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Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is the most popular and ancient Hindu religious text. Today, you will come to know all the relevant and important aspects related to Srimad Bhagavad Gita. Let's begin this exciting journey and come to know about Shrimad Bhagavad Gita? What is Shrimad Bhagavad Gita? In simple terms, Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is a sacred Hindu religious text that contains knowledge about how we should lead our life. It teaches us what is good and evil in human life. It gives us inspiration about the right way of leading our lives. The meaning of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is – “Song of the Lord.” It is written in the poetic form in Sanskrit and covers many Hindu spiritual and intellectual theories. It is a narration that attempts to integrate spiritual values into ordinary life. It's in a narrative form that describes the dialog between Lord Krishna and Pandava prince Arjun that happened the battlegrounds before the Great Mahabharata War when Arjun became depressed and went about to leave the war. Lord Krishna inspires Arjun to take on life's challenges and fight the enemies (the Kauravas) with all the might. So, Srimad Bhagavad Gita is a sermon that was given by Lord Krishna to inspire Arjun to fight in the Mahabharata War. Image Credit: bhagavad-gita.us It is very amazing that the knowledge contained in Bhagavad Gita is still meaningful and relevant for the humans in the present age of Kaliyuga. Moreover, Bhagavad Gita will remain relevant and inspirational even for future generations. Its knowledge surpasses time barrier to benefit humankind in all the ages. It guides us towards the path of “Karma Yoga.” It contains a description of “Gyana Yoga,” “Bhakti Yoga,” and “Karma Yoga” and “Rajas Yoga.” It tells us whosoever follows these paths surely lead a fulfilled life and attains Moksha (freedom from the cycle of birth and death). The teachings of Bhagavad Gita were known to three persons. Yes, it was Arjun, of course. Besides Arjun, it was known to Dhritrashtra and Sanjay (he had the Divya Chakshu, Vision, through which he narrated the whole Mahabharata War to Dhritrashtra including Bhagavad Gita). Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is considered equivalent to the Hindu Upanishads. It contains the essence of Vedas and Upanishads. It is also known as “Gita Upanishad.” Here, we list out the main points emphasized in Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. Human beings should not abandon confidence in any adverse circumstance. They should have faith in God. Truth always wins in the end. The soul or the “Atman” is neither born nor does it die. You should not have any regrets for the past. Whatever is yours belonged to somebody else yesterday, and will belong to somebody else the day after tomorrow. You attach yourself with the belongings and create sorrow for yourself. Change is the law of the universe. The body is made of fire, water, air, earth, and ether, and will disappear into these elements. Only the soul (Atman) is permanent. Your every act should be a dedication to the God Almighty. Mahatma Gandhi has said: “Those who meditate on the Gita will derive fresh joy and new meanings from it every day.” So, Srimad Bhagavad Gita contains divine knowledge about human consciousness. It is a part of the Hindu epic Mahabharata. What is the context of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita? At the start of Mahabharata War, Arjuna is deluded and disturbed. He is in a moral dilemma and considers it evil to indulge in violence and fight the Kauravas. He is worried about the death that will result from the war. Arjun is not ready to fight the war. He puts down his arms. Arjun seeks Krishna's counsel about whether he should renounce war. The discourse given by Lord Krishna to Arjun constitutes the Bhagavad Gita. Krishna counsels Arjun that he should fulfill his duties as a Kshatriya (warrior) and participate in the war without worrying about the outcome. He teaches Arjun “selfless action” or Karma Yoga. What is the story of Bhagavad Gita? The Bhagavad Gita explains the Hindu Paths to Salvation. It is a conversation that occurred between Lord Krishna and the Pandava prince Arjun. The episode of Bhagavad Gita happened when the Pandavas and the Kauravas were about to go to war with one another. At this point, Arjun got deeply