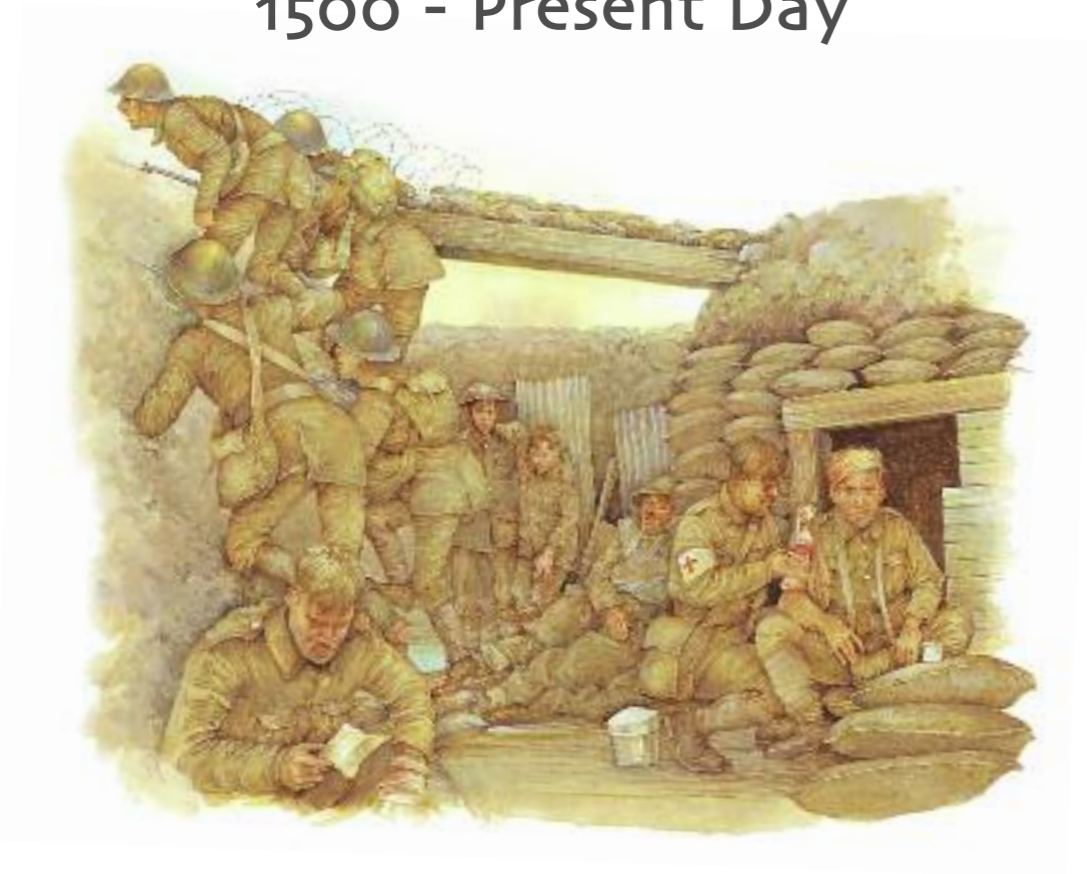


children's illustrated encyclopedia

World History

1500 - Present Day



 Orpheus

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RUSSIA

THE NAME RUSSIA comes from the Viking people who arrived at the town of Novgorod in the 860s. These Vikings were known as the “Varangian Rus”. Some historians think that they were invited to Novgorod to sort out quarrels between the Slav peoples who lived there. Others say that the Vikings invaded. Whichever is correct, the Vikings settled in the area between Novgorod and Kiev, and it became known as the “land of the Rus”.

The first ruler to bring the area under his single authority was Prince Vladimir I (ruled 980–1015). He became a Christian in 988, and made Orthodox Christianity the official religion of his new state.

Ivan the Terrible ordered the building of St. Basil’s Cathedral in Moscow. Work started on it in the 1550s. It was built to celebrate Ivan’s victories over the Tatars (Mongol peoples) in the southeast. St. Basil’s stands inside the Kremlin (opposite), a fortified citadel in the centre of Moscow.



MONGOL RULE

In 1223 Mongols attacked Russia, nearly reaching the city of Kiev. In further attacks in 1237 the Mongols sacked the city and devastated much of the land. Russia became part of the Mongol Empire, included in a region known as the “Golden Horde”. The Mongols forced their subject peoples to pay heavy taxes and in 1330 they began to entrust the task of collecting these taxes to the Prince of Moscow, Ivan I. At around the same time, the leader of the Orthodox Christian Church in Russia made Moscow his main centre. Kiev declined as the power of Moscow increased.

The Mongols’ control over the Golden Horde grew weaker in the 1300s. In 1380 an army led by Prince Dmitri of Moscow defeated the Mongols at Kulikovo, near the River Don. A century later (in 1480), under the rule of Ivan III, Mongol power in Russia finally came to an end. Ivan declared himself “Czar of all Russia”, using the Slav version of the name of the Roman emperor, Caesar. From this time, all Russian leaders were known as czars (or tsars).



Ivan the Terrible was the grandson of Ivan III (known as “Ivan the Great”). He became renowned for his cruelty. During his reign of terror, he ordered the murder of anyone he considered a threat. He even killed his own son in a fit of rage, in 1581.

The Cossacks (right) were famed for their riding skills and bravery in battle. The word Cossack means “adventurer”.



IVAN THE TERRIBLE

Ivan IV (ruled 1533–84) was the first Russian ruler to be crowned czar, in 1547. The power of the new czar extended across all of Russia, and his brutality was soon being felt by many of his subjects, earning him the name “Ivan the Terrible”. In 1565 Ivan set up a special police force in order to break the power of the Russian nobility. Noble landowners were thrown off their estates, and many were murdered. Ivan gave these estates to his officials. Many people fled from the area around Moscow.

After the death of Ivan the Terrible, Russia entered a period known as the “Time of Troubles”, when civil wars and invasions rocked the whole of Russia.

THE ROMANOVS

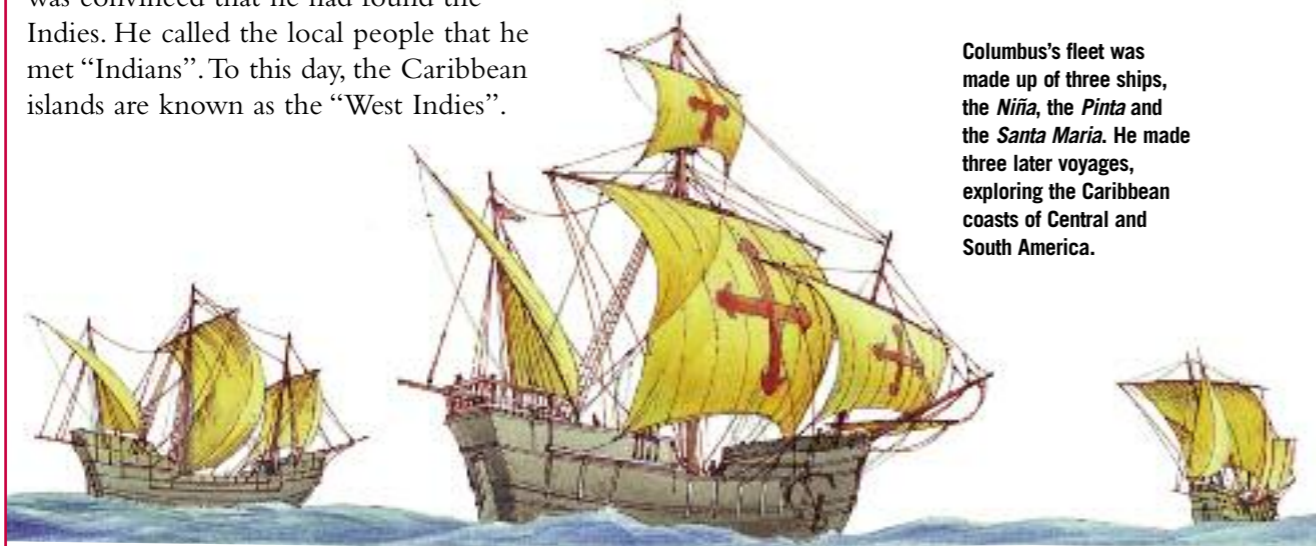
The Time of Troubles came to end in 1613 after the defeat of Polish invaders, and the election of Michael Romanov as the new czar. The Romanov czars were to rule Russia for the next 300 years. One of the most famous czars was Peter the Great (ruled 1682–1725). He founded the city of St. Petersburg in 1703. He also did much to reorganize the government of Russia, introducing many Western ideas.

During the rule of Catherine the Great (ruled 1762–1796) Russia’s empire expanded further. But most ordinary Russians were serfs (peasants) living in terrible poverty. An uprising in the 1770s was put down by the government with great severity. Afterwards, Catherine increased control over the serfs even further.



VOYAGES OF EXPLORATION

IN 1492 Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean. His aim was to find a sea route to the rich lands of the Far East—the lands of spices and silks. These lands were known to Europeans as the Indies. When Columbus set foot on one of the Caribbean islands he was convinced that he had found the Indies. He called the local people that he met “Indians”. To this day, the Caribbean islands are known as the “West Indies”.

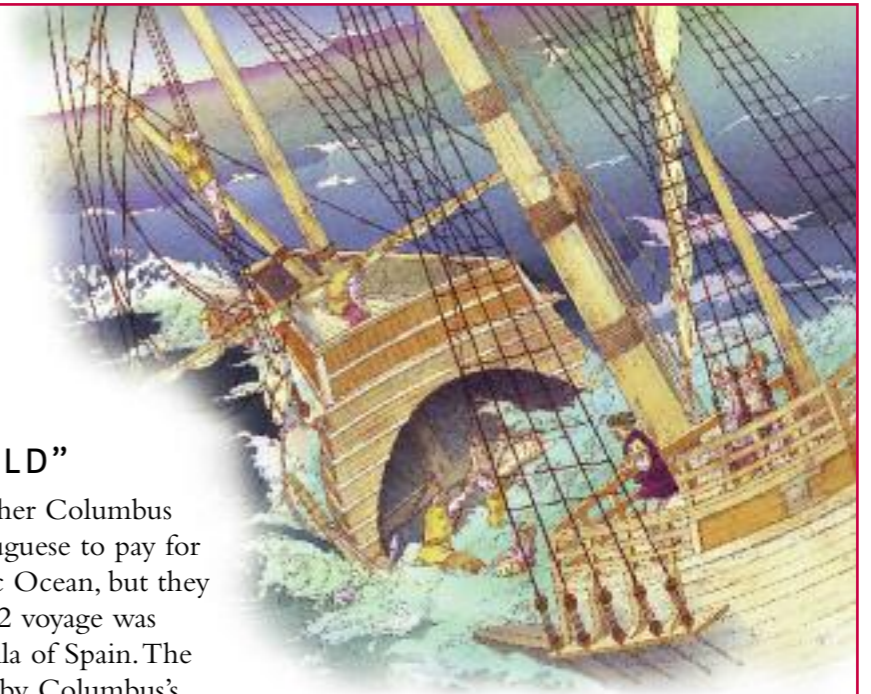


Columbus's fleet was made up of three ships, the *Niña*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria*. He made three later voyages, exploring the Caribbean coasts of Central and South America.

HENRY THE NAVIGATOR

Prince Henry of Portugal, known as “Henry the Navigator”, played a large part in directing Portuguese exploration in the 1400s. The Portuguese designed a new type of ship, called the caravel, which could withstand the ocean waves, yet was very easy to manoeuvre. Instruments such as the astrolabe also helped sailors to find their way with more accuracy.

