

# International History Bee and Bowl European Division Study Guide



Dear Coaches, Students, Parents, and Teachers:

Welcome to the International History Bee and Bowl European Division Study Guide! To make the Study Guide, we divided all of history into seven chapters: European History to 1350; European History from 1350-1900; European History from 1900-1950; European History from 1950-Present; History of the Americas; African, Middle Eastern & South Asian History; and East Asian & Southeast Asian History. There will also be specific questions about the history of each of the countries where we will be hosting tournaments, beyond what we typically ask. Topics to be familiar with for specific countries are included at the end of the guide, along with a discussion of how to prepare strategically.

Middle school division participants should focus primarily on the terms in bold while high school competitors should focus on those, and on the other terms as well. This guide is not meant to be a complete compendium of what information may come up at a competition; other topics can and will come up. However, it should give you a good start for your preparation for our tournaments, and it can serve as a springboard for your own learning as you discover the joys of history.

Additionally, please see our questions from past years which are available online at [www.ihbbeurope.com](http://www.ihbbeurope.com). Other question sets, study guides, and resources may also be found through the available links on our American homepage at [www.historybowl.com](http://www.historybowl.com) though be advised that the difficulty and content of our American question sets do not necessarily reflect those found in Europe. For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Director, Mrs. Nolwenn Leon Madden at [nolwenn@historybowl.com](mailto:nolwenn@historybowl.com) at any time.

Good luck!

## Part 1: European History to 1350

Some of the most impressive early civilizations were in the Mediterranean basin. European civilization begins with the **Minoan Civilization on Crete**, and the Mycenaean Civilization on the mainland of Greece. These Bronze Age cultures declined around 1200 BC, and were later supplanted by the rise of **Athens and Sparta**. Greeks banded together to fight invading Persian armies in the Persian Wars, documented by Herodotus. Sparta, known for its militarism, then defeated Athens, which had developed the world's first democracy, in the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC). In the 300's BC, **Alexander the Great**, a Greek king from **Macedonia** then led an international army to conquer the Persian Empire, and expand Greek culture as far as India. His successors then were conquered in turn by the Romans, among others. The **Ancient Greeks** made tremendous advances in culture, including **philosophy, with the thought of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle**. They also developed a famous system of mythology, whose gods featured alongside heroes in the great epic poems of **Homer, the Iliad, and the Odyssey**. Greeks also developed mathematics (especially **Pythagoras, Euclid, and Archimedes**), drama (Sophocles, Aeschylus, Euripedes, and Aristophanes) sculpture (Phidias and Myron), and architecture, most notably, the **Parthenon**, a temple to Athena in Athens. The heyday of the Greeks was followed by that of **Ancient Rome**, whose empire spanned most of the Eastern Hemisphere at its peak, and whose culture and customs are still relevant today.

Greece was conquered by the **Roman Republic** in the 100's BC. Roman Civilization, dating back to the legendary founding of the city in 753 BC, began with the monarchy under Romulus, a legendary king who was said to have killed his brother Remus. The Roman Republic began around 511 BC and then aggressively conquered the entire Mediterranean seacoast, especially through the three **Punic Wars against its rival Carthage** (based in present-day Tunisia). **Julius Caesar** conquered France (aka Gaul) for Rome, and defeated his rival Pompey in a Civil War but then was killed in 44 BC. Thereafter, Octavian, later called Augustus, became the first Roman Emperor after having defeated his rival **Mark Antony**. **Augustus was the first Roman Emperor**; the Empire then lasted until 476 AD in the West when it fell to the barbarians. It reached its greatest extent under Trajan, who died in 117 AD – at that point, it stretched from Scotland to the Persian Gulf. The Romans spoke **Latin**, and were great builders (**Coliseum, aqueducts, the Roman forum, etc.**) who were also famous for their epic poem, the *Aeneid*, by Vergil. In the East, the Empire continued as the **Byzantine Empire** based in **Constantinople** (today's Istanbul). During the latter centuries of the Roman Empire, **Christianity** became established as the state religion, particularly with the support of Emperor **Constantine**.

The fall of Ancient Rome brought on the **Middle Ages**, which saw barbarian tribes roam over Europe (Huns, Visigoths, Vandals) though **Charlemagne** established a strong Carolingian Empire in Western Europe around 800. The **Catholic Church** became firmly established as the most important institution in Europe by the early Middle Ages. **Islam** spread into Europe, through Spain in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, though Muslim armies were defeated by Charles Martel at Tours in France in 732. The Church then sponsored the **Crusades** beginning in 1096 to take back the holy land around Jerusalem, though ultimately, these failed to hold their territories. In the 900's, **Vikings** and Hungarians swept across Europe as well, though eventually, the British (after the Battle of Hastings in 1066) and French monarchies were starting to become established as stable states. Growing prosperity under the feudal system was interrupted by the **Black Death** (bubonic plague) which killed about a third of Europe's population from 1347-1352.

