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, the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit. 118,797 active editors 6,995,278 articles in English Margaret Sanger (September 14, 1879 – September 6, 1966) was an American birth control activist, sex educator, and nurse. She opened the first birth control clinic in the United States, founded Planned Parenthood, and was instrumental in the development of the first birth control pill. She was an important first-wave feminist and believed that women should be able to decide if and when to have children. Sanger campaigned for the legalization of contraceptives by giving speeches, writing books, and breaking laws – leading to eight arrests. She endorsed both the Malthusianism and eugenics movements, believing that they would generate support for birth control. She established a network of dozens of birth control clinics, which provided services to hundreds of thousands of patients. She discouraged abortion, and her clinics never offered abortion services during her lifetime. Her activism led to the Griswold v. Connecticut decision, which legalized contraception. (Full article...) Recently featured: TRAPPIST-1 iMac G4 Merchant's House Museum Archive By email More featured articles About Vincent de Groof's flying machine ... that Vincent de Groof successfully tested his bat-like flying machine (pictured) in 1874, only to die after crashing it 10 days later? ... that the theatre which premiered a play about sex offenders had to hire additional security for its run? ... that visitors from various countries come to a temple to see a wild Chinese monkey named Xing Xing? ... that Fatima Hassouna was killed shortly after a documentary about her was announced for the 2025 Cannes Film Festival? ... that at a Destroy Lonely concert promoting an edition of his debut album, some fans entered his car? ... that Carl Jorgensen and Gust Zarnas were the first NFL players from Denmark and Greece? ... that in 1917 more than 8,000 African Americans protested lynchings by marching down New York City's Fifth Avenue in silence, accompanied only by the sound of muffled drums? ... that a Sicilian soldier killed his own family during an Ottoman attack on Gozo in 1551, to prevent them from being enslaved? ... that Costa Rica's most famous bull killed two men and loved mangos? Archive Start a new article Nominate an article JJ Austria, represented by JJ (pictured) with the song "Wasted Love", wins the Eurovision Song Contest. Former president of Uruguay José Mujica dies at the age of 89. The Kurdistan Workers' Party announces its dissolution, ending its insurgency against Turkey. Robert Francis Prevost is elected as Pope Leo XIV, becoming the first Catholic pope born in the United States. Friedrich Merz is elected Chancellor of Germany and sworn in alongside his coalition government. Ongoing: Gaza war M23 campaign Russian invasion of Ukraine timeline Sudanese civil war timeline Recent deaths: Azmun Jaafar Bob Cowper Meta Velander Alena Veselá William Luers Rich Rollins Nominate an article May 18: Haitian Flag Day in Haiti (1803); Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Crimean Tatar Genocide in Ukraine The Bath School after the explosions 1302 – Armed insurrectionists massacred the occupying French garrison in Bruges, Flanders, killing approximately 2,000 people. 1695 – An earthquake measuring Ms7.8 struck Shanxi Province in northern China, resulting in at least 52,600 deaths. 1927 – Disgruntled school board treasurer Andrew Kehoe set off explosives with timers and a rifle (aftermath pictured), causing the Bath School disaster in the Bath Consolidated School in Michigan, killing 44 people in the deadliest mass murder in a school in United States history. 2009 – The Sri Lanka Army killed Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader and founder of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, to bring an end to the 26-year Sri Lankan civil war. Thomas Midgley Jr. (b. 1889)Ester Boserup (b. 1910)Jean-François Théodore (d. 2015) More anniversaries: May 17 May 18 May 19 Archive By email List of days of the year About El Tatio is a geothermal field with many geysers located in the Andes Mountains of northern Chile at 4,320 metres (14,170 ft) above mean sea level. It is the third-largest geyser field in the world and the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. The geothermal field has many geysers, hot springs, and associated sinter deposits. These hot springs eventually form the Rio Salado, a major tributary of the Rio Loa, and are a major source of arsenic pollution in the river. The vents are sites of populations of extremophile microorganisms such as hyperthermophiles, and El Tatio has been studied as an analogue for the early Earth and possible past life on Mars. Photograph credit: Diego Delso Recently featured: Short-beaked echidna Margaret Hamilton Kiwifruit Archive More featured pictures Community portal – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements. Village pump – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues. Site news – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement. Teahouse – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Help desk – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Reference desk – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics. Content portals – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia. Wikipedia is written by volunteer editors and hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other volunteer projects: CommonsFree media repository MediaWikiWiki software development Meta-WikiWikimedia project coordination WikibooksFree textbooks and manuals WikidataFree knowledge base WikinewsFree-content news WikiquoteCollection of quotations WikisourceFree-content library WikispeciesDirectory of species WikiversityFree learning tools WikivoyageFree travel guide WiktionaryDictionary and thesaurus This Wikipedia is written in English. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below. 1,000,000+ articles العربية Deutsch Español فارسی Français Italiano Nederlands 日本語 Polski Português Русский Svenska Українська Tiếng Việt 中文 250,000+ articles Bahasa Indonesia Bahasa Melayu Bân-lâm-gú Български Català Čeština Dansk Eesti Esperanto Euskara עברית Հայերեն Magyar Norsk bokmål Română Simple English Slovenčina Srpski Srpskohrvatski Suomi Türkçe Oʻzbekcha 50,000+ articles Asturianu Azərbaycanca [illegible] Bosanski کوردی Ελληνικά Frysk Gaeilge Galego Hrvatski ქართული Kurdî Latviešu Lietuvių [illegible] Македонски [illegible] Norsk nynorsk [illegible] Shqip Slovenščina [illegible] اردو Retrieved from " 2Calendar year Years Millennium 2nd millennium Centuries 18th century 19th century 20th century Decades 1780s 1790s 1800s 1810s 1820s Years 1800 1801 1802 1803 1804 1805 1806 vte December 20: U.S. increases in size with Louisiana purchase 1803 by topic Humanities Archaeology Architecture Art Literature Poetry Music By country Australia Brazil Canada Denmark France Germany New Zealand Norway Russia South Africa Spain Sweden United Kingdom United States Other topics Rail transport Science Sports Lists of leaders Sovereign states Sovereign state leaders Territorial governors Religious leaders Law Birth and death categories Births Deaths Establishments and disestablishments categories Establishments Disestablishments Works category Works vte 1803 in various calendarsGregorian calendar1803MDCCCIIIFrench Republican calendar11–12Ab urbe condita2556Armenian calendar1252ԹՎ ՌՄԾԲAssyrian calendar6553Balinese saka calendar1724–1725Bengali calendar1209–1210Berber calendar2753British Regnal year43 Geo. 3 – 44 Geo. 3Buddhist calendar2347Burmese calendar1165Byzantine calendar7311–7312Chinese calendar壬戌年 (Water Dog)4500 or 4293 — to 癸亥年 (Water Pig)4501 or 4294Coptic calendar1519–1520Discordian calendar2969Ethiopian calendar1795–1796Hebrew calendar5563–5564Hindu calendars - Vikram Samvat1859–1860 - Shaka Samvat1724–1725 - Kali Yuga4903–4904Holocene calendar11803Igbo calendar803–804Iranian calendar1181–1182Islamic calendar1217–1218Japanese calendarKyōwa 2(享和 2 年)Javanese calendar1729–1730Julian calendarGregorian minus 12 daysKorean calendar4136Minguo calendar109 before ROC民前109年Nanakshahi calendar335Thai solar calendar2345–2346Tibetan calendar阳水狗年(male Water-Dog)1929 or 1548 or 776 — to 一阴水猪年(female Water-Pig)1930 or 1549 or 777 Wikimedia Commons has media related to 1803. January 5: steamboat Charlotte Dundas is demonstrated. September 23: Battle of Assaye Completing the Louisiana Purchase from France . 1803 (MDCCCIII) was a common year starting on Saturday of the Gregorian calendar and a common year starting on Thursday of the Julian calendar, the 1803rd year of the Common Era (CE) and Anno Domini (AD) designations, the 803rd year of the 2nd millennium, the 3rd year of the 19th century, and the 4th year of the 1800s decade. As of the start of 1803, the Gregorian calendar was 12 days ahead of the Julian calendar, which remained in localized use until 1923. Calendar year January 1 – The first edition of Alexandre Balthazar Laurent Grimod de La Reynière's Almanach des gourmands, the first guide to restaurant cooking, is published in Paris. January 4 – William Symington demonstrates his Charlotte Dundas, the "first practical steamboat", in Scotland. January 30 – Monroe and Livingston sail for Paris to discuss, and possibly buy, New Orleans; they end up completing the Louisiana Purchase.[1] February 19 An Act of Mediation, issued by Napoleon Bonaparte, establishes the Swiss Confederation to replace the Helvetic Republic. Under the terms of the act, Graubünden, St. Gallen, Thurgau, the Ticino and Vaud become Swiss cantons. Ohio is admitted as the 17th U.S. state.