**TUDORS**

**Wars of the Roses**

*1455-1487*

The Wars of the Roses were a series of English civil wars fought between the rival houses of Lancaster and York. The social and financial stress following the Hundred Years' War, as well as the physical and monarchical weakness of Henry IV (a Lancaster), caused Richard of York to lay claim to the throne. The Yorks continued to rule England until 1485, when Henry Tudor (allied with the Lancasters) defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field. Henry was crowned **Henry VII,** and his marriage to **Elizabeth of York** solidified his claim to the monarchy.

**English Reformation**

*1529-1688*

The English Reformation was the process by which the Church of England broke away from Catholicism and the authority of the Pope. Riding on the heels of the Protestant Reformation, **Henry VIII** attempted to divorce his wife, **Catherine of Aragon,** since she could not produce a male heir. Canon law forbade divorce, and Catherine’s uncle was the Holy Roman Emperor, leaving Pope Clement VII extremely reluctant to annul the marriage. In response, Henry VIII passed the Act of Supremacy, establishing the Church of England with himself as the head. As the monarchy passed through various hands, Catholics and Protestants alike would continue to be persecuted. Friction between the branches culminated in the English Civil War, when the last Catholic king was ousted, cementing the Church of England as a Protestant institution.

**Wars of Religion**

*1522-1648*

The Wars of Religion were a series of conflicts throughout Europe following the Protestant Reformation, when various Protestant leaders threatened the hegemony of the Catholic Church. During **Henry VIII**’s tenure, the dissolution of the monasteries--an assertion of Henry’s power as head of the church--provoked uprisings in the English countryside. In mid-16th-century Scotland, the rhetoric of Calvinist preachers provoked a violent response from the Queen Regent, **Mary of Guise.** After her death, **Mary Queen of Scots** ascended to the throne, and her marriage to the Catholic **Henry Stuart** resulted in even greater discord. The Wars of Religion formally ended in Europe with the 1648 Peace of Westphalia.

**Anglo-Spanish War**

*1585-1604*

The Anglo-Spanish War was part of the European Wars of Religion. In 1585, England came to the aid of the Protestant Netherlands, who were attempting to resist the rule of Catholic Spain. Philip II, a Habsburg and bitter enemy of **Elizabeth I,** ordered an armada to invade England in 1588. Due to the fireship strategy of the English navy and severe storms in the North Atlantic, the Spanish armada suffered a crushing defeat. The conflicts--never officially declared a war--came to an end in 1604 with the treaty of London, in which **James VI & I** agreed to stop English privateering if the Spanish agreed to stop military operations in the Netherlands and Ireland.

**Italian Wars**

*1494-1559*

The Italian Wars were a conflict between various European states over territory across Western Europe. What began as a Spanish attempt to become a major power (at the expense of France) became a series of alliances and betrayals, often centered on the Pope’s allegiance to either side. **Henry VII** renewed the Treaty of Étaples with France in 1498, but in 1510, a year after **Henry VIII** became king, England changed course and joined the Holy League of Pope Julius II against France. This alliance was renewed when Henry sided with the new Pope, who had made peace with the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, leaving France with no powerful allies. In 1526--several years before Henry VIII broke ties with the Catholic Church--England changed course againand joined the League of Cognac, an opposition against Charles V led by Pope Clement VII. The war ended with the Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis in 1559, a year after **Elizabeth I** took the English crown.

**Anglo-Scottish Wars**

*1328-1603*

The Anglo-Scottish Wars began with the Scottish Wars of Independence in the mid-14th century and persisted for nearly 300 years. Although **Henry VII** and **James IV** made attempts at peace, **Henry VIII** severed these fragile ties during the “Rough Wooing” in the mid-16th century. This bloody conflict was an effort to weaken the alliance between Scotland and France, England’s longtime enemy, and a plot to force an Anglo-Scottish alliance through the marriage of **Edward VI** and **Mary Queen of Scots**. Conflict continued intermittently under Edward VI, **Mary I,** and **Elizabeth I**. The wars formally ended with the Union of the Crowns in 1603, when **James VI & I** (son of Mary Queen of Scots) ascended to the English throne, uniting England and Scotland under one ruler.