Other Terms to Know: (see also ACE Quizbowl Camp Notes at [www.historybowl.com](http://www.historybowl.com))

<u>Greece &amp; related</u>	<u>Rome &amp; related</u>	<u>Elsewhere</u>
- <b>Trojan War</b>	- Etruscans	- Holy Roman Empire
- <b>Zeus, Poseidon, Hera, other gods</b>	- <b>Hannibal</b>	- Celts
- <b>7 Wonders of the World</b>	- <b>Spartacus</b>	- Attila the Hun
- <b>Battle of Marathon</b>	- <b>Jesus Christ</b>	- <i>Beowulf</i>
- Pericles	- <b>Cleopatra</b>	- Pope Urban II
- Solon	- Hadrian (and his wall)	- <b>Magna Carta</b>
- Corinth & Thebes	- Horace	- Richard the Lionheart
- Linear B	- <b>St. Paul &amp; St. Peter</b>	- Alhambra
- Battles of Alexander the Great	- <b>Circus Maximus</b>	- Hagia Sophia
- <b>Ancient Olympics</b>	- Nero	- William Wallace

## Part 2: European History from 1350-1900

The Middle Ages ended with the **Renaissance**, a period of prosperity, academic and artistic talent which began in Italy, and had profound implications for the development of modern civilization. During the later Middle Ages, Italian cities such as Genoa, Venice, and especially, **Florence**, began to become more prosperous as governments became stabilized under powerful families such as the Medici (or a Republic in Venice) while trade routes flourished. This led to the patronage of artists such as Giotto and Donatello, and later to Raphael, **Michelangelo**, and **Leonardo da Vinci**. During the Renaissance, as wealth spread, people became more focused on succeeding in life, as opposed to focusing on the afterlife and religion. Religion was still a powerful force though, and the Catholic Church soon faced a new threat with the **Protestant Reformation** of the 16<sup>th</sup> century which sought to purge the church of corrupting influences. The greatest leader of the Reformation was **Martin Luther**, whose 95 Theses outlined his complaints against the Church. In addition, **Henry VIII** created the Church of England and Jean Calvin founded his own sect in Geneva. **Galileo & Copernicus** also challenged the Church's view of astronomy (and thus humans' place in the universe). **Dante** (*Divine Comedy*), Chaucer (*Canterbury Tales*), and later **Shakespeare**, wrote timeless literature in Italian and English (instead of Latin).

This period also featured the age of exploration, from **Christopher Columbus** finding the New World to **Vasco da Gama** and **Bartholomew Dias** charting the course from Europe to India via the sea. The Spanish took to what is now Latin America, with Conquistadors (Cortes & Pizarro) pillaging the area for gold, destroying the impressive cultures of the **Aztecs** in central Mexico and the **Incans** in Peru.

Nation states became more established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century at the end of the **30 Years War** (1618-1648), a war which originally saw Catholics fight Protestants, but ended up being a war more about the balance of power among countries. **Louis XIV** of France (the Sun King) then turned France into the most powerful country in Europe and built a massive palace at Versailles. England, under **Elizabeth I**, defeated the **Spanish Armada** in 1588 which had sought to invade England and restore Catholicism. England then colonized North America in the 1600's and gradually became wealthy through trade, despite a Civil War in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Supporters of the King (Charles I, who was then beheaded) lost to supporters of Parliament led by **Oliver Cromwell**, but after Cromwell's death, the monarchy was restored under Charles II. The next king, the Catholic James II, was driven out in the Glorious Revolution of 1688 by the Protestant William III.

In Russia, a series of autocratic rulers known as **tsars**, beginning with Michael Romanov, expanded from territory around **Moscow** to eventually conquer most of Northeastern Europe and Northern Asia. Ivan the Terrible helped expand these conquests, as did **Peter the Great**, who won the Great Northern War in the

early 18<sup>th</sup> century against Sweden. Peter the Great founded a new capital at **St. Petersburg** and tried to westernize Russian society. Catherine the Great further brought Russia into the mainstream of European affairs in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and defeated a rebellion of Russian **serfs** (peasants forced to do labor).

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, the humanistic thought of the Renaissance led to the Enlightenment, with its emphasis on rational inquiry, tolerance, and the beginnings of modern science. Francis Bacon outlined the scientific method, while Descartes, **Voltaire** and Rousseau all contributed to a sense of questioning the basis of knowledge and state authority. In England, **Thomas Hobbes** defended the divine right of kings as the basis for the authority of a monarch in his work *Leviathan*, but his thought was largely supplanted by the ideas of **John Locke**, who defended the notion of a balanced government and checks on authority. These ideas in turn helped spur two great revolutions – **the American** (in which the 13 colonies of North America successfully revolted from British control) and **the French**, where **King Louis XVI** was overthrown and killed. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a series of wars (War of Spanish Succession, War of Austrian Succession, 7 Years War) were fought among the European great powers, now including also Prussia and Austria. During these wars, alliances frequently shifted as countries sought to gain advantages in territory and power.

Out of the French Revolution, **Napoleon Bonaparte** eventually took power, and proceeded to conquer most of Western and Central Europe either through conquest or a series of alliances he dominated. Despite great successes, Napoleon overextended himself in his **invasion of Russia in 1812**, and by 1815 (**Battle of Waterloo**) was defeated and sent into permanent exile. That led to the rise of the British Empire as the dominant state in Europe, also due to Britain's early adoption of the Industrial Revolution, which gave it unprecedented wealth and military capacity. Britain and other European countries then spent the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> century extending their colonies in Africa, Canada, Australia, and Asia, though most of Latin America became independent through a series of revolts led by men such as **Simon Bolivar**.

