Civilization

PAST & PRESENT

Golden Anniversary Edition

Volume A To 1600



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Seventh Edition

Civilization Past & Present

Volume A to 1600

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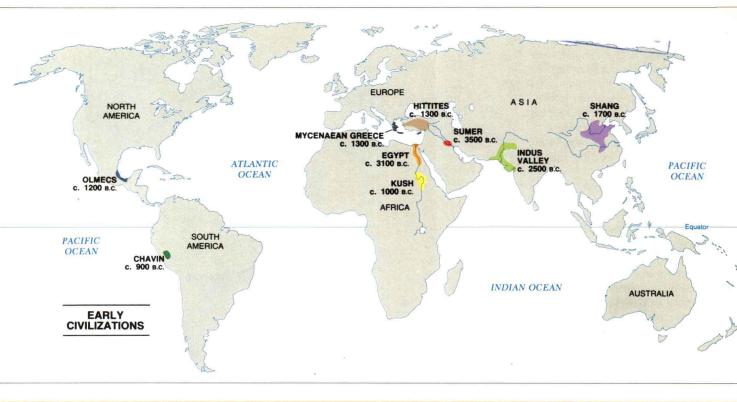
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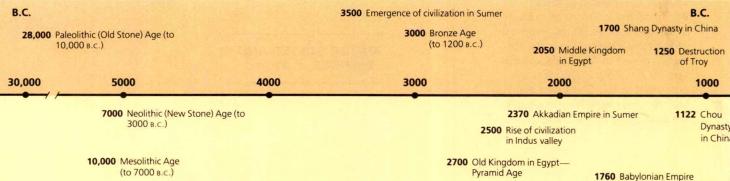
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This map, like the others that follow, is designed to show historical relationships from a global perspective. More precisely, it delineates the major societies that coexisted within a specific time frame and engaged in cultural exchanges.

As the Time Line above makes clear, societal evolution has been accelerating. After hundreds of thousands of years, the food-gathering Paleolithic Age yields to the Mesolithic, followed relatively quickly by

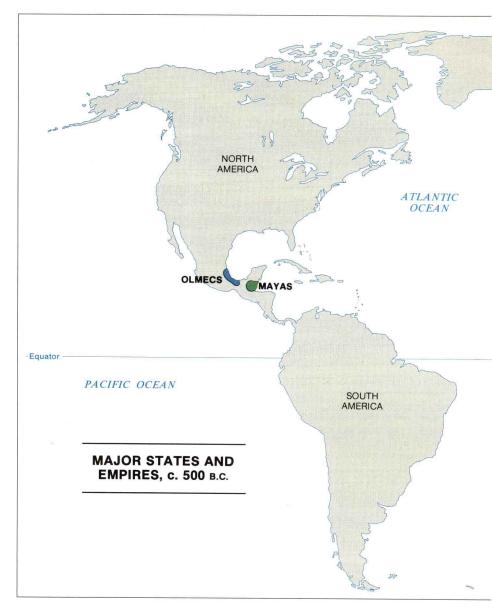
the food-producing Neolithic Age. Next comes the first of four riverine civilizations, which evolved independently. Great urban societies on the Tigris-Euphrates and Nile were linked by the Fertile Crescent, and cultural exchanges also took place with the Indus Valley civilization. Developing along the Huang Ho, China was geographically most distant from the other civilizations, so that cultural exchanges with civilizations to the west were minimal.

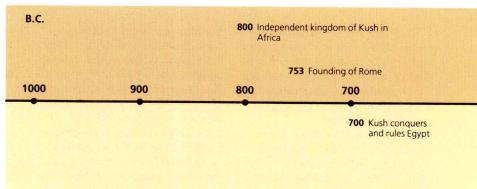
During the second millenium B.C. Indo-European tribes migrated into India (Indo-Aryans), Anatolia (Hittites), and the Mediterranean (Greeks, Romans). Civilizations also evolved in the Americas, but much later and independently. A similar evolutionary sequence—food gathering, food producing, and urban civilizations—occurred, it too marked by increasing societal complexity.