**Gunpowder Plot**

*1605*

The Gunpowder Plot was an attempted assassination of **James VI & I** by a group of English Catholics. The plot arose in response to James’ increasing religious intolerance. The group planned to blow up the House of Lords on the 5th of November, killing the king and Protestant MPs, leaving the throne vacant for James’ Catholic daughter. The famous Guy Fawkes was charged with handling the explosives, but he was arrested by the authorities after an anonymous tip-off. After a brief scuffle in which several of the rebels were killed, the survivors were arrested and sentenced to death.

**Conquest of Ireland**

*1529-1603*

The Conquest of Ireland was the subjugation of the Irish by Tudor England. After an anti-English rebellion in the 1520s, **Henry VIII** declared himself King of Ireland and traded protection of all Irish lords for allegiance to the English crown. Catholic Ireland resisted the imposition of Anglicanism, and after Henry died, insurrections broke out across the country. Both **Mary I** and **Elizabeth I** attempted to control Ireland through military occupation and the creation of Plantations, which were settled by Anglos who tried to spread English language, law, and culture. The conflict came to a head when powerful Irish lords rallied to break with the crown in the Nine Years’ War. After an English triumph, many of the lords fled, resulting in **James VI & I** exerting greater control over the country. British settlers rushed to fill the vacant seats of power, creating the Protestant Plantation of Ulster.

**CHIANGS**

**First Sino-Japanese War**

*1894-1895*

The First-Sino Japanese War was a conflict between the Qing Empire of China and Japan. After the Meiji Restoration, Japan was intent on becoming a global power. Korea, long influenced by the Chinese Empire, became a source of contention when Japan forced Korea into a trade agreement. Though pro-Japanese forces attempted to overthrow the Korean king in the 1884, war was not officially declared until 1894, when the Tonghak rebellion broke out, causing the Korean government to call on China for aid. The Japanese took this as a violation of previous treaties and formal battle commenced. Though a Chinese victory was expected, the modernized weapons and tactics of the Japanese army put them ahead. After Japan invaded the Shandong province and Manchuria, China sued for peace, granting Japan territory and trading privileges. The war sparked the reforms movement of **Sun Yat-sen,** who formed the Revive China Society--dedicated to ousting the Manchu and restoring native Chinese rule.

**Xinhai Revolution**

*1911-1912*

The Xinhai Revolution was an overthrow of the Qing dynasty led by **Sun Yat-sen,** a member of the Tongmenhui political party. The conflict began with the Wuchang Uprising over the planned nationalization of railways. The uprising was influenced by the Tongmenhui’s values of Chinese nationalism, republican government, and redistribution of land. The Qing government acquiesced to demands for a constitution and made Yuan Shikai, a prominent general in the First Sino-Japanese War, premier. In response, Sun set up a provisional republican government in Nanjing. The child emperor Puyi abdicated the throne, ending nearly 2000 years of imperial rule in China. Sun resigned, granting the presidency to Yuan. The compromise government would soon collapse, however, resulting in the Chinese Civil War.

**Northern Expedition**

*1926-1928*

The Northern Expedition was a military campaign led by the nationalist Kuomintang, now led by commander Chiang Kai-shek, against the Beiyang government. The expedition was split into two phases due to the purging of Communists within the Kuomintang, known as the White Terror. The Nationalist-Communist opposition would eventually lead to the Chinese Civil War. After a brief hiatus, Chiang returned to command the nationalist army in 1928. The army advanced towards Peking and forced a faction of the Beiyang group out of the city. In 1928, the Beiyang leadership in Manchuria acknowledged the authority of the Nanjing branch of the Nationalist government.

