Chronological Summary

1414–1418 Council of Constance
1431–1449 Council of Basel
1453 Turkish conquest of Constantinople
1480 Spanish Inquisition instituted
1485–1509 Henry VII of England, the first Tudor
1492 Columbus’ discovery of America
Conquest of Granada by Ferdinand and Isabella
1492–1503 Pope Alexander VI
1494 Invasion of Italy by Charles VIII of France
1494–1516 Italian Wars
1509–1547 Henry VIII of England
1512–1513? Luther’s conversion at Wittenberg
1513 Machiavelli’s The Prince
1513–1521 Pope Leo X
1515–1547 Francis I of France
1516 Concordat of Bologna
Erasmus’ Greek New Testament
Sir Thomas More’s Utopia
Death of Ferdinand and accession of Charles as
king of Spain
1517 Luther’s 95 Theses
Moslem caliphate moved from Cairo to Con-
tstantinople
The Age of Reformation

1519 Death of Emperor Maximilian and election of Charles V as emperor
1520–1566 Suleiman the Magnificent
1521 Luther before the Diet of Worms
1522 Loyola's conversion at Manresa
1522–1532 Luther's German Bible
1522–1559 Hapsburg-Valois Wars
1523–1534 Pope Clement VII
1524–1525 Peasants' War in Germany
1526 Turkish victory at Mohacs
1529 Turkish siege of Vienna
Split between Luther and Zwingli
Reformation Parliament summoned in England
1530 Augsburg Confession of Faith
1534 English Act of Supremacy
1534–1535 Anabaptist rising at Münster
1534–1549 Pope Paul III
1536 Calvin publishes first edition of the Institutes and settles in Geneva
1540 Papal approval of Society of Jesus
1541 Conference at Ratisbon between Catholics and Protestants
1543 Copernicus' Revolutions of the Heavenly Orbs
Vesalius' Structure of the Human Body
1545 Opening of Potosí mines in Peru
1545–1547 Council of Trent, first session
1546 Death of Luther
Outbreak of religious warfare in Germany
1547–1553 Edward VI of England
1547–1559 Henry II of France
1551–1552 Council of Trent, second session
1553–1558 Mary I of England
1555 Religious Peace of Augsburg
1555–1556 Abdication of Charles V
Chronological Summary

1556–1598 Philip II of Spain
1558–1603 Elizabeth I of England
  1559 Definitive edition of Calvin's Institutes
      Roman Index of prohibited books
      Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis between France and
      Spain
1559–1560 Francis II of France
1560–1574 Charles IX of France
1561–1567 Mary Queen of Scots in Scotland
1562–1563 Council of Trent, third session
1562–1593 Wars of Religion in France
1566 Outbreak of revolt in the Netherlands
1567 Revolt of Moriscoes in Spain
1567–1573 Alva in the Netherlands
1568–1569 Rising of the North in England
1571 Battle of Lepanto
1572 Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Eve
1574–1589 Henry III of France
1576 Jean Bodin's Republic
      Pacification of Ghent
1579 Union of Utrecht
1580–1595 Montaigne's Essays
1580–1640 Portugal annexed to Spain
1584 Death of William of Orange
1587 Execution of Mary Queen of Scots
1588 Defeat of Spanish Armada
1589–1610 Henry IV of France (Navarre)
1598 Edict of Nantes
      Death of Philip II
      Peace of Vervins between France and Spain
1603 Death of Elizabeth
Suggestions for Further Reading


The most successful attempts at a synthesis of the age are in French and German. The two relevant volumes in the Peuples et Civilisations series are particularly good: Henri Hauser and Augustin Renaudet, Les Débuts de l'âge moderne [1492–1559] (Paris, 1938), and Henri Hauser, La Prépondérance espagnole [1559–1660] (Paris, 1933). Gerhard Ritter, Die Neugestaltung Europas im 16. Jahrhundert: Die kirchlichen und staatlichen Wandlungen im Zeitalter der Reformation und der Glaubenskämpfe (Berlin, 1950), is the work of a master scholar and stylist. Paul Joachimsen's classic essay on "Die Reformation" may be found in Volume V of the "Propyläen Weltgeschichte" (Das Zeitalter der religiösen Umwälzung, Berlin, 1930) and has recently been published separately in somewhat expanded form (Munich, 1951). Fernand Braudel, La Méditerranée et le monde
mediterranéen à l’époque de Philippe II (Paris, 1949) is a splendid synthesis of the geographical, economic, and political aspects of the history of the later sixteenth century.

There are two recent brief treatments of the religious upheaval: Roland H. Bainton, The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century (Boston, 1952), and George L. Mosse, The Reformation (Berkshire series; New York, 1953).

On Erasmus, see J. Huizinga, Erasmus of Rotterdam (New York, 1952), or Margaret M. Phillips, Erasmus and the Northern Renaissance (New York, 1950).

The best short biography of Luther from the Protestant point of view is Roland H. Bainton, Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther (Mentor Books, 1955). The best from the Catholic point of view is Hartmann Grisar, Martin Luther: His Life and Work (St. Louis, 1935). There is a wealth of interesting background material in E. G. Schwiebert, Luther and His Times (St. Louis, 1950).


Pierre Janelle, The Catholic Reformation (Milwaukee, 1948), is an excellent brief treatment of the subject. Hubert Jedin, A
Further Reading

History of the Council of Trent, Vol. I (St. Louis, 1957), is the first volume of what will be a definitive account.


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