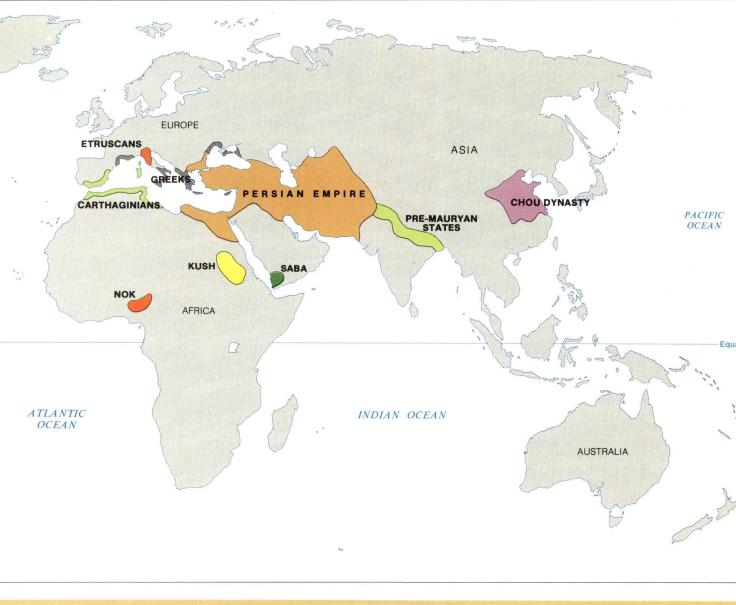
What has happened to the four riverbank civilizations shown in the preceding map? Chinese society has expanded to the Yangtse River. The Indus Valley civilization has disappeared, but numerous Indo-Aryan states have now arisen in the Ganges plain. Land in the Tigris-Euphrates valleys have been annexed by the Persians, who also control a declining Egyptian civilization.

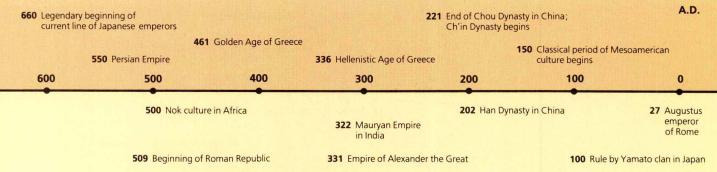
The Mediterranean lands have become much more significant. Phoenician cities flourish on the east coast and Carthage in North Africa. Especially important are Athens and other city-states in Greece, about to enter into a deadly struggle with expansionist Persia. In Italy are two more Indo-European peoples: the Etruscans and a still small but virile city-state, the newly created Republic of Rome.

Iron-making techniques have spread into sub-Sahara Africa. An iron-age culture existed at Nok, while in the upper Nile valley flourished the kingdom of Kush. Stone-age peoples still inhabit most of the New World. During the Formative period of Mesoamerican culture (to A.D. 150) the Olmecs are prominent in the Gulf Coast plain of Mexico, while early Mayan villages are developing in the lowlands.