depressed. He did not want to shed his families' blood. At this very moment, Lord Krishna steps in and counsels Arjun to participate and fight his enemies (Kauravas) in the Mahabharata War. Arjun puts questions upon questions to Lord Krishna as he is drowned in doubts and confusion. Krishna answers him every question in length explaining him the major tenants of the Hindu faith in the form of: Karma Yoga Jnana Yoga Bhakti Yoga Krishna ultimately succeeds in convincing Arjun to fight the Mahabharata War and removes all his doubts and confusion. All these discourses that Krishna gave to Arjun take the form of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. This conversation between Krishna and Arjun in Bhagavad Gita has been set in 18 chapters containing 700 slokas. Bhagavad Gita Summary Here, we give you a summary of each of these 18 chapters in Bhagavad Gita. Chapter 1: The Battlefield of Kurukshetra - Vishada Yoga The opposing armies of the Kauravas and the Pandavas stand poised for the great Mahabharata War in the battlefield of Kurukshetra. The mighty warrior Arjun takes the view of the battlefield observing both the armies. He sees his friends, relatives, and teachers that are ready to fight against each other. Observing this mammoth sight, Arjun overcomes the grief and pity. His mind is in a state of confusion. He fails and throws his arms. His determination fails. He declines to fight the Mahabharata War. Chapter 2: Krishna begins his teachings - Sankhya Yoga Arjun calls upon Krishna. Lord Krishna accepts Arjun as his disciple. Krishna begins with his teachings. He explains the fundamental difference between the material body and the eternal spiritual soul. Krishna clarifies the different ways of selfless service to the Supreme. He goes on to narrate the story of a self-realized person. Chapter 3: The Description of Karma Yoga Krishna explains to Arjun the secrets of Karma Yoga. He explains that actions bind human beings to this world. The ones who follow the path of Karma Yoga can be liberated from it. He tells Arjun to do the action for the pleasure of the Supreme. One should do actions without selfish motives then only one can be liberated from the laws of karma (action and reaction). By practicing the Karma Yoga, one can attain the knowledge of the self and the Supreme. Chapter 4: Jnana Yoga - Transcendental Knowledge Here, Krishna explains Arjun - the spiritual knowledge of the soul. One who realizes the soul unites with the Supreme Reality, The Brahman. Krishna also tells Arjun, the necessity of approaching a Guru. He narrates the various aspects of a Realized Soul. Chapter 5: Karma Vairagya Yoga The essence of this chapter where Krishna explains to Arjun that one must renounce the fruits (results) of the action. The transcendental knowledge purifies the person with pure consciousness. He is blessed with peace, detachment, spiritual vision, and bliss. Chapter 6: Abhyasa Yoga or Dhyanra Yoga Here, Krishna describes the importance of meditative practice for controlling the mind and the senses so that one can realize God, Paramatma. This practice of meditation (remembrance of God) culminates in Samadhi which is full consciousness of the Supreme. Chapter 7: Paramahansa Vijnana Yoga Here, Krishna explains the Supreme Truth. He explains to Arjun that the supreme cause to everything, both material and spiritual is God itself. He informs Arjun that a true Yoga surrenders into Him in devotion. However, to impious souls who think more on the objects of devotion, Chapter 8: Aksara-Parabrahma Yoga Here, Krishna tells Arjun that one who worships the Supreme with devotion, the Lord finally attains to him. Chapter 9: Raja-Vidya-Vidya Yoga Here, Krishna shares with Arjun the secrets of the Supreme. He explains the difference between the two types of knowledge, the higher knowledge and the lower knowledge. Chapter 10: Multilingual Bhaga Gita This Supreme knowledge allows you to visit the Sanatani world, the most confidential knowledge known as Raja Vidya Guhya Yoga. He tells Arjun that the soul is eternally related to the Supreme Lord which can be realized through transcendental devotion and service (Bhakti). One should devote oneself to the pure devotion of the Lord to realize his Supreme Consciousness. Chapter 10: Vibhuti-Vistara Yoga Here, Krishna reveals the divine energies that have manifested in the material world or the spiritual. Krishna tells Arjun that the Supreme Lord is the ultimate