In 1519 five ships set sail from Spain. They were commanded by Ferdinand Magellan. He planned to sail down the coast of South America and round its southernmost tip. His aim was to sail west to find a route to the Spice Islands in the Far East, for the eastwards route around Africa was forbidden to Spanish ships. In fact, Magellan's fleet became the first to sail right around the world, although Magellan himself was killed in the Philippines.



THE “NEW WORLD”

The Italian sailor Christopher Columbus tried to persuade the Portuguese to pay for a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, but they refused. Eventually his 1492 voyage was sponsored by Queen Isabella of Spain. The Spanish were very excited by Columbus's discovery, and they paid for three more voyages under his command. However, European interest in the “New World” was to have a terrible outcome for the native peoples of the Americas (see pages 20-21).

Other sailors also set out to explore this “New World”. Another Italian, John Cabot, sailing in the service of the English king

Henry VII, reached the coast of North America in 1497. Amerigo Vespucci sailed to South America in 1499 and again in 1501. A German map-maker wrote a version of his first name, Amerigo, on an early map of the new continent, giving us the name “America”.

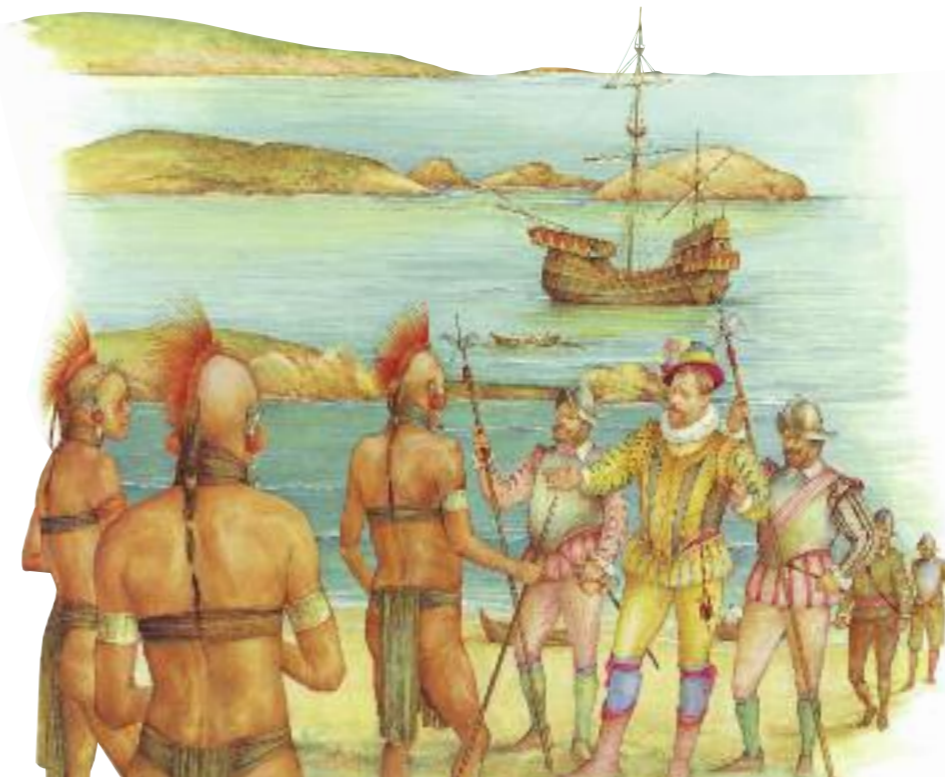
TRADE ROUTES

Luxury goods such as jewels, silks and spices had long been imported into Europe from the East along the Silk Road. But such overland routes had fallen under control of the Turks. In the 1400s both the Portuguese and the Spanish became interested in finding an alternative sea route to the riches of the East.

PORTUGUESE VOYAGES

Between 1424 and 1434 Prince Henry the Navigator sent many expeditions to explore the west coast of Africa. He wanted to find the source of the gold that was brought by Muslim traders north across the Sahara. In 1487 a Portuguese sailor called Bartholomeu Dias became the first European to sail around the southernmost tip of Africa, the Cape of Good Hope. He turned back soon after rounding the Cape, and arrived back in Portugal in 1488. Ten years later, Vasco da Gama went even further. He sailed around the Cape of Good Hope, up the east coast of Africa and reached India in 1498. He made a second voyage in 1502.

The Chinese explorer Zheng He made seven expeditions between 1405 and 1433. He explored as far as the east coast of Africa in a junk, a Chinese ship.



Spanish invaders, known as “conquistadors” (conquerors) arrive in the Americas. Two famous conquistadors were Hernan Cortes (1485-1547) and Francisco Pizarro (1475-1541). Cortes conquered the Aztec Empire, while the Inca Empire fell to Pizarro. The Spanish claimed the “New World” for themselves and quickly established colonies there, often using brutal force. The local peoples were forced to work on their plantations. The Spanish also brought with them European diseases, such as smallpox, that were previously unknown to the local peoples. Native Americans had no immunity to these diseases, and epidemics swept through their populations, killing many thousands.

RENAISSANCE

THE WORD Renaissance means “rebirth” and it describes a time when the arts and learning of ancient Greece and Rome were rediscovered by people in Europe. The Renaissance started in the 14th century in Italy, and spread across Europe during the 15th century. Many historians use the Renaissance to mark the end of the Middle Ages in Europe. It was a time when people started to think about themselves, and the world around them, in a new way.

BEGINNINGS

Italy in the 1300s was not the unified country that it is today. It was made up of many city-states which were controlled by powerful families, such as the Gonzaga family in Mantua. These wealthy families employed architects to design grand buildings that echoed the classical designs of ancient Greece and Rome, and artists to decorate them. They also encouraged scholars to study the works of ancient Greek and Roman writers.

During the 1400s the Medici family rose to power in Florence and made the city an important centre for the Renaissance. Venice became another leading centre.

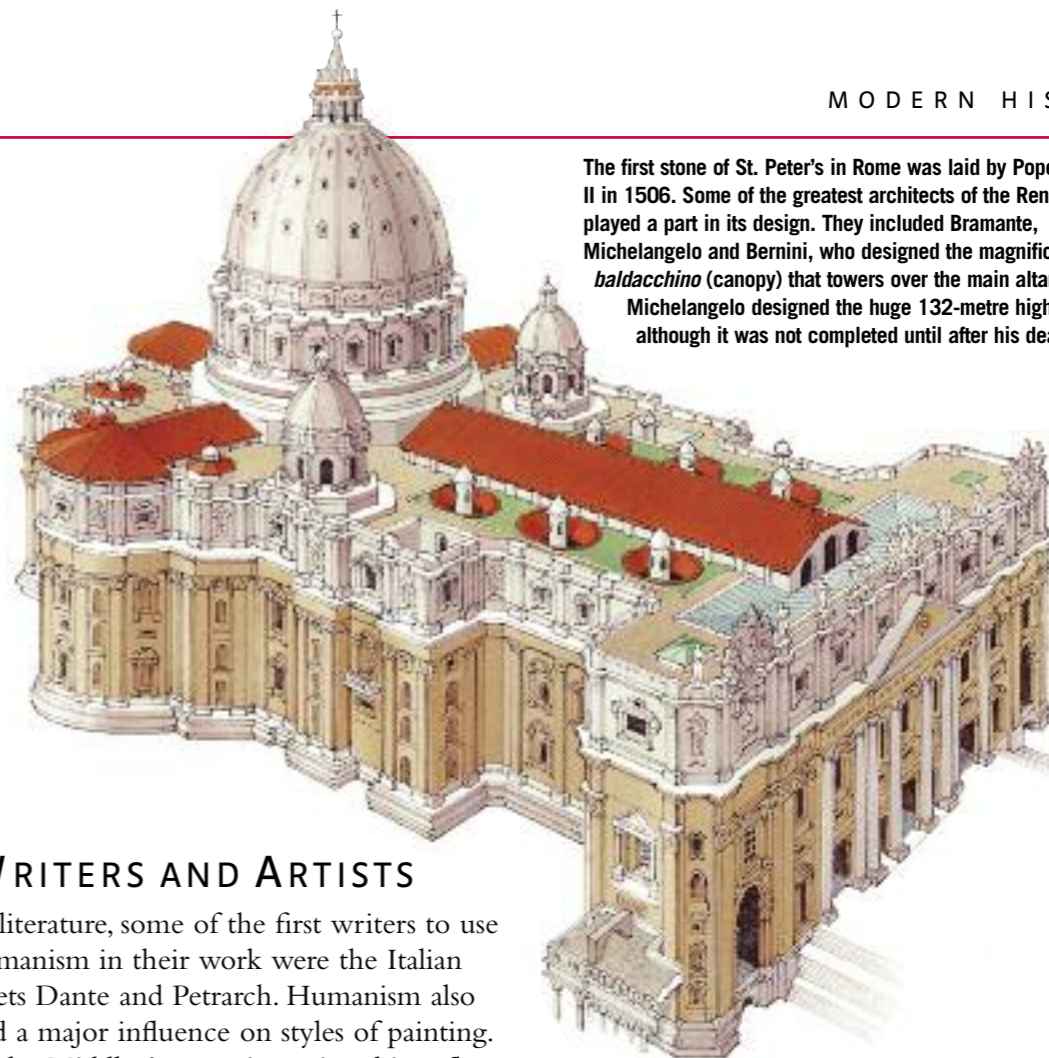
The Renaissance started in the cities of northern Italy. Wealthy families paid for buildings designed in the classical style.



Saint Catherine of Alexandria by Raphael (1483-1520)

HUMANISM

Renaissance scholars were interested in the study of human nature. This was known as humanism. They read texts about the great civilizations of Greece and Rome that had long lain forgotten. The study of humanism was boosted when many scholars fled west from Constantinople in 1453, bringing with them many precious books.



The first stone of St. Peter's in Rome was laid by Pope Julius II in 1506. Some of the greatest architects of the Renaissance played a part in its design. They included Bramante, Michelangelo and Bernini, who designed the magnificent baldacchino (canopy) that towers over the main altar. Michelangelo designed the huge 132-metre high dome, although it was not completed until after his death.

WRITERS AND ARTISTS

In literature, some of the first writers to use humanism in their work were the Italian poets Dante and Petrarch. Humanism also had a major influence on styles of painting. In the Middle Ages, artists painted in a flat, decorative style. They were not concerned with making their figures look natural. The Florentine painter Giotto became the first artist to try to portray figures in a lifelike way. Later in the Renaissance, artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael worked for rich patrons in Rome and elsewhere. Michelangelo's best-known work is the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican in Rome. Leonardo da Vinci was fascinated by the natural world, and particularly by the human body.

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), the great Italian astronomer.



NEW HORIZONS

As well as being a period of new ideas in the arts, the Renaissance was also a time for new inventions and discoveries. The 1400s was a time of exploration, when continents previously unknown to Europeans were discovered. In astronomy, Nicolaus

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was a painter, scientist and engineer: a "Renaissance Man". This design for a rotor was made in about 1500.



Copernicus, a Polish astronomer, put forward the idea that the Earth orbited the Sun (and not the other way round as previously thought). Inventions such as the sailor's compass, gunpowder and printing also revolutionized life for many people.

REFORMATION

ON 31st October 1517 a German monk called Martin Luther nailed a document on to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. The document, known as the Ninety-five Theses, contained a series of attacks on the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church. Luther's act of protest marked the beginning of a religious movement called the Reformation.

