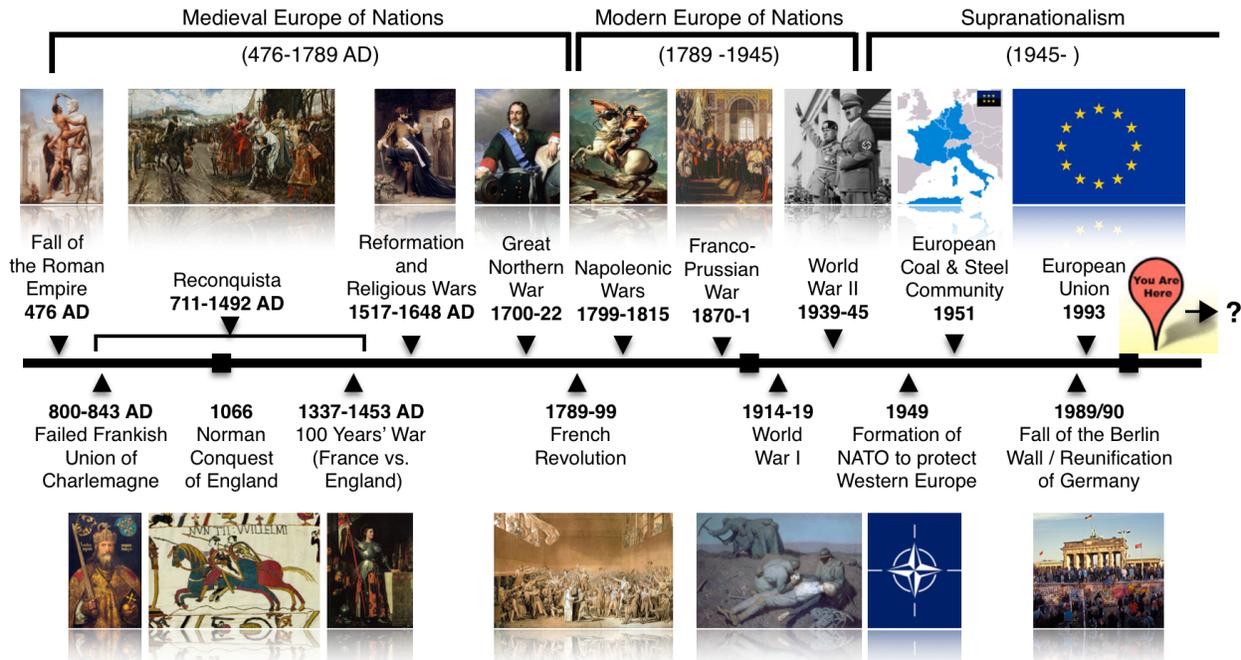


## EUROPEAN HISTORY: FILLING IN THE BIG PICTURE

### I. You Are Here!

Everything we have learned so far fits onto the following timeline:



The most important thing to do with these facts is to *practice* them by doing a “facts practice” exercise at least once a week.

### II. The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

#### A. Better Understanding 476

1. So far we talked about the *Fall of the Roman Empire* mostly as a single event: the deposition of Romulus Augustus in **476 AD**.
2. Of course we know there was a long period during which Rome fell and Europe rose.
3. Now we will look at the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* to help us to see the unique way in which Roman history ended and European history began.

#### B. Rome at its Peak: The Roots of France and Germany Revisited

1. The Roman Empire reached its greatest extent **c.117 AD**. This, like **476 AD**, is an anchor fact of history. It tells us where to look for Rome’s “footprint” in our world.
2. A key part of that footprint is to be found by observing that the Roman empire included France (which the Romans called “Gallia”) but not Germany.

3. The border between Gallia and Germany was formed by the Rhine river and the Danube river. On the other side, the *Germanic barbarians* managed to stay independent.
4. It is true France and Germany became *permanently* separate because of the failure of the Frankish Union in **843 AD**, but it is also because the union of France and Germany was never achieved even by the Romans.



The Roman Empire at its maximum extent **c.117 AD** included France, but not Germany. *This contributed to the rise of their separate national culture.*

#### B. The Collapse of Rome and the Roots of Spain and Portugal

1. Return to page 8 in the notes above and trace the movement of the Germanic tribes called the *Visigoths*.
2. They defeated the Romans at the Battle of Adrianople of **378 AD** (one of the battles shown on the map with the symbol of crossed swords resembling this: ✕) and began to migrate through the surprisingly powerless empire.
3. In **410 AD**, they made their way to Rome itself and sacked the city. This way the first time a foreign invader had been able to enter the city in literally 800 years (the ancient Gauls had done it in 390 BC, and no one else had done it since.)
4. The Romans and Visigoths came to an agreement. The Visigoths would rid the Romans of yet another Germanic threat, the *Vandals*, who had invaded and occupied southern France and most of Iberia (see map on page 10 also).
5. The Visigoths were successful in this quest and thus forged a kingdom of their own. Notice however, that it did *not* include most of what we know as “Portugal.” The line between that nation. and Spain was already taking shape.



The Visigothic king *Alaric* (bottom left) watches his men destroy a Roman statue during the Sack of Rome, 410 AD.



The Visigoths claimed most of Iberia from the Vandals.