cause of all the causes. It supports the essence of everything. So, the Supreme Lord or the Krishna Consciousness is the supreme object of worship for all the beings. Chapter 11: Visvarupa-Darsana Yoga Now, Lord Krishna grants Arjun the divine vision and reveals his spectacular and limitless Universal Form. Krishna tells Arjun that His Universal Cosmic Form can only be seen by pure devotional service. No one has seen his Universal Form up-till now. Chapter 12: Bhakti Yoga Krishna tells Arjun with pure devotional service (Bhakti Yoga) one can attain the pure love of Krishna Consciousness. It is the highest end of spiritual achievement. He emphasizes that whosoever follow this supreme path develops divine qualities. Chapter 13: Ksetra-Ksetrajna Vibhaga Yoga Here, Krishna explains Arjun the difference between the body, soul and the Super-soul. By understanding the difference between them, one can attain liberation from the material world. Chapter 14: Gunatraya-Vibhaga Yoga Here, Krishna discusses the qualities of material nature. These are goodness, passion, and ignorance. Lord Krishna explains all these modes, how they function, what are their effects, and how one can transcend them. He also goes on to state the symptoms of one who has transcended these states and got what is known as the transcendental state. Chapter 15: Purushottama Yoga Here, Krishna emphasizes the true Vedic knowledge. He states that one should detach oneself from the material world known as “Maya.” The Supreme Reality is the Almighty Lord that exists in different forms. One should surrender to the Supreme Lord. Chapter 16: Bhakti Yoga Here, Krishna explains the qualities of a devotee. Krishna clarifies why the great devotees are called devotees. He explains the difference between the two types of devotees, the higher devotee and the lower devotee. Chapter 17: Sraddhatraya-Vibhaga Yoga Here, Krishna narrates about the three types of faiths. They evolve from three modes of material nature. Those who are not men act as such by passion and ignorance only get impermanent and material results. However, those who perform acts filled with goodness have their hearts purified and tread on the path of devotion and Krishna Consciousness. Chapter 18: Conclusion - Moksa-Opadesa Yoga Here, Krishna explains the meaning of renunciation. He talks about Brahman Realization, the glories of the Bhagavad Gita and concludes it by saying that the highest path of religion is absolute. He consoles Arjun by saying that He is there to take care of the sins. So, he should surrender to Him with absolute faith. Finally, all the doubts, and confusions of Arjun are removed and is ready to take on the battle. Now here we are listing some of the most frequently asked questions about Bhagavad Gita How many slokas are there in Bhagavad Gita? As you know now, Shrimad Bhagavad Gita has been set in as much as 18 Chapters. It contains 700 Slokas in all. Here, we go on to mention the number of Slokas in each of the chapters: Chapter 1: Vishada Yoga - 46 verses Chapter 2: Sankhya Yoga - 72 Verses Chapter 3: Karma Yoga - 43 verses Chapter 4: Jnana Yoga - 42 verses Chapter 5: Karma Vairagya Yoga - 29 verses Chapter 6: Dhyanra Yoga - 47 verses Chapter 7: Paramahansa Vijnana Yoga - 30 verses Chapter 8: Aksara-Parabrahman Yoga - 28 verses Chapter 9: Raja-Vidya-Guhyra Yoga - 34 verses Chapter 10: Vibhuti-Vistara-Yoga - 42 verses Chapter 11: Visvarupa-Darsana-Yoga - 55 verses Chapter 12: Bhakti Yoga - 35 verses Chapter 13: Ksetra-Ksetrajna Vibhaga Yoga - 35 verses Chapter 14: Gunatraya-Vibhaga Yoga - 27 verses Chapter 15: Purushottama-Yoga - 20 verses Chapter 16: Daivasura-Sampada-Vibhaga Yoga - 24 verses Chapter 17: Sraddhatraya-Vibhaga Yoga - 28 verses Chapter 18: Conclusion - Moksa-Opadesa-Yoga - 24 verses Chapter 19: Bhakti Yoga - 35 verses Chapter 20: Moksa-Opadesa-Yoga - 24 verses Chapter 21: Bhakti Yoga - 35 verses Chapter 22: Moksa-Opadesa-Yoga - 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Small kingdoms were established in other islands to fight against Portuguese. Each kingdom introduced local language as a way of communication and unity. 1506: Leonardo da Vinci completes the Mona Lisa. 1506: King Afonso I of Kongo wins the battle of Mbanza Kongo, resulting in Catholicism becoming Kongo's state religion. Battle of Cerinola: El Gran Capitán Barba the corpse of Louis d'Armagnac, Duke of Nemours 1506: At least two thousand converted Jews are massacred in a Lisbon riot, Portugal. 