

TIMELINE OF WORLD HISTORY AND NOTED PHILOSOPHERS

Dates	Period	Philosophers
ANCIENT WORLD (3500 B. C.—A. D. 500)		
3500 B.C.	Beginning of writing	Thales (624-546 BC) & Pre-Socratics
	Writing of Old Testament (1400-400 B.C.)	Confucius (550-479)
	Ancient empires of Middle East: Egypt Assyria, Babylon, Persia	Heraclitus (535-475)
	Rise of Europe: Classical Greece and Rome	Socrates (469-399)
		Plato (427-347)
		Aristotle (384-22)
		Epicurus (341-270)
†	CHRIST AND BEGINNING OF CHRISTIANITY	
A.D. 500	Fall of Rome (476)	Epictetus (AD 55-135) M. Aurelius (121-80)
MIDDLE AGES (500–1500)		
500	Roman Catholic Church dominates	Augustine (354-430)
600	European life	Al-Kindi (801-873)
	Muhammad (570-632) and rise of Islam	
	Survival of Roman Empire in East, Constantinople (Byzantium)	Avicenna (980-1037)
	Monasteries keep learning alive	Anselm (1034-1109)
	Charlemagne (742-814)	Al-Ghazali (1058-1111)
	Knights, serfdom, petty lords	Averroes (1126-98)
	Crusades to win back Holy Land from Muslims (1095-1291)	Maimonides (1135-1204)
	Black Death Plague (1348)	Aquinas (1221-74)
1450	Renaissance, invention of printing press	Ockham (1288-1344)
	Fall of Constantinople (1453)	
EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1500–1800)		
1500	Martin Luther and Reformation in Europe	Machiavelli (1466-1536)
	Muslim Empires in Middle East,	
	Ming, Qing dynasties in China,	
	Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan	
	<i>Transitions</i> from Middle Ages:	
	• Centralization of governments (absolute monarchs, e.g., Louis XIV)	Hobbes (1588-1679)
	• Population increases (Europe 62 million in 1500 →123 million 1800)	Descartes (1596-1650)
	• Mass communication (ideas spread by	

- printed material)
- New World exploration, expanding trade, material & mental changes; slave trade
 - More sophisticated warfare, larger armies
 - Social changes in diets, ways of thought (less concrete, more abstract)
- 1600 Scientific Revolution
French *Philosophes* and Enlightenment
- 1700 American (1776) and French (1789) Revolutions

MODERN PERIOD (1800—1945)

- 1800 Napoleon Bonaparte and rise of Nationalism in Europe
Industrial Revolution (England): coal, iron, competition for raw materials
European Colonization
Urbanization
Romantic Movement
- 1900 Second Industrial Revolution: steel, electricity
Collapse of old empires: Ottoman, Russian, Austrian, Qing
World War I (1914-18) and II (1939-45)
Spanish Flu Pandemic (1918)

POST-MODERN WORLD (1945—Present)

- 1950 Nuclear Power
Cold War, rise of superpowers of USSR and USA
Decolonization; Rise of high technology
Worldwide urbanization
Loss of old values
- 2000 West's War on Islamic Terrorism
Coronavirus Pandemic (2020)

Pascal (1623-1700)
Spinoza (1632-77)
Locke (1632-1704)
Leibniz (1646-1716)
Berkeley (1685-1753)

Hume (1711-76)
Voltaire (1694-1778)
Rousseau (1712-78)
D'Holbach (1723-89)
Kant (1724-1804)

Hegel (1770-1831)
J. S. Mill (1806-73)
Kierkegaard (1813-55)
Karl Marx (1818-83)

Clifford (1845-79)
Nietzsche (1844-1900)
James (1842-1910)

Wittgenstein (1889-1951)
C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)
Heidegger (1889-1976)

Sartre (1905-80)
De Beauvoir (1908-86)
Camus (1913-60)
Rand (1905-82)
Foucault (1926-84)

Derrida (1930-2004)
Rorty (1931-2007)
Searle (1932-)

