

Study Questions to accompany
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VOLUME 9 -THE AGE OF GREAT KINGS
1469 – 1762

Study questions by Karen North©, 2002

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You may notice as you read volume 9, that you recognize many of the names and events. This is because the time period covered by this volume covers the same period as that of the previous volume, just with a focus on the rulers of the various kingdoms in Europe.

It will be very important as you make entries in your timeline book to make note of which country your entry represents to.

- I. Read p. 696 – 702 (stop at “Bloody Mary”)
 - The first section you’ll read in this book goes back to the country of England in 1485. Look in the timeline book to see what other events you have already posted in there so you’ll be reminded of what was going on in the world.
 - The period of time in from 1485 – 1605 is called the “Tudor Dynasty” in England because the Tudor family came to power. Who was the first Tudor king? Mark the date 1485 as the beginning of the Tudor Dynasty in England. (Don’t forget in your notation to write that 1605 was the end of the Tudor Dynasty.)
 - Who did the first Tudor king defeat in order to become King of England? The war which brought the Tudors to power is sometimes called the “War of the Roses.” Do some research to find out why the war had this name.
 - Who took over as King of England after Henry’s death? If you remember from the last volume, this new king was the famous/infamous Henry VIII.
 - At Henry VIII’s death, his young son Edward was made king, however, because of his youth, his uncle, Protector Somerset, ruled as regent. Look up the meaning of the word ‘regent’ in a dictionary or encyclopedia to see what this means.
 - Under the rule of Somerset, and subsequently, Northumberland, what happened to the Catholics?

- II. Read p. 702 (start with “Bloody Mary”) to p. 708 (stop at “Ferdinand and Isabella”)
- What was the relationship between Queen Mary and the late Henry VIII?
 - Once again, you have already read about Queen Mary and her rule over England. Mark the beginning of Queen Mary’s rule over England on your timeline.
 - Can you recall what events gave Mary the nickname “Bloody Mary”?
 - Who took over as queen at Mary’s death, and what was her relationship to Mary?
 - Another Mary caused problems for Queen Elizabeth. What was the result of the plots this other Mary took part in against Elizabeth?
 - Queen Elizabeth was the last of the Tudors to reign under the Tudor Dynasty. The wealth and power of England grew under her long reign. One of the most important historical events during her reign was the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Reread p. 704 – 707 for the story of the naval battle. Mark this event on the timeline.
- III. Read from p. 708, “Ferdinand and Isabella” to p. 714, stop at “Charles Defeats the Rebels”
- The story now moves from England to Spain and goes back again to the late 1400’s. You may recognize the names Ferdinand and Isabella from other stories about Christopher Columbus. Mark the date 1469 as the beginning of the rule of Ferdinand and Isabella in Spain.
 - Use a map to find the areas that Ferdinand and Isabella ruled. During the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, more regions were added to their kingdom. Name two of these regions.
 - What types of reforms did Isabella institute? (reread p. 711)
 - What nationality were the Moors and what contributions did the Moors add to civilization?
 - What was the purpose of the Spanish Inquisition? Mark this period on the timeline (you may need to look up the dates in an encyclopedia or history atlas)
 - What famous explorer gained support from Ferdinand and Isabella during their reign? (You should already have a date marked on your timeline regarding Columbus and the discovery of the New World.)
 - What event was marked by the year 1512 in Spanish history?
- IV. Read from p. 714, “Charles Defeats the Rebels”, to p. 718
- What relationship was there between the new King of Spain, King Charles, and Ferdinand and Isabella?
 - Charles did not begin his reign on a good foot, but soon became serious about the business of governing a country. He also was made the Holy

Roman Emperor in 1519, 2 years after becoming king of Spain. Mark this on your timeline. What other events occurred around this same time?

- What lands were included in his kingdom under the title of Holy Roman Emperor? What was the function of the Holy Roman Emperor?
- Charles not only had to deal with the beginning of the Reformation and a battle for power with the king of France, but he also had to do battle with the Turkish people from the east.
- Philip II took his father, Charles', place as the ruler of Spain and the Netherlands, while Charles' brother became the Holy Roman Emperor. What type of ruler was King Philip II? What was his position on Protestantism?
- The Spanish Inquisition lasted for many years and revolt against the inquisition finally led to fighting that lasted for years and cost Spain the control of the Netherlands.
- What things led to the weakening of Spain and the loss of its power?