1506: Christopher Columbus dies in Valladolid, Spain. 1506: Poland is invaded by Tatars from the Crimean Khanate. 1507: The first recorded epidemic of smallpox in the New World on the island of Hispaniola. It devastates the native Taíno population.[6] 1507: Afonso de Albuquerque conquered Hormuz and Muscat, among other bases in the Persian Gulf, taking control of the region at the entrance of the Gulf. 1508: The Christian-Islamic power struggle in Europe and West Asia spills over into the Indian Ocean as Battle of Chaul during the Portuguese–Mamluk War 1508–1512: Michelangelo paints the Sistine Chapel ceiling. 1509: The defeat of joint fleet of the Sultan of Gujarat, the Mamlūk Burjī Sultanate of Egypt, and the Zamorin of Calicut with support of the Republic of Venice and the Ottoman Empire in Battle of Diu marks the beginning of Portuguese dominance of the Spice trade and the Indian Ocean. 1509: The Portuguese king sends Diogo Lopes de Sequeira to find Malacca, the eastern terminus of Asian trade. After initially receiving Sequeira, Sultan Mahmud Shah captures and/or kills several of his men and attempts an assault on the four Portuguese ships, which escape.[7] The Javanese fleet is also destroyed in Malacca. 1509: Krishnadevaraya ascends the throne of Vijayanagara Empire. Afonso de Albuquerque 1509–1510: The 'great plague' in various parts of Tudor England.[8] 1510: Afonso de Albuquerque of Portugal conquers Goa in India. 1511: Afonso de Albuquerque of Portugal conquers Malacca, the capital of the Sultanate of Malacca in present-day Malaysia. 1512: Copernicus writes Commentariolus, and proclaims the Sun the center of the Solar System. 1512: The southern part (historical core) of the Kingdom of Navarre is invaded by Castile and Aragon. 1512: Qutb Shahi dynasty, founded by Quli Qutb Mulk, rules Golconda Sultanate until 1687. 1512: The first Portuguese exploratory expedition was sent eastward from Malacca (in present-day Malaysia) to search for the 'Spice Islands' (Maluku) led by Francisco Serão. Serão is shipwrecked but struggles on to Hitu (northern Ambon) and wins the favour of the local rulers.[9] 1513: Machiavelli writes The Prince, a treatise about political philosophy 1513: The Portuguese mariner Jorge Álvares lands at Macau, China, during the Ming dynasty. 1513: Henry VIII defeats the French at the Battle of the Spurs. 1513: The Battle of Flodden Field in which invading Scots are defeated by the Henry VIII's forces. 1513: Sultan Selim I ("The Grim") orders the massacre of Shia Muslims in Anatolia (present-day Turkey). 1513: Vasco Núñez de Balboa, in service of Spain arrives at the Pacific Ocean (which he called Mar del Sur) across the Isthmus of Panama. He was the first European to do so. 1514: The Battle of Orsha halts Muscovy's expansion into Eastern Europe. 1514: Dózsa rebellion (peasant revolt) in Hungary.Martin Luther initiated the Reformation with his Ninety-five Theses in 1517. 1514: The Battle of Chaldiran, the Ottoman Empire gains decisive victory against Safavid dynasty. 1515: Ascension of Francis I of France as King of France following the death of Louis XII. 1515: The Ottoman Empire wrests Eastern Anatolia from the Safavids after the Battle of Chaldiran. 1515: The Ottomans conquer the last beyliks of Anatolia, the Dulkadirs and the Ramadanids. 1516–1517: The Ottomans defeat the Mamluks and gain control of Egypt, Arabia, and the Levant. 1517: The Sweating sickness epidemic in Tudor England.[10] 1517: The Reformation begins when Martin Luther posts his Ninety-five Theses in Saxony. 1518: The Treaty of London was a non-aggression pact between the major European nations. The signatories were Burgundy, France, England, the Holy Roman Empire, the Netherlands, the Papal States and Spain, all of whom agreed not to attack one another and to come to the aid of any that were under attack. 1518: Mir Chakar Khan Rind leaves Baluchistan and settles in Punjab. 1518: Leo Africanus, also known as al-Hasan ibn Muhammad al-Wazzan al-Fasi, an Andalusian Berber diplomat who is best known for his book Descriptione dell’Africa (Description of Africa), is captured by Spanish pirates; he is taken to Rome and presented to Pope Leo X. 1518: The dancing plague of 1518 begins in Strasbourg, lasting for about one month. 