The Western Tradition Part 1
History 1

Covering the ancient world through the French Revolution, this illustrated lecture presents a tapestry of political and social events woven with many strands—religion, industry, agriculture, demography, government, economics, and art. A visual feast of over 2,700 images from the Metropolitan Museum of Art portrays key events that shaped the development of Western thought, culture, and tradition.

DVDs are Closed Captioned

1. The Dawn of History
The origins of the human race are traced from anthropoid ancestors to the agricultural revolution.

2. The Ancient Egyptians
Egyptian irrigation created one of the first great civilizations.

3. Mesopotamia
Settlements in the Fertile Crescent gave rise to the great river civilizations of the Middle East.

4. From Bronze to Iron
Metals revolutionized tools, as well as societies, in the empires of Assyria, Persia, and Neo-Babylonia.

5. The Rise of Greek Civilization
Democracy and philosophy arose from Greek cities at the edge of the civilized world.

6. Greek Thought
Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle laid the foundation of Western intellectual thought.

7. Alexander the Great
Alexander's conquests quadrupled the size of the world known to the Greeks.

8. The Hellenistic Age
Hellenistic kingdoms extended Greek culture throughout the Mediterranean.

9. The Rise of Rome
Through its army, Rome built an empire that shaped the West.

10. The Roman Empire
Rome’s civil engineering contributed as much to the empire as did its weapons.

11. Early Christianity
Christianity spread despite contempt and persecution from Rome.

12. The Rise of the Church
The old heresy became the Roman empire’s official religion under the Emperor Constantine.

13. The Decline of Rome
While enemies slashed at Rome’s borders, civil war and economic collapse destroyed the empire from within.

14. The Fall of Rome
Despite the success of emperors such as Hadrian and Marcus Aurelius, Rome fell victim to barbarian invasions.
15. The Byzantine Empire
From Constantinople, the Byzantine Empire carried on the traditions of Greece and Rome.

16. The Fall of Byzantium
Nearly a thousand years after Rome’s fall, Constantinople was conquered by the forces of Islam.

17. The Dark Ages
Barbarian kingdoms took possession of the fragments of the Roman Empire.

18. The Age of Charlemagne
Charlemagne revived hopes for a new empire in Western Europe.

19. The Middle Ages
Amid invasion and civil disorder, a military aristocracy dominated the kingdoms of Europe.

20. The Feudal Order
Bishop, knight, and peasant exemplified some of the social divisions of the year 1000 A.D.

21. Common Life in the Middle Ages
Famine, disease, and short life expectancies were the conditions that shaped medieval beliefs.

22. Cities and Cathedrals of the Middle Ages
The great churches embodied the material and spiritual ambitions of the age.

23. The Late Middle Ages
Two hundred years of war and plague debilitated Europe.

24. The National Monarchies
A new urban middle class emerged, while dynastic marriages established centralized monarchies.

25. The Renaissance and the Age of Discovery
Renaissance humanists made man the measure of all things. Europe was possessed by a new passion for knowledge.

26. The Renaissance and the New World
The discovery of America challenged Europe.