In Europe, Germany (under the leadership of **Otto von Bismarck**) and Italy (under **Giuseppe Garibaldi** and Count Cavour) became unified through a series of wars in the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century. The **Ottoman Empire**, which had defeated the Byzantine Empire in 1453 and expanded into Europe as far as Vienna in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, lost most of its holdings in Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and other nations gained independence. Russia expanded as far as Alaska, though it then sold Alaska to the USA in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and lost the Crimean War to a coalition of allies led by Britain in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Other Terms to Know: (see also ACE Quizbowl Camp Notes at [www.historybowl.com](http://www.historybowl.com))

<u>Britain</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Russia</u>
- <b>100 Years War</b>	- <b>Joan of Arc</b>	- <b>Machiavelli</b>	- Golden Horde
- War of the Roses	- Cardinal Richelieu	- Titian	- Dostoevsky
- Richard III	- <b>Marie Antoinette</b>	- Vivaldi	- <b>Tolstoy</b>
- <b>Isaac Newton</b>	- Impressionists	- Puccini	- <b>Tchaikovsky</b>
- <b>Charles Darwin</b>	- Victor Hugo	- Piedmont-Sardinia	- Alexander I
- Jane Austen	- Paris Commune	- <b>Maria Montessori</b>	- <b>Mendeleev</b>
- <b>Queen Victoria</b>	- Napoleon III	- Verdi	- Alexander II
<u>Spain</u>	<u>Germany/Prussia</u>	<u>Austria &amp; Hungary</u>	<u>Elsewhere</u>
- <b>Ferdinand &amp; Isabella</b>	- Frederick the Great	- Maria Theresa	- Erasmus
- El Greco	- <b>J. S. Bach</b>	- <b>Mozart</b>	- Prince Henry the Navigator
- Phillip II	- Nietzsche	- Austria-Hungary	- Suleiman the Magnificent
- <i>Don Quixote</i>	- <b>Beethoven</b>	- Revolutions of 1848	- <b>Irish Potato Famine</b>
- Goya	- Franco-Prussian War	- Franz Josef	- <b>Van Gogh</b>

## Part 3: European History from 1900-1950

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century began, European civilization had spread around the globe and a spirit of optimism was widespread. However, the rise of Germany and its rivalry with Britain in particular had led to a series of alliances between Britain, France, and Russia, and Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. When Austrian Archduke **Franz Ferdinand** was assassinated in Sarajevo in 1914 by a Slav nationalist, the alliances found themselves enmeshed in **World War I**, though Italy, at first neutral, went over to the side of the Allies. Germany knocked out Russia from the war in 1917, a year which also saw the **Russian Revolution**. **Vladimir Lenin** returned from exile to lead a communist takeover of the Russian government; Tsar Nicholas II was killed with his family in the ensuing Russian Civil War. Communism drew from the ideas of **Karl Marx** and was an economic ideology which sought to take over the means of production and redistribute them to the working class. With Russia out of the war, Germany was nevertheless unable to lead the Central Powers to victory, largely due to the USA joining the war on the side of Britain and France and intervening decisively in 1918. After the war, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was dissolved and Germany lost territory in the harsh **Treaty of Versailles**.

During the 1920's, Germany suffered hyperinflation and other economic woes during the Weimar Republic. Particularly after the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, **Adolf Hitler** was able to take advantage of Germany's weak government and seize power. Hitler then instituted an extreme right-wing government under the **National Socialist (i.e. Nazi)** ideology which saw non-Germans, and especially Jews, as both racially inferior and responsible for Germany's economic trouble. In Italy, **Benito Mussolini** likewise took power as a fascist and allied himself with Hitler as the **Axis Powers**. Both Italy and Germany supported Francisco Franco who led a fascist takeover in Spain through the **Spanish Civil War**. In Russia, now part of the larger Soviet Union, **Joseph Stalin** led a regime which killed millions of its own citizens in the famines and purges of the 1930's, even as Russia rapidly industrialized.

Hitler then took over Czechoslovakia on the pretext of protecting ethnic Germans there, and annexed Austria in the Anschluss. The League of Nations, formed after World War I to prevent aggression, was unable to stop Hitler. This led Britain and France to give security guarantees to Poland, but when **Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, World War II broke out**. The Soviet Union took the eastern part of Poland in accordance with a pact with Germany. In 1940, Germany invaded France, Denmark, Norway, Belgium & the Netherlands. For a time, among European nations, only Britain opposed Hitler, and Hitler began planning an invasion of the UK. The Royal Air Force, however, defeated Germany's Luftwaffe in the 1940 **Battle of Britain** which prevented any invasion. German and Italian forces also overran North Africa, until being defeated at El Alamein in Egypt by British troops.

In June 1941, Hitler launched a massive invasion of the Soviet Union which soon turned into the largest land war in history. German troops advanced deep into Soviet territory, but were turned back at the decisive Battle of **Stalingrad** in January 1943. The war would last in Europe until the Soviets took Berlin in 1945, but thereafter, Germany was always on the defensive. In 1944, British and American troops advanced into Europe through Italy, but especially through France, in the **June 6 invasion of Normandy** (Operation Overlord). The USA (which joined the war after being attacked by Germany's ally Japan at **Pearl Harbor**, Hawaii in Dec. 1941) then became dominant among the Western allies. During the final years of World War II, Nazi repression of Jews and other ethnic groups culminated in the **Holocaust**, which saw the murder of millions at concentration camps such as **Auschwitz** and Dachau. At war's end, Europe was divided between Soviet-held areas, and areas held by Western troops. In the late 1940's, Stalin turned the Soviet-held areas into client states and introduced communism.

