

HISTORY OF ITALY TIMELINE

Ancient

734 BC: Founding of Syracuse by Dorian Greeks (Spartans)

**??? Founding of Panormus (Palermo) by Carthaginians
(Phoenicians)**

753 BC: Founding of Rome

509 BC: Revolt against Tarquinian Kings; Founding of Republic

334-264 BC: Colonization and Conquest of Italy (South of Po)

264 BC: First Punic War against Carthage (Syracuse with Rome)

218-201 BC: Second Punic War; Hannibal Crosses the Alps

202 BC: Scipio Africanus defeats Hannibal at Zama

149-146 BC: Third Punic War; Carthage destroyed

44 BC: Caesar Assassinated

**31 BC: Octavian (Augustus) defeats Mark Antony and Cleopatra
at Battle of Actium**

**23-19 BC: Constitutional "Reforms" establish Roman Imperial
System; "Principate" of Augustus: 27-14 BC**

**312 AD: Constantine re-unites Empire at Battle of Milvian Bridge;
Christianity becomes established religion.**

410 AD: Sack of Rome by Alaric the Visigoth

476 AD: End of Roman Empire in West (Romulus Augustulus)

527-565 AD: Justinian attempts to reconquer Italy and Africa

633-655 AD: Arab Conquest of Egypt and invasion of North Africa

**1453 AD: Turkish Conquest of Constantinople and End of Roman
Empire in the East**

Medieval

- 360: The Huns invade Europe, setting off Germanic invasions (Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Franks, Vandals, etc.).**
- 410: Alaric sacks Rome**
- 451: Roman and Visigothic Army defeats Attila at Chalons**
- 476: Romulus Augustulus deposed by Saxons (sent to Naples)**
- 488: Ostrogoths, (Theodoric "The Great") invade Italy and unifies Northern and Central Italy as Ostrogothic Kingdom**
- 551: Justinian defeats Ostrogoths**
- 568: Lombards establish Kingdom in Northern and Central Italy and proceed to drive Byzantines and Ostrogoths out of Italy**
- 590: Pope Gregory I attempts to unite Italy against Lombards but plague prevents it**
- 711: Moors invade Spain and take Sardinia in 720**
- ???: Founding of Venice**
- 756: Donation of Pepin establishes Papal States (recognizing Papacy as heir to Empire in Italy)**
- 773: Charlemagne defeats Lombards, confirms Donation of Pepin**
- 800: Charlemagne crowned Roman Emperor in the West by Pope Leo III, thereafter recognized as Holy Roman Emperor when Byzantines refuse to acknowledge him**
- 827: Arabs invade Sicily from Tunisia, conquer Palermo 831**
- 962: Otto I of Saxony invades Italy, crowned HRE by John XII**
- 982: Otto II attempts to take Apulia and Sicily from Arabs, is defeated with help of Byzantines**
- 1022: Henry II HRE defeats Byzantines in South**
- 1043: Normans establish Kingdom in Apulia**
- 1071: Robert Guiscard defeats Byzantines at Bari**
- 1072: Robert and Roger Guiscard defeat Arabs at Palermo take Amalfi and Salerno in 1073**
- 1095: Urban II proclaims First Crusade**
- 1130: Roger II crowned King of Sicily, Calabria and Apulia in Palermo Cathedral (by anti-pope): the "Regno"**
- 1147: The Second Crusade begins; Roger II declares war against Byzantines who ally themselves with Venetians**

- 1176: The “Lombard League” defeats Frederick Barbarossa at Legnano**
- 1194: Henry VI (HRE) conquers Southern Italy and Sicily**
- 1215: Innocent III calls Fourth Lateran Council; The Fourth Crusade**
- 1250: Death of Frederick II**
- 1262: Charles of Anjou defeats Manfred (Hohenstaufen) at Benevento and kills Conradin at Tagliacozzo in 1268**
- 1275: Marco Polo arrives at the Court of Kublai Khan**
- 1282: Sicilian Vespers: division of Kingdom of Sicily; Peter of Aragon invited to take over island while mainland south of Rome remains Angevin**
- 1293: Ordinances of Justice in Florence**
- 1297: Closing of the Great Council in Venice**

