

Social History Study Guide

Social history can be harder for students to organize than political history because social history generally lacks dramatic turning points. A thematic and chronological guide like this one can help students orient themselves.

LATE MIDDLE AGES	SIXTEENTH & SEVENTEETH CENTURIES	EIGHTEENTH CENTURY	NINETEETH CENTURY
Marriage and Family			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear family • Divorce is nonexistent • Marriages are arranged for economic reasons • Prostitution in urban areas • Average age for marriage: mid- to late-20s for men and under 20 for women • Church encourages cult of paternal care • Many couples (especially the poor) do not observe church regulations on marriage because if they have no property to inherit it is not as important • Manners shape men to please women in the upper classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear family • Divorce is available in certain cases • More prostitution • Marriages are still based on economics but are increasingly more romantic • Average age for marriage: 27 for men and 25 for women • Increased infanticide • Low rate of illegitimate births • Dramatic population growth until 1650; growth slows until 1750 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear family • Marriages are based more on romance • Average age for marriage: late 20s or later because it takes longer for couples to be economically ready for marriage • Many women do not marry (spinsters) • Illegitimate birth explosion, 1750–1850 • Increase in infanticide • Foundling hospitals created • Growth of cottage industry • Young people increasingly work away from home in the city • “Spare the rod and spoil the child” • Rise of humanitarianism (influenced by the Enlightenment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal of romantic love is now the most important reason to marry • Many men marry late • Middle class is more apt to consider economic reasons • Fewer children per family; more love toward their children • Lower-class children are less economically dependent on their parents than middle-class children • Women are closely monitored • Sexual double-standard • Rate of illegitimacy in working classes declines after 1850 • Prostitution is sought by middle- and upper-middle-class men • Early childhood is vital (Freud)

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Status of Women			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal status of upper-class women is better now than it will be in the next two centuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of upper-class women declines during the Renaissance • Most women are not affected by the Renaissance • Educated women are allowed involvement but they are to be subservient to men • Sexual double-standard • Woman is to make herself pleasing to the man (Castiglione) • Rape is not considered a serious crime • Protestant Reformation: women's occupation is in the home • Catholic orders for women grow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestant women are still expected to manage the home • Upper-class Catholic women have self-development options in religious orders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 1850 increasingly separate spheres exist: men work in factories while women stay at home • By the late-nineteenth century only women in poor families work outside the home • Middle-class women begin working to organize and expand their rights; poor women do as well, but mostly in the context of socialism
Education			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly religious, but universities teach law and medicine as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly for the upper classes, but literacy increasingly becomes valued by all classes as a means to reading the Bible • Increased education as a means of social control or social bonding (e.g., <i>The Courtier</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestantism spurs increased education for boys and girls • Humanitarianism of the Enlightenment leads to improved education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases among the middle class • Increased professionalization in medicine, law, and education
Religion			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominated by the Catholic Church • Reform movements: Wycliffe and Hus • Some persecution of witches • Councilliar movement challenges papal authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestant Reformation • Counter Reformation • Religious wars • "New Monarchs" and "Absolute Monarchs" take control of national churches • Major persecution of alleged witches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestant pietism in Germany • Rise of Methodism • Catholic piety remains • Decrease in witch-hunts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rerum Novarum</i> • <i>Syllabus of Errors</i> • Kulturkampf • Increased emphasis on morality among the middle class • Decline among urban working classes • Development of fundamentalism in Protestantism • Development of a reform movement in Judaism