## Other Terms to Know:

<u>Britain</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Germany</u>	<u>Russia/USSR</u>
- Neville Chamberlain	- Georges Clemenceau	- Kaiser Wilhelm	- Bloody Sunday
- Lawrence of Arabia	- Verdun	- Schlieffen Plan	- Leon Trotsky
- Arthur Conan Doyle	- Louis Pasteur	- Max Planck	- Battleship Potemkin
- Bernard Montgomery	- Charles De Gaulle	- Erwin Rommel	- Rasputin
- Titanic	- Edith Piaf	- Marlene Dietrich	- Georgy Zhukov
- Blitz	- Maginot Line	- Sudetenland	- Siege of Leningrad
- King George VI	- Vichy Regime	- Hermann Goering	- Trans-Siberian Railroad
- King Edward VIII	- Pierre de Coubertin	- Hindenburg	- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
<u>Elsewhere</u>			
-Roald Amundsen	- Sigmund Freud	- Gavrilo Princip	- Easter Rising
-Ludwig Wittgenstein	- Marie & Pierre Curie	- Anne Frank	- Ataturk
-Gustav Klimt	- Franz Kafka	- Niels Bohr	- Tito

## Part 4: European History from 1900-Present

The division of Europe at the end of World War II led to the **Cold War** between the Soviet-dominated nations (i.e. **Warsaw Pact**) and Western Europe, plus the USA and Canada (i.e. **NATO**). During the Cold War, each side built up massive arsenals of **nuclear weapons**, though because of their power to end civilization, neither side resorted to their use. The Cold War also saw a number of crises, including the U2 incident, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, and the Cuban Missile Crisis, but despite these inflamed tensions, NATO and the Warsaw Pact never directly fought. Eventually, the Soviet Union began restructuring its failing economy under **Mikhail Gorbachev** in the 1980's (a process known as *perestroika*) and began a period of increased openness both internally (i.e. greater political freedoms) and externally (ties with the West were strengthened) in a process known as *glasnost*. Gorbachev, unlike his predecessors Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev, also let the Warsaw Pact states break free from Soviet domination. In Poland this process was led by an electrician named Lech Walesa, who was a leader of the **Solidarity** trade union. Earlier efforts to revolt by Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 (i.e. the Prague Spring) had failed. Germany, divided since World War II's end, took down the most visible symbol of Europe's division **in 1989** when the **Berlin Wall fell**, and was then formally reunited the following year. Czechoslovakia, which had peacefully overthrown communism in 1989 in the Velvet Revolution, split in the early 1990's into two countries (in what was called the Velvet Divorce). Only in Romania did communism end violently when the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was executed.

In the 1990's, Europe took a major step towards closer political integration as the **European Community**, which had grown out of the Treaty of Rome and the earlier European Coal and Steel Community, became the **European Union, with the Treaty of Maastricht**. During the early 2000's, the **Euro** was introduced by most EU states, though that led to problems of lack of economic flexibility among countries of Southern Europe during the recession beginning in 2008. The Balkan Peninsula saw numerous conflicts in the 1990's as **Yugoslavia** broke up, and Kosovo broke away from Serbia, though some stability returned following the fall of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic in the 2000's.

Culturally, Europe changed with the loss of almost all colonies during the post-World War II era to independence movements. Hong Kong and Macau returned to Chinese control from Britain and Portugal respectively, at the end of the 1990's. In music, though, Britain remained at the forefront of world popular culture with the global fame of the **Beatles**, **Rolling Stones**, the Who, Led Zeppelin, and other groups of the 1960's and 1970's. Other European cultural icons included the artists Henri Matisse, Salvador Dali, and **Pablo Picasso**; authors Marcel Proust, George Orwell, Albert Camus, **J.R.R. Tolkien**, and **J.K. Rowling**; chefs Paul Bocuse and Ferran Adria; and numerous athletes including **Roger Bannister**, Steffi Graf, **Roger Federer**, **Rafael Nadal**, **Zinedine Zidane**, Franz Beckenbauer, and others. The sporting scene was marred by the **1972 Munich Olympics** massacre of Israeli athletes by Palestinian terrorists, though recent summer games at Barcelona (1992), Athens (2004), and London (2012) and winter games at Albertville (1992), Lillehammer (1994), and Turin (2006), have been a success, as have FIFA World Cups in France (1998) and Germany (2006).

Currently, much of Europe continues to suffer economically due to a variety of factors including debt crises, overregulation, aging populations, and lack of agreement among its leaders on how best to handle the problems. German chancellor **Angela Merkel** has been criticized for policies of forcing austerity on Southern European countries who are seeking economic aid (notably Greece), but she remains popular in Germany. In France, **Francois Hollande** won the recent election as a Socialist president, but has been criticized for his responses to the crisis. **David Cameron**, the Conservative UK Prime Minister, has seen Britain's economy improve a bit, but he faces an upcoming independence referendum for Scotland. **Vladimir Putin**, Russia's President, has remained broadly popular in Russia, but faces much foreign criticism due to his restrictions on personal liberties and political expression.