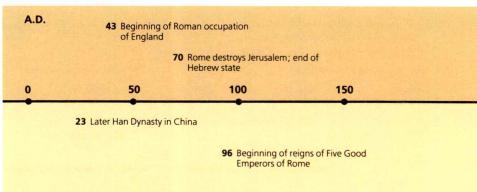


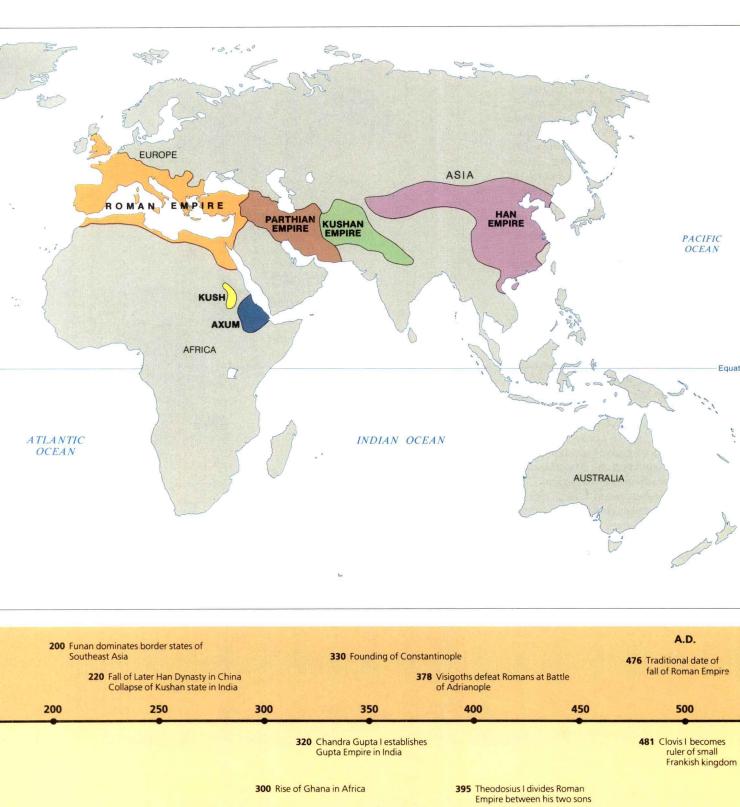




The most prominent development in this era is the growth of the Roman world-state, by A.D. 200 at the height of its power and prosperity. Its diverse lands and peoples surround the entire Mediterranean Sea, extending from Britain to Mesopotamia and from the Baltic Sea well into Africa. Rome's most dangerous rival, the Parthian Empire, lies immediately to Rome's east. Parthian nomads had wrested a large portion of the old Persian Empire and for several hundred years managed to withstand Roman power. East of Parthia is the Kushan Empire, which stretches to the Indus River. To the east of the Kushan Empire lie the far-flung territories of the Han Dynasty in China. The suzerainty and dynamic economy of the Han stretch southward well into Southeast Asia. Tenuous trade routes commercially unite the vast Eurasian landmass. The silk route stretches overland across Parthian and Kushan territory, while sea routes link the Roman world with India, Ceylon, Southeast Asia, and China. In Africa Axum has supplanted the kingdom of Kush, while in the New World Mesoamerican civilizations are now well established in Central America and in the Central Andes of South America.