**Chinese Civil War**

*1927-1950*

The Chinese Civil War was a two-part conflict between the nationalist Kuomintang and the Communist Party of China. After the Northern Expedition and the White Terror, the CPC established the Red Army, prompting a series of Encirclement Campaigns by the Nationalist military. These campaigns provoked the Long March, a year-long retreat during which the Red Army gained popular support and Mao Zedong rose to power. Fighting continued until 1936, when **Chiang Kai-shek** agreed to a ceasefire in order to form a United Front against the Japanese. After Japan’s defeat in 1945, fighting resumed, and Mao rallied the 3 million Red Army troops in a full-scale assault against the KMT. Armed with weapons from Soviet allies, the CPC enticed large numbers of KMT troops to defect and gained peasant followership in the countryside with promises of land reform. Despite receiving major aid from the U.S., the KMT continued to suffer in the face of the CPC’s superior manpower, and in 1949 the Communists took Nanjing. Mao Zedong proclaimed the People’s Republic of China and the KMT government fled to Taiwan, continuing to call themselves the Republic of China.

**Second Sino-Japanese War**

*1937-1945*

The Second Sino-Japanese War was a conflict between China and Japan and part of World War II. Japanese imperialist policy led to the invasion of Manchuria in 1931, and by 1937 Japan had captured Shanghai and Nanjing. The Chinese capital was moved to the interior and a stalemate ensued, buying time for both the Communist and Nationalist forces to launch counter-offensives. The United States military provided aid for China, and in 1945 the Japanese surrendered after the catastrophic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Manchuria and Taiwan were restored to China, who became one of the five members of the United Nations Security Council. The war caused the deaths of nearly 25 million Chinese civilians and military personnel.

**Great Leap Forward**

*1958-1962*

The Great Leap Forward was an attempt by Mao Zedong, the leader of the Communist PRC, to transform agrarian China into a socialist state. Farms were collectivized and private farmers were persecuted. Mao promoted industrialization, particularly steel production. This diverted many farmers from their crops, causing the Great Chinese Famine and killing tens of millions of people. China entered an economic depression, and the CPC forced Mao out of leadership. He would return to power during the Cultural Revolution several years later.

**Cultural Revolution**

*1966-1976*

The Cultural Revolution was an attempt by Mao Zedong to restore Communist ideals in China after the failed Great Leap Forward. Mao claimed that the bourgeoisie had taken over the PRC government and urged violent class struggle, prompting many Chinese youth to join the paramilitary Red Guard. Mao began a violent purge of moderates, capitalists, intellectuals, and alleged counter-revolutionaries throughout the country. Many people were transported to forced labor camps. Many religious and cultural artifacts which were part of China’s imperial past were destroyed. The Revolution formally ended in 1969, though propagandistic efforts continued until Mao’s death in 1976.

**Republic of China in Taiwan**

*1949-2018*

Taiwan has been the seat of the Republic of China since 1949. After the defeat of the Kuomintang by the Communist Party of China, **Chiang Kai-shek** and the KMT fled to Taiwan. The native islanders, who had previously been subjected to Japanese rule, protested the ROC occupation. These people became victims of a new White Terror, a violent campaign against both communism and movements for Taiwanese independence. KMT forces continued to attempt invasions of the Chinese mainland from nearby islands. The conflicts known as the Taiwan Straits Crises ended with a quasi-ceasefire in the late 1950s, and formally ended when the U.S. established diplomatic relations with the PRC in 1979. Despite this, there has never been a formal peace treaty. When **Chiang Ching-kuo** became President in 1978, he departed from his father’s authoritarian rule by implementing liberal reforms. He opened up top political positions to native Taiwanese and allowed opposition parties to form. In 1987, he lifted martial law, though movements for both communism and Taiwanese independence continue to be banned on the island. The ROC in Taiwan continue to assert their claim over the Chinese mainland, leading to a lack of recognition from both PRC China and most other countries.