Militarily, intervention abroad is broadly unpopular among Europeans, especially in the wake of involvement from many European countries (UK, Poland, Spain, Italy, Portugal, etc.) in the US-led **war in Iraq**. 3 of the 5 permanent members of the **UN Security Council** are still European though (UK, France, Russia), while French foreign policy has been more interventionist of late (Mali, Libya, Syria).

### Other Terms to Know:

<u>Britain</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Germany</u>	<u>USSR/Russia</u>
- Suez Crisis	- Jean Paul Sartre	- Konrad Adenauer	- Secret Speech
- John Le Carre	- Simone de Beauvoir	- Stasi	- Sputnik
- Dr. Who	- 1968 revolts	- Red Army Faction	- Yuri Gagarin
- James Bond	- Francois Mitterand	- Willy Brandt	- Invasion of Afghanistan
- Margaret Thatcher	- Jacques Chirac	- Volkswagen	- Boris Yeltsin
- Tony Blair	- Nicholas Sarkozy	- Helmut Kohl	- Valentina Tereshkova
- Spice Girls	- Carla Bruni	- Heidi Klum	- KGB
- Andy Murray	- Coco Chanel	- Gerhard Schroeder	- War in Chechnya
- Falklands War	- Renault	- Michael Schumacher	- Sochi
- Elizabeth II	- Tour de France	- Benedict XVI	- Alexander Ovechkin
<u>Italy</u>	<u>Northern Europe</u>	<u>Southern Europe</u>	<u>Eastern Europe</u>
- FIAT	- U2 (the band)	- Juan Carlos I	- Pope John Paul II
- Federico Fellini	- The Troubles	- El Bulli	- Imre Nagy
- Silvio Berlusconi	- ABBA	- Penelope Cruz	- Vaclav Havel
- Mario Monti	- IKEA	- Zara	- Croatia joining the EU
- Mario Draghi	- Stockholm Syndrome	- Madrid train bombing	- Srebrenica

## Part 5: History of the Americas

Before the creation of the countries we see today in the New World, there were several impressive native cultures. The most significant of those were the **Aztecs** in central Mexico, centered around Tenochtitlan, the **Mayans** in Mexico and Guatemala, and the **Incans** in Peru.

The United States began as a collection of thirteen colonies under the rule of England. Early settlers often fought the Native American population; this would last on-and-off until the late 1800s. The new country declared its independence on July 4, 1776, from England in the midst of a war whose greatest hero was **George Washington**, who would become the first president of the United States. After the war, **the U.S. Constitution** was created, outlining the structure of government and guaranteeing certain rights through the accompanying Bill of Rights. England invaded in 1812, but was defeated, and US independence was secured. The most significant event in the 1800's in America was the **Civil War**. Lasting from 1861-1865, it saw 11 Southern states leave the country over the issue of slavery. **Abraham Lincoln** served as president during the war, but was shot in 1865 just as the war was ending.

Canada became a “dominion” within the British Empire in the 1800's and acquired more autonomy before becoming outright independent. John MacDonalld was its first Prime Minister. During the 1900's, Canada faced the question of separatism from its French-speaking population in the province of **Quebec**, though an independence referendum narrowly failed in the 1990's. Canada hosted a successful Winter Olympics in its western city of Vancouver in 2010.

In Latin America, the period after 1789 meant independence. Haiti revolted first against France, though most Latin American countries gained their independence from Spain and Portugal, in part with help from **Simon Bolivar** and Jose de San Martin in the early 1800's.

After the Civil War and the period of **Reconstruction** that followed, the United States entered into what is known as the Progressive Era, which ended with America's entry into the first World War. The U.S. was only active in **World War I** for one year, and fought with the victorious Allied Powers against the Central Powers. Following World War I, the U.S. saw a period of great economic success and cultural change known as the Roaring Twenties. The '20s came to an end with the stock market crash of 1929 and the crippling effects of the **Great Depression**.

Mired in the Great Depression, the American people elected Franklin D. Roosevelt president. His New Deal was a series of federal programs to stimulate the economy and advance the country. The economy was further stimulated by America's involvement in **World War II**, especially after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Following World War II, the new threat was the Cold War, a long period of weak relations between the Communist Soviet Union. The Cold War manifested itself most notably in the **Korean War** (1950-1953) and the **Vietnam War** (1955-1975), the latter of which was the greatest military failure in American history.

The post-World War II-era was also known for the Civil Rights Movement, in which minorities and oppressed groups—most importantly African-Americans and women—fought for equality. The work of leaders such as Malcolm X and **Martin Luther King, Jr.** brought an end to segregation in the South and encouraged equality among blacks and whites.

### What You Need to Know (People, Places, Things, and Events)

- **Alexander Hamilton** was a Founder and the first Secretary of the Treasury. He established the First Bank of the U.S., helped write the *Federalist Papers*, espoused Federalist ideas, and was killed in a duel by Aaron Burr.