Transition

- 1265-1321: Dante**
- 1304-1374: Petrarch**
- 1313-1375: Boccaccio**
- 1305-1378: Avignon Papacy**
- 1318: Death of Duccio**
- 1337: Death of Giotto**
- 1343-1382: Joanna I of Naples**
- 1347: Cola de Rienzi, “Tribune” of Rome**
- 1378-1415: Great Schism**
- 1347: The Black Death**
- 1370-1444: Leonardo Bruni**
- 1402: Death of Giangaleazzo Visconti of Milan**

Renaissance

**1402: Ghiberti wins competition for Bronze Doors of Florence's
Baptistry**

1377-1446: Filippo Brunelleschi

1386-1466: Donatello

1401-1428: Massaccio

Cosimo dei Medici

1404-1472: L.B. Alberti

1407-1457: Lorenzo Valla

1478: The Pazzi Conspiracy

1442: Recognition of Alfonso V (Aragon) as King of Naples

1433-1499: Marsiglio Ficino

1435-1516: Giovanni Bellini

1445-1510: Botticelli

1450-1515: Aldus Manutius

1451-1506: Christopher Columbus

1453: Fall of Constantinople to the Turks

1453-1479: War between Turks and Venice

1480: Turkish Assault on Otranto

1456-1519: Leonardo da Vinci

1469-1527: Niccolo` Machiavelli

1475-1564: Michelangelo

1483-1520: Raphael

1485-1576: Titian

1486: Oration on the Dignity of Man by Pico della Mirandola

**1492: Death of Lorenzo dei Medici; Unification of Spain under
Aragon and Castile; Discovery of America**

1494: Invasion of Italy by Charles VIII; Savonarola leads Florence

1498: Savonarola burned at stake; Florence more democratic

1500: Kingdom of Naples partitioned between Spain and France

1508-1580: Andrea Palladio

1511-1574: Giorgio Vasari

1518-1594: Tintoretto

1512: Medici restored to Florence

1527: Sack of Rome; Medici removed from Florence
1528-1588: Veronese
1530: Medici restored; Republic abolished.
1530: Charles V crowned HRE at Bologna
1545-1563: The Council of Trent
1556: Philip II becomes ruler of Milan and Naples (Spain in control of Italy)
1569: Cosimo I, Grand Duke of Tuscany
1571: Battle of Lepanto

Transition

1600: Inquisition burns Giordano Bruno at the stake
1607: Monteverdi's Orfeo
1631: Papal Condemnation of Galileo's support of Copernican Theory
1637: First Opera House in Venice
1647: Revolts in Palermo and Venice
1651: Bernini's Fountain of Four Rivers in Piazza Navona
1668: Revolt of the Barons in Sardinia
1672, 1674: two revolts in Messina
1706-1708: Occupation of Milan, Naples and Sardinia by Austrian Hapsburgs
1713: Treaty of Utrecht recognizes Austrian Hapsburgs as heirs to Spanish Hapsburgs in Italy; Sicily ceded to Victor Amadeus II of Savoy
1720: Savoy forced to exchange Sicily for Sardinia
1725: Giambattista Vico's La Nuova Scienza
1733: Pergolesi's La Serva Padrona in Naples
1734: Recognition of Bourbons Court in Naples
1735: Naples and Sicily ceded by Austria to Spain
1737: End of Medici dynasty in Florence; Lorraine dynasty succeeds to Duchy
1759: Charles VII of Naples becomes Charles III of Spain
1764: Beccaria's Of Crimes and Punishments

Revolutions

- 1796: Napoleon invades Italy, establishes separate Republics**
- 1797: Venice ceded to Austria at Campoformio**
- 1800: Napoleon defeats Austrians at Marengo**
- 1804: Napoleon declares himself Emperor**
- 1805: Napoleon King of Italy; deposes Bourbons in Naples and Sicily, makes Joseph Napoleon King of Naples**
- 1808: French troops occupy Rome; Joseph declared King of Spain; Joachim Murat named K. of Naples**
- 1809: Papal States annexed to France**
- 1810: Napoleon marries Maria Luisa of Austria**
- 1812: Constitutions adopted in Spain and Sicily; Napoleon retreats from Moscow**
- 1813: Napoleon defeated at Leipzig; Murat defects**
- 1814: Lombardy and Venetia annexed to Hapsburg Empire; Victor Emanuel I restored to Sardinia, Pius VII to Rome, and Ferdinand III to Tuscany; Congress of Vienna**
- 1815: Murat appeals to Italians; Ferdinand IV restored to Naples; Napoleon defeated at Waterloo, exiled to Elba; Austria, Prussia and Russia form Holy Alliance**
- 1816: Administrative re-organization of restored states; Kingdom of the Two Sicilies created**
- 1820: Naples forces Ferdinand I to accept constitution; Palermo declares independence of Naples; Neapolitan troops land at Messina; Holy Alliance intervenes**
- 1821: Austrian troops enter Naples; royalists restore monarchy in Turin**