V. Start at p. 719 and read to p. 724, stopping at “The Edict of Nantes”

- Now the story shifts to France. Once again, the story starts back in the mid 1400's. For almost a century before, England and France had been battling for the rule of France. When the war ended, who was victorious and became king of France? What type of ruler was he?
- If you'll recall from the last volume, there was a struggle within France also between those of the Catholic faith and those of the Protestant faith during the time of the Reformation. The protestants in France who followed the teachings of John Calvin were called the Huguenots. Although the hope was to help unite the Catholics and the Protestants through the wedding of King Henry of Navarre and Marguerite, what actually happened? This event should already be recorded on your timeline. Under what title?
- After a lot of bloodshed and a battle between three Henrys, Henry of Navarre, the Protestant, became King Henry IV of France. This war was appropriately called, the “War of the Three Henrys”.

VI. Start on p. 724 at “The Edict of Nantes” and read through p. 729

- How did Henry IV seek to restore some peace after 35 years of religious wars? What was his declaration called? Mark this date (along with the country it affected) on the timeline. Include a brief description of what the event stood for.
- What did Henry attempt to do for the country of France?
- What happened after the assassination of Henry IV when his wife became regent for their son, Louis?
- Although he had been exiled along with the king's mother, Marie de' Medici, Plessis de Richelieu was brought back to power (along with de'

Medici being recalled to court) as Cardinal of France. In 1624, he became the first minister of France (mark this date on the timeline).

- Richelieu had started out as an enemy of Louis XIII because of his relationship with the king's mother. How did his relationship with Louis XIII change over the years and why? What did Richelieu's rule as minister of France do for the country?

VII. Begin the section "The Thirty Years War" on p. 730 and read to p. 736, stopping at "The War Spreads"

- Once again, the scene shifts to another country. This time, Germany. During this period of time, Germany was referred to as the "Holy Roman Empire." The Empire consisted of a lot of land and much wealth, but Emperor Maximilian I did not have a lot power over the region. Re-read p. 730, first column to find out why. Maximilian never quite gained control over his Empire as he desired.
- In the early 1500's Charles V became emperor of Germany. By this time, they were actually at war with the Pope and the Catholic church. Look back at your timeline to see who else was active during this time in German history. Even though Charles V was at war with the Pope, he remained Catholic and caused troubles for the person you should have found listed on your timeline.
- The "Thirty Years War" was started by what revolution? (look at p. 732). The Thirty Years War is considered one of the most terrible wars in European history. You'll be reading about it in the next few pages. Mark the beginning of this war on your timeline (look for an exact year in the front flyleaf of the book).
- Soon after the beginning of the Thirty Years War, Frederick was elected the new emperor to take the place of the deceased Matthias. At the beginning, Frederick was not very powerful, even losing control of Bohemia during a war. However, after years of exile in Holland, he came back to regain power. What types of things did Ferdinand do to regain his power and control?

VIII. Read on p. 736, starting at "The War Spreads" through p. 742

- Although Ferdinand regained power, tried to crush the Protestants, and decreed that kings would no longer be elected but to reign through succession, the war did not end. In 1626, Christian IV, king of Denmark, set out to attack Germany. Read through page 737 to see who was finally victorious in this part of the war.
- The section title on page 737 says "A New Kind of War." Albrecht von Wallenstein was a Catholic nobleman from Bohemia who was leading the Bohemian forces against Christian IV. What things did Wallenstein do to make this a "new kind of war"?

- Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden, soon rose to power and helped to unite the Protestant forces against the Catholic forces in the Thirty Years War. The book refers to him as a “military genius.” What types of things did he do to gain him this title?
- Through the Thirty Years War, the Catholics reigned supreme at times, and then the Protestants. But overall, everyone lost as the war devastated much of Germany. It only ended after Wallenstein and Tilly (generals on the Catholic side) and Gustavus (general of the Protestant side) had been killed.
- Read p. 741 – 742 and list some of the ways that Cardinal Richelieu (he should already be listed on your timeline) also helped to end the Thirty Years War.