CHURCH CORRUPTION

By the time of the Renaissance (see pages 8-9), the Roman Catholic Church was extremely powerful throughout Europe. Its centre was in Rome, where the pope and his court lived in lavish style. Many people thought that the Church had become corrupt, for example in its practices of offering important positions within the Church, or of selling "indulgences" (pardons

Martin Luther posts his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. He believed that people were saved by faith alone.



A soldier in the Thirty Years' War (1618-48), a conflict between Protestant and Catholic states in Europe.

from sins), for money. These abuses were attacked by humanist scholars such as the Dutch priest, Desiderius Erasmus. But it was Luther's protest that started the process that eventually led to a split in the Roman Catholic Church.

Although Luther had no intention of breaking with the Catholic Church when he first demanded his reforms, he was excommunicated (thrown out) of the Church by the pope in 1521. Nevertheless, he received support for his reforms from some rulers in Germany. It was during this time that the word Protestant began to be used to describe those "protesting" against the Catholic Church. The Protestant movement spread across Germany, and into Sweden and Denmark. In Switzerland it was taken up by a priest called Ulrich Zwingli who worked in Zürich.



The Escorial in Spain was built by Philip II, a supporter of the Counter-Reformation.

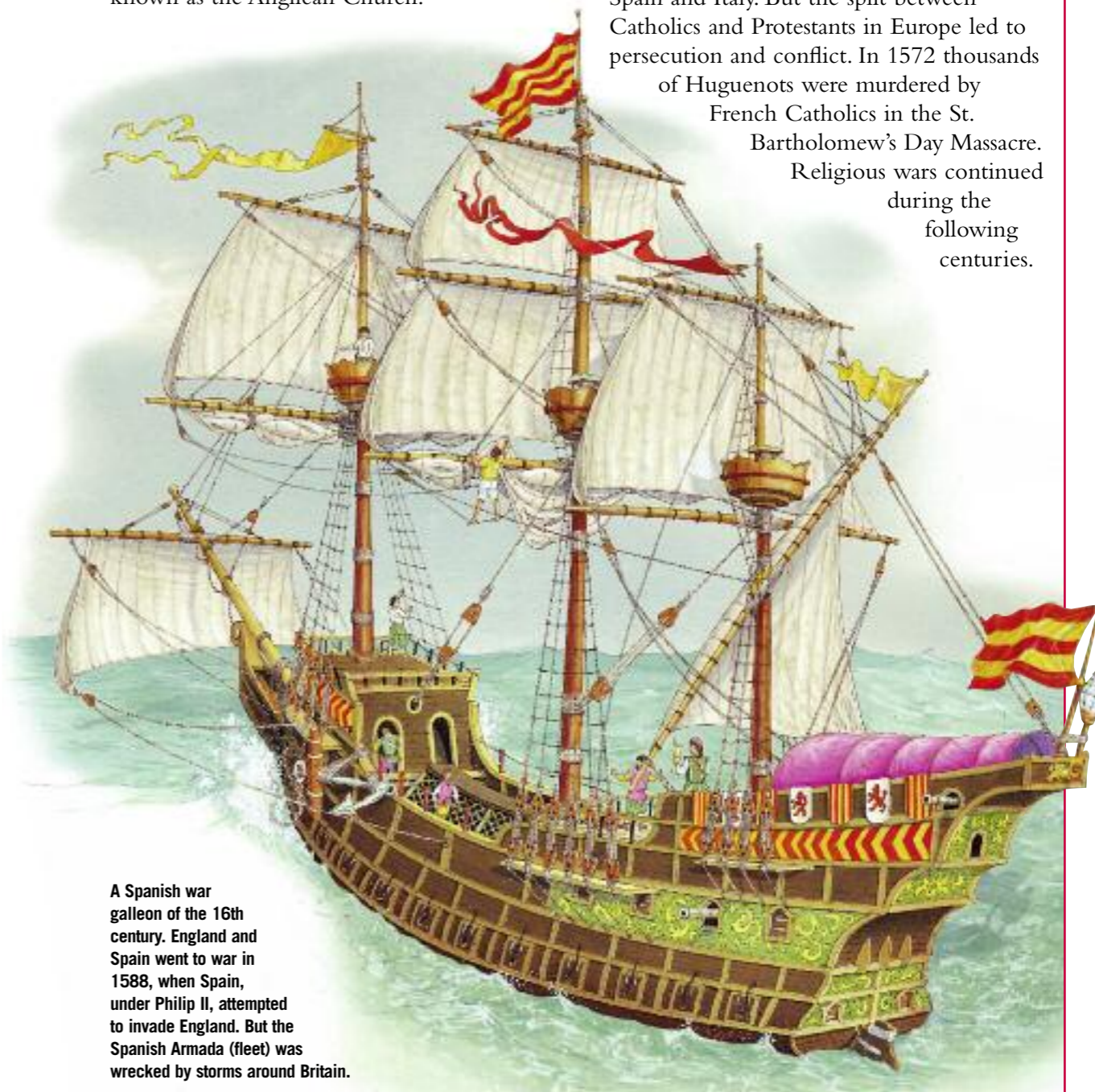
Another reformer, called John Calvin, lived in Geneva in Switzerland. He worked to establish Protestantism in France, where his followers became known as Huguenots. Calvin's teachings were taken further afield to Scotland by John Knox.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

England broke with the Catholic Church for its own reasons. King Henry VIII wished to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. When the pope refused to grant the divorce, Henry broke with the Church in 1534, having already become the head of the Church in England in 1531. Later, during the reign of Edward VI, the Protestant Church in England became known as the Anglican Church.

COUNTER-REFORMATION

As Protestantism spread across Europe, the Catholic Church began to fight back with a movement known as the Counter-Reformation. There was reform within the Church, and many of the old abuses were wiped out. Catholic priests went out among the people and campaigned against Protestantism. The Catholic Church still remained very powerful, particularly in Spain and Italy. But the split between Catholics and Protestants in Europe led to persecution and conflict. In 1572 thousands of Huguenots were murdered by French Catholics in the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre. Religious wars continued during the following centuries.



A Spanish war galleon of the 16th century. England and Spain went to war in 1588, when Spain, under Philip II, attempted to invade England. But the Spanish Armada (fleet) was wrecked by storms around Britain.

ISLAMIC EMPIRES

IN 1453 the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople. This was the final stage in the Ottoman conquest of the Byzantine Empire, and Constantinople, renamed Istanbul, became the centre of a wealthy and glittering Islamic empire.

The Ottoman Turks originally settled in Anatolia (present-day Turkey) in the 1200s. They gradually conquered the surrounding territories, building up a vast empire. By the 1600s, the Ottoman Empire was the largest in the world, covering much of eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

The name "Ottoman" comes from Osman, the first sultan (ruler) of the empire. One of the most famous of the Ottoman sultans was Sulaiman I, known as Sulaiman the Law-Giver, or the Magnificent (ruled 1520-66). Sulaiman expanded his empire and made it into a power to be feared and respected. Craftwork, literature, education and architecture flourished during his reign.



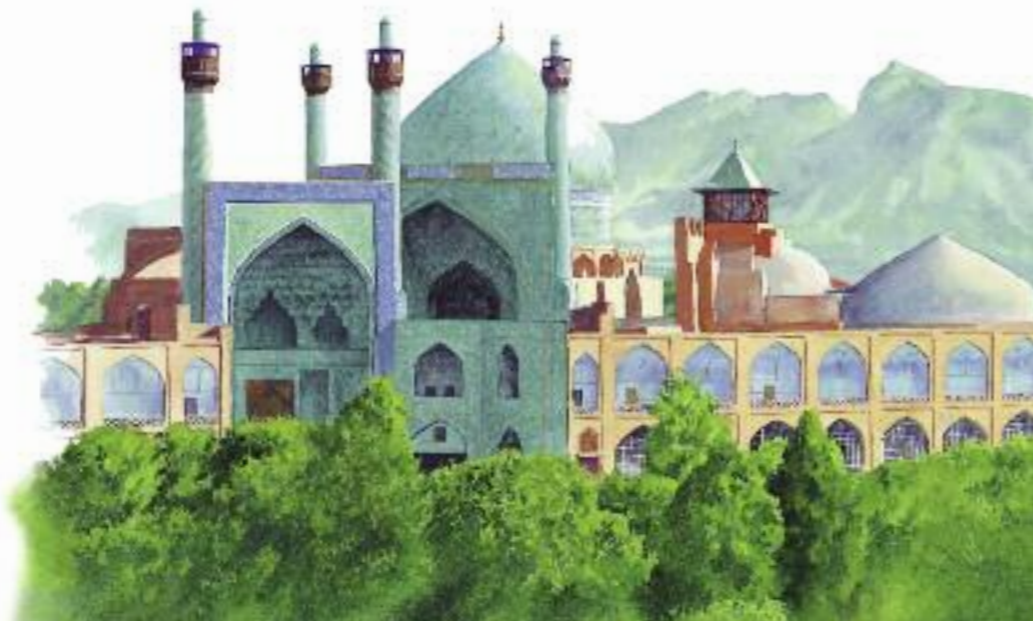
The Ottoman sultans lived in magnificent luxury in the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, the capital of their vast empire.

THE SAFAVIDS

The Safavids were another Turkish people. Under their leader Ismail I, they gained power in Persia in the 1500s. Ismail became the first shah (ruler) of the Safavid dynasty.

The most famous of the Safavid rulers was Shah Abbas (ruled 1587-1629). Under his leadership, the Safavid army defeated the Ottomans and recaptured land lost in earlier wars. Shah Abbas made his capital at Isfahan, and encouraged study of the arts and architecture. After his death, the Safavid empire began to decline, and it was overrun by armies from Afghanistan in 1722.

The Royal Mosque in the city of Isfahan, in Persia (present-day Iran). Building work on the magnificent Royal Mosque and the Lotfollah Mosque was started during the reign of Shah Abbas, although the Royal Mosque was not completed until after his death. During the 17th century, at the height of the Safavid Empire, the city of Isfahan, was renowned all over the world for its beauty. Situated high on a barren plain, it had tree-lined avenues, 162 mosques and 273 public baths.



MUGHAL INDIA

The Mughal Empire was founded in 1526, with the victory of Babur, a ruler from Afghanistan, at the Battle of Panipat. Babur could trace his ancestry back to Tamerlane and Genghis Khan. He became the first of the six Great Mughals who ruled over an empire that stretched across almost the whole of India. The Mughal rulers were Muslims, while the majority of their subjects were Hindus.

Babur's grandson, Akbar, is considered to be the greatest of the Mughal emperors. He came to power in 1556 when he was only 13 years old. He set up a system of government, and tolerated all religions.

Dancers performing at the court of the great Mughal emperors. The Mughals built magnificent palaces, surrounded by beautiful gardens where they could take refuge from the summer heat. Water played an important part in Mughal gardens, cascading down formal terraces, or gushing into pools.



The Taj Mahal (above) lies on the banks of the Yamuna River near Agra, India. It was built by Shah Jahan (left) as a tomb for his wife, Mumtaz. Work on the tomb started in 1632 and continued for 22 years. It was designed by Isa Khan, a Persian architect.

Akbar's son, Jahangir, succeeded after his death in 1605. During this time the Mughal Empire was at the height of its powers. Shah Jahan (ruled 1628-58) and Aurangzeb (ruled 1658-1707) succeeded as emperors, but after Aurangzeb's death the empire declined, and parts of it came under British rule.