Nutrition and Health			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor harvests create malnutrition • Black Death results in the loss of one-third of the population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor life expectancy (about 25 years) • Price Revolution = less food consumption due to higher prices (until about 1650) • Bread is staple food for lower classes • Upper classes eat large quantities of meat • Smallpox and famines still ravage parts of Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved diet: more vegetables (especially potatoes) • Life expectancy increases from 25 years to 35 years; less war and contained conflicts away from agriculture and civilian population • Major advances in the control of plague and disease (especially smallpox); Jenner • Harvey: circulation of blood • Development of public health; advances in clean water and hygiene in cities limits cholera and tuberculosis • Hospital reform • Reform for mental health institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased life expectancy • Significant decline in infant mortality after 1890 • Public health movement: Bentham and Chadwick • Bacterial revolution: Pasteur (germ theory), antiseptic (Lister) • Poor living conditions in cities
Social Structure			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feudalism dominates most of Europe • Guilds dominate towns • Black Death disrupts social organization and leads to increased mobility and greater pressure for higher wages because the laboring population has contracted; rebellions repressed by nobles and royal authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth begins in the sixteenth century until about 1650 • Cities grow faster than rural areas • Two major hierarchies exist: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countryside: landlords, peasants, landless laborers 2. Urban: merchants, artisans, laborers • Clergy, lawyers, teachers, and civil servants fit awkwardly in both hierarchies • Advancement up the hierarchy is made possible through education • Enclosure movement • Putting-out system • Serfdom in Eastern Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottage industry in rural areas • Growth of cities • Serfdom in Eastern Europe • Guilds on the wane; popular pressure to break their power and increase access to professions • In France middle classes buy into nobility; in England middle classes marry into nobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased standard of living for the average person; higher wages • Society is more diverse and less unified • Increased migration out of Europe in search of better economic and social opportunity as well as religious freedom <p>Middle Classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversified middle-class groups: moderately successful industrialists, merchants, professionals (e.g., doctors, lawyers) • Upper middle class: banking, industry, large-scale commerce • Lower-middle class: shopkeepers, small traders

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			<p>Lower Classes: (80 percent of the population)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly skilled: foremen, handicraft trades • Semi skilled: craftspeople • Low skilled: day laborers, domestic servants
Slavery			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few Africans live in Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African slavery introduced • Dramatic increase in slave trade in the New World • Slave trade makes Liverpool a thriving port city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still exists in Portuguese, Spanish, and British empires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ends in Latin America as Spanish and Portuguese leaders are overthrown and Latin American countries become independent • Britain ends slavery in 1833; strong anti-slavery movement led by Wilberforce • France ends slavery in 1848 • Remains in U.S. until 1865

TWENTIETH CENTURY			
Marriage and Family	Status of Women	Education	Religion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby boom after WWII • Women have children earlier and have fewer children (about 2.0) • Middle-class children are less economically dependent on their parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality in communist Russia • Female suffrage after WWI in most of Western and Central Europe • Traditional and oppressed roles in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany • Women work in war industries during WWI and especially during WWII • Women's rights movement in the 1960s • Increasing proportion of women in the workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is key to social advancement after WWII • After WWII access to college education is widely available in Western and Central Europe • Emphasis on science and math • "Big Science" • Student revolts in France in 1968 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian existentialism after WWI • Lateran Pact (1920) between Mussolini and the Papacy • Religion is far less prominent than in any previous century • Catholic Ecumenical Council of 1963 (end of Latin in Mass) • "God Is Dead" movement • Growth of Islam
	Nutrition and Health	Social Structure	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased life expectancy after WWII• Leaner, healthier lifestyle after 1970• Increased women's control over reproductive rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in the welfare state throughout the century• Aristocracy loses ground economically after WWI• Fewer class distinctions after WWII• Large increase in the middle class after WWII• Increase in white-collar jobs• Post-WWII strength of unions gives way to economic pressures of the global economy; less opportunity for uneducated people to have a good livelihood
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Appendix

Instantaneous Art through the Ages

This chart will help students keep periods, dates, and artists straight. Please note that the dates given here are approximate, and periods sometimes overlap because artists do not always change their style all at once. Those artists who worked in different styles are listed in more than one period. Also, be aware of discrepancies between artistic and music periods; they do not always overlap.

