IMPORTANT EVENTS AND THEIR DATES IN MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

1453 **Constantinople is sacked by Muslim forces**

1488 **Bartholemew Diaz rounds the Cape of Good Hope**

1492 **Columbus encounters the Americas (.God, Glory and Gold.)**

1517 **Martin Luther.s posting of the 95 Theses**

1520 **Diet of Worms declares Martin Luther an outlaw**

1524-1525 **The Peasants. Revolt takes place in Germany**

1534 **Act of Supremacy passed in England . Henry VIII becomes head of the Anglican Church**

1545 **Council of Trent begins . The Counter Reformation**

1555 **Peace of Augsburg (*cuius regio, eius religio..* . whose region, his religion)**

1585-1589 **War of the Three Henries in France**

1588 **Spanish Armada destroyed by the English and .The Protestant Wind.**

1603 **Elizabeth I Dies - Tudor Dynasty Ends and the Stuart Dynasty Begins**

1618-1648 **The Thirty Years. War (Treaty of Westphalia ends the war . 1648)**

1642-1646 **English Civil War (Roundheads vs. the Cavaliers)**

1649 **Charles I is executed . Oliver Cromwell begins his rule**

1660 **Stuart Restoration in England through Charles II**

1688-1689 **Glorious Revolution in England . William and Mary of Orange replace James II and sign the English Bill of Rights**

1643-1715 **Era of Louis XIV . The Sun King (*l.etat c.est moi*)**

1689-1725 **Reign of Peter the Great in Russia**

1756-1763 **The Seven Years War**

1789-1799 **Era of the French Revolution (Radical Stage .late 1792-1795)**

1799 **Napoleon comes to power**

1805-1815 **Napoleonic Wars are waged**

1814-1815 **The Congress of Vienna meets (Main principles: Legitimacy, Conservatism, Compensation & Balance**

**of Power)**

1819 **Peterloo Massacre in England**

1830 **Belgian Independence**

1832 **Reform Bill in England Passed**

1848 **Revolutions break out across Western Europe (France, Austria, Italy and Germany)**

1861 **Serfs .emancipated. in Russia under Alexander II**

1870-1871 **Germany and Italy Unification**

1884-1885 **Berlin Conference is held ("Scramble for Africa")**

1894 **Tsar Nicholas II comes to power in Russia . the last of the Romanovs**

1905 **Sunday Bloody Revolution in Russia . .The Dress Rehearsal.**

1914 **Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated . WWI starts**

1917 **March and November (Bolshevik) Revolutions in Russia**

1918 **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed (Russia withdraws from war)**

1918 **WWI ends**

1919 **Treaty of Versailles is signed**

1918-1921 **Russian Civil War (Reds vs. Whites)**

1922 **Mussolini comes to power in Italy and establishes the 1st Fascist government**

1922 **Russia officially becomes known as the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) . The Soviet Union**

1923 **Adolf Hitler leads the Beer Hall Putsch in Germany**

1924 **Lenin dies**

1928 **Stalin is firmly entrenched as the leader of the Soviet Union . begins the first of several 5 year plans**

1929 **Stock Market Crash in the US . The Great Depression begins**

1933 **Hitler comes to power in Germany**

1938 **Munich Conference (.Peace in our time. . Neville Chamberlain)**

1939 **World War II starts with Germany.s invasion of Poland**

1945 **World War II ends (V-E Day . May 8, 1945 and V-J Day . August 15, 1945)**

1945 **First session of the United Nations is held**

1945-1989 **Cold War (U.S. vs. S.U. -begins and begins to end in Poland)**

POST WW II **Decolonization . European colonies become independent**

1946 **Winston Churchill gives the .Iron Curtain. speech**

1948-1949 **.Operation Vittles. . the Berlin Airlift**

1949 **USSR successfully tests first atomic bomb**

1951 **European Coal and Steel Community formed (sounds like the Zollverein)**

1953 **Stalin dies and is succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev . .destalinization. begins**

1954 **French forces defeated in French-Indochina at Dien Bien Phu**

1956 **Hungarian revolt against the Soviet Union . it is crushed by the Soviets**

1957 **Rome Treaty is signed . The European Economic Community (EEC) is created**

**(AKA-Common Market)**

1957 **Sputnik is launched by the Soviet Union . the first space satellite**

1958 **The fifth Republic is born in France and Charles de Gaulle becomes President**

1961 **Berlin Wall built . dividing East and West Berlin**

1961 **Soviet Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space**

1962 **Cuban Missile Crisis . 90 miles off the coast of Florida**

1963 **Betty Friedan.s *The Feminine Mystique* is published**

1964 **Leonid Brezhnev becomes leader of the Soviet Union**

1966 **Under President Charles de Gaulle, France withdraws from the common NATO military command**

1968 **.Prague Spring. occurs in Czechoslovakia . it is crushed by the Soviets**

1968 **Student revolt in France (Paris)**

1978 **Pole Karol Wojtyla elected Pope . Pope John Paul II . 1st non-Italian in 455 years**

1979 **Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female Prime Minister of England (.The Iron Lady.)**

1979 **The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan (eventually becomes their own .little Vietnam.)**

1980 **1st independent labor union in the Soviet Bloc formed . Solidarity . led by Lech Walesa of Poland**

1980 **Ronald Reagan elected President of the US (calls the Soviet Union an .evil empire.)**

1985 **Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader (implements policies of *perestroika* and *glasnost*)**

1986 **Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident in the Soviet Union (specifically . the Ukraine)**

1989 **Berlin Wall comes down**

1989 **The .Velvet Revolution. occurs in Czechoslovakia . Vaclav Havel becomes President**

1989 **The Soviet Union withdraws its forces from Afghanistan**

1989 **Romanian leader Nicolai Ceausescu is overthrown and killed**

1990 **Lech Walesa becomes President of Poland**

1990 **East Germany and West Germany reunify into one Germany**

1990 **The first McDonalds opens in Russia**

1991 **Attempted coup attempt in the Soviet Union - The Soviet Union begins to disintegrate**

1991 **Boris Yeltsin becomes President of Russia . former 15 republics of the Soviet Union form the**

**Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.)**

1991 **Yugoslavia begins to break apart**

1992 **Maastricht Treaty signed**

1997 **Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister of England . 1st Labor Party leader in 18 years**

1999 **Eurodollar becomes the single currency of the European Union (EU)**