COLONIES AND COMMERCE

THE VOYAGES of exploration of the 16th century (see pages 6-7) opened up new possibilities to countries in Europe. Spain and Portugal began to establish colonies and trading posts in the lands discovered by their sailors. Spain took control of large areas of land in the Caribbean, as well as Central and South America. Portugal set up trading posts along the coasts of Africa and India. They were soon joined by Holland, France and Britain, who also began to lay claim to trading ports and other possessions overseas.



Black African captives were often chained together and forced to walk to the slave ports on the West African coast.

The Spanish colonists planted sugar cane plants in plantations, where they forced the local Indians to work. But so many of the local people died, from ill-treatment and from disease epidemics (see page 7), that there was soon a shortage of labourers. In the early 1500s the first captives were brought from Africa to the Americas to work as slaves on the plantations. The trickle soon turned to a flood, as thousands of people were transported across the Atlantic Ocean. Many died on the journey from the terrible conditions on board ship.



Founded by the Dutch, the settlement of New Amsterdam was taken over by the British in 1664 and renamed New York.

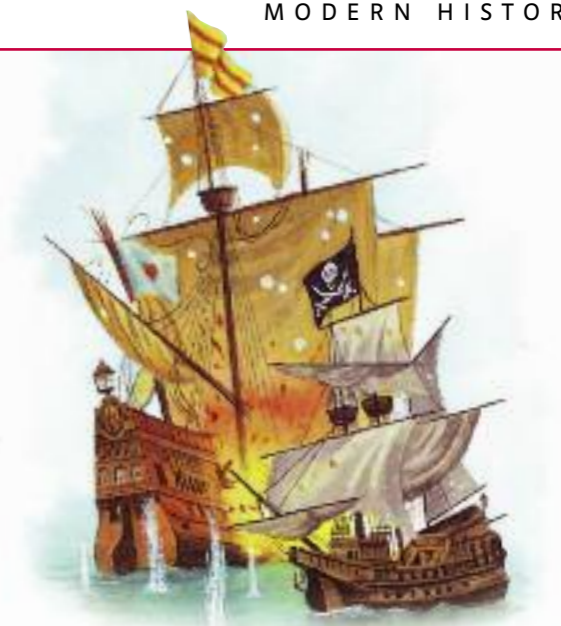
THE SLAVE TRADE

Spanish colonists in the Caribbean quickly discovered that sugar cane grew well in the hot, humid climate of the islands. Sugar was a increasingly popular in Europe, particularly as it could be used to sweeten the new drinks that were also arriving from overseas colonies—coffee, tea and cocoa.

WEALTH AND PROFIT

Overseas colonies brought huge wealth to countries in Europe. Spain plundered its colonies on the American mainland, importing vast amounts of gold and silver. Portugal, too, had rich sources of gold in its colony in Brazil. Goods such as sugar (from the Caribbean), tea (from China), coffee and chocolate (from South America) also became increasingly popular across Europe.

The slave trade was another source of vast wealth. The slave trade between Africa and America is known as the “triangular trade” because it was made up of three stages. Ships sailed to Africa from Europe loaded with goods to exchange for slaves—guns and alcohol, for example. Captives were then transported across the Atlantic. In the Caribbean, the captives were sold and the money used to buy sugar, rum and tobacco which was then taken back to Europe. Britain became one of the leaders of the slave trade, but other European countries such as France, Holland and Portugal also took part in this terrible trade. In Britain, the ports of London, Liverpool and Bristol flourished as the profits poured in.



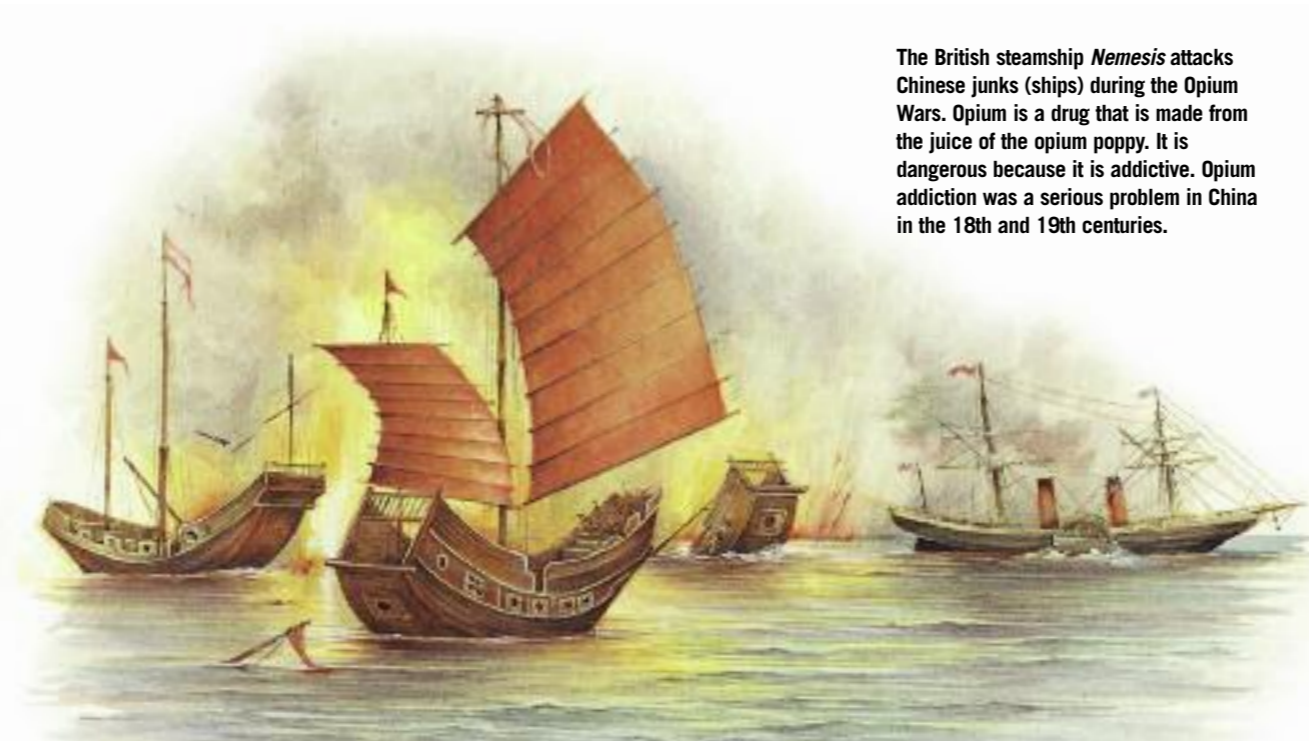
Pirates attack a treasure-carrying Spanish galleon in the Caribbean Sea in the 1600s.

TRADE WITH CHINA

Although the Chinese were happy to export goods such as silks and spices to the West, they rigorously controlled imports into their country. Foreigners were allowed to trade through one port only, Guangzhou.



The British steamship *Nemesis* attacks Chinese junks (ships) during the Opium Wars. Opium is a drug that is made from the juice of the opium poppy. It is dangerous because it is addictive. Opium addiction was a serious problem in China in the 18th and 19th centuries.



World trade received a boost with the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. The canal created a shortcut between the Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea.

In the 19th century British merchants in China tried to get round these restrictions by illegally importing the drug, opium. They were backed by the British government, resulting in the Opium Wars between Britain and China (1839-42, 1856-60). China was forced to back down and accept European trade in its territories.

THE AGE OF REVOLUTION

IN THE second half of the 18th century two major revolutions took place. The first was in North America (1775-83), and it led to the birth of the United States of America. The second happened in France, starting with the storming of the Bastille Prison in Paris in 1789.

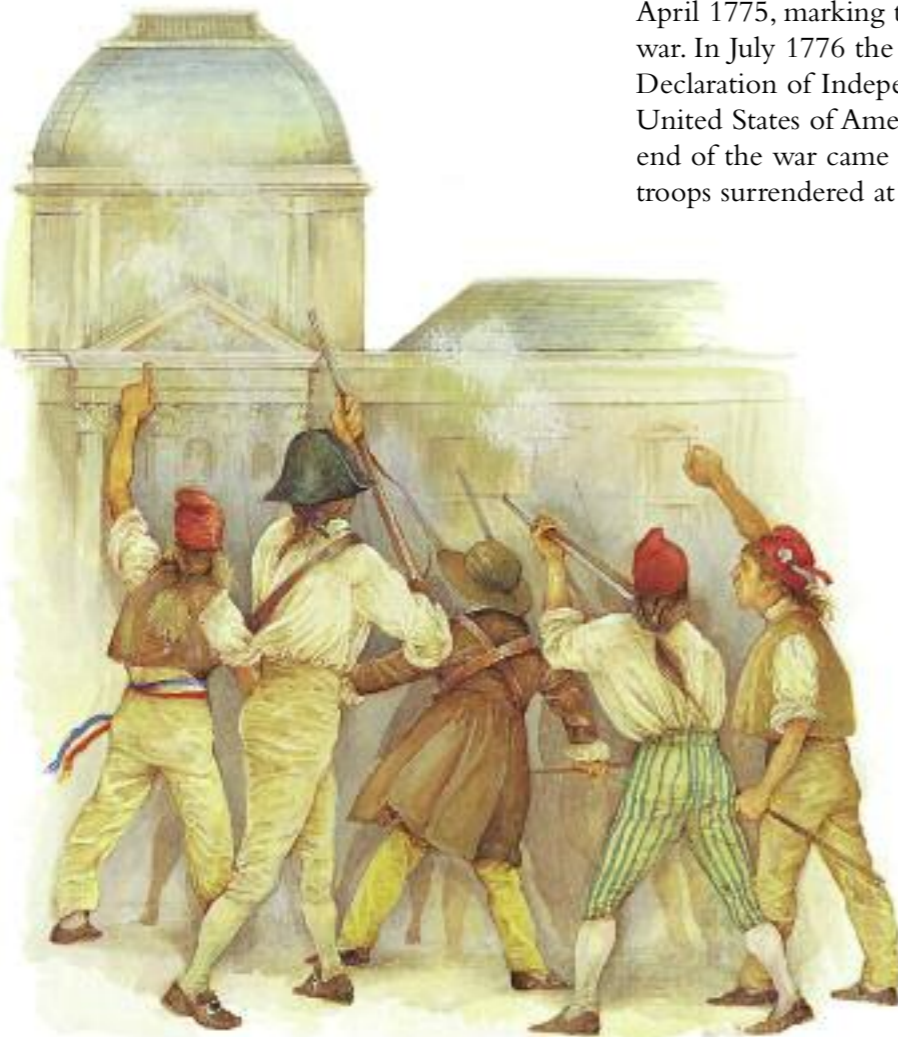
REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

From the early 16th century onwards, North America had been settled by groups of colonists from various European countries. During the Seven Years' War (1756-63), British and French colonists fought over territory in North America.



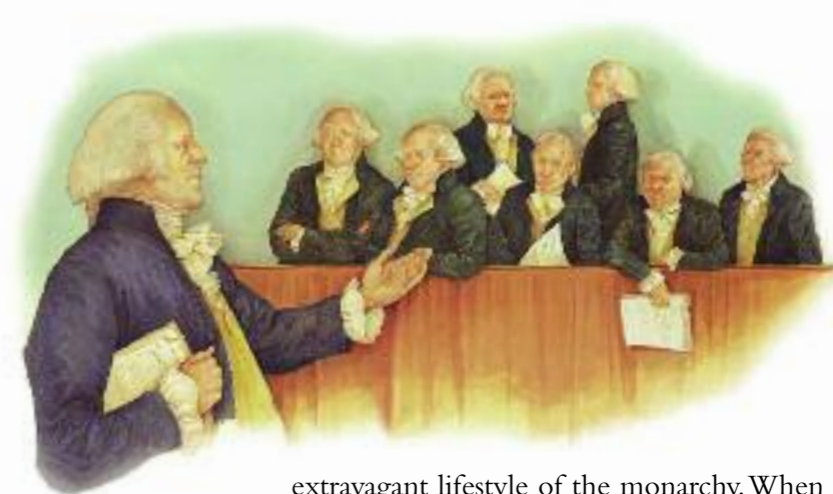
The guillotine was the main method of execution during the French Revolution. Thousands of people suspected of being hostile to the government were beheaded during the "Reign of Terror" 1793-94.

