are routed by the Spanish, under Don Sancho d'Avila. Louis is killed.
 Henry III becomes King of France.
 Murad III becomes Ottoman Emperor.
- 1576 Rudolf II becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
 The city of Antwerp is ineptly defended by the Dutch against the Spanish. After its fall, a massacre called 'The Spanish Fury' is alleged to have taken 10,000 lives.
- 1577 Tycho Brahe observes and measures a comet. This proves that the 'crystal spheres' do not exist as it would have had to pass through them.
- 1578 Don John of Austria defeats an equal Netherlands force at Gembloux. Spanish losses were minimal, while the Netherlands lost around half their troops.
 Don John, with 30,000 men suffers a fairly indecisive loss to Dutch forces of 20,000 under Count Bossu and François de la Noue.
 Last recorded homosexual marriage in Rome officially conducted in a church and by a priest.
 Bubonic plague strikes England.
- 1579 Maastricht is taken by the Spaniards from a small force of burghers and troops. The Spanish lost twice as many troops as the garrison had in total. As usual, the city was sacked and the civilians massacred.
- 1580 The Spanish under the Duke of Alva crush Portuguese independence at the battle of Alcántara.
 During the 'colonisation of Ireland', an English force is soundly defeated at Glen Malone.
 Dutch Royalists defeat Dutch Patriots at Hardenberg.
 Drake completes his circumnavigation of the world after 33 months at sea in the ship *Golden Hind*.
- 1581 The Turkey Company is formed in England in order to actually deal peacefully with the Saracens.
 The town of Tournai is defended by the Princess Espinay from a Royal army under Alexander of Parma for two months. After surrendering, she was allowed to march out at the head of her troops with all honours of war.
- 1583 The Venice Company is formed in England to trade in the Mediterranean.
- 1584 Raleigh founds the Virginia colony.
- 1585 An Italian called Clusius is documented as the first person to grow potatoes in Europe.
- 1586 A Spanish force under Prince Alexander of Parma defeats an English force under the Earl of Leicester at Zutphen in the Netherlands. Among the dead is Sir Phillip Sidney.
 Bubonic plague strikes England.
- 1587 Sir Francis Drake enters Cadiz Bay (in Spain) with 30 to 40 ships and destroys over a hundred Spanish vessels using fireships.
 Elizabeth I has Mary, Queen of Scots, executed for treason.
- 1588 The Spanish invasion of England in the Armada (68 fighting ships, 32 light craft and 25 store ships) is defeated in the Channel by the English (197 ships - but only 8 over 600 tons) in a battle lasting nine days. Only a half of the fleet returned to Spain. Most of the Spanish losses were due to the weather.
- 1589 Henry of Navarre, a Protestant, (later Henry IV), with 5,000 Huguenots defeats 30,000 Catholic troops at Arques.
 Henry IV becomes the first Bourbon King of France.
- 1590 The Huguenots, led by Henry IV, defeat the Catholics under the Duc de Mayeene at Ivry. Henry marches on to invest Paris, but fails. He eventually repudiates the Huguenots, for political reasons, and turns Catholic.
 Death of Ambrose Paré (born 1510) Army surgeon and innovator in the treatment of wounds.
- 1591 In the battle of the Azores, an English Fleet is defeated by a Spanish fleet.
- 1592 The Levant Company is formed to commercially exploit the Holy Land and the East India Company is formed to exploit the 'newly discovered lands of the Orient'.

