A study of the main cultural, economic and political trends and events from the rise of civilization in the Near East to the eve of the French Revolution.

DVDs are closed captioned

Lesson 1 - The Reformation
Voiced by Martin Luther, Protestantism shattered the united of the Catholic Church.

Lesson 2 - The Rise of the Middle Class
As the cities grew, new middle-class mores had an impact on religious life.

Lesson 3 - The Wars of Religion
For more than a century, the quarrels of Protestants and Catholics tore Europe apart.

Lesson 4 - The Rise of the Trading Cities
Amid religious wars, a few cities learned that tolerance increased their prosperity.

Lesson 5 - The Age of Absolutism
Exhausted by war and civil strife, many Europeans exchanged earlier liberties and anarchies for greater peace.

Lesson 6 - Absolutism and the Social Contract
Arguments about the legitimate source of political power centered on divine right versus natural law.

Lesson 7 - The Enlightened Despots
Monarchs considered reforms in order to create more efficient societies, but not at the expense of their own power.

Lesson 8 - The Enlightenment
Intellectual theories about the nature of man and his potential came to the fore.

Lesson 9 - The Enlightenment and Society
Scientists and social reformers battled for universal human rights during a peaceful and prosperous period.

Lesson 10 - The Modern Philosophers
Freedom of thought and expression opened new vistas explored by French, English, and American thinkers.

Lesson 11 - The American Revolution
The British colonists created a society that tested Enlightenment ideas and resisted restrictions imposed by England.

Lesson 12 - The American Republic
A new republic, the compromise of radicals and conservatives, was founded on universal freedoms.
Lesson 13 - The Death of the Old Regime
In France, the old order collapsed under revolutionaries’ attacks and the monarchy’s own weakness.

Lesson 14 - The French Revolution
Liberty, equality, and fraternity skidded into a reign of terror.

Lesson 15 - The Industrial Revolution
Technology and mass production reduced famine and ushered in higher standards of living.

Lesson 16 - The Industrial World
A consumer revolution was fueled by coal, public transportation, and new city services.

Lesson 17 - Revolution and Romantics
Leaders in the arts, literature, and political theory argued for social justice and national liberation.

Lesson 18 - The Age of the Nation-States
The great powers cooperated to quell internal revolts, yet competed to acquire colonies.

Lesson 19 - A New Public
Public education and mass communications created a new political life and leisure time.

Lesson 20 - Fin de Siècle
Everyday life of the working class was transformed by leisure, prompting the birth of an elite avant-garde movement.

Lesson 21 - The First World War and the Rise of Fascism
Old empires crumbled during World War I to be replaced by right-wing dictatorships in Italy, Spain, and Germany.

Lesson 22 - The Second World War
World War II was a war of new tactics and strategies. Civilian populations became targets as the Nazi holocaust exterminated millions of people.

Lesson 23 - The Cold War
The U.S. and Soviet Union dominated Europe and confronted each other in Korea.

Lesson 24 - Europe and the Third World
Burdened with the legacy of colonial imperialism, the Third World rushed development to catch up with its Western counterparts.

Lesson 25 - The Technological Revolution
Keeping up with the ever-increasing pace of change became the standard of the day.

Lesson 26 - Toward the Future
Modern medicine, atomic energy, computers, and new concepts of time, energy, and matter all have an important effect on life in the twentieth century.