The Ultimate AP® European History Unit 1 Cheat Sheet

1.1–1.2 Context & Italian Renaissance

Why Italy, Why Now

Context: Black Death (1347–51) → labor shortages & concentrated wealth; Great Schism weakens papal prestige.

Italian city-states (Florence, Venice, Milan): urban, rich from trade & banking (Medici) → patrons of art & learning.

Fall of Constantinople (1453): Greek scholars flee to Italy w/ classical texts → revival of Greek learning.

Humanism

Humanism: study of classical Greek & Roman texts (**studia humanitatis**: grammar, rhetoric, history, poetry, ethics).

Petrarch: "father of humanism"; revived Cicero; called the Middle Ages a dark age after Rome's glory.

Civic humanism (Bruni): educated citizens serve the republic; active life of public service > monastic withdrawal.

Lorenzo Valla: textual criticism proved the Donation of Constantine a forgery → challenged papal claims.

Pico della Mirandola: *Oration on the Dignity of Man*; humans can shape their own nature → individualism.

Education: humanist schools teach liberal arts to make virtuous, eloquent citizens (Vittorino da Feltre).

Politics & Society

Figure	Work	Big idea
Machiavelli	The Prince	Ends justify means
Castiglione	The Courtier	Ideal well-rounded man
Pizan	City of Ladies	Defends women's worth

Women: elite women (Isabella d'Este) were patrons, but most had less freedom than in Middle Ages (Kelly).

⚠ Renaissance humanism ≠ anti-religious. Most humanists were devout; they added classical learning to faith.

✓ Machiavelli = secular, realist politics (power over morality). Strong evidence for "secularism" in an LEQ.

1.2 Italian Renaissance Art

New Techniques

Linear perspective (Brunelleschi, Alberti): vanishing point creates 3-D depth on a flat surface; math meets art.

Naturalism & realism: anatomy study, light & shadow (**chiaroscuro**), human emotion in faces.

Classical revival: columns, domes, nudes & mythology modeled on Greek & Roman works & ruins.

Artist	Known for	Note
Brunelleschi	Florence dome	Perspective
Masaccio	Holy Trinity	1st perspective
Donatello	David (bronze)	1st free nude
Leonardo	Last Supper	Universal man
Michelangelo	Sistine, David	Heroic body
Raphael	School of Athens	Harmony

Patronage & Purpose

Patrons: Medici, popes (Julius II), wealthy merchants commissioned art to show power, piety & prestige.

Religious + secular: biblical scenes stayed central, but portraits, myth & daily life subjects grew.

Status of artists: from anonymous craftsmen to celebrated geniuses w/ individual fame (Vasari's *Lives*).

Architecture: symmetry, domes & columns (St. Peter's Basilica, Bramante); villas for elites (Palladio).

High Renaissance & Mannerism

High Renaissance (c. 1490–1520): Rome becomes center under papal patronage; balance & harmony peak.

Mannerism (after 1520): elongated figures, tension & distortion; reflects crisis (Sack of Rome 1527, Reformation).

⚠ Art questions are about CONTEXT: patron, purpose & values shown, not just naming the painter.

✓ Image stimulus: point to perspective, classical form or realism, then link it to humanism or patronage.

1.3–1.4 Northern Renaissance & Printing

Christian Humanism

Christian humanism: classical methods applied to the Bible & early Church fathers → reform piety & morality.

Erasmus: *In Praise of Folly* mocks clergy abuses; Greek New Testament (1516); "laid the egg Luther hatched."

Thomas More: *Utopia* (1516) imagines an ideal society; critiques greed, enclosure & private property in England.

Rabelais & Montaigne (France): satire & skeptical essays; **Cervantes**: *Don Quixote* mocks chivalry.

Northern Art

Feature	Italian	Northern
Subjects	Classical, myth	Daily life, piety
Style	Idealized	Detailed realism
Medium	Fresco, marble	Oil on panel

Jan van Eyck: oil painting pioneer (*Arnolfini Portrait*). **Dürer**: woodcuts & engravings spread by print.

Bruegel the Elder: peasant life & landscapes. **Holbein**: portraits of Henry VIII & Tudor court elites.