Britain emerged victorious, with control of a vast area of land. By this time there were 13 British colonies in North America (apart from Canada). The colonists were under British rule, but had no say in how they were governed. During the years after the war, the British government imposed many different taxes on the colonists. These taxes provoked protests against what the colonists called "taxation without representation". The first shots between British troops and American colonists were fired in Lexington, Massachusetts on 19th April 1775, marking the opening of the war. In July 1776 the colonists issued the Declaration of Independence and the United States of America was born. The end of the war came in 1783, when British troops surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia.



On 14th July 1789 a Parisian mob stormed the royal prison in the capital, the Bastille. Although there were few prisoners in the prison, the storming of the prison seriously weakened the authority and power of the French king, Louis XIV. At the same time, riots broke out across the country. The French Revolution had begun. The king, Louis XIV and his wife, Marie-Antoinette, tried to escape, but they were arrested. The National Assembly abolished the monarchy in 1792. The king was tried and executed on the guillotine in January 1793. Marie-Antoinette followed him to the guillotine in October of the same year.

A meeting of leaders of the American colonists in the Second Continental Congress in July 1775. The Congress issued the Declaration of Independence, drawn up by Thomas Jefferson, which asserted the independence of the American colonies from Britain. The Declaration was not recognized by Britain until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 after the end of the war in which British forces were defeated by American troops commanded by George Washington.



THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

In France, discontent about taxation was also growing amongst the ordinary people in the late 18th century. At that time, neither clergy nor noble families in France paid any taxes. The burden of taxation fell on working people and peasants. In 1788 a bad harvest meant that many people were close to starvation. The country was almost bankrupt as a result of costly wars and the

extravagant lifestyle of the monarchy. When the king refused to listen to the demands of the people, they formed the National Assembly. At the same time, unrest was growing in the streets and on 14th July 1789 a mob attacked the royal prison in Paris, the Bastille. This event marked the beginning of the French Revolution.

On 26th August the National Assembly made a Declaration of the Rights of Man, giving the same basic rights to all citizens, including liberty and equality. Soon, France was also at war with many other European nations. A general called Napoleon Bonaparte had risen quickly through the ranks of the French army. In 1799 he seized power in France and began his campaign to conquer the rest of Europe.

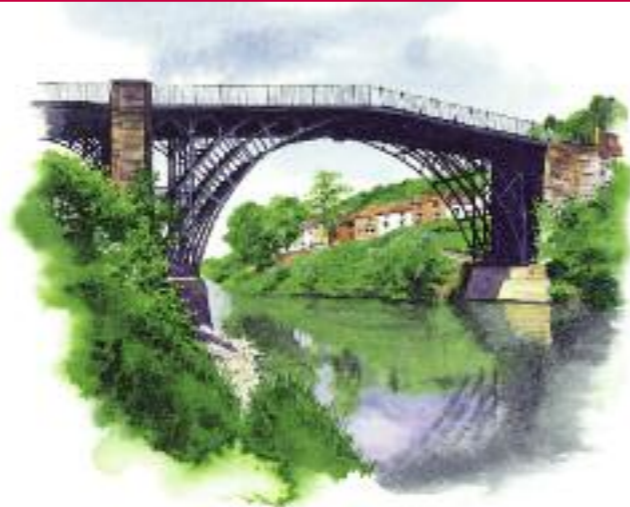


One of the many battles of the Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815). Napoleon built an empire which covered much of Europe by 1812. He was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815.

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

THE INDUSTRIAL Revolution is the name given to a series of changes that took place in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The Industrial Revolution began in Britain, but during the 19th century it quickly spread to other European countries and to North America.

Up until the mid-1700s, most manufacturing was carried out on a small scale in people's homes or in small workshops. Machines were driven by hand, or sometimes by water- or animal-power. In the 18th century, new and bigger machines were invented making it possible to produce goods more quickly and efficiently. These new machines needed more power than could be provided by animals or water. The development of the steam engine answered this need. This new machinery was too big for homes or workshops, so manufacturing moved into mills and factories.



The Iron Bridge in Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, England, was the first bridge in the world to be made out of iron. It crosses the River Severn and was completed in 1779. Coalbrookdale was one of the main centres of iron production in the Industrial Revolution.

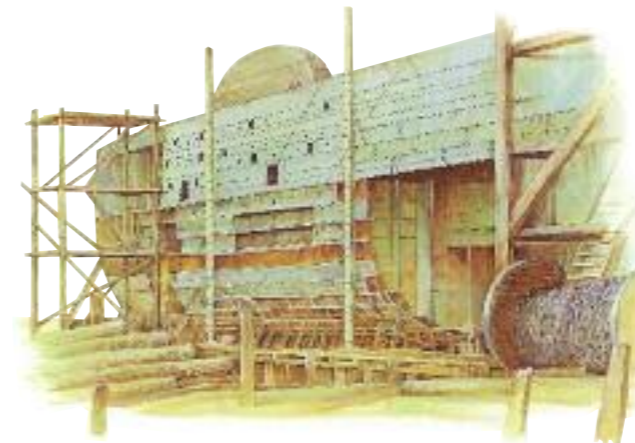
An industrial scene in the 19th century. Goods were transported by canal and, after the late 1820s, by railway. The new mills and factories needed supplies of coal to drive their steam engines, as well as supplies of raw materials to manufacture their goods, for example, textiles.



Children worked in the mines, cutting coal and transporting it to the surface.

COAL AND IRON

One of the reasons the Industrial Revolution developed rapidly in Britain was that there were plentiful supplies of coal and iron. Coal heated the furnaces where iron was separated from its ore (smelting). It also provided fuel for steam engines. Iron was used to make engines and machines, as well as bridges and railways. As industry grew, it became vital to be able to transport goods around the country. This resulted in a period of canal-building, followed by the development of the railways.



THE SPREAD OF INDUSTRY

The process of industrialization spread rapidly across Europe in the 19th century, particularly in Belgium, France and Germany. It reached the United States in the middle of the 19th century, and countries such as Japan later in the century.



Shipbuilding (left) boomed during the Industrial Revolution. Steamships with iron hulls and screw propellers were used to transport raw materials and other goods around the world. The first ship of this kind, the *Great Britain*, was launched in 1843.

A new railway in Japan (above). Japan became an industrialized country in the late 19th century.

A paper mill in Britain in 1854 (below). Equipped with coal-powered steam engines, mills manufactured goods such as paper and cloth.

A NEW LIFE

The Industrial Revolution caused great changes in the way people lived and worked. Millions of people moved from rural areas to work in the new factories, mills and mines. However, in some places, working conditions were appalling and dangerous. Women and children worked long hours for little pay. Housing in the new industrial centres was often overcrowded and insanitary. Under pressure from the workers and reformers, the government eventually passed laws which aimed to improve workers' conditions.



NATIVE AMERICANS

WHEN the first Europeans arrived in North America in the 16th century, they found the land occupied by tribes of Native Americans. These local people had lived there for generations, developing their own cultures and ways of life. The arrival of Europeans changed the Native Americans' lives for ever. Imported diseases (see page 7) spread like wildfire through the local peoples, killing millions. Many more were killed in land disputes with the European colonists.

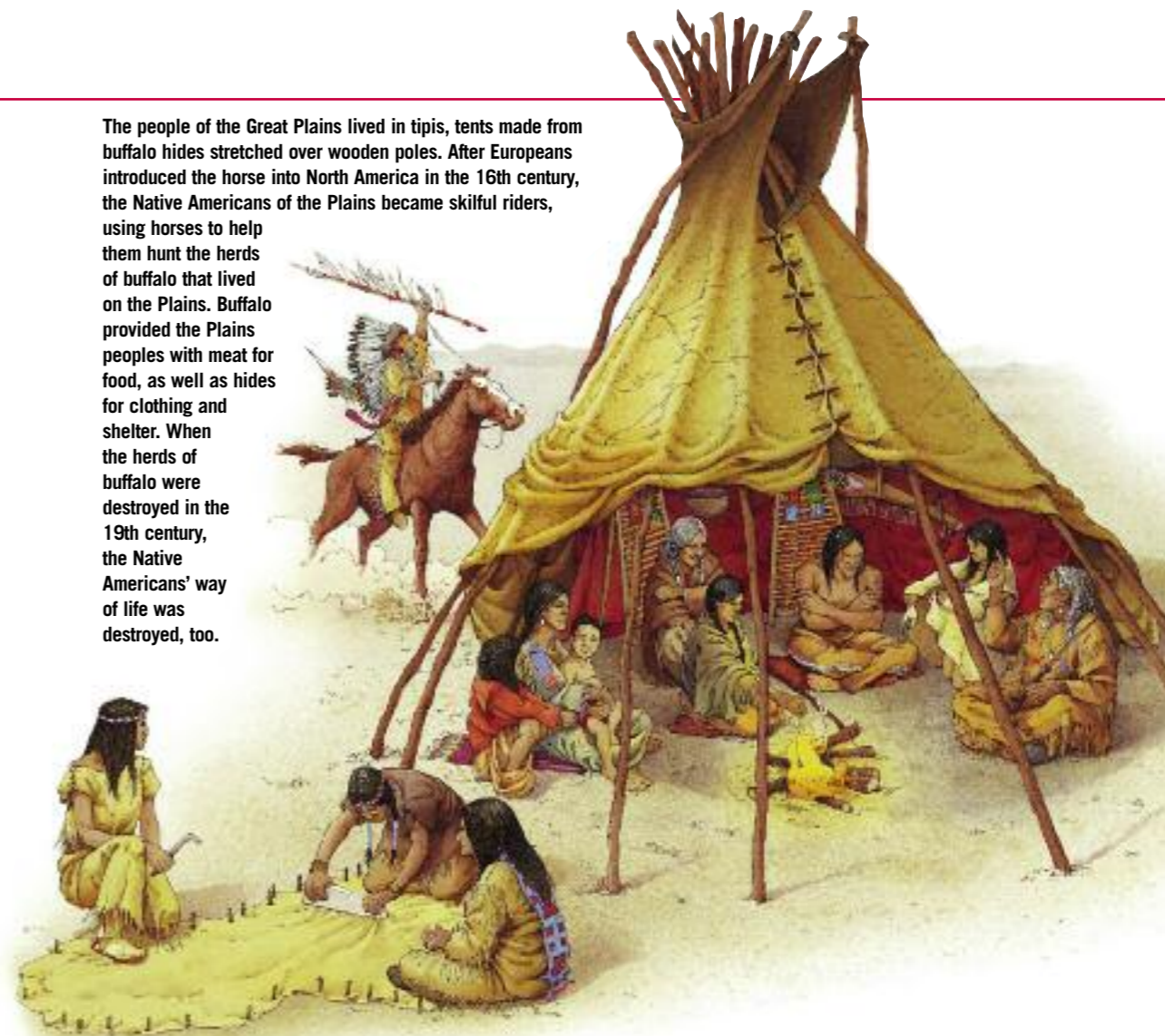
During the 19th century European settlers poured into the United States of America and the country expanded westwards (see pages 22-23). At first, the American government set aside some areas of land for the Native Americans, known as "reservations". Then, in 1830, the government passed the Indian Removal Act which gave it the right to force Native Americans to move from their homelands on to land in the West that the European settlers did not want.