Risorgimento and Unification

- 1825: Manzoni's I Promessi Sposi**
- 1831: Modena uprising; Austrian troops invade Modena, Parma and Papal States; Mazzini founds Young Italy in Genoa; Bellini's Norma produced in Milan**
- 1834: Mazzinian insurrection in Piedmont fails**
- 1835: Emperor Francis I dies, is succeeded as King of Lombardy by Ferdinand I**
- 1840: Manzoni re-writes I Promessi Sposi in Tuscan**
- 1842: Verdi's Nabucco produced in Milan**
- 1845: Mazzinian uprising in Rimini fails**
- 1846: Pius IX elected; reforms censorship in Papal States**
- 1848: Uprisings in Livorno, and Palermo; Ferdinand of Naples concedes constitution, followed by Leopold II of Tuscany and Charles Albert of Sardinia; Uprisings against Austrians in Milan; Manin declares Republic in Venice; Charles Albert declares war on Austria and enters Lombardy; Pius IX denounces it; Ferdinand of Naples suspends Parliament and withdraws from war against Austria; Piedmontese defeated; Austria re-occupies Lombardy, Modena, Reggio Emilia; radical government set up in Tuscany; Pius IX flees**
- 1849: Roman Republic declared; Piedmont resumes war against Austria, defeated again; Victor Emanuel II signs armistice; French troops restore Pius IX in Rome; Victor Emanuel restores Constitution in Piedmont (Statuta)**
- 1850: Massimo D'Azeglio PM; Camillo Cavour Minister of commerce, agriculture and Navy**
- 1852: Cavour PM of Piedmont**
- 1853: Mazzinian uprising in Milan**
- 1855: Piedmont joins Anglo-French Alliance against Russia**
- 1858: Felice Orsini attempts to assassinate Napoleon III; secret meeting between Cavour and Napoleon III leading to secret treaty between France and Piedmont; Austria issues ultimatum to Kingdom of Sardinia and invades Piedmont; Leopold II flees Tuscany; Franco-Piedmontese victories at Magenta and Solferino; armistice signed at Villafranca;**

assemblies elected in Tuscany and elsewhere vote for annexation to Piedmont

1860: Plebiscites in Tuscany and Emilia confirm annexation, hold first elections to Parliament; Nice and Savoy ceded to France; Revolt in Palermo; Garibaldi and his Redshirts land in Marsala; Bourbon troops defeated at Catalfani; Garibaldi enters Naples; Piedmontese troops enter Rome; Garibaldi meets up with Victor Emanuel at Teano; plebiscites annex Two Sicilies, Umbria and the Marches to Piedmont

1861: First elections to New Italian Parliament; Victor Emanuel of Savoy II becomes King of Italy; Rural insurrections spread throughout South (Mezzogiorno); Cavour dies

1862: Garibaldi's march on Rome halted by new Italian Army; "brigandage" widespread throughout South

1864: Garibaldi visits England; Pius IX publishes Syllabus of Errors

1865: Capitol moved from Turin to Florence

1866: Italy secretly allied to Prussia against Austria; Italian army, navy fare badly in war; Austria cedes Veneto to Napoleon III to in turn cedes it to Italy

**1867: Garibaldi again attempts to invade Papal States, fails
First Vatican Council convened; declares Papal Infallibility**

1870: Napoleon III defeated at Battle of Sedan; Italian troops enter Rome; plebiscites annex Rome and Lazio to Italy