1519: Leonardo da Vinci dies of natural causes on May 2.Europe at the time of the accession of Charles V in 1519 1519: Wang Yangming, the Chinese philosopher and governor of Jiangxi province, describes his intent to use the firepower of the lo-fang-jì, a breech-loading Portuguese culverin, in order to suppress the rebellion of Prince Zhu Chenhao. 1519: Barbary pirates led by Hayreddin Barbarossa, a Turk appointed to ruling position in Algiers by the Ottoman Empire, raid Provence and southern France. 1519: Death of Emperor Maximilian, Charles I of Austria, Spain, and the Low Countries becomes Emperor of Holy Roman Empire as Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (ruled until 1556). 1519–1522: Spanish expedition commanded by Magellan and Elcano are the first to Circumnavigate the Earth. 1519–1521: Hernán Cortés leads the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire. Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition that circumnavigated the globe in 1519–1522. 1520–1566: The reign of Suleiman the Magnificent marks the zenith of the Ottoman Empire. 1520: The first European diplomatic mission to Ethiopia, sent by the Portuguese, arrives at Massawa 9 April, and reaches the imperial encampment of Emperor Dawit II in Shewa 9 October. 1520: Vijayanagara Empire forces under Krishnadevaraya defeat the Adil Shahi under at the Battle of Raichur 1520: Sultan Ali Mughayyar Shah of Aceh begins an expansionist campaign capturing Java on the west Sumatran coast (in present-day Indonesia), and the pepper and gold producing lands on the east coast. 1520: The Portuguese established a trading post in the village of Lamakera on the eastern side of Solor (in present-day Indonesia) as a transit harbour between Maluku and Malacca. 1521: Belgrade (in present-day Serbia) is captured by the Ottoman Empire. 1521: After building fortifications at Tuen Mun, the Portuguese attempt to invade Ming dynasty China, but are expelled by Chinese naval forces. 1521: Philippines encountered by Ferdinand Magellan. He was later killed in the Battle of Mactan in central Philippines in the same year. 1521: Jiajing Emperor ascended the throne of Ming dynasty, China. 1521: November, Ferdinand Magellan's expedition reaches Maluku (in present-day Indonesia) and after trade with Ternate returns to Europe with a load of cloves. 1521: Pati Unus leads the invasion of Malacca (in present-day Malaysia) against the Portuguese occupation. Pati Unus was killed in this battle, and was succeeded by his brother, sultan Trenggana. 1522: Rhodes falls to the Ottomans of Suleiman the Magnificent.[11]Sack of Rome of 1527 by Charles V's forces (painting by Johannes Lingelbach) 1522: The Portuguese ally themselves with the rulers of Ternate (in present-day Indonesia) and begin construction of a fort.[9] 1522: August, Luso-Sundaese Treaty signed between Portugal and Sunda Kingdom granting Portuguese permal. 1522: Sweden gains independence from the Kalmar Union. 1523: The Cacao bean is introduced to Spain by Hernán Cortés 1524–25: German Peasants' War in the Holy Roman Empire. 1524: Giovanni da Verrazzano is the first European to explore the Atlantic coast of North America between South Carolina and Newfoundland. 1524: Ismail I, the founder of Safavid dynasty, dies and Tahmasp I becomes king.Gun-wielding Ottoman Janissaries and defending Knights of Saint John at the siege of Rhodes in 1522, from an Ottoman manuscript. 1525: Timurid Empire forces under Babur defeat the Lodi dynasty at the First Battle of Panipat, end of the Delhi Sultanate. 1525: German and Spanish forces defeat France at the Battle of Pavia. 1551: Francis I of France is captured. 1526: The Ottomans defeat the Kingdom of Hungary at the Battle of Mohács. 1526: Mughal Empire, founded by Babur. 1527: Sack of Rome with Pope Clement VII escaping and the Swiss Guards defending the Vatican being killed. The sack of the city of Rome considered the end of the Italian Renaissance. 1527: Protestant Reformation begins in Sweden. 1527: The last ruler of Majapahit falls from power. This state (located in present-day Indonesia) was finally extinguished at the hands of the Demak. A large number of courtiers, artisans, priests, and members of the royalty moved east to the island of Bali; however, the power and the seat of government transferred to Demak under the leadership of Pangeran, later Sultan Fatah. 1527: June 22, The Javanese Prince Fatahillah of the Cirebon Sultanate successfully defeated the Portuguese armed forces at the site of the Sunda Kelapa Harbor. The city was then renamed Jayakarta, meaning "a glorious victory." This eventful day came to be acknowledged as Jakarta's Founding Anniversary. 