[2] February 20 – Kandyan Wars: Kandy, Ceylon is taken by a British detachment. February 21 – Edward Despard and six others are hanged and beheaded for plotting to assassinate King George III of the United Kingdom, and to destroy the Bank of England. February 24 – Marbury v. Madison: The Supreme Court of the United States establishes the principle of judicial review. February 25 – A major redistribution of territorial sovereignty within the Holy Roman Empire is enacted, via an act known as the Reichsdeputationshauptschluss. March 9 – Aargau becomes a Swiss canton. March–April – The franc germinal is introduced in France. April 5 — Ludwig van Beethoven puts on a big Akademie concert at the Theater an der Wien, in Vienna consisting of the premieres of his second symphony, third piano concerto, and his oratorio Christ on the Mount of Olives. April 26 – The L'Aigle meteorite falls in Normandy, causing a shift in scientific opinion on the origin of meteorites. April 30 – The Louisiana Purchase is made from France by the United States. May – First Consul of France, Citizen Bonaparte, begins making preparations to invade England. May 18 – The Napoleonic Wars begin, when the United Kingdom declares war on France, after France refuses to withdraw from Dutch territory. May 19 – Master Malati, a Coptic Christian leader, is beheaded by a Muslim mob in Cairo, Egypt. June 5 – Convention of Artlenburg agrees a ceasefire following the French Invasion of Hanover. Large numbers of the former Hanoverian Army go into exile to join the King's German Legion June 7 – Indiana Territory governor (and future U.S. president) William Henry Harrison signs treaties at Fort Wayne, with representatives of the Delaware, Shawnee, Potawatomi, Miami, Kickapoo, Eel River, Wea, Piankeshaw and Kaskaskia Indian tribes. The U.S. Senate ratifies the treaties on November 25.[3] June 14 – Napoleon Bonaparte orders the establishment of five military camps to defend the coast of France, located at Bayonne, Ghent, Saint-Omer, Compiègne, Saint-Malo, and one in the occupied Netherlands, at Utrecht. Each one has 20,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry to defend it.[4] July 4 – The Louisiana Purchase is announced to the American people. July 5 – The convention of Artlenburg leads to the French occupation of Hanover (which had been ruled by the British king). July 23 – Robert Emmet's uprising in Ireland begins. July 26 – The wagonway between Wandsworth and Croydon is opened, being the first public railway line in England. August 3 – The British begin the Second Anglo-Maratha War, against the Scindia Dynasty of Gwalior. August 31 – The Lewis and Clark Expedition begins as Lewis and a crew of 11 depart on the Ohio River. September 6 – John Dalton, British scientist, begins using symbols to represent the atoms of different elements. September 11 – Second Anglo-Maratha War: Battle of Delhi – British troops under General Lake defeat the Marathas of Scindia's army, under General Louis Bourquin. September 20 – Irish rebel Robert Emmet is executed. September 23 – Second Anglo-Maratha War: Battle of Assaye – British-led troops defeat Maratha forces. October 14 – Orissa, an area of India along the Bay of Bengal that comprises the modern-day Indian state of Odisha, is occupied by the British under the British East India Company, after the Second Anglo-Maratha War.[5] The Maratha Empire formally cedes the area in the Treaty of Deogaon, signed on December 17.[6] October 20 – The Senate ratifies the Louisiana Purchase Treaty, doubling the size of the United States. November 18 – Haitian Revolution: Battle of Vertières – The Haitian army, led by Jean-Jacques Dessalines, defeats the French army sent by Napoleon. November 30 The Balmis Expedition starts in Spain, with the aim of vaccinating millions against smallpox in Spanish America and the Philippines. At the Cabildo in New Orleans, Spanish representatives Governor Manuel de Salcedo and the Marqués de Casa Calvo officially transfer Louisiana (New Spain) to French representative Prefect Pierre Clément de Laussat.[7] Barely three weeks later, France transfers the same land to the United States. December 9 – The proposed Twelfth Amendment to the United States Constitution, requiring that electoral ballots distinctly list the choice for president and the choice for vice president, is approved by Congress for submission to the states for ratification; passed in the wake of the problems in the 1800 presidential election, the amendment is ratified by 13 of the 17 states and is proclaimed in effect on September 25, 1804.[8] December 20 – The Louisiana Purchase is completed as the French prefect, de Laussat, formally transfers ownership of land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains to the United States, by way of commissioners William C. C. Claiborne and James Wilkinson.[9] Claiborne is appointed as the area's first American governor.