The Printing Press

Gutenberg (c. 1450, Mainz): movable metal type → Bible c. 1455; ~20 million books printed by 1500.

Effects: cheaper books ↑ literacy, standardized texts, spread humanism & vernacular languages, faster news.

Reformation link: Luther's pamphlets spread fast (1517+); print let reformers bypass church control.

State & science: rulers print laws & propaganda; scientists share accurate diagrams & data → Sci. Revolution.

⚠ Northern humanism = RELIGIOUS reform focus; Italian = more classical & civic. Don't blur them in a DBQ.

✓ Printing press is the go-to causation evidence: humanism → Reformation → Scientific Revolution.

1.5 New Monarchies

Centralizing Power

New monarchs: centralized power by curbing nobles & church, building bureaucracies, standing armies & taxes.

Tools: middle-class officials loyal to crown, permanent professional armies (gunpowder), direct taxation.

Sovereignty: idea of a state w/ supreme authority inside fixed borders begins replacing feudal loyalty.

State	Ruler(s)	Key moves
France	Louis XI, Francis I	Taille tax, Concordat
Spain	Ferdinand & Isabella	Reconquista, Inquis.
England	Henry VII (Tudor)	Star Chamber
HRE	Habsburgs	Weak, decentralized

Country Details

France: Louis XI expands royal lands; **Concordat of Bologna** (1516): king names bishops, pope gets revenue.

Spain: marriage of Ferdinand & Isabella (1469) unites Aragon & Castile; **Inquisition** (1478) enforces Catholicism.

1492: conquest of Granada ends Reconquista; Jews expelled; Columbus sails → religious unity + empire.

England: Henry VII ends Wars of the Roses (1485); Star Chamber court tames nobles; avoids costly wars.

Holy Roman Empire: 300+ semi-independent states; elected emperor; can't centralize like France or Spain.

Limits: nobles, towns & assemblies (Estates, Cortes, Parliament) still check royal power & taxing.

Machiavelli link: *The Prince* (1513) reflects the new realist statecraft: power & stability over morality.

⚠ New Monarchies ≠ absolutism. Centralization began here; absolutism (Louis XIV) comes in Unit 3.

✓ Link new monarchs to exploration: centralized states could tax & fund overseas voyages (Spain 1492).

1.6 Technology & the Age of Exploration

Motives: God, Gold, Glory

God: spread Christianity, crusading spirit after Reconquista; search for legendary Christian king Prester John.

Gold: bypass Ottoman & Venetian middlemen for Asian spices & silk; find bullion. **Glory**: fame, rivalry, land.

Technology

Tool	Use	Origin
Caravel	Fast, sails wind	Portuguese
Lateen sail	Tack into wind	Arab
Astrolabe	Latitude	Greek/Arab
Compass	Direction	Chinese
Portolan chart	Coasts, ports	Med. sailors

Gunpowder & cannon: armed ships & conquistadors overpower local forces in Africa, Asia & Americas.

Key Voyages

Portugal first: **Prince Henry the Navigator** funds voyages; **Dias** rounds Cape of Good Hope (1488).

Da Gama reaches India by sea (1498) → direct spice trade; **Cabral** lands in & claims Brazil (1500).

Spain: **Columbus** (1492); **Magellan's** crew circles globe (1519–22); Cortés (Aztecs 1521), Pizarro (Incas 1532).

Treaty of Tordesillas (1494): pope-backed line splits new lands, Spain west & Portugal east (Brazil).

Latecomers: England (Cabot), France (Cartier), Dutch (Hudson) seek Northwest Passage & N. American claims.

Navigation science: better maps (Mercator, 1569) & printed sailing guides make each voyage easier.

⚠ Much "European" tech was borrowed (compass, lateen sail, astrolabe). Say so for complexity.

✓ Exploration LEQ: pair 1 motive (gold) w/ 1 means (caravel) & 1 enabler (state funding from new monarchs).

1.7 Rise of Mercantilism

Mercantilist Theory

Mercantilism: wealth = gold & silver (**bullionism**); world's wealth is fixed, so 1 state gains as another loses.

Favorable balance of trade: export more than import; tariffs protect home industry; state guides economy.

Colonies: supply raw materials & buy home country's manufactured goods; trade w/ rivals banned.

