## Turning Points in History

A number of significant milestones have had a profound impact on the history of the world. Summarize your knowledge of these by completing the following study organizer.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Turning Point</th>
<th>Describe the Turning Point</th>
<th>Its Impact on the World</th>
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| Fall of Rome (476 A.D.) | - Empire grew weak due to overexpansion of empire, high taxes, and foreign invasions  
- Empire was divided by Diocletian in a failed attempt to restore order  
- Roman emperor is removed by Germanic leader Odoacer | - Eastern Roman Empire survived as the Byzantine Empire  
- Western Europe was left with no unified government-> system of feudalism developed  
- People relied on the Christian Church for spiritual and political guidance |
| Birth of Islam (622-632) | - Muhammad believed that God spoke to him through the angel Gabriel  
- In 622, Muhammad fled Mecca for Medina where he was welcomed and the religion grew  
- 632, Muhammad died and a successor was chosen | - After the death of Muhammad, Islam quickly spread over 3 continents  
- Arabs were strong fighters  
- Muslim rulers often treated conquered people fairly  
- Muslims built vast trading empires and traders spread the religion  
- During the 700s and 800s, Islam experienced a golden age  
- Muslim world preserved and blended the cultures of classical Greece, Rome, and India |
| Mongol Conquests (1200s) | - Mongol rule covered a large area that included diverse lands and peoples  
- Armies were made up of highly skilled horsemen | - Mongols provided stability and prosperity  
- Encouraged an exchange of goods and ideas between East and West  
- The Mongols were not oppressive rulers. They usually allowed people to live as they had before as long as they paid tribute |
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| European Encounter with Native Americans (1492) | -Ferdinand and Isabella wanted to gain a share of the spice trade in the East  
Christopher Columbus convinced the Spanish monarchs that he could reach India by sailing west  
-He landed at an island in the Caribbean Sea | -Spain and Portugal both claimed the islands Columbus had explored->  
Pope set up Line of Demarcation  
-Spanish conquistadors came looking for Gold, God & Glory  
-Native American tribes were conquered and many natives died from disease and overwork  
-Africans were brought to the Americas to fill the labor shortage  
-Cultural blending of European, Native America, and Africa cultures ->  
Columbian Exchange |
| Fall of Constantinople (1453) | -Byzantine Empire had been in decline for almost two centuries  
-Ottomans migrated from central Asia into Asia Minor  
-After a two-month siege, the Ottomans were able to break through the city walls and capture the city ->they had new military technology | -Ottomans built a large and powerful empire in Europe and the Middle East  
-Extended Muslim influence  
-Made contributions in the arts, science and literature ->  
golden age during rule of Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566)  
-Forced Europeans to begin seeking new routes for trade with Asia |
| French Revolution (1789) | -Much of unrest was caused by the unequal distribution of wealth and the unequal tax burden  
-Revolution went through many stages, caused by changes in leadership and shifts in power [national assembly, limited monarchy, Reign of Terror, rule of Napoleon] | -Ideals of democracy were spread throughout Europe ->  
also influenced revolutions in Latin America  
-Increased nationalism throughout Europe-> led to the eventual unification of Italy and Germany  
-Divine-Right Monarchy was ended |
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| Perry’s Arrival in Japan (1853) | -President sent warships to ask Japan to open Japanese ports to trade  
-Japan’s isolation had cut it off from the advances of industrialization and it had fallen behind in science and technology | -Treaty of Kanagawa opened ports; US won other trading rights also.  
-Japan’s ruling Shogun was overthrown and the Meiji Restoration began  
-Japan ended its policy of isolation  
-Japan began a period of modernization and industrialization  
-Japan became a global imperial power |
| Russian Revolution (1917) | -Revolution of 1905-> Czar Nicholas promised reforms but they failed to solve problems  
-World War I cause more hardship in Russia  
-March 1917 Czar Nicholas abdicated his throne  
- November 1917 Bolsheviks under Lenin take over government with promise of “Peace, Land, and Bread” | -Russia became first communist government  
-Stalin created a communist dictatorship that controlled every aspect of its citizens’ lives  
- Stalin’s five-year plans boosted industry, but didn’t improve life of the people  
- Collectivization of agriculture angered the peasants who revolted-> mass starvation occurred  
- Soviet Union supported communist revolution in other parts of the world |
| Dropping of the Atom Bomb on Japan (1945) | -By mid-1945 most of the Japanese navy and air force had been destroyed, but army was still strong  
-Americans had begun to bomb Japanese cities, but they refused to surrender  
-August 6, 1945- U.S. dropped an Atomic bomb on city of Hiroshima killing 70,000  
-August 9, 1945- U.S. dropped another bomb on city of Nagasaki killing 40,000 | - On August 10th, Japanese emperor Hirohito forced his government to surrender  
-United States occupied Japan until 1952  
-Japan ended its militarism and became a democracy  
-Cold War began between the United States and Soviet Union  
-The two superpowers engaged in the buildup of nuclear weapons |
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| Dissolution of the Soviet Union      | - Invasion of Afghanistan weakened the Soviet Union  
- Mikhail Gorbachev took steps to reform the economy and allow more openness  
- Communist governments fell in Eastern Europe  
- Communist hardliners tried to overthrow Gorbachev, but failed  
- Gorbachev resigned                                                                                           | - Ethnic divisions led to civil wars and the creation of new nations in Eastern Europe  
- Soviet Union lost role as superpower  
- End of Cold War  
- Economic hardships - challenge of converting from state-run command economy to a market economy -> food shortages and high unemployment |