[10] Major breakthroughs in chemistry occur, with the identification of the elements rhodium and palladium (by William Hyde Wollaston); osmium and iridium (by Smithson Tennant); and cerium (by Wilhelm Hisinger, Jons Jakob Berzelius and Martin Heinrich Klaproth)[11] Ralph Waldo Emerson Justus von Liebig Osgood Johnson February 2 – Albert Sidney Johnston, American Confederate general (d. 1862) February 4 – Antonija Höffern, Slovene noblewoman and educator (d. 1871)[12] February 15 Karl Friedrich Schimper, German botanist, naturalist and poet (d. 1867) John Sutter, German-American pioneer (d. 1880) February 26 – Arnold Adolph Berthold, German physiologist, zoologist (d. 1861) March 12 – Guillaume de Felice, Savoy nobleman, abolitionist (d. 1871) March 13 – John Boyle, British politician (d. 1874) March 16 – Nikolay Yazykov, Russian poet, Slavophile (d. 1846) March 27 – Charles Lafontaine, Swiss mesmerist (d. 1892) April 7 – Flora Tristan, French feminist (d. 1844) April 30 Jeremiah E. Cary, American politician (d. 1888) Albrecht von Roon, Prime Minister of Prussia (d. 1879) May 12 – Justus von Liebig, German chemist (d. 1873) May 20 – Ann Walker, English landowner and philanthropist (d. 1854) May 24 – Charles Lucien Bonaparte, French naturalist, ornithologist (d. 1857) May 25 Edward Bulwer-Lytton, English novelist, playwright and politician (d. 1873) Ralph Waldo Emerson, American writer (d. 1882) June 8 – Amalia Assur, Swedish dentist (d. 1889) June 24 – George James Webb, English-born composer (d. 1887) Christian Doppler Susannah Moodie Gottfried Semper Sarah Childress Polk Hector Berlioz July 10 – William Todd (1803–1873), American businessman, Canadian senate nominee July 20 – John Hymers, English mathematician (d. 1887) July 24 – Adolphe Adam, French composer (d. 1856) July 31 – John Ericsson, Swedish inventor, engineer (d. 1889) August – Francesca Anna Canfield, American linguist, poet and translator (d. 1833)[13] August 3 Mary Dominus, American settler of Hawaii (d. 1889) Sir Joseph Paxton, English gardener, architect and Member of Parliament (d. 1865) August 10 – Joseph Vinoy, French general (d. 1880) August 13 – Vladimir Odoyevsky, Russian philosopher, writer, music critic (d. 1869) August 18 – Nathan Clifford, American politician, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (d. 1881) August 23 Jan Erazim Vocel, Czech poet, archaeologist, historian and cultural revivalist (d. 1871) Gustaf Wappers, Belgian painter (d. 1874) August 27 – Edward Beecher, American theologian (d. 1895) September 4 Anna Nielsen, Danish mezzo-soprano (d. 1856) Sarah Childress Polk, First Lady of the United States (d. 1891) September 11 – Francisca Zubiaga y Bernales, first lady of Peru, controversial socialite (d. 1835) September 27 – Samuel Francis Du Pont, American admiral (d. 1865) September 28 – Prosper Mérimée, French writer (d. 1870) September 29 – Mercator Cooper, American sea captain (d. 1872) September 30 – Gustav von Alvensleben, Prussian general (d. 1881) October 5 – Friedrich Bernhard Westphal, Danish-German painter (d. 1844) October 16 – Robert Stephenson, English civil engineer (d. 1859) November 11 – Adolf von Bonin, Prussian general (d. 1872) November 14 – Jacob Abbott, American writer (d. 1879) November 29 Christian Doppler, Austrian mathematician (d. 1853) Gottfried Semper, German architect (d. 1879) December 5 – Fyodor Tyutchev, great Russian Romantic poet (d. 1873) December 6 – Susanna Moodie, English writer (d. 1885) December 11 – Hector Berlioz, French composer (d. 1869) Barbarita Nieves, Venezuelan mistress of José Antonio Páez (d. 1847) Anders Chydenius Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock Toussaint Louverture January 1 – James Woodforde, English clergyman, diarist (b. 1740) January 18 – Ippolit Bogdanovich, Russian poet (b. 1743) January 23 – Arthur Guinness, Irish brewer (b. 1725) February 1 – Anders Chydenius, Finnish priest, politician (b. 1729)[14] February 3 – María Isidra de Guzmán y de la Cerda, Spanish scholar (b. 1768) February 9 – Jean François de Saint-Lambert, French poet (b. 1716) February 11 – Jean-François de La Harpe, French critic (b. 1739) February 18 – Johann Wilhelm Ludwig Gleim, German poet (b. 1719) February 20 – Marie Dumesnil, French actress (b. 1713) February 22 – Jacques-Donatien Le Ray de Chaumont, French Father of the American Revolution (b. 1726) February 23 – Praskovia Kovalyova-Zhemchugova, Russian serf actress, opera soprano (b. 1768) February 21 – Edward Despard, British revolutionary (b. 1751) March 14 – Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock, German poet (b. 1724) March 28 – Peter Du Cane, Sr., British businessman (b. 1713) April 2 – Sir James Montgomery, 1st Baronet, Scottish politician, judge (b. 1721) April 6 – William Hamilton, British diplomat, antiquary (b. 1730) April 7 Antoine de Bosc de la Calmette, Danish statesman, landscape architect (b. 1752) Toussaint L'Ouverture, Haitian revolutionary (b. 1743) April 14 – Christoph Anton Migazzi, Austrian Catholic bishop (b. 1714) April 24 – Adélaïde Labille-Guiard, French portrait painter (b. 1749) May 8 – John Joseph Merlin, Belgian-born British clock- and musical-instrument-maker