Warriors of the Sioux tribe prepared for battle by dancing together to draw on the power of the "Great Spirit" (below). Many warriors painted an image of a powerful beast on to their shields, to strengthen themselves for battle.

Sioux chiefs (above), such as Sitting Bull, wore impressive eagle-feather headdresses as a sign of their great bravery. Sitting Bull was the leader of the Sioux at the time of their victory at the Battle of Little Bighorn. He was killed by American troops in 1890.

The people of the Great Plains lived in tipis, tents made from buffalo hides stretched over wooden poles. After Europeans introduced the horse into North America in the 16th century, the Native Americans of the Plains became skilful riders, using horses to help them hunt the herds of buffalo that lived on the Plains. Buffalo provided the Plains peoples with meat for food, as well as hides for clothing and shelter. When the herds of buffalo were destroyed in the 19th century, the Native Americans' way of life was destroyed, too.



FIGHTING FOR THE LAND

Most Native Americans did not want to move from their traditional homelands, and fought bitterly against the American government. In the southeast, for example, the Cherokee were forced off their lands by government troops and forced to walk thousands of kilometres to reservations in the West. Thousands died, and this journey became known as "The Trail of Tears". The Native Americans of the Plains also fought the settlers who moved into their territories. But their old ways of life were destroyed when hunters almost completely wiped out the herds of buffalo that lived on the Great Plains. Sometimes, however, there were Native American victories over the army: for example, at the Battle of Little Bighorn (1876), when Sioux warriors defeated General Custer's troops.

THE GROWTH OF AMERICA

WHEN European colonists arrived in North America in the 16th century, they founded settlements along the east coast. But after the end of the Seven Years' War (see page 16), settlers began to move west of the Appalachian Mountains. These early pioneers were often fur traders, or farmers looking for new, free land.

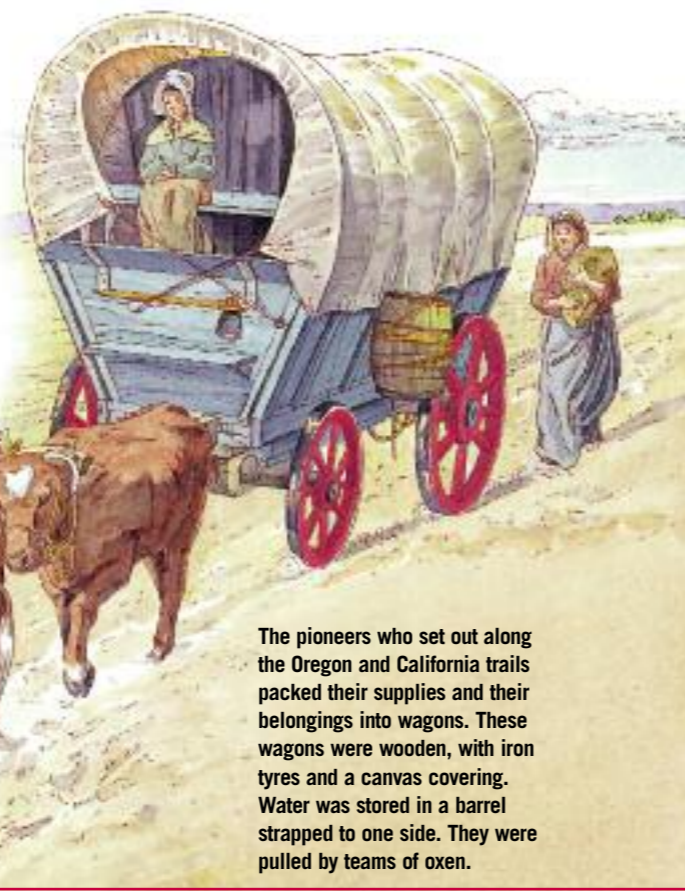


The movement westwards continued over the following decades. Then, in 1803, President Jefferson bought the vast territory of Louisiana from the French government. Louisiana stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. Jefferson sent out an expedition, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to discover more about his purchase. In 1805 the expedition reached the west coast of America.

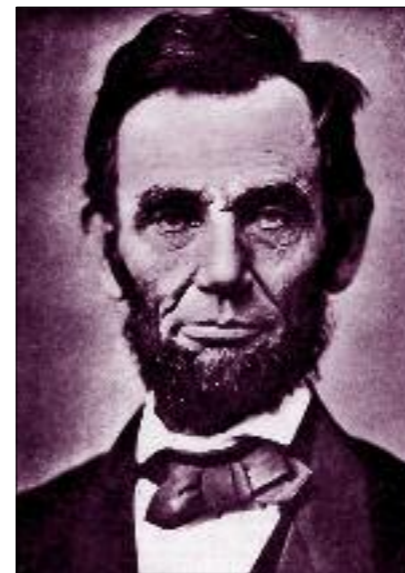
THE OREGON TRAIL

In the 1840s the USA gained control of Oregon on the northwest coast. It also acquired New Mexico following victory in a war with Mexico. The possibility of starting a new life in the West encouraged many people to set out on the dangerous journey westwards. Many took the Oregon Trail, which started at the Missouri River and ended in the lush Willamette Valley. The journey was very hazardous, and many died.

When travelling along the Oregon or California trails, pioneers set out in groups of wagons, known as wagon trains. This was for safety in case of Native American attack. At night, when the wagons stopped, they were drawn up to form a ring, called a corral, for protection. Tents were pitched inside. The women prepared food for an evening meal, while the men made repairs to the wagons, and tended to the animals.



The pioneers who set out along the Oregon and California trails packed their supplies and their belongings into wagons. These wagons were wooden, with iron tyres and a canvas covering. Water was stored in a barrel strapped to one side. They were pulled by teams of oxen.



Abraham Lincoln was president of the USA from 1861-5, during the American Civil War. He helped to bring an end to slavery.

THE GOLD RUSH

In January 1848 a man called James Marshall was inspecting his employer's sawmill when he noticed something glittering in the water of the millstream. He picked it up. It was gold! The news of the discovery of gold in California soon leaked out. People came from all parts of America, and many parts of the world, to seek their fortunes in the goldfields of the West. Some travelled overland across the continent, others came by sea to San Francisco. Very few made any money.



THE HOMESTEAD ACT

By 1850 American settlers had reached the Mississippi River. In the west, farmers were beginning to move into Oregon and California. But much of the central part of the country, the Great Plains, remained unsettled. In 1862 the government passed the Homestead Act, which encouraged people to move there and farm the land. At the same time, the railway was being built across the continent. All of this spelt disaster for the Native Americans (see pages 20-21).

Jewish refugees arrive in New York City (right). Between 1840 and 1930, millions of people emigrated to the United States from all over Europe. They included Irish and Germans and, after 1890, Italians, and Jews fleeing persecution in Russia.

Bandits hold up a train in the American West (below). Outlaw gangs roamed the West in the second half of the 19th century and trains were frequent targets. The first railway to link the east coast cities of America with the Pacific coast was completed in 1869.



WORLD EXPLORATION

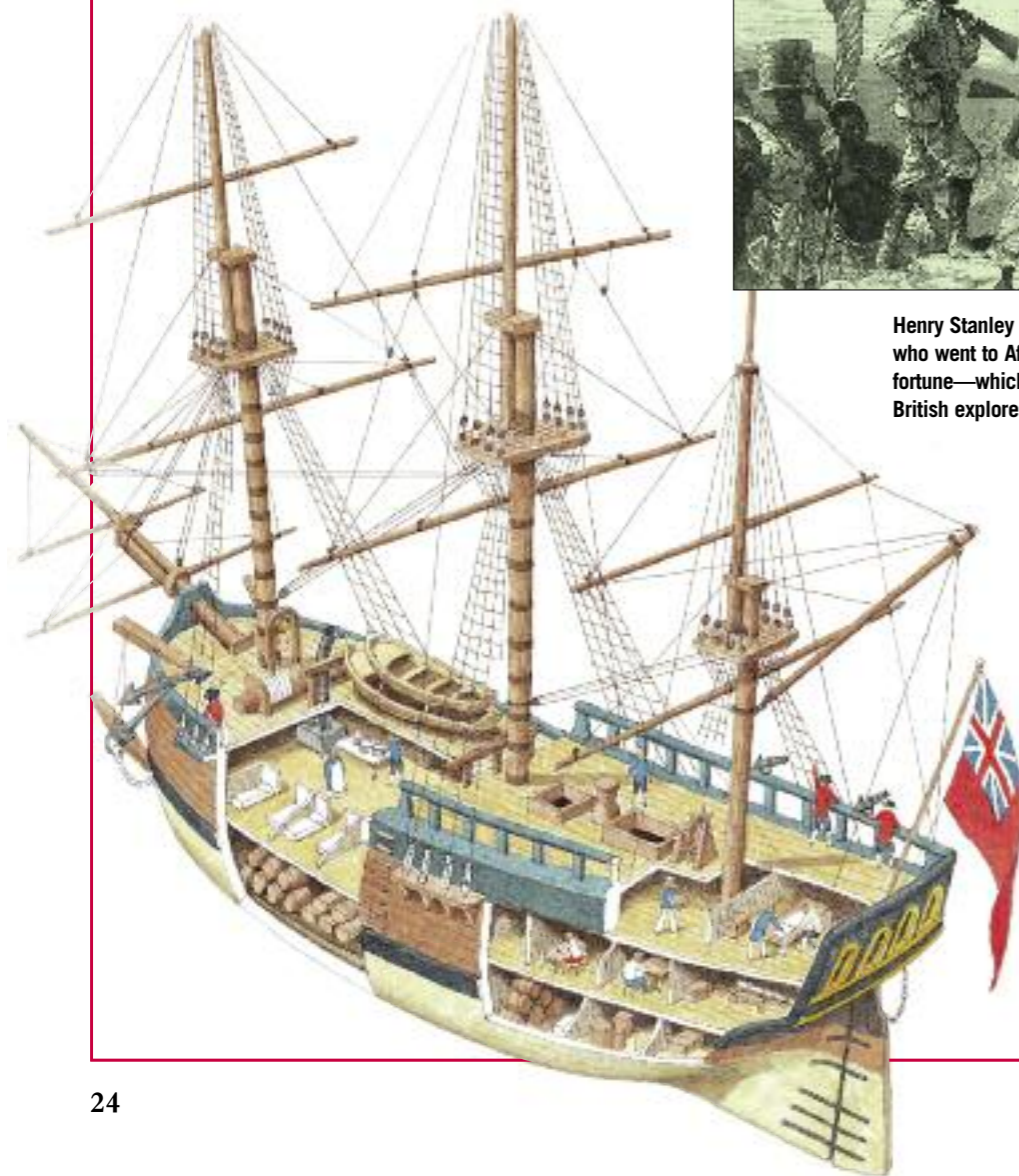
IN 1768 a ship called the *Endeavour* sailed from England. It was commanded by Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook (1728-79). The *Endeavour* was on a scientific voyage, bound for Tahiti in the Pacific Ocean. But Cook had other instructions as well. At this time, European knowledge of the South Pacific was based on vague reports, mostly from Dutch sailors. Cook was to explore further. In fact, this was to be the first of three great voyages made by Cook, in which he charted much of the coastline of Australia and New Zealand, as well as many Pacific islands. He also sailed further south than anyone had before him.