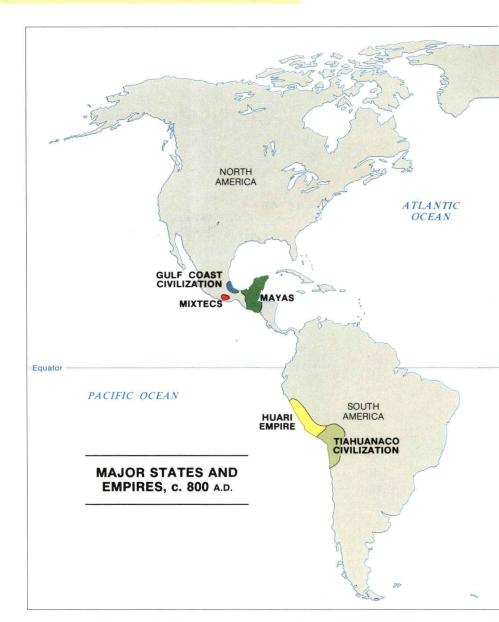


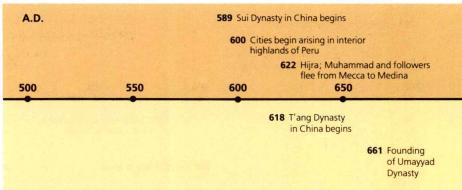


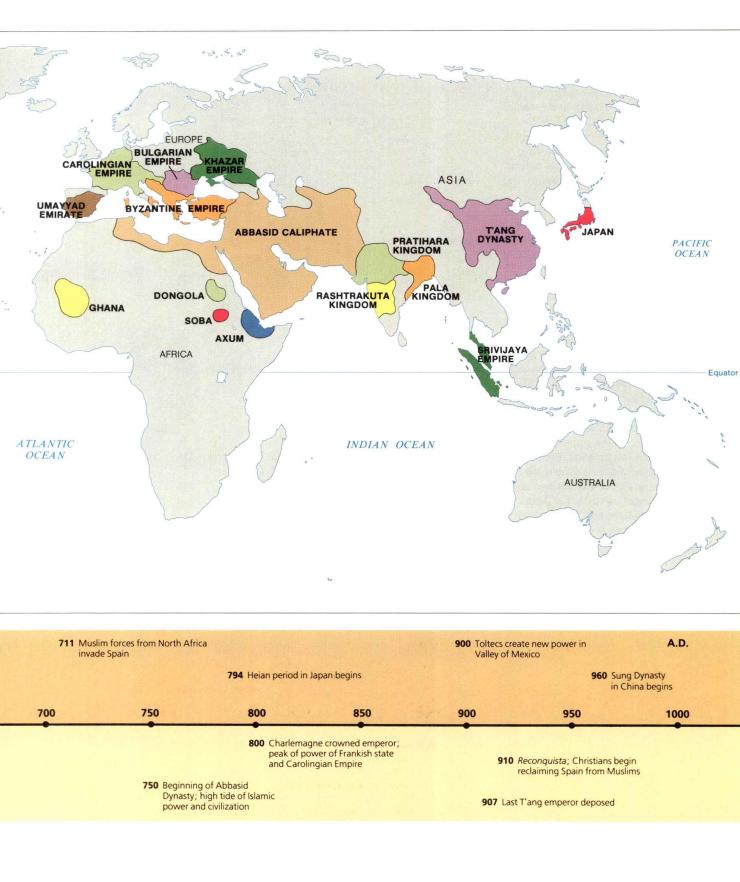
The global map has altered markedly during the past 600 years. The western portion of the Roman world-state has disappeared, while the eastern part is now the Byzantine Empire. In what was Roman Gaul, Charlemagne has just created the new but unstable Carolingian Empire. Flanking the Byzantine Empire to the north is another unstable coalition, one formed by Bulgarian warbands. The area between the Black and Caspian seas is the domain of the Khazars, a steppe people notable for facilitating trade between East and West.

The most spectacular changes in the world map have been wrought by the triumph of Islam. The Abbasid Caliphate dominates the Middle East, and new Muslim kingdoms have appeared in North Africa and Spain. The most notable state in Africa is Ghana on the upper Niger. In the New World, Mayan civilization has reached its apogee, while in the Peruvian highlands have arisen the kingdoms of Huari and Tiahuanaco.

In northern India are numerous states, including the Rashtrakuta, Pratihara, and Pala kingdoms. China is now ruled by the T'ang, one of the greatest dynasties in its history. Chinese influence has extended eastward to the flourishing independent states in Korea and Japan.