and inventor (b. 1735) May 29 – Louis-Antoine Caraccioli, French writer (b. 1719) June 24 – Matthew Thornton, American signer of the Declaration of Independence (b. 1714) June 26 – Fermín Lasuén, Spanish missionary (b. 1736) Johann Gottfried Herder August 24 – James Napper Tandy, Irish republican September 5 – Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, French general, author (b. 1741) September 13 – John Barry, officer in the Continental Navy during the American Revolutionary War, later in the United States Navy (b. 1745) September 15 Gian Francesco Albani, Italian Catholic cardinal (b. 1719) François Devienne, French composer (b. 1759) September 16 – Nicolas Baudin, French explorer (b. 1754) September 17 – Franz Xaver Süssmayr, Austrian composer (b. 1766) September 23 – Joseph Ritson, English antiquary (b. 1752) September 27 – Frances Brett Hodgkinson, English-born American actress (b. 1771) October 2 – Samuel Adams, American revolutionary leader (b. 1722) October 8 – Vittorio Alfieri, Italian dramatist, poet (b. 1749) October 14 – Louis Claude de Saint-Martin, French philosopher (b. 1743) October 26 – Granville Leveson-Gower, 1st Marquess of Stafford, English politician (b. 1721) October 31 – Pandara Vanniyan, last King of Vanni (defeated by Lt. von Driberg) November 11 – Raphael Cohen, German rabbi (b. 1722) November 17 – John Willett Payne, British Royal Navy admiral (b. 1752) November 18 – Ditlevine Feddersen, Norwegian culture figure (b. 1727) November 25 – Joseph Wilton, English sculptor (b. 1722) December 7 – Gerrit Paape, Dutch politician, writer (b. 1752) December 15 – Dru Drury, English entomologist (b. 1725) December 18 – Johann Gottfried Herder, German philosopher, writer (b. 1744) December 26 – Gian Carlo Passeroni, Italian writer (b. 1713) December 30 – Francis Lewis, American signer of the Declaration of Independence (b. 1713) Moscho Tzavela, Greek-Souliote heroine (b. 1760) ^ "Historical Events for Year 1803 | OnThisDay.com". Historyorb.com. Archived from the original on June 30, 2015. Retrieved August 4, 2016. ^ "Ohio Statehood | OhioHistoryCentral.org". Archived from the original on October 7, 2019. Retrieved October 7, 2019. ^ Laws of the United States of America; from March 4, 1789, to March 4, 1815 (Weightman, 1815) p714 ^ Frederick C. Schneid, Napoleon's Conquest of Europe: The War of the Third Coalition (Greenwood, 2005) pp77-78 ^ Chandan Kumar Sadangi and Sanjay Mohapatra, Change Management for Organizations: Lessons from Political Upheaval in India (Emerald Group Publishing, 2017) p x ^ Lieutenant-Colonel H. F. Murland, Baillie-Ki-Paltan: Being a History of the 2nd Battalion, Madras Pioneers 1759–1930 (Andrews UK Ltd., 2012) p122 ^ Robert S. Levine, Dislocating Race and Nation: Episodes in Nineteenth-Century American Literary Nationalism (University of North Carolina Press, 2009) p27 ^ The Constitution of the United States of America, As Amended, ed. by Jack Brooks (U. S. 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Retrieved from " 3One hundred years, from 1701 to 1800 For other uses, see 18th century (disambiguation). Millennia 2nd millennium Centuries 17th century 18th century 19th century Timelines 17th century 18th century 19th century State leaders 17th century 18th century 19th century Decades 1700s 1710s 1720s 1730s 1740s 1750s 1760s 1770s 1780s 1790s Categories: Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments vte Political boundaries at the beginning of year 1700 Storming of the Bastille, 14 July 1789, an iconic event of the French Revolution. Development of the Watt steam engine in the late 18th century was an important element in the Industrial Revolution in Europe. The American Revolutionary War took place in the late 18th century. The 18th century lasted from 1 January 1701 (represented by the Roman numerals MDCCI) to 31 December 1800 (MDCCC). During the 18th century, elements of Enlightenment thinking culminated in the Atlantic Revolutions. Revolutions began to challenge the legitimacy of monarchical and aristocratic power structures. The Industrial Revolution began mid-century, leading to radical changes in human society and the environment. The European colonization of the Americas and other parts of the world intensified and associated mass migrations of people grew in size as part of the Age of Sail. During the century, slave trading expanded across the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, while declining in Russia[1] and China.[2] Western historians have occasionally defined the 18th century otherwise for the purposes of their work. For example, the "short" 18th century may be defined as 1715–1789, denoting the period of time between the death of Louis XIV of France and the start of the French Revolution, with an emphasis on directly interconnected events.[3][4] To historians who expand the century to include larger historical movements, the "long" 18th century[5] may run from the Glorious Revolution of 1688 to the Battle of Waterloo in 1815[6] or even later.