

AP European History Review: Suggested Films

Renaissance

- The Girl with the Pearl Earring (2003)
 - o Johannes Vermeer in the creation of his most famous painting in the late Northern Renaissance.
- The White Queen (2013)
 - o Three women vie for the throne of England at the time of the War of the Roses.
- Shakespeare in Love (1998)
 - o The fiction tale of William Shakespeare's works (mostly focused of Romeo and Juliet) and the building of theater culture in Elizabethan England.
- A Man for all Seasons (1966)
 - o Telling the story of Thomas More's relationship with Henry VIII during the reformation leading to his execution.

Scientific Revolution

- Galileo: On the shoulders of Giants (2011)
 - o Tells the story of Galileo and his relationship with Cosimo de Medici.
- Master & Commander (2003)
 - o Set during the time of the Napoleonic wars a British and French ship struggle around South America. A visit to the Galapagos and the ties to Darwin make this movie definitely worth it.

Reformation

- The Tudors (2007-2010)
 - o 4 season series of the life of Henry VIII in England at the time of the Reformation.
- **Luther** (2003)
 - o Showing the upbringing of Martin Luther as a monk and the transition he makes to "radical reformer."
- The Borgias (2011-)
 - o Series about the Borgia family's rise to power in Rome at the time of the Renaissance and early Reformation.
- Queen Margot (1994)
 - o Based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas père, it is set during the French wars of religion. Margot de Valois, sister of the Catholic King Charles IX, is forced to marry Huguenot King Henri of Navarre.
- **Elizabeth (1998)**
 - o There are many other movies on Queen Elizabeth. This is so amazing anti-Catholic, it could not have been made by a modern English director.
- Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007)
 - o Elizabeth's struggle to cement her claim to the throne of England and fight off the Spanish Armada.
- Absolutism/Enlightenment
 - The Madness of King George (1994)
 - o The tale of King George III's struggle with "sickness" while the court life of Britain seeks to work against him.
 - Vatel (2000)
 - o The opening film Cannes 2000 focuses on three days in 1671 when the Prince de Condé hosted Louis XIV and his court.
 - Catherine the Great (1996)
 - o The rise of Catherine the Great to the throne of Russia.
 - **To Kill a King (2003)**
 - o The post English Civil War debate as to whether or not to execute the captured Charles I.
 - Les Miserables (1998)
 - o Modern adaptation of the classic tale told as more of a historical adaptation than musical. Set among the backdrop of revolutionary France.
 - Sissi (1955)
 - o Love tale about Elisabeth of Austria and her courtship with Emperor Franz Josef.
 - Amadeus (1984)
 - o The tale of Wolfgang Mozart as told by his peer Antonio Salieri.

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- A Tale of two cities (1991)
 - o A love story set during the time of the French Revolution.
- **A Royal Affair**
 - o An idealistic Queen works secretly with the King Christian VII of Denmark's doctor to institute radical Enlightenment reforms.

Industrial Era

- **Amazing Grace (2006)**
 - o The story of William Wilburforce's attempt to ban slavery in England.
- Nicholas and Alexandra (1971)
 - o The Russian Revolution from the viewpoint of the Tsar and Tsarina. This is long, but worth the effort.
- Victoria and Albert (2001)
 - o The love story of Victoria and Albert of England and the raising of their nine children.
- **The Young Victoria (2009)**
 - o Victoria of England fighting to establish herself while needing to juggle Parliament and a new love.

Colonialism/Imperialism

- **Gandhi (1982)**
 - o The tale of Gandhi's resistance against the British in India and the push for de-colonization.
- Four Feathers (2002)
 - o British soldiers get sent to the Sudan only to have their imperial pride whipped.
- The New World (2005)
 - o The founding of the settlement of Jamestown in North America and early relations between the natives and English.
- The Patriot (2000)
 - o Based off the true story of the French Resistance during the Second World War but super-imposed onto the theme of the American war of Independence.

- **Last of the Mohicans (1992)**
 - o Set during the Seven Years War in North America (French and Indian War) the Natives and colonists struggle to survive among the backdrop of Britain and Frances' war for dominance.

