

TIMELINE

About the 9th century B.C.

Homer writes the epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

27 B.C.

Gaius Octavius becomes the first Roman emperor Augustus and founds the principate, a monarchical system in which an emperor rules for life.

27 B.C.–A.D. 14

Official imperial portraits are designed to project specific ideas about Augustus and his authority. They are displayed in *sebasteia*, or temples of the imperial cult.

A.D. 14

Augustus dies.

37

Gaius Julius Caesar Germanicus (known as Caligula) is the third Roman emperor.

39–40

Caligula campaigns in Germany.

About 40

Head of Emperor Caligula is made by a Roman sculptor in Asia Minor.

41

Caligula is assassinated by conspirators in the Praetorian Guard (Roman bodyguards).

About 120

The Roman historian Suetonius writes *The Lives of the Caesars*.

212

Roman citizenship is granted to all free inhabitants of the empire.

1453

The Ottoman Empire captures Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, and renames the city Istanbul. This conquest marks the end of the Byzantine Empire, and Byzantine Greek scholars head west.

1519

Ferdinand Magellan leaves on his journey to sail around the world from Spain.

1643

Louis XIV, known as the Sun King, ascends to the French throne at the age of four. His mother, Anne of Austria, and Cardinal Mazarin rule France while the king is a child.

1661

Cardinal Mazarin dies, and Louis XIV declares himself absolute monarch.

1672

André-Charles Boulle becomes cabinetmaker and sculptor to Louis XIV and is granted the privilege of lodging in the Palais du Louvre.

1672–78

French forces fight against the Dutch during the Franco-Dutch Wars.

About 1675–80

Cabinet on Stand is made in France by André-Charles Boulle.

1682

Under Louis XIV, the Chateau of Versailles becomes the seat of French government. Every aspect of the architecture, gardens, furnishings, sculpture, and painting at Versailles convey a message of absolute royal power.



1685

Louis XIV declares Protestantism illegal, and two hundred thousand Huguenots (members of the Protestant Reformed Church of France) leave the country.

1701–14

During the War of the Spanish Succession, European monarchs debate who has the right to the Spanish throne. As Louis XIV seeks to expand his territories, the English, Dutch, and Austrians join forces against him.

1715

Louis XIV dies, and his great-grandson succeeds him as Louis XV.

1890s

Sensational journalism propels the United States into the Spanish-American War, which has been called the first "media war."

1917

The Committee of Public Information is created by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson to create official propaganda and influence public opinion about American intervention in World War I.

1951

CBS begins programming in color for newly invented color televisions.

1960

John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon participate in the first televised presidential debate.