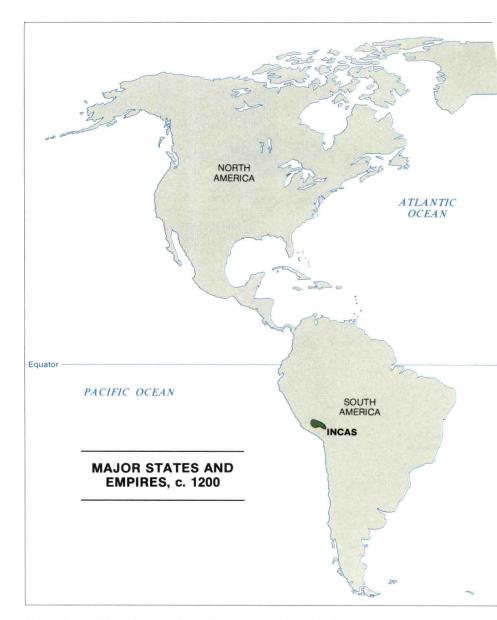


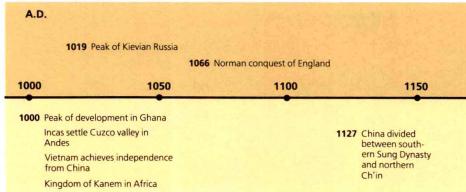


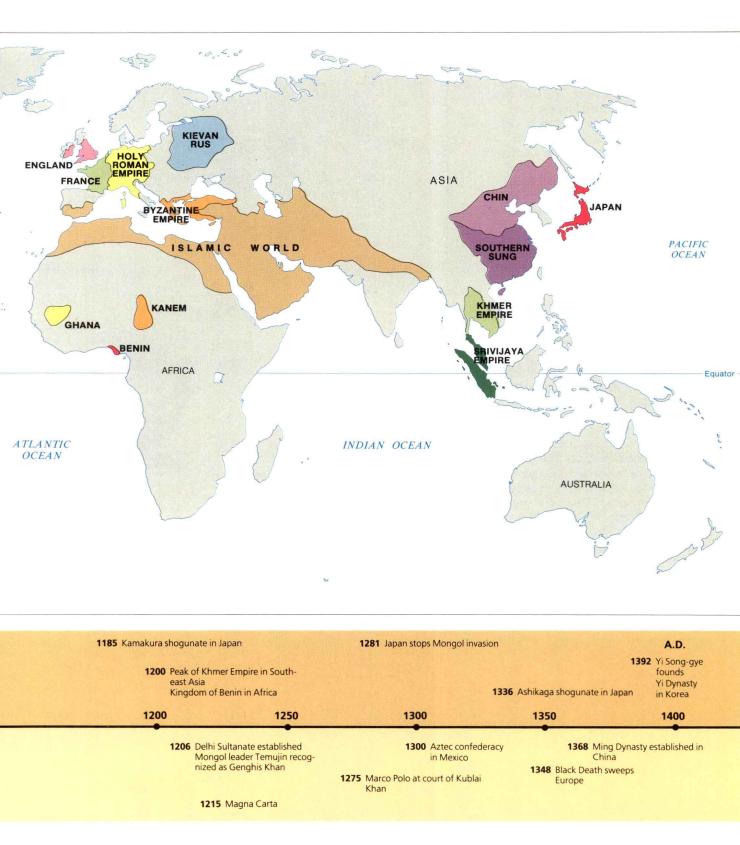
The Islamic world now straddles North Africa while its grasp of Eurasian territory reaches from the Iberian Peninsula eastward into India, where in 1206 Muslim forces penetrated the Punjab and established the Delhi Sultanate. In Southeast Asia the Khmer Empire is the dominant state and the kingdom of Srivijaya is the chief power in the Indonesian archipelago.

The central and northern portions of Eurasia are about to be engulfed by the Mongols, a warlike, nomadic people from the Asian interior. The Mongols eventually conquered China, overwhelmed the Muslim states in central Asia, invaded Europe, and for a time threatened the West.

The European powers of this era included the Holy Roman Empire and the new nation-states of France and England, which will come to dominate Western politics. At the beginning of the thirteenth century, Ghana fell to Mali, a new African Islamic kingdom that reached from the Atlantic to the upper Niger. The Aztecs of Mesoamerica migrated to the valley of Mexico, where they will create a powerful empire, as will the Incas, who by 1250 had conquered Tiahuanaco and other mountain tribes in the Peruvian Andes.







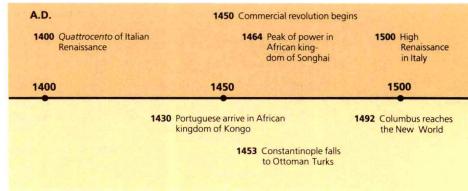
Between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries, Asian superiority gradually waned before the rising technical and commercial strength of the West. This shift was largely due to the European's discovery of the New World and their opening of sea lanes to all continents. But in 1500 Europe was far from dominant.

