

# World History: Major Eras Revolutions Cheat Sheet

## 1. Ancient Classical Civilizations

### Mesopotamia Egypt (c. 3500 – 500 BCE)

- **Cradle of Civilization:** Tigris-Euphrates (Sumerians, Babylonians); Nile Valley (Pharaohs, Hieroglyphics).
- **Key Innovations:** Cuneiform, wheel, irrigation, code of Hammurabi.

### Classical Greece Rome (c. 500 BCE – 476 CE)

- **Greece:** Birth of democracy (Athens), philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), Hellenistic spread via Alexander the Great.
- **Rome:** Roman Republic to Empire, legal codes (Twelve Tables), extensive infrastructure, Pax Romana.
- **Fall of Rome:** 476 CE (Western Empire) due to economic strain, invasions, and political corruption.

## 2. The Middle Ages Renaissance

### Medieval Europe (c. 500 – 1500 CE)

- **Feudalism:** Decentralized social structure based on land tenure and vassalage.
- **The Crusades:** Series of religious wars (1095–1291) launched by Latin Christians to reclaim the Holy Land.
- **The Black Death (1347–1351):** Devastating pandemic that wiped out a third of Europe's population, reshaping labor and economy.

### The Renaissance (14th – 17th Century)

- **Humanism:** Revival of classical art, literature, and learning originating in Florence, Italy.
- **Key Figures:** Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Shakespeare.
- **Printing Press:** Invented by Johannes Gutenberg c. 1440, accelerating the spread of knowledge.

## 3. Age of Revolutions

### The Enlightenment (17th – 18th Century)

- **Core Ideas:** Reason, individualism, skepticism of traditional authority.
- **Philosophers:** John Locke (natural rights), Montesquieu (separation of powers), Rousseau (social contract).

### American Revolution (1775–1783)

- **Cause:** 'No taxation without representation' against British crown.
- **Significance:** Establishment of the United States via the Declaration of Independence (1776) and Constitution.

### French Revolution (1789–1799)

- **Causes:** Inequality (Three Estates), financial crisis, absolute monarchy.
- **Milestones:** Storming of the Bastille, Reign of Terror, rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.

## 4. Industrialization Modern Era

### The Industrial Revolution (18th – 19th Century)

- **Origins:** Great Britain, driven by coal, steam power (James Watt), and mechanization of textiles.
- **Impact:** Urbanization, rise of factory systems, emergence of capitalism and Marxism (Karl Marx).

### World Wars (20th Century)

- **WWI (1914–1918):** Allied vs. Central Powers; Trench warfare, Treaty of Versailles.
- **Interwar Period:** Great Depression, rise of totalitarian regimes (Fascism in Italy/Germany, Stalinism in USSR).
- **WWII (1939–1945):** Axis vs. Allies; Holocaust, atomic bomb, formation of the United Nations (1945).

### The Cold War Globalization (1945 – Present)

- **Bipolar World:** US vs. USSR ideological standoff (NATO vs. Warsaw Pact), proxy wars, Space Race.
- **Fall of USSR:** 1991, leading to a multipolar modern global economy and digital age.