1527: Mughal Empire forces defeat the Rajput led by Rana Sangha of Mewar at the Battle of Khanwa 1529: The Austrians defeat the Ottoman Empire at the siege of Vienna. 1529: Treaty of Zaragoza defined the antimeridian of Tordesillas attributing the Moluccas to Portugal and Philippines to Spain. 1529: Imam Ahmad Gurey defeats the Ethiopian Emperor Dawit II in the Battle of Shimbira Kure, the opening clash of the Ethiopian–Adal War. Spanish conquistadors with their Tlaxcalan allies fighting against the Otomies of Metztlitlan in present-day Mexico, a 16th-century codex 1531–1532: The Church of England breaks away from the Catholic Church and recognizes King Henry VIII as the head of the Church. 1531: The Inca Civil War is fought between the two brothers, Atahualpa and Huáscar. 1532: Francisco Pizarro leads the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire. 1532: Foundation of São Vicente, the first permanent Portuguese settlement in the Americas. 1533: Anne Boleyn becomes Queen of England. 1533: Elizabeth Tudor is born. 1534: Jacques Cartier claims Canada for France. 1534: The Ottomans capture Baghdad from the Safavids. 1534: Affair of the Placards, where King Francis I becomes more active in repression of French Protestants. 1535: The Münster Rebellion, an attempt of radical, millennialist, Anabaptists to establish a theocracy, ends in bloodshed. 1535: The Portuguese in Ternate depose Sultan Tabariji (or Tabarija) and send him to Portuguese Goa where he converts to Christianity and bequeaths his Portuguese godfather Jordao de Freitas the island of Ambon.[12] Hainun becomes the next sultan. 1536: Catherine of Aragon dies in Kimbolton Castle, in England.Territorial expansion of the Ottoman Empire under Suleiman (in red and orange) 1536: In England, Anne Boleyn is beheaded for adultery and treason. 1536: Establishment of the Inquisition in Portugal. 1536: Foundation of Buenos Aires (in present-day Argentina) by Pedro de Mendoza. 1537: The Portuguese establish Recife in Pernambuco, north-east of Brazil. 1537: William Tyndale's partial translation of the Bible into English is published, which would eventually be incorporated into the King James Bible. 1538: Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada founds Bogotá. 1538: Spanish–Venetian fleet is defeated by the Ottoman Turks at the Battle of Preveza. 1539: Hernando de Soto explores inland North America. Nicolaus Copernicus 1540: The Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, is founded by Ignatius of Loyola and six companions with the approval of Pope Paul III. 1540: Sher Shah Suri founds the Suri dynasty in South Asia, an ethnic Pashtun (Pathan) of the house of Sur, who supplanted the Mughal dynasty as rulers of North India during the reign of the relatively ineffectual second Mughal emperor Humayun. Sher Shah Suri decisively defeats Humayun in the Battle of Bilgram (May 17, 1540). 1541: Pedro de Valdivia founds Santiago in Chile. 1541: An Algerian military campaign by Charles V of Spain (Habsburg) is unsuccessful. 1541: Amazon River is encountered and explored by Francisco de Orellana. 1541: Capture of Buda and the absorption of the major part of Hungary by the Ottoman Empire. 1541: Sahib I Giray of Crimea invades Russia. 1542: Salvador in Bahia, north-east of Brazil. 1549: Arya Penangsang with the support of his teacher, Sunan Kudus, avenges the death of Raden Kikij by sending an envoy named Rangku to kill Sunan Prawoto in the Sultanate of Pajang (in present-day Indonesia). The Islamic gunpowder empires: Mughal Army artillerymen during the reign of Jalaluddin Akbar 1550: The architect Mimar Sinan builds the Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul. 1550: Mongols led by Altan Khan invade China and besiege Beijing. 1550–1551: Valladolid debate concerning the human rights of the Indigenous people of the Americas. 1551: Fifth outbreak of sweating sickness in England. John Caius of Shrewsbury writes the first full contemporary account of the symptoms of the disease. 1551: North African pirates enslave the entire population of the Maltese island Gozo, between 5,000 and 6,000, sending them to Libya. 1552: Russia conquers the Khanate of Kazan in central Asia. 1552: Jesuit China Mission. Francis Xavier dies. 1553: Mary Tudor becomes the first queen regnant of England and restores the Church of England under Papal authority. 1553: The Portuguese found a settlement at Macau. 