Commercial Revolution

Institution	Date	Role
English EIC	1600	Asian trade
Dutch VOC	1602	Spice monopoly
Bank of Amst.	1609	Credit, exchange
Amst. bourse	1602+	Share trading

Joint-stock companies: investors pool capital & share risk/profit; state charters grant monopolies.

Banking: Medici & Fugger loans fund kings & wars; double-entry bookkeeping, bills of exchange spread.

Trade shift: Mediterranean → Atlantic; Antwerp, then Amsterdam & London become commercial hubs.

Agriculture: enclosure & commercial farming grow in England to feed towns & sell wool abroad.

Price Revolution

Price Revolution: American silver (Potosí) + population growth → long inflation across 1500s Europe.

Winners & losers: merchants & landowners gain; wage earners & fixed-rent nobles lose purchasing power.

Spain's paradox: flood of silver but little industry → inflation, debt & bankruptcies (1557, 1575, 1596).

⚠ Mercantilism ≠ capitalism/free trade. It's state-controlled trade; Adam Smith attacks it later (1776).

✓ Spain shows silver ≠ lasting wealth; Dutch show trade + finance = power. Great LEQ comparison.

1.8 The Columbian Exchange

What Moved

Americas → Old World	Old World → Americas
Maize, potato	Wheat, rice, sugar
Tomato, cacao	Horses, cattle, pigs
Tobacco, silver	Smallpox, measles

Columbian Exchange: transfer of plants, animals, diseases, people & ideas between hemispheres after 1492.

Effects on the Americas

Disease: smallpox & measles kill up to 90% of some Native populations (no immunity) → eases conquest.

Labor shortage: Native population collapse → Europeans import enslaved Africans for plantations & mines.

Plantations: sugar estates in Brazil & the Caribbean rely on enslaved labor & export sugar to Europe.

Environment: livestock & cash crops (sugar, later cotton) reshape land; forests cleared for plantations.

Effects on Europe

New crops: potato & maize are calorie-rich & grow in poor soil → better diets → long-term population growth.

Consumer goods: sugar, tobacco, coffee, cacao become mass demands → plantation economies grow.

Silver: American bullion funds Spanish wars & feeds the Price Revolution; flows on to China for trade.

Ideas: new peoples & lands challenge classical authorities (Ptolemy) → curiosity & skepticism grow.

Global links: Manila galleons (1571+) carry silver to China; Chinese silk & porcelain flow back to Europe.

⚠ Disease, not just guns, explains most Native deaths. Cite both for a strong causation argument.

✓ Potato → population boom → labor for industry later. Long-term causation chain for LEQs.

1.9–1.10 Maritime Empires & Causation

Empire Models

Empire	Model	Base
Portuguese	Trading posts	Goa, Brazil
Spanish	Conquest, mines	Mexico, Peru
Dutch	Commercial	Indonesia
French/English	Settlement, fur	N. America

Portugal: fortified trading posts (**factories**) in Africa & Asia, not large inland colonies; Brazil = sugar.

Spain: viceroyalties; **encomienda** grants Native labor to colonists in exchange for Christianizing them.

Dutch: VOC seizes Spice Islands from Portugal; profit over settlement; New Amsterdam, Cape Colony (1652).

English & French: settler colonies, fur trade & Caribbean sugar islands; mostly after 1600 (Jamestown 1607).

Slavery & Debate

Atlantic slave trade: ~12 million Africans shipped; **Middle Passage** = deadly crossing; sugar drives demand.

Triangular trade: European goods → Africa; enslaved people → Americas; sugar, tobacco → Europe.

Las Casas vs. Sepúlveda (Valladolid, 1550): debate over Native humanity & treatment; Las Casas condemns abuse.

Social effects: new colonial hierarchy by race & birth (peninsulares, creoles, mestizos); missionaries spread faith.

Causation

Causes: Renaissance curiosity + printing + centralized states + new tech + competition → exploration & empire.

Effects: Atlantic economy, shift of power west, global trade (Manila galleons, 1571) & European rivalry.

✓ DBQ: sourcing Las Casas? Note his purpose (persuade the king) & audience (Spanish court).

⚠ Don't give 1 cause. Strong causation essays rank several causes & tie each one to specific evidence.