**Modern World History Midterm Study Guide**

**Background**

1. Describe the difference between a primary and secondary source.

**Middle Ages**

1. What was the organizational and social hierarchy pattern of feudalism? Why was social mobility so difficult under this organization?
2. Describe the role the church played in Western Europe during the middle ages.
3. List the characteristics of the following
   1. King
   2. Knight
   3. Peasant

**Renaissance and Reformation**

1. Where was the birthplace of the Renaissance? What were the characteristics of this place that made it the most likely place to house Renaissance ideas?
2. Describe the characteristics of a Renaissance man.
3. What role did the idea of humanism play in the Renaissance?
4. What was the difference between medieval schools of thought and Renaissance schools of thought?
5. Identify the importance of the printing press. How did it change advance society?
6. Describe and list the Renaissance ideals
7. What reasons did Martin Luther have for splitting with the Catholic Church? What religion did he start? How did this differ from Catholicism?
8. Because of Luther’s Reformation, how did the landscape of Western Europe change?
9. Why did the Church of England split with the Catholic Church? Who was responsible for the split?

**Exploration**

1. Describe the Columbian Exchange. (Between who, what was exchanged). What were the biggest effects it had on these places?
2. Describe the role mercantilism played in how countries acted.
3. Why was it so important for Western Europeans to find a direct route to India? Who was the first sail around the tip of Africa? To reach India?
4. Who was the first to circumvent the globe?
5. Explain the role of joint-stock companies in conquering the “new world?”
6. Describe Columbus’ treatment of Native Americans.
7. Describe the Triangular Trade (Between who, what was exchanged). What was the biggest effects it had on these places?

**Absolutism**

1. Which Western European countries were most powerful in the beginning of the 17th century?
2. What made Philip II’s reign in Spain, and Louis XIV’s in France an “absolute” monarch? What were their successes? Failures?
3. Which English monarch defeated the Spanish Armada, and what was the effect of having done so?
4. Describe the major event of each of these English monarchs:
   1. James I
   2. Charles I
   3. Oliver Cromwell
   4. Charles II
   5. James II
   6. William and Mary
5. How did England’s constitutional monarchy differ from an absolute monarchy?
6. What influence did the Hapsburg family have over Europe? Why?
7. What were the differences between the Russian monarchies Peter the Great, Ivan the Terrible, and Catherine the great?
8. Who was responsible for reviving Russia? What did he do to help make them successful?

**Scientific Revolution/Enlightenment**

1. Describe how the scientific revolution differed from previous thoughts, especially those during the middle ages?
2. What is the difference between geocentric and heliocentric theories? Who was the heliocentric theory such a threat to? Why?
3. How did enlightenment and scientific revolution theories help influence the American and French revolutions?
4. What were the major effects the scientific revolution and enlightenment theories had on Europe and abroad?
5. What were the major thoughts of the following scientific revolution/enlightenment thinkers:
   1. Marry Wollstonecraft
   2. Jean Jacques Rousseau
   3. Cesar Bonesana Becaria
   4. Thomas Hobbes
   5. Baron de Montesquieu
   6. Voltaire
   7. John Locke

**French Revolution**

1. What factors led to the French Revolution against King Louis XVI?
2. What was the difference between the 3 estates of France? What was the peace meeting called after the Revolution?
3. Why was the *Declaration of the Rights of Man* so important to France? What were its major components?
4. Why and how was Robespierre executed? What did this end?
5. What led to Napoleon’s rise to power?
   1. What were the factors that led to his failure?