[7] France was the sole world superpower from 1659, after it defeated Spain, until 1815, when it was defeated by Britain and its coalitions following the Napoleonic Wars. In Europe, philosophers ushered in the Age of Enlightenment. This period coincided with the French Revolution of 1789, and was later compromised by the excesses of the Reign of Terror. At first, many monarchies of Europe embraced Enlightenment ideals, but in the wake of the French Revolution they feared loss of power and formed broad coalitions to oppose the French Republic in the French Revolutionary Wars. Various conflicts throughout the century, including the War of the Spanish Succession and the Seven Years' War, saw Great Britain triumph over its rivals to become the preeminent power in Europe. However, Britain's attempts to exert its authority over the Thirteen Colonies became a catalyst for the American Revolution. The 18th century also marked the end of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth as an independent state. Its semi-democratic government system was not robust enough to prevent partition by the neighboring states of Austria, Prussia, and Russia. In West Asia, Nader Shah led Persia in successful military campaigns. The Ottoman Empire experienced a period of peace, taking no part in European wars from 1740 to 1768. As a result, the empire was not exposed to Europe's military improvements during the Seven Years' War. The Ottoman military consequently lagged behind and suffered several defeats against Russia in the second half of the century. In South Asia, the death of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb was followed by the expansion of the Maratha Confederacy and an increasing level of European influence and control in the region. In 1739, Persian emperor Nader Shah invaded and plundered Delhi, the capital of the Mughal Empire. Later, his general Ahmad Shah Durrani scored another victory against the Marathas, the then dominant power in India, in the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761.[8] By the middle of the century, the British East India Company began to conquer eastern India,[9][8] and by the end of the century, the Anglo-Mysore Wars against Tipu Sultan and his father Hyder Ali, led to Company rule over the south.[10][11] In East Asia, the century was marked by the High Qing era, a period characterized by significant cultural and territorial expansion. This period also experienced relative peace and prosperity, allowing for societal growth, increasing literacy rates, flourishing trade, and consolidating imperial power across the vast Qing dynasty's territories. Conversely, the continual seclusion policy of the Tokugawa shogunate also brought a peaceful era called Pax Tokugawa and experienced a flourishment of the arts as well as scientific knowledge and advancements, which were introduced to Japan through the Dutch port of Nagasaki. In Southeast Asia, the Konbaung–Ayutthaya Wars and the Tây Sơn Wars broke out while the Dutch East India Company established increasing levels of control over the Mataram Sultanate. In Africa, the Ethiopian Empire underwent the Zemene Mesafint, a period when the country was ruled by a class of regional noblemen and the emperor was merely a figurehead. The Atlantic slave trade also saw the continued involvement of states such as the Oyo Empire. In Oceania, the European colonization of Australia and New Zealand began during the late half of the century. In the Americas, the United States declared its independence from Great Britain. In 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. In 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first president. Benjamin Franklin traveled to Europe where he was hailed as an inventor. Examples of his inventions include the lightning rod and bifocal glasses. Túpac Amaru II led an uprising that sought to end Spanish colonial rule in Peru. For a chronological guide, see Timeline of the 18th century. See also: Georgian era Europe at the beginning of the War of the Spanish Succession, 1700 The Battle of Poltava in 1709 turned the Russian Empire into a European power. John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough 1700–1721: Great Northern War between the Russian and Swedish Empires. 1701: Kingdom of Prussia declared under King Frederick I. 1701: The Battle of Feyiase marks the rise of the Ashanti Empire. 1701–1714: The War of the Spanish Succession is fought, involving most of continental Europe.[12] 1702–1715: Camisard rebellion in France. 1703: Saint Petersburg is founded by Peter the Great; it is the Russian capital until 1918. 1703–1711: The Rákóczi uprising against the Habsburg monarchy. 1704: End of Japan's Genroku period. 1704: First Javanese War of Succession.[13] 1706–1713: The War of the Spanish Succession: French troops defeated at the Battle of Ramillies and the Siege of Turin. 