- **Benjamin Franklin** was a Founder who wrote *Poor Richard's Almanack*, and worked on scientific projects concerning bifocals and electricity.
- **George Washington** was the first American president, and before that, led the Continental Army. He encouraged the US to stay out of foreign affairs and avoid the political party system.
- **Thomas Jefferson** was the third U.S. president. He authored the Declaration of Independence, completed the Louisiana Purchase, sent Lewis and Clark west, supported separation of church and state, and founded the University of Virginia.
- **John F. Kennedy** was the first Catholic president. He was elected in 1960 and assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963. He oversaw the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis, and advocated America's space program.
- **Martin Luther King Jr.** was an important leader in the effort for equality between whites and African Americans known as the Civil Rights Movement. He was assassinated in Memphis in 1968.
- **Ronald Reagan** was a conservative Republican president who urged Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall, was in office during the Iran-Contra scandal, supported supply-side economics, and was shot by John Hinckley. Before he turned to politics, Reagan was a Hollywood actor.

### What You Should Also Know

- |   |                             |                           |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Jamestown                               | • Ellis Island              | • Steven Spielberg        |
| • Pilgrims                                | • Statue of Liberty         | • Elvis Presley           |
| • Thanksgiving                            | • Mexican-American War      | • Ernest Hemingway        |
| • Mayflower                               | • Battle of Antietam        | • Dwight D. Eisenhower    |
| • Puritans                                | • Battle of Gettysburg      | • John F. Kennedy         |
| • French and Indian War                   | • Mark Twain                | • Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| • George Washington                       | • Andrew Jackson            | • Malcolm X               |
| • Harvard / Yale / Princeton Universities | • Theodore Roosevelt        | • Lyndon Johnson          |
| • New York City                           | • Woodrow Wilson            | • Richard Nixon           |
| • Boston                                  | • Thomas Edison             | • Watergate               |
| • Philadelphia                            | • Trail of Tears            | • Ronald Reagan           |
| • Articles of Confederation               | • Yellowstone National Park | • Bill Clinton            |
| • Battle of Bunker Hill                   | • Hawaii                    | • Michael Jordan          |
| • Battle of Saratoga                      | • F. Scott Fitzgerald       | • George W. Bush          |
| • Boston Massacre                         | • Wright Brothers           | • Google                  |
| • Boston Tea Party                        | • Jackie Robinson           | • McDonald's              |
| • John Adams                              | • Babe Ruth                 | • Super Bowl              |
| • Louisiana Purchase                      | • Amelia Earhart            | • Tiger Woods             |
| • Salem Witch Trials                      | • Franklin Roosevelt        | • Serena Williams         |
| • War of 1812                             | • Eleanor Roosevelt         | • Apple / Steve Jobs      |
| • California Gold Rush                    | • Harry Truman              | • September 11 Attacks    |
|   | • Joe McCarthy              | • Hillary Clinton         |
|   |                             | • Barack Obama            |

## Part 6: African, Middle Eastern, & South Asian History

The beginnings of modern civilization are thought to date to about 3000 BCE. The early modern civilizations—**Sumerians** and **Babylonians** in modern-day Iraq, and the **Indus River Valley** civilization in modern-day Pakistan—differed from their hunter-gatherer predecessors in the effective use of **agriculture**, **writing systems**, and their development in **fertile river valleys**.

Another very early civilization was **Ancient Egypt** in Northern Africa, which lasted for roughly 2500 years. Ramses the Great and Akhenaten were famous Egyptian rulers, while **Judaism** developed under a leader named **Moses** who is said to have led the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt. The **Persians** were also an early power, under Cyrus the Great and his successors, they expanded throughout the Middle East. The Hittites also developed a culture in present-day Turkey. They fought the Egyptians under Ramses at the massive chariot Battle of Kadesh.

As modern civilizations and empires developed, so did today's most widespread religions. Both starting in India BCE, **Hinduism** and then **Buddhism** spread and attracted many followers. Of course, the beginning of the Common Era brought the birth of **Jesus Christ** and the rise of **Christianity**, which became entwined with power through the institution of the **papacy and the Catholic Church**. In the year 622, the prophet Muhammad founded **Islam**. Muslim kingdoms known as **caliphates** would rule the Middle East, North Africa, and Spain for centuries. Christians and Muslims came into frequent conflict, and beginning in 1096 fought the **Crusades**.

The dominant empire for many years in the Middle East was the **Ottoman Empire**. They took the city of Constantinople in present-day Turkey in 1453 for their capital. In India, two major empires were the early Mauryan and the later **Mughal**, which built the **Taj Mahal**.

By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, much of the Middle East and South Asia found itself under British Rule, most notably India, where many Indians fought back in incidents like the Black Hole of Calcutta and the Sepoy Mutiny. India's successful independence movement was led by **Mohandas Gandhi**, culminating in independence following World War II. Mohammed Ali Jinnah led the independence movement in Pakistan. In the Middle East in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the most contentious issue was the founding of the Jewish state of **Israel in 1948**, which fought the Six Day War and then the Yom Kippur War against the Palestinians and their allies. The major issues of the modern Middle East and South Asia include American intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan and popular revolts across the Middle East and North Africa as part of the **Arab Spring** in 2011.

Africa also found itself under significant colonial rule for much of its history, with countries beginning to break away from Britain, France, and other European powers after 1950. Leaders like Kenya's **Jomo Kenyatta** and Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah helped lead to their country's relative success, but other countries fell under cruel dictators, such as Uganda's Idi Amin. In South Africa, the white minority developed a system of segregation known as **Apartheid**. Ultimately, a campaign led by **Nelson Mandela** ended it, and Mandela became South Africa's first black president in the 1990's. The global **HIV/AIDS** pandemic, which killed millions worldwide, beginning in the 1980's, continues to be most severely felt in Africa, despite recent advances.