1554: Missionaries José de Anchieta and Manuel da Nóbrega establishes São Paulo, southeast Brazil. 1554: Princess Elizabeth is imprisoned in the Tower of London upon the orders of Mary I for suspicion of being involved in the Wyatt rebellion. 1555: The Muscovy Company is the first major English joint stock trading company. 1556: Publication in Venice of Delle Navigazioni et Viaggi (terzo volume) by Giovanni Battista Ramusio, secretary of Council of Ten, with plan La Terra de Hochelaga, an illustration of the Hochelaga.[13] 1556: The Shaanxi earthquake in China is history's deadliest known earthquake during the Ming dynasty. 1556: Georgius Agricola, the "Father of Mineralogy", publishes his De re metallica. 1556: Akbar defeats Hemu at the Second battle of Panipat. 1556: Russia conquers the Astrakhan Khanate. 1556–1605: During his reign, Akbar expands the Mughal Empire in a series of conquests (in the Indian subcontinent).Political map of the world in 1556 1556: Mir Chakar Khan Rind captures Delhi with Humayun. 1556: Pomponio Algerio, radical theologian, is executed by boiling oil as part of the Roman Inquisition. 1557: Habsburg Spain declares bankruptcy. Philip II of Spain had to declare four state bankruptcies in 1557, 1560, 1575 and 1596. 1557: The Portuguese settle in Macau (on the western side of the Pearl River Delta across from present-day Hong Kong). 1557: The Ottomans capture Massawa, all but isolating Ethiopia from the rest of the world. 1558: Elizabeth Tudor becomes Queen Elizabeth I at age 25. 1558–1603: The Elizabethan era is considered the height of the English Renaissance. 1558–1583: Livonian War between Poland, Grand Principality of Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark and Russia. 1558: After 200 years, the Kingdom of England loses Calais to France. 1559: With the Peace of Cateau Cambrésis, the Italian Wars conclude. 1559: Sultan Hairun of Ternate (in present-day Indonesia) protests the Portuguese's Christianisation activities in his lands. Hostilities between Ternate and the Portuguese. The Mughal Emperor Akbar shoots the Rajput warrior Jaimal during the Siege of Chittorgarh in 1567 1560: Ottoman navy defeats the Spanish fleet at the Battle of Djerba. 1560: Elizabeth Bathory is born in Nyírbátor, Hungary. 1560: By winning the Battle of Okehazama, Oda Nobunaga becomes one of the pre-eminent warlords of Japan. 1560: Jeanne d'Albret declares Calvinism the official religion of Navarre. 1560: Lazarus Church, Macau 1561: Sir Francis Bacon is born in London. 1561: The fourth battle of Kawanakajima between the Uesugi and Takeda at Hachimanbara takes place. 1561: Guido de Bres draws up the Belgic Confession of Protestant faith. 1562: Mughal emperor Akbar reconciles the Muslim and Hindu factions by marrying into the powerful Rajput Hindu caste. 1562–1598: French Wars of Religion between Catholics and Huguenots. 1562: Massacre of Wassy and Battle of Dreux in the French Wars of Religion. 1562: Portuguese Dominican priests build a palm-trunk fortress which the Javanese Muslims burned down the following year. The fort was rebuilt from more durable materials and the Dominicans commenced the Christianisation of the local population.[14]1563: Plague outbreak claimed 80,000 people in Elizabethan England. In London alone, over 20,000 people died of the disease. 1564: Galileo Galilei born on February 15 1564: William Shakespeare baptized 26 April 1565: Deccan sultanates defeat the Vijayanagara Empire at the Battle of Talikota. 1565: Mir Chakar Khan Rind dies at aged 97. 1565: Estriáo de Sá establishes Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. 1565: The Hospitallers, a Crusading Order, defeat the Ottoman Empire at the siege of Malta (1565). 1565: Miguel López de Legazpi establishes in Cebu the first Spanish settlement in the Philippines starting a period of Spanish colonization that would last over three hundred years. 1565: Spanish navigator Andres de Urdaneta discovers the maritime route from Asia to the Americas across the Pacific Ocean, also known as the tornaviaje. 1565: Royal Exchange is founded by Thomas Gresham. 1566: Suleiman the Magnificent, ruler of the Ottoman Empire, dies on September 7, during the battle of Szegedvar.Siege of Valenciennes during the Dutch War of Independence in 1567 1566–1648: Eighty Years' War between Spain and the Netherlands. 1566: Da le Balie Contrade d'Oriente, composed by Cipriano de Rore. 1567: After 45 years' reign, