



French Dynasties

History Study Guide Version 3.1

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Dynasties are listed chronologically within each region. In this sheet, "Place" refers to the kingdom or polity with which the dynasty or house is primarily associated; "Period" refers to the approximate time during which the dynasty or house maintained active power; and "Founded" indicates the establishment of the dynasty or house as a ruling power, and not as a family. Also see the French and English Ruling Houses study guides.

Dynasty	Place, Period	Details
House of <u>Aviz</u>	Portugal, 1300s-1500s	included Henry the Navigator ; founded by John I; preceded the House of Braganza
House of <u>Borgia</u>	Spain, 1400s-1500s	in the 1500s, led by Cesare , the illegitimate son of Roderigo , who became Pope Alexander VI ; Cesare's illegitimate sister, Lucrezia , was widely believed to be a poisoner; Cesare inspired Niccolò Machiavelli to write <i>The Prince</i>
House of <u>Medici</u> [MEH-dih-chee]	Florence, 1400s-1600s	led by Lorenzo the Magnificent , who was targeted by the Pazzi Conspiracy , and by Cosimo ; expelled from Florence by Girolamo Savonarola ; Catherine was an instigator of the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre of Huguenots; patronized Michelangelo and Botticelli; Medici popes included Leo X, Leo XI, and Clement VII
House of <u>Habsburg</u>	Holy Roman Empire, 1400s-1700s	extensive family founded in Austria , with members in many ruling families across Europe and the world; many had a prominent "Habsburg jaw" that arose through inbreeding amongst noble European families; due to the Pragmatic Sanction , Maria Theresa took power after the death of Charles VI and the War of the Austrian Succession , during which the Habsburgs opposed the Hohenzollerns; included King Phillip II of Spain and Portugal, Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico, and many more; used the motto A.E.I.O.U. in Austria
House of <u>Vasa</u>	Sweden and Poland, 1500s-1600s	Swedish rulers included Queen Christina (nicknamed "Minerva of the North") and her father, King Gustavus Adolphus (nicknamed "Lion of the North"), who led Sweden during the Thirty Years' War
House of <u>Romanov</u>	Russia, 1600s-1900s	final ruling house of Russia; Tsar Nicholas II was forced to step down during the February Revolution , during which his family was killed by the Bolsheviks ; Peter I (Peter the Great) won the Great Northern War against Sweden and westernized Russia; Alexander II freed the serfs; founded by Michael I, who succeeded the Rurik dynasty at the end of the Time of Troubles
House of <u>Hohenzollern</u>	Germany, 1400s-1900s	last ruling member of the German Empire was Wilhelm II , who lost power at the end of World War I with the establishment of the Weimar Republic; a branch ruled Brandenburg-Prussia under a personal union and unified the German Empire in the 1800s;
House of <u>Orange-Nassau</u>	Netherlands, 1500s-current	with his wife, Mary II, William of Orange deposed James II of England (see "House of Stuart" on the British Dynasties Cheat Sheet) during the Glorious Revolution and became William III of England after success at the Battle of the Boyne