### What You Should Also Know

- Babylon
- Congo Civil War
- Crusades
- Byzantine Empire
- Constantinople
- Akbar the Great

- Byzantine Empire
- Indus River Valley
- Indira Gandhi
- Nehru
- Ayatollah Khomeini
- Persian Gulf War
- Tamil Tigers
- Syrian Civil War
- Tamerlane
- Boer War

## Part 7: East Asian and Southeast Asian History

The History of China can be traced back to the first dynasty, the Shang Dynasty (1700-1406 BCE), though the somewhat mythical Xia Dynasty may have preceded it. The Shang used oracle bones to receive messages from the spiritual world. The first dynasty of the Imperial period was the short-lived Qin Dynasty, which featured the rule of Qin Shi Huangdi and the commencement of the construction of the **Great Wall of China**. The Qin was followed by the **Han Dynasty** (202 BCE to 220 CE), with Western and Eastern eras. The Han is known for its advances in art and culture and reliance on Confucianism, and the Han Dynasty lent its name of the ethnicity of most Chinese. It was threatened by the Yellow Turban Rebellion. The next major dynasty was the Tang Dynasty.

Meanwhile, Japan began to see its classical era flourish. *The Tale of Genji* was written by Lady Murasaki during the Heian Period, the last major period before the introduction of the feudal system. The feudal system in Japan operated with regional leaders known as *daimyo* and other leaders known as *shogun*. The *daimyo* were patrons to *samurai*, who were specialized soldiers. Ninjas were reconnaissance troops and stealthy fighters, not to be confused with Samurai.

In China, the rule of ethnic Chinese families and groups was interrupted by the Yuan Dynasty, led by Kublai Khan. The **Mongols**, were an extremely successful people, conquering thousands of square miles, under Kublai's grandfather, **Genghis Khan**. One nation they were unable to occupy was Japan, despite two attempts by the Yuan to overtake the archipelago. After the Yuan, the **Ming Dynasty** ruled from 1368-1644. An important cultural era, the Ming rule is also notable for the naval expeditions of Zheng He to Africa, though the Dynasty ultimately stopped all such voyages of exploration.

Japan entered into the **Tokugawa Shogunate** in 1600. It would last until 1868 when the Emperor Meiji was restored to power. This period saw Japan opening up slightly to Christian missionaries and later American trade. Japan defeated Russia in the 1905 Russo-Japanese War, which saw it gain additional power in East Asia. Japan continued to expand militarily until it entered World War II in which it was defeated by the USA. At the end of World War II, the USA dropped the only atomic bombs used in warfare on **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**. Japan has since transitioned to a constitutional monarchy, currently led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Emperor Akihito, who succeeded Hirohito, the emperor during World War II. Japan was recently awarded the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, and is home to Toyota, Sony, and many other companies.

Since the 1940's, Korea has been divided into a communist north, usually considered the world's most repressive regime. It has seen three generations of leaders of the Kim family (Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-Il, Kim Jong-Un), and the **Korean War** between the North and South and their allies in the 1950's. The war ended with a confirmation of Korea's divided status but little territorial

change. South Korea's economy, by contrast, has boomed since the 1950's with companies such as Hyundai and **Samsung** now considered among the world's best.

In Southeast Asia, the most important ruling era was that of the Khmer Empire. Lasting from 802 to 1431, it covered most of present-day Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. Its capital was Angkor, at which the massive temple complex known as **Angkor Wat** was constructed.

China's last dynasty, the Qing, ended as the Kuomintang under Sun Yat-Sen took power. He was replaced by **Chiang Kai-shek**, but the Nationalists were defeated in 1949 by **Mao Zedong** and the Communists in the Chinese Civil War. The government in China has been nominally communist since then, though under Deng Xiaoping, China transitioned to a capitalist economy, which has grown very rapidly over the past 30 years. Xi Jinping is China's current president.

### **What Else You Should Know (including Australia & Oceania)**

- Khmer Rouge
- Pol Pot
- Aung San Suu Kyi
- Easter Island
- Suharto
- Dien Bien Phu
- Ho Chi Minh
- Maoris
- Sydney Opera House

### *Additional Topics for our Competition Countries*

#### **Britain:**

- Stonehenge
- Norman Conquest
- Anne Boleyn
- William & Mary
- Jack the Ripper
- Luddites
- Peterloo Massacre
- Corn Laws
- Chunnel
- David Lloyd George
- Clement Attlee
- NHS
- John Major
- Profumo Affair
- Richard Branson
- News of the World

#### **France:**

- Battle of Roncevaux Pass
- Pepin the Short
- Wars of Religion
- Catherine de Medici
- Edict of Nantes
- Louis IX
- Louis XIII
- Louis XV
- Cardinal Mazarin
- The Fronde
- Georges Danton
- Johnny Holliday
- Claude Francois
- Daft Punk

#### **Germany:**

- Battle of Teutoburg Forest
- Neanderthal
- Battle of Breitenfeld
- Martin Luther
- Helmut Schmidt
- Brandenburg Gate
- Kaiser Wilhelm II
- Seven Weeks War
- Holy Roman Empire
- Alfred von Tirpitz
- Kulturkampf
- Otto the Great
- Green Party
- Mercedes Benz

**Italy:**

- Lucrezia Borgia
- Cesare Borgia
- Doges
- Vatican II
- Victor Emmanuel II
- Etruscans
- Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral
- Guelphs & Ghibbelines
- March on Rome
- War of the League of Cambrai
- Giuseppe Mazzini
- Lateran Treaty
- Alcide de Gasperi
- Sforza family

**Spain**

- King Phillip II
- Pablo Casals
- Reconquista
- Spanish Inquisition
- Generation of '98
- King Alfonso XIII
- Rif War
- Golden Age
- King Charles I
- Pedro Almodovar
- Miguel de Cervantes
- Constitution of 1812
- El Escorial
- Zapatero

**Switzerland**

- Ulrich Zwingli
- Jean Piaget
- William Tell
- The accidental invasion of Liechtenstein of 2007
- Kappel Wars
- Philipp Melancthon
- Michael Servetus
- Swiss Guard
- Sonderbund War
- Zuriputsch
- Geneva
- UBS
- Sepp Blatter
- Swabians

### **Strategies for Success at The International History Bee and Bowl**

The International History Bee and Bowl differ from certain competitions in that it is possible in to do very little preparation specifically for the competitions, and still achieve a decent degree of success in them. If students have typically done well in their history classes, or have a natural interest in the subjects and have read a decent amount on their own in these fields, that can often lead to a fair amount of success.

However, in order both to have as much fun with IHBB as possible, learn as much through the experience as possible, and succeed to the greatest degree (especially at the European Championships), a certain amount of preparation is needed. There's no "right" or "wrong" amount of time to put in preparing; nor is there a universally accepted way as to how to go about doing this. That said, we strongly urge you and your team to consider the following approaches to preparing for tournaments:

**1) Be familiar with the style of our questions and game format, and don't make avoidable mistakes!**

This sounds easy (and it is), but it's often overlooked by new teams and students. Be sure you know the basic rules of how our competitions work, and practice running games in the standard format. Two errors we often see among new teams in particular, are when the one team gets a tossup question wrong, and then a player on the other team rings in before the end of the question and answers incorrectly. Remember that questions get easier as they go along, and since the first team to answer incorrectly can't ring in again, the second team should wait until the question is

done. Then, perhaps allow 1 second to allow a student who is certain to ring in; then, if no one has rung in after a second or so, someone can ring in and take an educated guess. Another mistake we often see is mismanaging the clock in a 60 second round. If you don't know the answer here, guess quickly or pass! Don't spend too much time on one question, just go on to the next.

The basics of competition are not complicated, but some familiarity with the game format and rules can be very helpful towards ensuring success, especially among new students and teams.

## **2) Practice systematically with teammates (and on your own as well).**

The majority of IHBB teams do practice at least a little bit with their teammates prior to tournaments, but not all practices are created equal. Does practice consist exclusively of reading old question packets, or is some effort made to ensure that common topics are known by team members?

Above all, though, while practice should be fun, it should be conducted efficiently. A well-run 45 minute practice accomplishes more than 2 hours spent getting distracted. Also, you will want to break more talented players and less experienced players up, so as not to discourage new players from being overwhelmed. And we can't emphasize enough the value of writing topics down in a study notebook! If you just read old questions or play old questions, that's good. But if you figure out what topics are going unanswered and write them down, that's great. Also, don't feel as if you need to write down everything in a question, but instead, focus on the point in the question right before the point where you recognized the answer. That's probably the next thing you should learn about that topic (since information towards the end of questions is referenced overall more frequently).

## **3) Divide and conquer**

In the History Bee, you're on your own, so this strategy won't help you there. However, in the History Bowl, it's often helpful to split up various topics, or periods in history with your teammates. Do you have someone who knows a bit about Asian history? Any team should, but it's better to have just 1 person studying Asian history, than 3 people studying Asian history and no one studying American or African history. Go through the Study Guide above and divide the different topics among team members. Then, research the topics, and perhaps make flash cards with well-known historical facts about each topic.

Also, don't feel as if you need to split up areas equally among 4 teammates. If one student in particular is a strong player, or if one or two students show a capacity to take on increased studying commitments, then they should perhaps take more topics; letting the remaining students on the team be specialists. Even a team with 1 incredible player can benefit from having teammates who study particular topics in great depth and can score points whenever they come up.

#### **4) Focus on knowledge retention**

Finally, remember that IHBB tournaments are very broad-based competitions. This makes studying for them different from studying for a typical history test (where you are at some level going to forget things after the test is done, in order to prepare for the next one). Even if you are studying for a final exam or an AP exam, the emphasis is on studying for that 1 test.

But since IHBB tournaments reward a knowledge of all aspects of history at each tournament, you need to focus on long-term memory and knowledge retention. This is a different skill than cramming for a test, and takes time and repetition to master. However, in the long run, it's a far more rewarding way of approaching education, as that knowledge is far more likely to stay with you into university and beyond, being useful in many instances in life.

You and your team can master this skill by keeping notes in a notebook, and frequently reviewing information until you "have it down cold." Additionally, while the vast array of possible question topics may seem daunting at first, there's a high degree of repetition from one IHBB set of questions to another. If you play and practice frequently, you'll become a great player quicker than you ever thought possible. And you'll find that history courses become much easier and enjoyable too. Good luck, and please contact us at [nolwenn@historybowl.com](mailto:nolwenn@historybowl.com) if you have any further questions!