The Frenchman, René Caillié (1799-1838), was the first European to go to Timbuktu in Africa and return safely. Travelling disguised as an Arab, he reached Timbuktu in 1828 after a journey of about 2400 km, mostly on foot. A trading town on the southern edge of the Sahara, Timbuktu was part of the Islamic world and closed to Europeans. On his return home, Caillié was awarded a prize of 10,000 francs by the Geographical Society of Paris.



Henry Stanley was an American journalist who went to Africa to seek fame and fortune—which he did when he “found” the British explorer David Livingstone in 1871.



Cook’s ship, the *Endeavour*, had three masts and three decks. It was about 30 m long. The lower decks were packed full of stores for the long voyage. Cook wanted to stop his crew getting a disease called scurvy. This was caused by a lack of vitamin C (found in fresh fruit and vegetables), although people did not know that at the time. Cook gave his sailors pickled cabbage and a type of orange marmalade.

INTO AFRICA

During the 18th and 19th centuries European and American explorers ventured into parts of Africa never before visited by white people. They wanted to learn about the geography and people of Africa—as well as what raw materials could be obtained. They also wanted to find new markets for European goods.



Robert Peary (1856-1920) spent time with the Inuit people of Greenland, learning about methods of survival in the harsh Arctic conditions. He used husky dogs to pull sledges on his expeditions, and wore traditional Inuit clothing.



Roald Amundsen (1872-1928, right) reached the South Pole on 14th December 1911 (above). Like Peary, Amundsen used dogs to pull his sledges. Amundsen’s rival was Robert Scott, a British explorer who arrived at the South Pole some days after Amundsen. Scott and his team died on the return journey.



TO THE POLES

By the end of the 19th century there were few places on Earth that had not been explored and mapped by people. The exceptions were the North and South poles. After many years of planning and failed attempts, the American Robert Peary reached the North Pole in 1909. The race to the South Pole was won by Norwegian Roald Amundsen in 1911.



On 29th May 1953 a New Zealander called Edmund Hillary and a Nepalese Sherpa called Tenzing Norgay became the first people to stand on the top of the highest mountain in the world—Everest. Mount Everest stands 8863 m above sea level. Hillary and Tenzing carried oxygen to help them breathe in the thin air at the top of the mountain. Worried that their oxygen may run out, they stayed on the top for only 15 minutes—just long enough to take some photographs to prove that they had made it.

EXPLORING SPACE

Exploration in the 20th century has gone beyond Earth and into space. The first person to travel through space was Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, in 1961. In the following year, the Americans sent their first astronaut, John Glenn, into orbit. The space race between the countries resulted in the Americans landing the first person on the Moon in 1969. Since then, unmanned probes have landed on Mars, and have explored the Solar System, sending information and pictures back to Earth.

US astronaut Neil Armstrong (born 1930) became the first man to set foot on the Moon in July 1969. He travelled with two other astronauts, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin and Michael Collins, in Apollo 11.



DAWN OF THE MODERN AGE

ALTHOUGH Britain had been the first to experience the Industrial Revolution (see pages 18-19), other nations were quick to catch up. In the second half of the 19th and early part of the 20th century, Germany, Russia and the United States began to challenge British dominance in areas such as steel and textile production, and shipbuilding.

As production increased in Europe and America, the industrialized countries looked abroad for sources of cheap raw materials, and for new markets in which to sell their manufactured goods. The wealthy nations exploited their old colonies, but also looked for opportunities to acquire new colonies. Following the exploration of the interior of Africa (see pages 24-25), European nations began to lay claim to large parts of the African continent. This became known as the “Scramble for Africa”.



For poor children in the cities, life at the beginning of the 20th century was hard, with cramped conditions and little to eat.

“SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA”

In 1880 a tiny part of Africa was ruled by European nations. Only 20 years later, Europe had laid claim to the entire African continent with the exception of Ethiopia and Liberia. In 1884 a conference was held in Berlin to decide how Africa was to be divided up—but no African representatives were present to decide their own future.

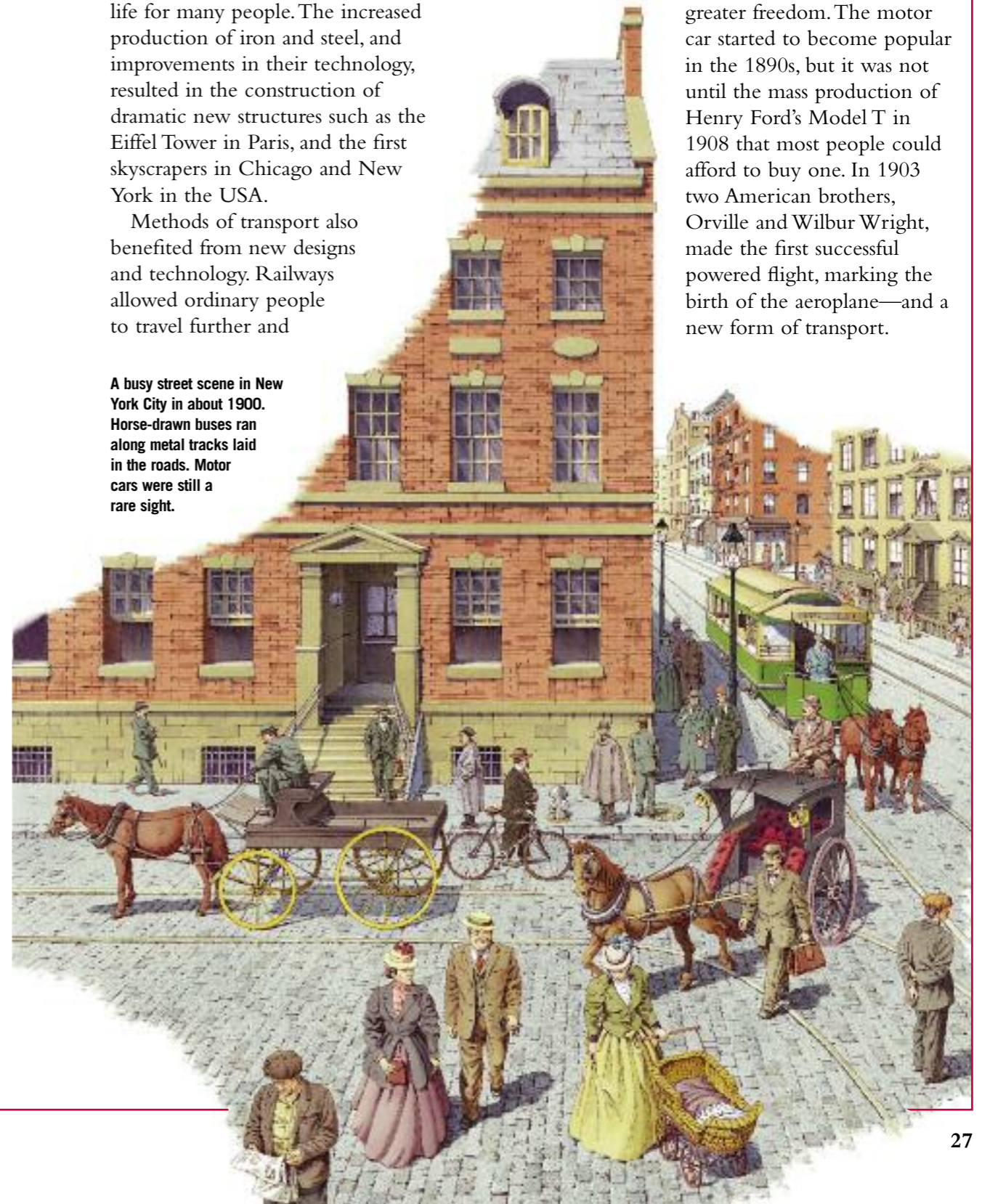
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Industrialization during the 19th century went hand-in-hand with the invention of new technology. New inventions such as the telephone, the camera, the typewriter and electric lighting transformed everyday life for many people. The increased production of iron and steel, and improvements in their technology, resulted in the construction of dramatic new structures such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and the first skyscrapers in Chicago and New York in the USA.

Methods of transport also benefited from new designs and technology. Railways allowed ordinary people to travel further and

more cheaply than ever before. One of the greatest feats of railway building was the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway, which linked the Russian capital, Moscow, with Vladivostok on the Pacific Ocean. The bicycle was another invention that gave ordinary people greater freedom. The motor car started to become popular in the 1890s, but it was not until the mass production of Henry Ford’s Model T in 1908 that most people could afford to buy one. In 1903 two American brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright, made the first successful powered flight, marking the birth of the aeroplane—and a new form of transport.

A busy street scene in New York City in about 1900. Horse-drawn buses ran along metal tracks laid in the roads. Motor cars were still a rare sight.



People in the early 20th century found it difficult to get used to the noise and speed of new methods of transport such as the car and aeroplane. The engines used to power the earliest cars were developed separately by two German engineers, Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz in 1885. The first pneumatic (air-filled) tyres were produced by a French firm, Michelin, 10 years later. The car industry grew rapidly in the USA thanks to a ready supply of oil to provide petrol, and the introduction of mass-production techniques in car manufacturing.

WORLD AT WAR

THE BEGINNING of the 20th century was a time of increasing rivalry between the European nations. Some nations joined together to form alliances, promising to help each other if they were attacked. Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed the Triple Alliance (later known as the Central Powers). Britain, France and Russia formed the Triple Entente (later known as the Allies). However, the event that sparked off war took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia, when Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated by a Serbian protester in 1914. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, prompting Russia to send troops to defend Serbia. Soon, Germany, France and Britain had also been drawn into World War I.

The war was fought mainly on two fronts, in the West across Belgium and France, and in the East along the Russian