IX. Start the chapter on “The Sun King” on p. 743 and read through p. 749 stopping at “What I Love is Work”

- At the death of Cardinal Richelieu, who was appointed to be the cardinal?
- As you have read on pages 743 – first column of 744, there was a lot of turmoil between the *parlement* and Mazarin. Mazarin realized that his being the center of the rebellion united the nobles against him. What unusual thing did Mazarin do to end the rebellion? Did it work?
- During the years that Mazarin was ruling on behalf of the young King of France, King Louis XIV, Mazarin made Louis attend meetings, etc. Why do you think that he did this? Was this a wise thing to do?
- Why was Louis XIV known as the “Sun King of France”?

X. Read from p. 479, starting at “What I Love is Work” to p. 756

- Louis appointed Jean Baptiste Colbert to help straighten out the financial situation in France. What was Colbert’s theory on work? Did he follow through on his theory as he worked for France?
- Who was William the Orange, and why was he asked to be the “Stadtholder” of the Netherlands?
- After re-reading p. 752 and 753, who do you think was the victor in the war between Louis XIV and William of Orange? Why?
- As you may have noticed by now, many of the conflicts between the various rulers during the 200-year era you’ve been studying have hinged most times around the issue of religion and the right to choose how to worship. Mainly, the divisions were between the Catholics and the Protestant groups.
- How did William become the King of England?
- King Louis XIV’s reign had been one both of grandeur and of war. At his death, how did the people remember him?

- XI. Start on p. 757 (The Rise of Prussia) and read through p. 761, stopping at “Frederick the Great”)
- Who was the ruler who began to rebuild Prussia?
 - How did he succeed at rebuilding his country?
 - Frederick William had an unusual ‘fondness’ for something relating to the army. What was this?
 - Frederick William was considered a dictator. Find the definition of a dictator.
- XII. Read from “Frederick the Great” on p. 761 through p. 767
- What was Frederick William’s desire for his son, Frederick? How did he plan to make this dream/desire come true?
 - What were some of the good measures that Frederick put into place? What name did this earn him?
 - After Frederick the Great’s war against Maria Theresa and Austria, he set out to improve the country of Prussia. List some ways that Frederick did this.
 - For over 6 years, Frederick had to fight to defend his country as other European rulers feared he would attempt to take over their countries. The country of Prussia suffered terribly. What noble statement did Frederick make at the end of the war in 1763?
 - What was the result of Frederick’s efforts to rebuild Prussia? Did he truly deserve the title of “Frederick the Great”? Why or why not?
- XIII. Begin reading “Russia Under the Tsars” on p. 768 to p. 774 stopping at “Rule of the Romanovs”
- Once again, the scene changes to another location. This time, it is Russia. Once again, the time changes back to the late 1400’s – a few years before Columbus’ discovery of the New World.
 - Who were the boyars?
 - Mark on your timeline, Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) Czar of Russia, 1547.
 - After a period of wars, one of which the boyars had been opposed to, Ivan IV packed up and left Russia. What message did he send back to the boyars?
 - Does this action of Ivan IV leaving remind you of another leader you’ve studied in the last few days? Which one?
 - What was the response of the boyars, the merchants, and the clergy?
 - Although much of Ivan the Terrible’s reign was spent in fighting and political struggles, he did make some attempts to better his country, as did

many of the other rulers in other countries. What were some of the improvements that he made?

XIV. Begin reading on p. 774 at “Rule of the Romanovs” and read to the end of the book (p. 781)

- Under the rule of the Romanovs, how did Russia fare?
- In particular, what improvements and changes did Peter Romanov make?
- Peter was given the title of “Peter the Great”. Do you think he was deserving of this title?
- How did Catherine II become the new empress of Russia?
- Catherine was also named “Catherine the Great.” What did she do to receive this title?
- The book says she wanted her epitaph to read, “When she ascended the throne of Russia, she wished to do good and tried to bring happiness, freedom, and prosperity to her subjects.” Did she succeed in carrying out her wishes?