1871: Capital transferred to Rome; Pope forbids Catholics to vote in elections

Monarchy to Fascism

- 1878: Umberto I succeeds Victor Emanuel**
- 1882: Electoral Reform gave all men who could prove their literacy; Trasformismo results in coalition governments rather than party governments (broadly left v. right)
Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary**
- 1892: Italian Socialist Party formed**
- 1896: Italian attempt at colonization in Abyssinia fails**
- 1898: Riots in Milan**
- 1900: King Umberto assassinated; Victor Emanuel III succeeds**
- 1904: General Strike**
- 1911: Giolitti introduces bill for Universal Manhood Suffrage
Italy declares war on Turkey and invades Libya**
- 1912: Peace with Turkey**
- 1914: Red Week; Italy declares Neutrality**
- 1915: Treaty of London between Italy and Entente; Italy enters
First World War on side of Entente**
- 1917: Italian Second Army defeated at Battle of Caporetto**
- 1918: Italy defeats Austria-Hungary at Vittorio Veneto;
War ends in Armistice**
- 1919: Fasci di Combattimento formed in Milan**
- 1920: Squadristi active in Po valley**
- 1921: Thirty-five Fascists elected to Parliament; Fascist
Movement becomes Party (PNF)**
- 1922: March on Rome; Mussolini made PM**
- 1923: Giovanni Gentile introduces Education Act**
- 1924: Reformist Socialist Deputy Giacomo Matteotti is murdered
by Fascists**
- 1925: Mussolini declares himself Dictator**
- 1929: Lateran Pacts with Vatican closes Roman Question**
- 1934: Mussolini meets with Hitler**
- 1935: Italian troops invade Ethiopia; League of Nations issues
sanctions**
- 1936: Ethiopia conquered; Italian Empire declared; Rome-Berlin
Axis announced**

- 1937: Antonio Gramsci dies; Italy leaves League of Nations**
- 1938: Antisemitic Racial Laws proclaimed**
- 1939: Italy declares “non-belligerence” in Second World War; Mussolini negotiates Munich Pact**
- 1940: Italy declares war on Great Britain and France; invades Greece**
- 1943: Workers’ strikes in Northern Italy; Allies invade Sicily
Fascist Grand Council votes Mussolini out of office; King calls for his resignation as PM; arrested; Fascist Party dissolved; Armistice signed with Allies; Germany invades Italy; Allies land at Salerno; Mussolini rescued by German parachutists; Republic of Salo` puppet regime**
- 1944: Allies liberate Rome and Florence**
- 1945: Insurrections throughout North; partisans execute Mussolini**
- 1946: Italian referendum: 12 million to 10 million to abolish Monarchy**

Republic

- 1947: De Gasperi forms government excluding Communists ending broad tri-partite coalitions of left and center-right generated by Resistance Movement; beginning of “imperfect bi-polarism”**
- 1948: Christian Democrats win 48% of vote**
- 1949: Italy joins NATO**
- 1951: Italy joins European Coal and Steel Community as founder member**
- 1954: Trieste ceded to Italy**
- 1956: Khrushchev reveals crimes of Stalin; Hungarian Revolution suppressed**
- 1957: Socialists split with Communists; form coalition with Christian Democrats**

- 1958: Italy joins European Economic Community as founding member; Togliatti outlines polycentric communist world**
- 1962: Fanfani forms Center-Left Coalition**
Second Vatican Council opens
Education Act raises minimum school-leaving to 14
- 1968: Strikes; occupations of universities and high school offices**
Paul VI bans contraception; punishment of women for adultery declared unconstitutional
- 1970: Regional Governments (promised in 1948 Constitution) instituted, but powers not fully defined**
- 1974: Referendum on divorce produces 60%-40% vote in favor**
- 1976: Constitutional Court declares government monopoly of radio and TV unconstitutional; Communist Party wins 34% of vote, resulting in their incorporation into governing coalition (national solidarity)**
- 1978: Aldo Moro assassinated by Red Brigades with body left midway between CD and PCI headquarters**
- 1979: Italy joins European Monetary system; election ends CD-PCI collaboration**
- 1980: Silvio Berlusconi's Channel 5 begins broadcasting**
- 1983: Bettino Craxi, PSI, forms government**
- 1989: Fall of Berlin Wall; Communists change name to Democratic Socialist Party of the (PDS)**
- 1992: Collapse of old party system; Northern /Lombard League formed; CD becomes Popular Party; MSI (neo-Fascist) gains strength**
- 1993: Proportional Representation overhauled**
- 1994: PSI dissolves, most join PDS; Berlusconi's Forza Italia becomes largest party**