Period	Dates	Artists	Music	Important Ideas, Events, People, and More
Renaissance A revival of interest in Classical art	1300–1600	Botticelli, Brueghel, Brunelleschi, Donatello, Dürer, Ghiberti, Giorgione, Giotto, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Titian	Gabrieli, Palestrina, des Pres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art is characterized by the use of chiaroscuro, perspective, red and blue, triangles, portraiture, equipoise, foreshortening, natural landscapes, and three-dimensional sculpture. Individualism, humanism
Mannerism Another way to talk about the end of the Renaissance or the beginning of the Baroque	1520–1600	Bronzino, Correggio, Dürer, El Greco, Parmagianino, Pontormo Philip II of Spain builds Escorial	Monteverdi (modern opera)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art is characterized by instability in the composition and stylization that exaggerates or fantasizes the human form. What should artists do—follow the art that has come before (after the “manner” of), or strike out on their own? The Reformation and Counter Reformation
Baroque	1600–1750	Bernini, Caravaggio, van Haarlem, Hals, Lorraine, Poussin, Rembrandt, Rubens, Velázquez, Vermeer Landscapes: “drama in nature” (Ruisdael) Genre painting and still lifes, scenes of everyday life (in France, done by Chardin) Louis XIV builds Versailles	J. S. Bach, Handel, Lully, Purcell, Rameau, Scarlatti, Vivaldi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art is characterized by ornamentation and curved rather than straight lines. Dutch painting is smaller because it has more middle-class patrons. It features scenes of maritime trade, banking and commerce, portraiture, and still lifes. English painting is inspired by art from the Netherlands and emphasizes portraiture; van Dyck worked in England and painted Charles I. French Academy is founded in 1648. Under Louis XIV, the center of art moves from Rome to Paris. Colbert’s executive manager, Le Brun, becomes the director of the Academy. Centralization of art in the service of the state for “la gloire de la France!” French art reflects its location between Italy and Holland. Absolutism Classical ballet Classical theater Scientific Revolution Descartes English Civil War and Restoration

Period	Dates	Artists	Music	Important Ideas, Events, People, and More
Rococo Or Baroque run amok	1700-89	Boucher, Fragonard, Hogarth, Rigaud (painted Louis XIV), Watteau Frederick the Great builds Sans Souci	Couperin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art is lighter and less formal than that of the Baroque and has a smaller scale, an increased focus on nobles, and portrays an artificial “never-never world.” • Prosperous Paris merchant-class wants “parade-dress portraits” by le Largilliere and Rigaud. • Increased participation and patronage of the arts by the flourishing <i>haute bourgeoisie</i> • Boom in porcelain factories: Sevres, Meissen, Wedgwood • Enlightened despotism • The Enlightenment • Philosophes, Rousseau • In literature: Goethe, Schiller
Neoclassicism On the way to full-blown romanticism; looks to ancient Greece and Rome for inspiration	1770–1820	Canova, David, Goya, Gros, Ingres, Vigée Le Brun	Beethoven, Cherubini, Gluck, Haydn, Mozart, Rossini, Schubert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Revolution to end of Napoleonic Wars • Beginnings of nationalism
Romanticism, Naturalism, and the Barbizon School An emotional reaction against the neoclassical	1800-50 (1820–1900 for music)	Corot, Delacroix <i>(Liberty Leading the People)</i> , Géricault <i>(Raft of the Medusa)</i> , Millet, Rousseau, Rude	Beethoven, Berlioz, Bizet, Brahms, Chopin, Dvořák, Franck, Liszt, Mahler, Mendelssohn, Mussorgsky, Puccini, Rossini, Saint-Saens, Schubert, Schumann, J. Strauss, Jr. (a.k.a. the Waltz King), R. Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Wagner, Weber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art is characterized by a glorification of the past as well as the use of nature, patriotism, heroism, the supernatural, and cute peasants. The emphasis is on feeling, not reason. • In literature: Blake, Byron, Dumas, Gautier, Hugo, Keats, Sand, Scott, Shelley

