

TIMELINE**1759**

The Enlightenment philosopher François-Marie Arouet, also known as Voltaire, publishes *Candide*, a satire critical of French institutions of his day, including the Catholic Church, government, and military. Voltaire is known for his writings in defense of civil liberties.

1762

Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Social Contract* is published, inspiring political reforms, especially in France. The publication states, "The legislative power belongs to the people, and can belong to it alone." It rejects the belief that the king is appointed by divine powers.

1789

The French Revolution begins with the storming of the Bastille. Church property is nationalized.

George Washington is inaugurated as the first president of the United States.

1792

The First Republic of France is declared.

1793

The guillotine is invented and introduced as a humane form of execution.

Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette are executed during the Reign of Terror.

Jean-Paul Marat is murdered.

1798

General Napoleon Bonaparte invades Egypt and occupies the country until 1801.

1799

Napoleon is established as First Consul in Paris.

Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes publishes a series of aquatints, titled *Los Caprichos*, that comment on the ills of Spanish society. Within weeks, they are withdrawn from public sale, and only a formal order from the king of Spain keeps Goya from being called before the Inquisition.

1804

Napoleon is proclaimed emperor by the French Senate. During his coronation he takes the imperial crown from Pope Pius VII and places it on his own head.

1808

France occupies Spain; the Peninsular War begins.

Napoleon forces Charles IV of Spain to abdicate the throne and installs his brother Joseph Bonaparte as king of Spain.

1812

The United States declares war on Britain.

Napoleon invades Russia.

1813

Prussia, Russia, Austria, Sweden, and Britain defeat Napoleonic forces in the Battle of the Nations.

1814

Napoleon abdicates the throne and is banished to the island of Elba.



1815

Napoleon escapes from Elba on February 26 and marches on Paris. In June, he is defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium, marking the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

The Congress of Vienna restores legitimate monarchs in France, Spain, and Italy and reestablishes a balance of power in Europe. Belgium is decreed part of the newly formed kingdom of the Netherlands.

About 1816–20

Goya creates *Contemptuous of the Insults* in Spain.

1818

Chile declares independence from Spain after an eight-year revolt.

Revolutions take place in Spain and Portugal.

Liberia is founded to repatriate former American slaves to Africa.

1819

Spain cedes Florida to the United States.

1821

Mexico gains independence under the Treaty of Cordoba.

1830

Revolution in Paris; Louis Philippe, "the Citizen King," becomes king.

1831

Belgium declares independence from the United Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the first Belgian Constitution is ratified.

Leopold I is proclaimed king of Belgium.

1833

The Carlist Civil Wars begin in Spain, primarily in Basque Provinces. Carlos V refuses to recognize Isabella, daughter of his brother Ferdinand VII, as successor to the Spanish throne. Rural guerilla followers of Carlos V fight for the cause of the Spanish Catholic tradition and against urban liberals to establish a rightful claim to the throne.

1847

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels join the first Marxist international organization, the Communist League.

1848

The Revolution of 1848 begins in France. The Second Republic of France is established.

James Marshall discovers gold at Sutter's sawmill in Coloma, California, in January.

California becomes a U.S. holding with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War.

1861

The American Civil War begins.

1865

King Leopold II ascends to the throne in Belgium.

1866

A new public works program begins in Brussels.

1869

Urban crowding is identified by the American physician George Beard as a cause of neurasthenia.

1870

The democratic Third Republic of France is established following the collapse of the empire of Napoleon III.

HISTORICAL WITNESS

★ SOCIAL MESSAGING ★

1871

France is defeated in the Franco-Prussian War, and Germany is unified.

1874

The first Impressionist exhibition is held in Paris.

1883

James Ensor is among the founding members of *Les XX* (The Twenty), an exhibition society dedicated to promoting avant-garde art. After a disagreement with its secretary, Octave Maus, Ensor detaches himself from the group.

1884

The term *art nouveau* appears in print for the first time, describing the Belgian artists' group *Les XX*.

1885

King Leopold II takes control of the Congo Free State. Under Leopold's administration, the state's population decreases by about 50 percent due to murder, starvation, disease, and a lowered birth rate. Profits from Leopold's exploitation of the Congo funded building projects and new infrastructure in Brussels, Ostend, and Antwerp.

1888

Christ's Entry into Brussels in 1889 is painted by James Ensor in Ostend, Belgium.

1890

Seventy-five thousand people demonstrate in the streets of Brussels for universal suffrage.

1892

A Centennial of Independence is painted by Henri Rousseau in France.

1893

Universal male suffrage is adopted in Belgium.

1902

Police batter universal suffrage demonstrators in Brussels.

1905

Mark Twain publishes *King Leopold's Soliloquy*, a work of political satire that condemns the actions of King Leopold in the Congo.

1908

The Congo Free State is purchased by Belgium from King Leopold II and becomes the African colony of the Belgian Congo.

1919

Universal suffrage is granted in Belgium.

1929

The Belgian painter James Ensor exhibits *Christ's Entry into Brussels* publicly for the first time.