1707: Death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb leads to the fragmentation of the Mughal Empire. 1707: The Act of Union is passed, merging the Scottish and English Parliaments, thus establishing the Kingdom of Great Britain.[14] 1708: The Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East Indies and English Company Trading to the East Indies merge to form the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies. 1708–1709: Famine kills one-third of East Prussia's population. 1709: Foundation of the Hotak Empire. 1709: The Great Frost of 1709 marks the coldest winter in 500 years, contributing to the defeat of Sweden at Poltava. 1710: The world's first copyright legislation, Britain's Statute of Anne, takes effect. 1710–1711: Ottoman Empire fights Russia in the Russo-Turkish War and regains Azov. 1711: Bukhara Khanate dissolves as local begs seize power. 1711–1715: Tuscarora War between British, Dutch, and German settlers and the Tuscarora people of North Carolina. 1713: The Kangxi Emperor acknowledges the full recovery of the Chinese economy since its apex during the Ming. 1714: In Amsterdam, Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit invents the mercury-in-glass thermometer, which remains the most reliable and accurate thermometer until the electronic era. 1715: The first Jacobite rising breaks out; the British halt the Jacobite advance at the Battle of Sheriffmuir; Battle of Preston. 1716: Establishment of the Sikh Confederacy along the present-day India-Pakistan border. 1716–1718: Austro-Venetian-Turkish War. 1718: The city of New Orleans is founded by the French in North America. 1718–1720: War of the Quadruple Alliance with Spain versus France, Britain, Austria, and the Netherlands. 1718–1730: Tulip period of the Ottoman Empire. 1719: Second Javanese War of Succession.[15] 1720: The South Sea Bubble. 1720–1721: The Great Plague of Marseille. 1720: Qing forces oust Dzungar invaders from Tibet. 1721: The Treaty of Nystad is signed, ending the Great Northern War. 1721: Sack of Shamakhi, massacre of its Shia population by Sunni Lezgins. 1722: Siege of Isfahan results in the handover of Iran to the Hotaki Afghans. 1722–1723: Russo-Persian War. 1722–1725: Controversy over William Wood's halfpence leads to the Drapier's Letters and begins the Irish economic independence from England movement. Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah with the Persian invader Nader Shah. 1723: Slavery is abolished in Russia; Peter the Great converts household slaves into house serfs.[16] 1723–1730: The "Great Disaster", an invasion of Kazakh territories by the Dzungars. 1723–1732: The Qing and the Dzungars fight a series of wars across Qinghai, Dzungaria, and Outer Mongolia, with inconclusive results. 1724: Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit proposes the Fahrenheit temperature scale. 1725: Austro-Spanish alliance revived. Russia joins in 1726. 1727–1729: Anglo-Spanish War ends inconclusively. 1730: Mahmud I takes over Ottoman Empire after the Patrona Halil revolt, ending the Tulip period. 1730–1760: The First Great Awakening takes place in Great Britain and North America. 1732–1734: Crimean Tatar raids into Russia.[17] 1733–1738: War of the Polish Succession. Qianlong Emperor 1735–1739: Austro-Russo-Turkish War. 1735–1799: The Qianlong Emperor of China oversees a huge expansion in territory. 1738–1756: Famine across the Sahel; half the population of Timbuktu dies.[18] 1737–1738: Hotak Empire ends after the siege of Kandahar by Nader Shah. 1739: Great Britain and Spain fight the War of Jenkins' Ear in the Caribbean. 1739: Nader Shah defeats a pan-Indian army of 300,000 at the Battle of Karnal. Taxation is stopped in Iran for three years. 1739–1740: Nader Shah's Sindh expedition. 1740: George Whitefield brings the First Great Awakening to New England 1740–1741: Famine in Ireland kills 20 percent of the population. 1741–1743: Iran invades Uzbekistan, Khwarazm, Dagestan, and Oman. 1741–1751: Maratha invasions of Bengal. 1740–1748: War of the Austrian Succession. 1742: Marvel's Mill, the first water-powered cotton mill, begins operation in England.[19] 1742: Anders Celsius proposes an inverted form of the centigrade temperature, which is later renamed Celsius in his honor. 1742: Premiere of George Frideric Handel's Messiah. 1743–1746: Another Ottoman-Persian War involves 375,000 men but ultimately ends in a stalemate. The extinction of the Scottish clan system came with the defeat of the clansmen at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.[20] 1744: The First Saudi State is founded by Mohammed Ibn Saud.[21] 1744: Battle of Toulon is fought off the coast of France. 1744–1748: The First Carnatic War is fought between the British, the French, the Marathas, and Mysore in India. 1745: Second Jacobite rising is begun by Charles Edward Stuart in Scotland. 1747: The Durrani Empire is founded by Ahmad Shah Durrani. 