An Overview of Western Civilization

The Six Major Periods of Western Civilization (BCE = BC; CE = AD)

1. Mesopotamia, Egypt, & Hebrews (3000-500 BCE)
2. Ancient Greece (1200-200 BCE)
3. Ancient Rome (753 BCE - 476 CE)
4. The Early Middle Ages (476-1000 CE)
5. The High Middle Ages (1000-1300 CE)
6. The Late Middle Ages (1300-1500 CE)
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Mesopotamia (3000-500 BCE)

3000-2000 BCE: Sumerian Civilization
  Cuneiform, Sargon of Akkad

2000-1600 BCE: Old Babylonian Civilization
  Hammurabi, Abraham (Ur)

1600-1200 BCE: Disorder in Mesopotamia

1200-612 BCE: The Middle and New Assyrian Empire

612-539 BCE: The New Babylonian Empire
  586-539 BCE: The Babylonian Captivity (Nebuchadnezzar)
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Egypt (3000-500 BCE)

3000-2200 BCE: The Old Kingdom
Hieroglyphics, Pyramids

2200-2000 BCE: The First Intermediate Period

2000-1800 BCE: The Middle Kingdom

1800-1550 BCE: The Second Intermediate Period

1550-1200 BCE: The New Kingdom
Hatshepsut, Akhenaten/Nefertiti, Tutankhamun, Ramses,
The Egyptian Captivity

1200-500 BCE: The Late Period
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Hebrews (1800-500 BCE)

- **ca. 1800 BCE:** Abraham leaves Ur
- **1800-1200 BCE:** The Age of the Patriarchs
- **1200-1000 BCE:** The Age of the Judges
- **1000-920 BCE:** The United Kingdom
  - Saul, David, Solomon
- **920-586 BCE:** The Period of the Two Kingdoms
  - **712 BCE:** The Fall of Israel to the Assyrians
- **586-539 BCE:** The Babylonian Captivity
  - **586 BCE:** The Fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar’s army
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- **Ancient Greece (1200-200 BCE)**

  **2000-1200 BCE**: the Indo-European invasions
  - *ca. 1183 BCE*: The Fall of Troy

  **1100-800 BCE**: Dark Age

  **800-700 BCE**: Homer and the Age of Greek Epic
  - *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, Agamemnon

  **700-500 BCE**: the Pre-Classical Age
  - *510-508 BCE*: The Birth of Athenian Democracy

  **500-479 BCE**: The Persian Wars
  - *490 BCE*: The First Persian War; *481-479 BCE*: The Second Persian War
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Ancient Greece (1200-200 BCE)

479-431 BCE: The Classical Age
   Pericles, Parthenon, Philosophy, Drama

431-404 BCE: The Peloponnesian War: Athens vs. Sparta

404-336 BCE: Civil War and the Rise of Macedon
   338 BCE: The Battle of Chaeronea

336-323 BCE: Alexander the Great

323-31 BCE: The Hellenistic Age
Ancient Rome (753 BCE - 476 CE)

- ca. 1200 BCE: Aeneas settles Italy
- 753 BCE: Romulus founds the city of Rome
- 753-510 BCE: Kings rule Rome
- 510 BCE: The Founding of the Roman Republic
  Age of Patriotism, Cincinnatus
- 264-202 BCE: The Punic Wars
  - 264-241 BCE: The First Punic War
  - 218-201 BCE: The Second Punic War (Hannibal)
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Ancient Rome (753 BCE - 476 CE)

201-31 BCE: Rome conquers the Mediterranean world
   March 15, 44 BCE: Caesar is assassinated

31 BCE - 14 CE: Augustus rules as Roman Emperor
   31 BCE: The Battle of Actium
   19 BCE: Vergil’s *Aeneid* is published

31 BCE - 476 CE: The Roman Empire
   117-138 CE: Hadrian (Pantheon)
   330 CE: Constantine founds Constantinople (Istanbul)
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- Early Middle Ages (476-1000 CE)

- 476 CE: The “Fall of Rome”
  - Barbarian Invasions: Huns, Vandals, Visigoths
- 500-750 CE: The Dark Age in Western Europe
- 527-565 CE: Justinian rules the Byzantine Empire
  - Theodora, Procopius’ *Anecdota*, The Church of Hagia Sophia
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Early Middle Ages (476-1000 CE)

476 CE: The “Fall of Rome”
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Theodora, Procopius’ Anecdota, The Church of Hagia Sophia

c. 570-632 CE: Muhammad and the Birth of Islam
Hegira, Ka’aba, Koran, Jihad, Caliphs, Shi’ites

661-750 CE: The Umayyad Dynasty

750-1250 CE: The Abbasid Dynasty
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- Early Middle Ages (476-1000 CE)

  750-850 CE: The Carolingians and the Holy Roman Empire
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- Early Middle Ages (476-1000 CE)
  - 750-850 CE: The Carolingians and the Holy Roman Empire
  - 850-1000 CE: The Viking Invasions
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- High Middle Ages (1000-1300 CE)

  - **1000-1100 CE**: The Rise of the Medieval Papacy
    - Cathedrals, Chivalry
  - **1096-1099 CE**: The First Crusade
  - **1201-1204 CE**: The Fourth Crusade
    - **1204 CE**: The Sack of Constantinople
Late Middle Ages (1300-1500 CE)

1315-1317 CE: The Great Famine
1337-1453 CE: The Hundred Years’ War
    Joan of Arc
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- **Late Middle Ages (1300-1500 CE)**

  1315-1317 CE: The Great Famine
  1337-1453 CE: The Hundred Years’ War
  Joan of Arc
  1347-1352 CE: The Black Death
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