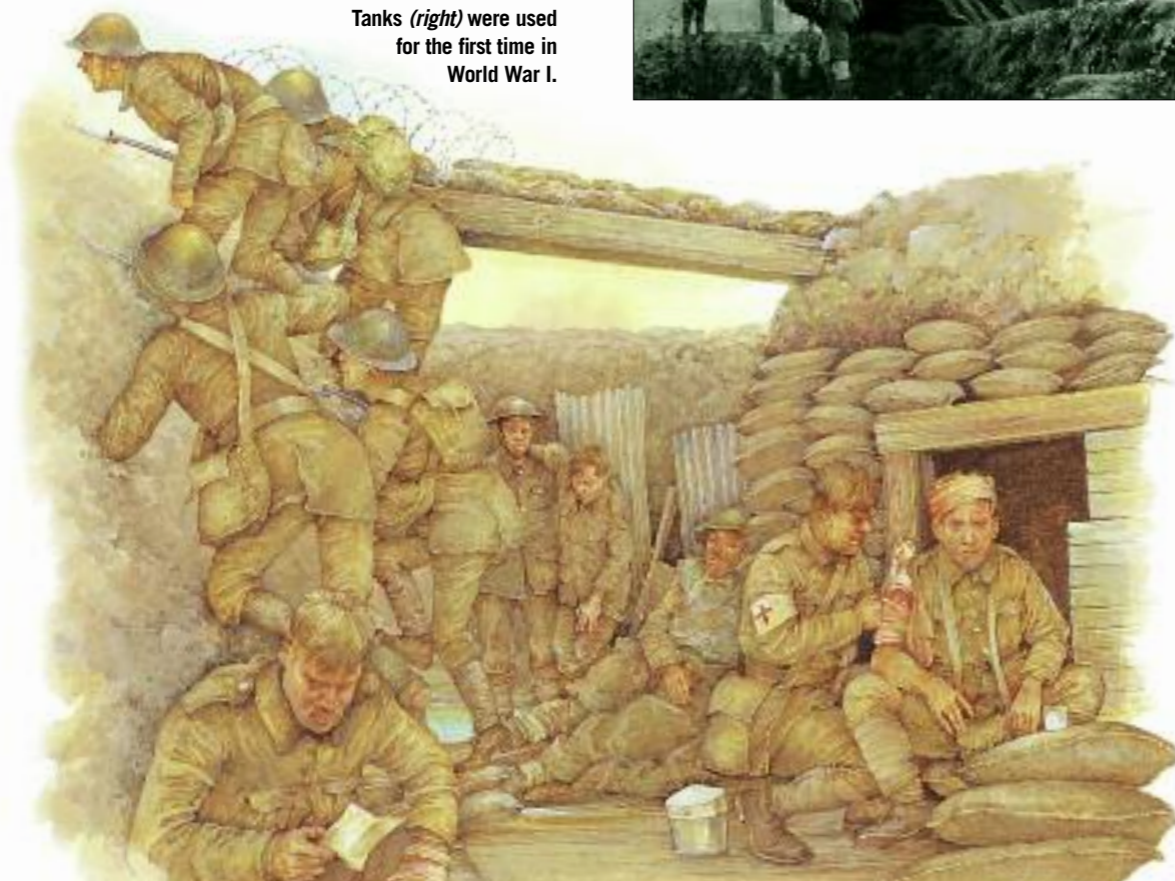


The Fokker plane of the so-called "Red Baron" was painted bright red. Baron Manfred von Richthofen was a German flying hero of World War I.

border. In the West, the fighting soon turned into stalemate. A system of trenches was dug (bottom), stretching from the English Channel to Switzerland and battles were fought along this line. Millions of soldiers died on both sides. In 1917 the United States joined the war, helping the Allies to defeat the Central Powers in 1918.



Tanks (right) were used for the first time in World War I.



Russian revolutionaries go into action. They were called Bolsheviks, from the Russian word for "majority".

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Russia suffered some humiliating defeats at the beginning of World War I, for example, at the Battle of Tannenberg in 1914, when German forces killed or captured thousands of Russian soldiers. Russia was ruled by Czar Nicholas II, a member of the Romanov dynasty (see page 5), but severe shortages of food and the massive war casualties led to popular unrest. In 1917 an uprising in St. Petersburg forced the czar to give up his throne. In a deliberate attempt to weaken Russia even further, Germany allowed a revolutionary called Lenin to return from exile in Switzerland. Lenin led another uprising in Russia, seizing control of the government. He then started peace talks with the Central Powers, and Russia withdrew from the war.

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) rose to power as leader of the German Nazi party in the 1930s. Other Fascist leaders included Mussolini in Italy and Franco in Spain.



WORLD WAR II

People called World War I the "war to end wars", but the peace treaty that was drawn up in 1918 punished Germany severely for its part in the war. This led to extreme nationalism in Germany and the rise to power of the National Socialist (Nazi) leader, Adolf Hitler, in the 1930s. In 1939 Germany invaded Poland, drawing nations across the world into war once again.



A British Spitfire plane. Spitfires fought German fighters and bombers in the Battle of Britain (1940) in World War II.



World War II was fought on battlefields all over the world. These troops are fighting in the desert of North Africa.

The war was fought between the Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) and the Allies (Britain and the Commonwealth countries, France, the Soviet Union and the United States). Battles were fought all over the world—in the jungles of Southeast Asia, on Pacific islands, in the deserts of North Africa and on the oceans. The war also came to European cities, as bombing raids destroyed buildings and killed many people. The war ended with the defeat of the Axis powers, but only after the dropping of nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

AFTER THE WAR

WORLD WAR II came to an end in 1945 (see page 29). Millions had died and cities around the world were left in ruins. In particular, Hitler had been determined to wipe out Jewish communities in the territories he controlled, and millions had died in slave camps and concentration camps. The terrible death and destruction inspired people to ensure that such a war could never happen again. In 1945 50 nations signed the charter of the United Nations, promising to promote world peace.



The Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin (right), US President Roosevelt (centre) and the British leader, Winston Churchill (left), meet at the Yalta Conference in 1945 to discuss plans for after the end of war.

THE COLD WAR

At the end of the war, it was clear that two countries—the United States of America and the Soviet Union—had become the world’s leading powers, the “superpowers”. (The Soviet Union was formed in 1922 when Russia joined with other territories under Communist rule.) After the war, Soviet leaders tried to extend Communist rule in Europe and Asia. The struggle between the Communists and the Americans was known as the “Cold War”.



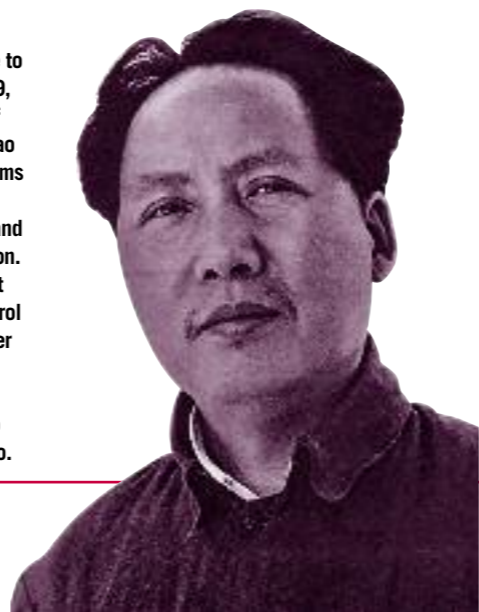
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) led the Indian campaign for independence. He became known as Mahatma, meaning “Great Soul”. He was a peace-loving man who led a campaign of non-co-operation against the British, but refused to use violence. One of his most famous protests was the Salt March of 1930, when he led hundreds of people to the sea to make salt from seawater. This was in protest at the Salt Acts imposed by the British, which forced people to buy heavily taxed salt direct from the government.

INDEPENDENCE

India had been a British territory since 1858. Despite Indian demands for reform and, after 1917, for independence, Britain was very reluctant to let India go. After the 1920s the campaign for independence was led by Mahatma Gandhi.

It was not until after World War II that the British government finally agreed to Indian independence. However, religious matters led to terrible bloodshed. Although the majority of people in India were Hindus, there were also many Muslims who did not want to live under Hindu rule. The Muslim leader Mohammed Ali Jinnah campaigned for a separate state for Muslims,

The Communists came to power in China in 1949, under the leadership of Mao Zedong (right). Mao oversaw dramatic reforms in China designed to improve the economy and increase food production. Industries were brought under government control and land was taken over by co-operatives. However, many people were killed or sent into exile for criticizing Mao.



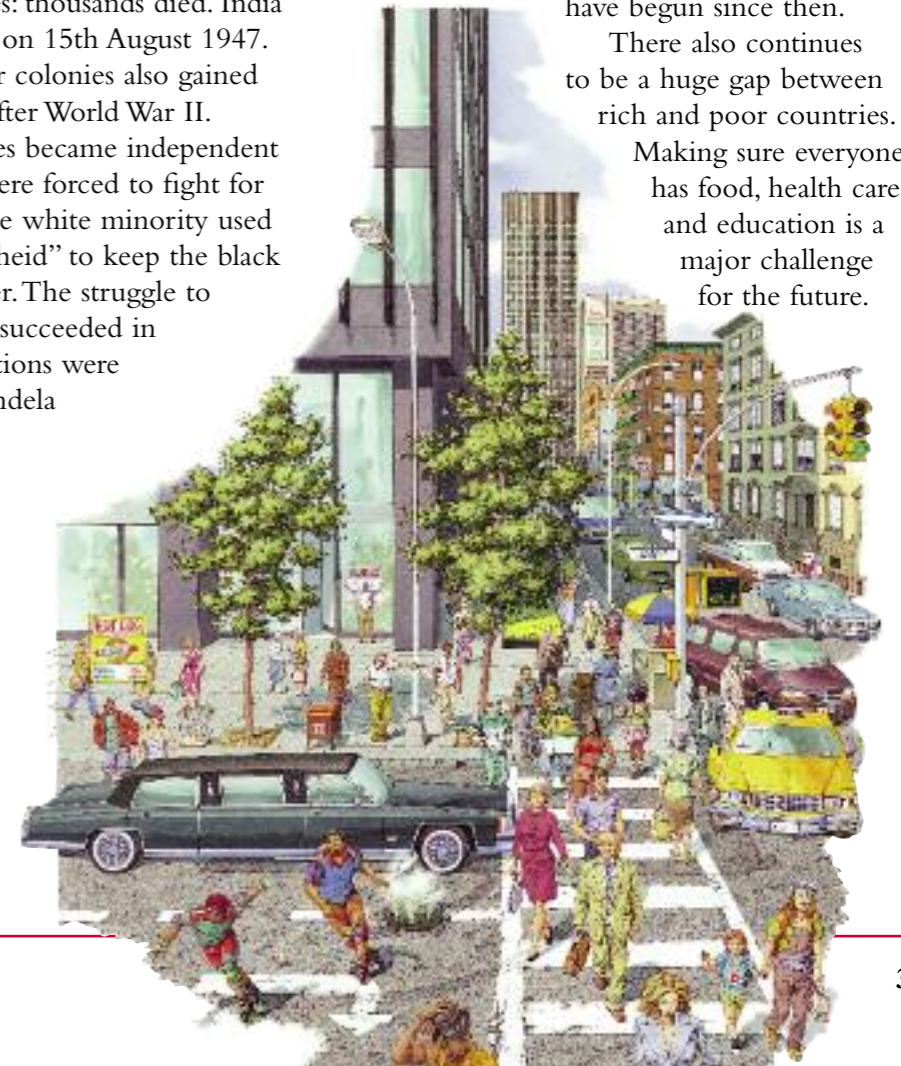
After the war, Germany was divided up between the USA, Britain, France and the Soviet Union. The capital, Berlin, lay in the Soviet zone, but was also divided between the four powers. In 1949 three zones were joined together to form West Germany, while the Soviet zone became East Germany with a Communist government. Berlin remained divided and, in 1961, the Communists built a wall across the city to prevent people moving from East to West. The hated wall came down in 1989 (right), when Communism in eastern Europe collapsed.



and the British were eventually forced to agree. In 1947 two areas in northwest and northeast India became the Muslim state of Pakistan (the northeast part is present-day Bangladesh). As people moved from one state to the other, violence broke out between the two sides: thousands died. India became independent on 15th August 1947.

Many other former colonies also gained their independence after World War II. Many African colonies became independent peacefully—others were forced to fight for it. In South Africa, the white minority used a policy called “apartheid” to keep the black majority out of power. The struggle to end apartheid finally succeeded in 1994, when free elections were held and Nelson Mandela became president.

This is the same view of New York as on page 27, about 100 years later. The car has transformed life for people in the 20th century, giving them more freedom than ever before, but it has also introduced new problems. Pollution from exhaust fumes is a major problem in most cities. Air pollution is also a cause of global warming, which could affect the climate patterns of the Earth.



THE MODERN WORLD

The Cold War finally came to an end in the early 1990s as Communism collapsed. Today, many countries are fighting a “war on terror” after the events of 11th September 2001. US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have begun since then.

There also continues to be a huge gap between rich and poor countries.

Making sure everyone has food, health care and education is a major challenge for the future.

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