1748: The Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle ends the War of the Austrian Succession and First Carnatic War. 1748–1754: The Second Carnatic War is fought between the British, the French, the Marathas, and Mysore in India. 1750: Peak of the Little Ice Age. 1752: The British Empire adopts the Gregorian Calendar, skipping 11 days from 3 September to 13 September. On the calendar, 2 September is followed directly by 14 September. 1754: The Treaty of Pondicherry ends the Second Carnatic War and recognizes Muhammed Ali Khan Wallajah as Nawab of the Carnatic. 1754: King's College is founded by a royal charter of George II of Great Britain.[22] 1754–1763: The French and Indian War, the North American chapter of the Seven Years' War, is fought in colonial North America, mostly by the French and their allies against the English and their allies. 1755: The great Lisbon earthquake destroys most of Portugal's capital and kills up to 100,000. 1755: The Dzungar genocide depopulates much of northern Xinjiang, allowing for Han, Uyghur, Khalkha Mongol, and Manchu colonization. 1755–1763: The Great Upheaval forces transfer of the French Acadian population from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. 1756–1763: The Seven Years' War is fought among European powers in various theaters around the world. 1756–1763: The Third Carnatic War is fought between the British, the French, and Mysore in India. 1757: British conquest of Bengal. Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia. 1760: George III becomes King of Britain. 1761: Maratha Empire defeated at Battle of Panipat. 1762–1796: Reign of Catherine the Great of Russia. 1763: The Treaty of Paris ends the Seven Years' War and Third Carnatic War. 1764: Dahomey and the Oyo Empire defeat the Ashanti army at the Battle of Atakpamé. 1764: The Mughals are defeated at the Battle of Buxar. 1765: The Stamp Act is introduced into the American colonies by the British Parliament. 1765–1767: The Burmese invade Thailand and utterly destroy Attuthaya. 1765–1769: Burma under Hsinbyushin repels four invasions from Qing China, securing hegemony over the Shan states. 1766: Christian VII becomes king of Denmark. He was king of Denmark to 1808. 1766–1799: Anglo-Mysore Wars. 1767: Taksin expels Burmese invaders and reunites Thailand under an authoritarian regime. 1768–1772: War of the Bar Confederation. 1768–1774: Russo-Turkish War. 1769: Spanish missionaries establish the first of 21 missions in California. 1769–1770: James Cook explores and maps New Zealand and Australia. 1769–1773: The Bengal famine of 1770 kills one-third of the Bengal population. 1769: The French East India Company dissolves, only to be revived in 1785. 1769: French expeditions capture clove plants in Ambon, ending the Dutch East India Company's (VOC) monopoly of the plant.[23] 1770–1771: Famine in Czech lands kills hundreds of thousands. 1771: The Plague Riot in Moscow. 1771: The Kalmyk Khanate dissolves as the territory becomes colonized by Russians. More than a hundred thousand Kalmyks migrate back to Qing Dzungaria. 1772: Gustav III of Sweden stages a coup d'état, becoming almost an absolute monarch. Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers 1772–1779: Maratha Empire fights Britain and Raghunathrao's forces during the First Anglo-Maratha War. 1772–1795: The Partitions of Poland end the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth and erase Poland from the map for 123 years. 1773–1775: Pugachev's Rebellion, the largest peasant revolt in Russian history. 1773: East India Company starts operations in Bengal to smuggle opium into China. 1775: Russia imposes a reduction in autonomy on the Zaporizhian Cossacks of Ukraine. 1775–1782: First Anglo-Maratha War. 1775–1783: American Revolutionary War. 1776: Several kongsi republics are founded by Chinese settlers in the island of Borneo. They are some of the first democracies in Asia. 1776–1777: A Spanish-Portuguese War occurs over land in the South American frontiers. 1776: Illuminati founded by Adam Weishaupt. 1776: The United States Declaration of Independence is adopted by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. 1776: Adam Smith publishes The Wealth of Nations. 1778: James Cook becomes the first European to land on the Hawaiian Islands. 1778: Franco-American alliance signed. 1778: Spain acquires its first permanent holding in Africa from the Portuguese, which is administered by the newly-established La Plata Viceroyalty. 1778: Vietnam is reunified for the first time in 200 years by the Tay Son brothers. The Tây Sơn dynasty has been established, terminating the Lê dynasty. 1779–1879: Xhosa Wars between British and Boer settlers and the Xhosas in the South African Republic. 1779–1783: Britain loses several islands and colonial outposts all over the world to the combined Franco-Spanish navy. 1779: Iran enters yet another period of conflict and civil war after the prosperous reign of Karim Khan Zand. 1780: Outbre