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Period	Dates	Artists	Music	Important Ideas, Events, People, and More
<p>Realism Slightly grittier and with more attention to social problems and social context</p> <p>(In literature, followed by naturalism)</p>	1850-80	Courbet, Daumier (is to his time what Hogarth was to his), Eiffel (designed the tower of the same name), Haussmann, Millet		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art is characterized by the depiction of real people and events. It portrays peasants and workers who are not cute. Based on fact and not emotion, the art goes with positivism and Realpolitik. • In literature: Balzac, Baudelaire, Dickens, Ibsen, Maupassant, Nietzsche, Proust, Zola • Industrial progress; trains
<p>Impressionism Gets its name from Monet's painting <i>Impression: Sunrise</i>, shown at the Salon des Refusés in 1874</p> <p>Postimpressionism</p>	1870–1905	Cassatt, Cézanne, Degas, Gauguin, Seurat (<i>Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte</i>), Manet, Monet, Munch (<i>The Scream</i>), Renoir, Rodin, Sisley, Toulouse-Lautrec, Van Gogh	Debussy, Fauré, Ravel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impressionism is characterized by the use of new subject matter and a new way of looking at the world. The everyday life of the middle class becomes an acceptable subject for high art. Artists discover that painting in the outdoors allows them to study the play of light. Identified with La Belle Époque. • Postimpressionism is composed of a variety of styles that use impressionism as a jumping off point, including pointillism, a technique that allows viewers' eyes to mix small dots of color.
<p>Symbolism and Art Nouveau A romantic response to realism</p> <p>Pre-Raphaelite (in England)</p>	1890–1914	Beardsley, Klimt, Moreau, Munch (<i>The Scream</i>), Millais, Puvis de Chavannes, Redon, Rossetti, Toulouse-Lautrec		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If art is decadent between 1890 and 1910, identify it with fin de siècle. • Symbolism relies on romanticism, eerie supernaturalism, apparitions, and dreams. • Symbolism and decoration in Vienna is done by the Secessionists. • Pre-Raphaelites emulate the style and subject of the art that was done before the time of Raphael. • Art nouveau pervades all aspects of art and design: publishing and printing, interior decorations, and furniture. The integrity of the craftsmanship is important.

Period	Dates	Artists	Music	Important Ideas, Events, People, and More
<p>Modern Artists are influenced by Freud, Einstein, WWI and II, and the atomic age</p>	20th century	<p>Boccioni (<i>Unique Forms of Continuity in Space</i>), Brancusi, Braque, Caillebotte, Calder, Chagall, de Chirico, Dali, Dix, Dubuffet, Duchamp, Ernst, Giacometti, Grosz, Kandinsky, Kirchner, Klee, Kollwitz, de Kooning, Magritte, Maillol, Matisse (one of Les Fauves, the “Wild Beasts”), Miro, Modigliani, Moore, Nolde, Picasso, Pollack, Roualt, Warhol</p>	<p>Bartok, Britten, Berg, Gershwin, Poulenc, Prokofiev, Satie, Schönberg, Shostakovich, Strauss, Stravinsky, Webern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realism (a different kind than that which followed romanticism) is a response to WWI and postwar decadence, especially in Germany. • Cubism breaks forms into geometric shapes and planes, showing all sides of a form at once. • Expressionism looks within to a world of emotional and psychological states. • Futurism, a fascist-flavored Italian art movement, glorifies industrialization and all aspects of modernity. • Dadaism is a response to the horrors of WWI. Nihilistic and against order and reason, it challenges polite society. • Surrealism depicts dream fantasies, memory images, and visual paradoxes. • Social realism is artists’ protest against the intolerable conditions besetting humankind. Do not confuse it with Socialist realism, the official art of Soviet Russia, especially under Stalin. • Abstract expressionism analyzes, derives, detaches, geometrizes, and, in short, distills the essence from nature and sense experiences.