

# Difference Between Ancient, Medieval and Modern History

The classification of history is based on assessing which period in time were the reliable records available.

\*History is a compulsory part of the UPSC Prelims (GS 1) and Mains stage (GS 1) and is also optional in the UPSC Mains Exam (2 papers)

Thus, time periods in history are divided into the following three to summarize significant eras in the history of the world:

- Ancient History
- Medieval History
- Modern History

Ancient history is the time period where the earliest known human settlements have been found around 6000 BC. It ends with the fall of major empires such as the Roman Empire, the Han Empire of China and the Gupta Empire around 650 AD.

Medieval History, also known as post-classical history, is said to have begun around 500 AD, following the major cultural and religious upheaval that was common around this time.

The Modern Period covers the age of extra-continental expansions (like the exploration and colonization of Asia and North America by the Europeans) to the present day.

# ANALYZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL AND MODERN HISTORY

ANCIENT HISTORY	MEDIEVAL HISTORY	MODERN HISTORY
6000 BC - 650 AD	500 AD - 1500 AD	500 AD - Present Day
Beginning of Iron Age	Dark Ages	Renaissance
Indus Valley Civilization	Byzantine Empire	Age of Exploration
Roman Empire	Invention of Gunpowder	World War 1 & 2
Gupta Empire	Rise of Major Religions	Globalization

This article will highlight the key differences between the three historical periods for the IAS Exam

The difference between Ancient, Medieval and Modern History is given in the table below:

<b>Differences between Ancient, Medieval and Modern History</b>		
<b>Ancient History</b>	<b>Medieval History</b>	<b>Modern History</b>
6000 BC - 650 AD	500 AD - 1500 AD	500 AD-Present Day
This era of human history saw widespread use of bronze and iron tools	There were many advances in science and other technological advances such	The technological advances would usher in a new era of

<p>leading to the formation of composite human societies that eventually evolved to large empires</p>	<p>as the invention of gunpowder and increased trade between Asia and Europe</p>	<p>enlightenment with new systems of government overcoming the old systems</p>
<p>The term “classical antiquity” is often confused with Ancient History when in fact it is used to describe the time period in Western History when Ancient Mediterranean Civilisations prospered</p>	<p>In Europe, Medieval History is also referred to as the “Dark Ages” as many records were lost due to the chaos following the fall of the western half of the Roman Empire</p>	<p>Contemporary history is either a subset of the late modern period, or it is one of the three major subsets of modern history, alongside the early modern period and the late modern period. The term contemporary history has been in use at least since the early 19th century.</p>
<p>It is estimated that the world population stood at around 72 million at around 1000 BC. By 500 AD it stood around by 209 Million</p>	<p>The world population rose from 210 million in 500 AD to 461 million in 1500 AD</p>	<p>The world population rose from 460 million in 1500 AD to 7 billion as of 2020 AD</p>
<p>Significant events of this era include the rise of Greek Kingdoms, rise and fall of the Indus Valley Civilization and establishment of international trade networks.</p>	<p>Although the Dark Ages have said to begin with the fall of the Roman Empire in the West in 476 AD, the invasion of Italy by its Eastern half (known as the Byzantine Empire) in 534 AD is said to be the true beginning of a period marked by anarchy and disorder</p>	<p>The Renaissance of the 15th and 16th centuries heralded the beginning of the modern period as we know it today. This period was marked by a remarkable advancement in learning, medicine, technology and exploration.</p>