World Wars and Interwar Period

- Doctor Zhivago (2002 or 1965)
 - o Based on the Boris Pasternak novel about two peoples journey through the course of the Russian Revolution and Civil War.
- **Red Baron (2008)**
 - o Told from the perspective of the German ace during World War I as he struggles with maintaining his honor while struggling against the Canadian "Blue Max"
- **A very long engagement (2004)**
 - o A French woman seeks to find out what happened to her Fiance during World War I.
- Joyeux Noel (2005)
 - o The story of the Christmas truce in the winter of 1914 between the British, French, and German armies.
- A Woman in Berlin (2008)
 - o A German woman lives in post-War Berlin, dealing with occupation and the traumas of living amongst the red army.
- Sophie Scholl: The Final Days (2005)
 - o Based on the true story of Sophie Scholl who resisted the Nazi's rise to power.
- Nuremburg (2001)
 - o This film tells the tale of the trials at Nuremburg following the end of World War II.
- Max Manus (2008)
 - o Norwegian resistance to Nazi occupation during World War II.
- **Das Boot (1981)**
 - o The classic film about a German U-Boat in the battle of the Atlantic.

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- Hitler: Rise of Evil (2003)
 - o Tv miniseries about the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party.
 - **The Way Back (2010)**
 - o Siberian gulag escapees travel 4,000 miles by foot to reach India.
 - Battle of Britain (1969)
 - o The film was made with real WWII aircraft, and has great air fight footage depicting the Battle of Britain.
 - **Der Untergang (2004)**
 - o "The Downfall" Set against the backdrop of the Battle of Berlin the Nazi state crumbles and the German high command struggles to keep it intact.
 - **Schindler's list (1993)**
 - o Steven Spielberg's adaptation of the story of Oskar Schindler's attempt to save Jews during the holocaust. (Highly suggested to watch with a parent)
 - **Band of Brothers (2001)**
 - o The ten part series that goes over the American 101st airborne's fight against the Germans across Europe in World War II. Showing the battles of D-Day, the Bocage, Market Garden, Battle of the Bulge, and the push into Germany.
 - Memphis Belle (1990)
 - o The true story of an American Bomber's attempt to complete a bombing mission over Nazi Germany.
 - A Bridge too Far (1997)
 - o The thorough telling of the American, British, and French invasion of the Netherlands in World War II.
 - **Defiance (2008)**
 - o Jewish rebels fight against Nazi occupation in Eastern Europe.
 - Enemy at the Gates (2001)
 - o Soviet forces attempting to hold the idealistic city of Stalingrad against the Germans, meanwhile two snipers struggle in the ultimate class warfare.
 - Saving Private Ryan (1998)
 - o Steven Spielberg's tale of a small collection of soldiers who fight to find a paratrooper whose brothers have all died. Very graphic but ultra-realistic showing of Day and the days immediately following the allied invasion of France
 - **The Monuments Men (2013)**
 - o Art historians seek to preserve the artistic treasures of Europe before they are destroyed in World War II.
 - Valkyrie (2008)
 - o The true story of the attempt to kill Hitler late in World War II.
- Cold War
- **Goodbye Lenin (2003)**
 - o A son attempts to hide the events of the fall of communism and the Berlin wall from his ill mother.
 - Thirteen Days (2000)
 - o The diplomatic attempts to stave off World War III during the Cuban Missile crisis. Told from the American perspective.
 - The Iron Lady (2011)
 - o The biographical tale of Britain's first female Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.
 - The Last King of Scotland (2006)
 - o The true story of the relationship between Ugandan dictator Idi Amin and Scottish doctor Nicolas Garrigan.
 - October Sky (1999)
 - o The true story of Homer Hickam's attempt to go to college to be an astronaut in Cold War America.
 - **9th Company (2005)**
 - o A Red Army unit's struggle against the Afghan army in the 1980s
 - The Good Shepherd (2006)
 - o Told from the American perspective about the origins of the CIA and the covert war against the Soviets.

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- Munich (2005)
 - o The true story of 5 Jewish men attempting to find those responsible for kidnapping and executing 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics.

Post Cold War

- Hotel Rwanda (2004)
 - o The fallout of colonization come to a head as the errors become horribly clear in the form of genocide.
- The Queen (2006)
 - o The biographical tale of Queen Elizabeth II's modern rule of Great Britain.