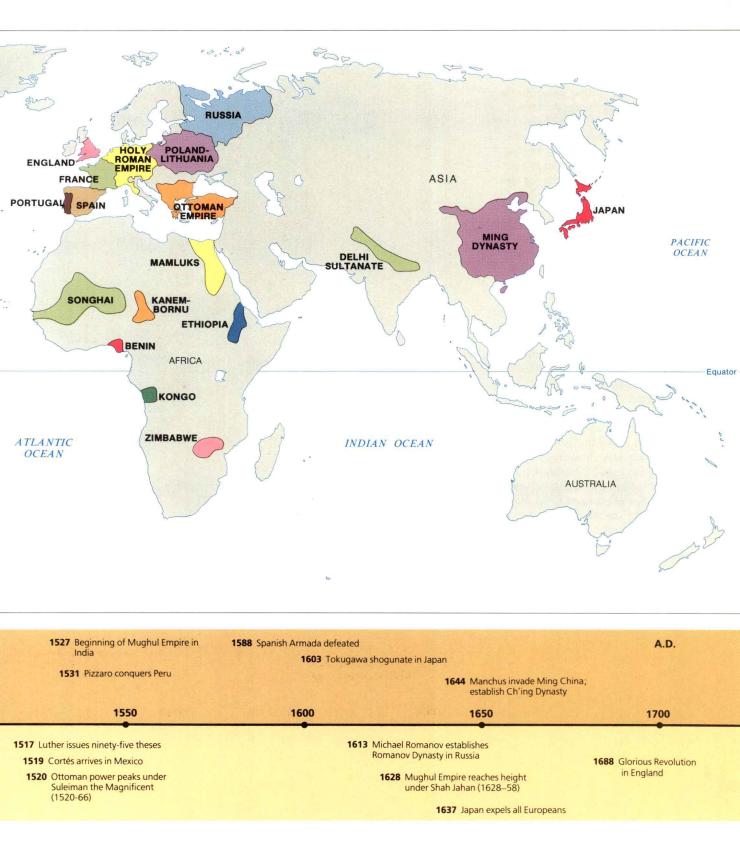
China has been reunited under the Ming and will expand into Mongolia and Annam (Vietnam). Torn by civil war, Japan will be reunited and also invade Korea. The weak Delhi Sultanate is about to be invaded by Babur, who will lay the foundation for the luxurious Mughul Empire in India.

Important new actors on the political stage include the Ottomans, whose empire will eventually touch three continents. The expanding Duchy of Moscow is paving the way for Russia's vast Eurasian empire. Explorers from Spain and Portugal are creating overseas colonial empires for the Iberian powers.

The African kingdoms of the era are the Bantu states of Zimbabwe in the southern highlands, Kongo near the Congo estuary, Benin in what is now Nigeria, and Songhai in the western Sudan. In the New World, the Aztecs in Mexico and the Incas in South America are flourishing, unaware of their impending destruction at the hands of the Spanish conquistadores.



