

PERIODISATION OF WESTERN EMPIRES (1500 - 2010)

Year	Period	Key Events	Key Concepts
1450	THE FIRST PERIOD OF DEEP SYSTEMIC CHAOS: THE FEUDAL AND CLERICAL MEDIAL PERIOD (450-1530)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Renaissance (±1400 - ±1600) The Black Death (1348-1352) Fall of the Eastern Roman Empire (395-1453) End of the Hundred Years War between England and France (1337-1453) Gutenberg started the Printing Revolution in 1454 War of Roses in England (1455-1485) Emergence of gunpowder states in Spain, France and England in last quarter of fifteenth century Age of Discovery: Columbus (1492), Bartholomew Diaz (1488), Vasco da Gama (1498) Reconquista ended when Spain conquered Granada (1492). Jews expelled from Spain (1492) Martin Luther repudiated papal superiority. The beginning of the Reformation (1517) Charles V became emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (1519-1556) Henry VIII established Anglican Church (1531) Religious wars between Catholics and Protestants (1530-1648) 	
1500 / 1530	THE FIRST PATTERN OF WESTERN EMPIRES (1530-1820) : EMPIRES OF CONQUEST, PLUNDERING, SLAVERY AND SETTLEMENT COLONIALISM IN THE PERIOD OF MERCANTILISM, CHARTERED CORPORATIONS AND RELIGIOUS, DYNASTIC AND COMMERCIAL WARS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1500-1530: The preparational period that preceded the emergence of Spain as track laying vehicle in empire-building (Charles V attained victories in Mexico, Peru and over France and Italy (1519-1532)). 1530-1630: The systemic period of the Spanish empire in the Americas (Roman Catholic Church and the bankers of Genoa played important roles). Defeat of the Spanish Armada (1588). <p><i>The Dutch empire</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1618-1648: The 30 Years War: the mild systemic chaos that preceded the emergence of the Dutch as track laying vehicle in empire-building. (Treaty of Westphalia acknowledge the Dutch state). 1648-1713: The systemic period of the Dutch (capitalist) empire (Amsterdam and VOC played important roles). The Dutch were fiscal, financial and military pioneers. <p><i>The first British empire</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> English East Indian Company in India (1600-1874): Plassey (1757), the Great Mutiny (1657). 1688-1713: The Glorious Revolution, the Nine Years War and the Spanish Succession War. 25 years of mild systemic chaos that preceded the emergence of Britain as track laying vehicle in empire-building for the first time. Peace of Utrecht (1713) advantageous for Britain. 1713-1775/1883: The systemic period of the first British (capitalist) empire. Britain won the mercantilist struggle against Spain, France and Holland. A Second Hundred Years War took place between Britain and France (1689-1815). Britain became a "fiscal militaristic state". The Gentry parliament, British fiscal and financial institutions and the British fleet played important roles. The Seven Years War (1756 - 1763). Domestic income extraordinarily unequally distributed between the Gentry and the commercial elite on the one hand and the lower class on the other. 	
1775	THE SECOND PERIOD OF DEEP SYSTEMIC CHAOS: UPHEAVALS AGAINST THE ANCIENT REGIME (1775 - 1820)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Enlightenment and the Age of Revolution. The American War of Independence (1775-1783). The French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars (1789-1815). The (first) Industrial Revolution (±1770 - ±1870). The revolt of the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in Latin America (1807-1825). The end of the slave-trade (1807) and the replacement of slavery (1833) by labour repression and Master and Servants Laws. Illegal slave trade continued after 1833 in USA (1863), Brazil (1888) and Africa (1936). 	
1815/1846	THE SECOND PATTERN OF WESTERN EMPIRES (1820-1945): EMPIRES OF GRAVE EXPLOITATION AND LABOUR REPRESSION IN THE PERIOD OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND RENTIERSHIP AND THE WAGING OF COLONIAL AND NATIONALIST WARS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1815-1846: The preparational period that preceded the emergence of Britain as tracklaying vehicle in empire-building for the second time. (The enactment of the enabling conditions for the Grand Scheme of the free-trade empire and laissez faire capitalism in the 1830's and 1840's). 1846-1914/31: The systemic period of the second British (capitalist) empire). The French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars (1789-1815). The (first) Industrial Revolution (±1770 - ±1870). The revolt of the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in Latin America (1807-1825). Increased exploitation and imperial rivalry led to disruption of the Western continents. The origin of the Third World as a consequence of the ruthless exploitation by industrializing Western empires. The Scramble of Africa (1885 - 1960). America's first maritime empire (1898-1946) and US imperialism in the first half of the 20th century. 	
1914	THE THIRD PERIOD OF DEEP SYSTEMIC CHAOS: THE THIRTY-ONE-YEARS-WAR (1914 - 1945)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The First World War (1914-1918). The Bolshevik Revolution (1917) Hyperinflation in Germany (1923). Return to the Gold Standard in 1925. American isolationism and its Roaring Twenties. The Great Depression (1873-1896) High Imperialism and escalating rivalry between the British free-trade empire and the nationalist and protectionist orientated imperialist states (1880-1914). Imperial rivalry led to increased exploitation and disruption of the Western continents. The origin of the Third World as a consequence of the ruthless exploitation by industrializing Western empires. The Scramble of Africa (1885 - 1960). America's first maritime empire (1898-1946) and US imperialism in the first half of the 20th century. The anti-systemic revolt against the West and the decolonization of Asia (1946-1949) and Africa (1957-1980). 	
1945/1950	THE THIRD PATTERN OF WESTERN EMPIRES (1945-2010): AMERICAN-LED INFORMAL EMPIRES THAT "DRAINED" THE RESTERN WORLD OF POST-COLONIALISM, CORPORATISM, MARKET-FUNDAMENTALISM, THE "INDEPENDENCE" OF THE PENTAGON AND THE PRIVATIZATION OF WAR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1945-1968: The consolidation of the American hegemonic position and the formation of an American-led Western Club amidst the Cold War. The US financial power: a) The first American-led financial empire - US a credit country (1945-1971). b) The crisis from the Nixon Shock (1971) until the Volcker Shock (1979-1985). c) The second American-led financial empire - US a debt country (1983-2010). The US capitalist and corporatist power a) The American-led social-democratic capitalist empire in Western Europe (1945-1973). b) The mild systemic crisis in the 1970s and the emergence of techno-logical and financial globalization. c) The American-led neoliberal, postcolonial, global capitalist empire since the early 1980. The US militaristic power a) Communism and the emergence of the US empire of militarism. b) The Vietnam War and the crisis of US military power in the 1970s. c) The US empire of military bases, proxy wars and anti-terrorist wars (since 1974). 	