- 1593 Bubonic plague strikes England.
Grace O'Malley (Graine ni Maille), Irish princess and commander of a pirate fleet, meets with Elizabeth I, who accepts her territorial claims.
- 1594 The forces of James VI of Scotland are defeated by an inferior force of rebels under the Earls of Errol and Huntly at Glenlivet.
- 1595 The village of Mousehole (Cornwall) is sacked by the Spanish. This is the last sack of a mainland English town by foreign invaders.
The first recorded walking shoes with heels introduced in England.
Mehemed IV becomes Ottoman Emperor.
- 1596 Imperialist and Transylvanian forces are defeated by the Ottomans at Keresztes. Austria is forced to pay tribute to the Turks.
Bear-baiting is banned in Chester. This is the first 'animal cruelty' ordinance in England.
Drought and severe famine in England.
Peasant rebellion in Oxfordshire.
Elizabeth I installs a water closet.
Tomatoes introduced to Europe.
- 1597 The battle of Turnhout sees Dutch forces under Prince Maurice of Nassau totally defeat a Spanish force. The Spanish never recover from this loss and eventual Dutch independence becomes inevitable.
English defeat a Second Armada.
Irish rebel.
Return to more 'normal' weather and harvests in northern Europe.
Transportation to the colonies of Virginia and the West Indies begins.
- 1598 Phillip III becomes King of Spain and Portugal
Polish forces under Sigismund III are defeated at Linköping by the Swedes under Charles the Regent. Soon after, Sigismund lost his throne and Charles became King of Sweden.
Sir Henry Bagenal, the English Marshal, is defeated by a similarly sized (5,000) force of Irish rebels under Hugh O'Neill at the battle of Blackwater.
- 1600 The Spanish, under Archduke Albert of Austria are defeated with heavy losses by Dutch forces under Maurice of Orange at Nieuwpoort.
The Englishman, William Adams reaches Japan as pilot of the Dutch ship *de Liefde*. His exploits form the basis of the book *Shogun*.
Publication of William Gilbert's *On the Magnet*.

Out of period (but included for interest)

- 1601 Earl of Essex's rebellion crushed.
- 1602 Irish revolt crushed.
- 1603 Major outbreak of Plague in England
With the death of Elizabeth I, James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England.
- 1604 Kepler's star (a supernova) explodes.
- 1605 Gunpowder Plot by Catholics. Sir Guy Fawkes executed.
- 1606 Torres Strait discovered.
- 1607 Colony of Jamestown founded.
Colonisation of Ulster from Scotland begins.
Forks introduced to England.
- 1609 Netherlands gains independence from Spain.
- 1610 Louis XIII becomes King of France
Jupiter's moons discovered.
- 1611 The King James or Authorised Bible is published.
- 1612 Matthias becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1613 English open trade with Japan.
- 1618 start of the Thirty Years War.
- 1619 Ferdinand II becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1620 The Mayflower sails for Plymouth.
- 1621 Potatoes introduced to Germany.
- 1621 Charles I becomes King of England.
- 1624 First westerners (Catholic Missionaries) enter Tibet and bring back the legend of Sham-ba-la (Shangri-la)
- 1626 Dutch buy Manhattan Island
- 1630 Charles I dismisses Parliament
- 1637 Ferdinand III becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
The Scottish Covenant signed to protect Protestantism.
- 1638 End of the Thirty Years War.
- 1640 Charles I calls the 'Short Parliament'.
Scots rebel.
Charles I calls the 'Long Parliament'.
- 1641 Rebellion of the Catholics of Ulster
- 1642 Fighting breaks out between Cavaliers and Roundheads.
Tasmania discovered by Abel Tasman.
- 1643 Louis XIV becomes King of France aged 5.
Tasman circumnavigates the mainland of Australia without seeing it. He also discovers Fiji.
- 1645 Presbyterianism becomes the official religion of England.
- 1646 English Civil War ends.
- 1648 English Civil War re-starts.
- 1649 Charles I executed. Charles II proclaimed in Scotland and Ireland.
Communism preached in Surrey by Gerard Winstanley as the 'leveller' movement.
- 1652 Start of Anglo-Dutch War over trade.
- 1653 Cromwell appointed Lord Protector of England.
- 1658 Cromwell's son, Richard, appointed Lord Protector.

1659 Military dictatorship in England.

1660 Restoration of Charles II to English throne.

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This is a list of suggested further reading to flesh out the bare bones listed above. It is not complete, but merely a list of books and articles that are on my shelves, or in the University library, and that I have found useful.

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