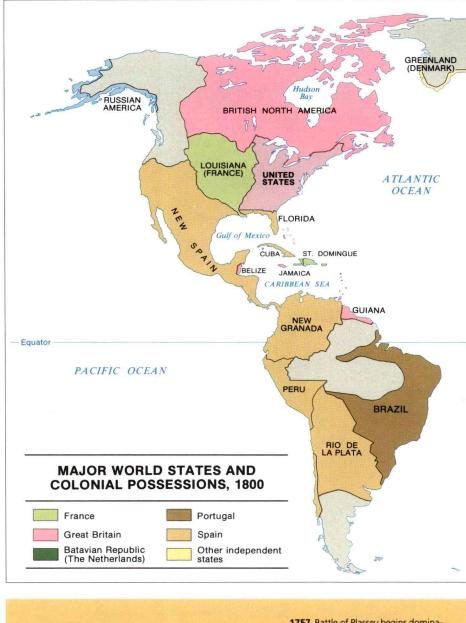


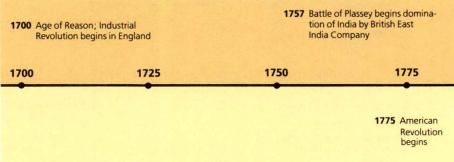


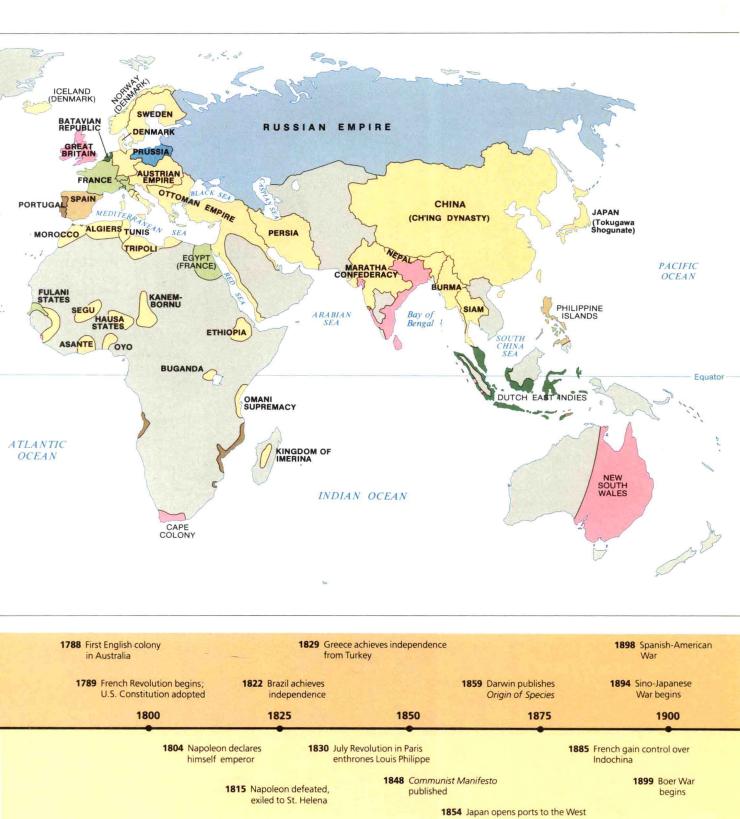
When we contrast this map with its predecessors, we see a marked expansion of "civilized" areas at the expense of vestigial primitive societies. This map further demonstrates cartographically European dominance at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The economic dynamics set in motion by the Industrial Revolution created in Europe an insatiable appetite for raw materials and opened vast new markets for finished good.

The British Empire now stretches over five continents with British colonial settlements in northern North America, Africa (Cape Colony), Asia (India), and Australia. In 1800 Napoleon's victories establish French rule over Egypt, and in 1830 France will invade Algeria in northern Africa. The Netherlands is spreading its control in Southeast Asia, and Spain rules the Philippines. Meanwhile, Russia has consolidated its control over northern Eurasia.

Isolated by choice from the West are Japan under the Tokugawa Shogunate and China ruled by the Ch'ing (Manchu) Dynasty. A number of independent states still dot Africa, but unexplored lands remain in much of the African interior as well as in Australia, in the northern latitudes of North America, and in South America, including the Amazon basin.







Events of the nineteenth century further increased European hegemony over the world. The map of Africa shows the most notable effects. In 1870 only 10 percent of the continent was under direct European control. By 1900 most independent African states have disappeared, and the major European nations have divided the continent among themselves as they go about expanding their colonial empires.

In the Western Hemisphere, Canada has confederated and Latin America has thrown off Spanish and Portuguese rule to evolve into a collection of independent states. The United States, on the verge of becoming a great power, has begun acquiring a colonial empire, annexing both Alaska and the Philippines.

An emergent Eastern power is Japan, which annexed Formosa in 1895 and Korea in 1910. The Western powers and Japan have taken advantage of China's internal weakness to wrest both trading ports and economic concessions. Elsewhere in Asia, the Dutch, German, French, and British still claim colonial possessions.

Several important geopolitical coalitions exist among the nations of Europe; these are the military alliances that will precipitate World War I.



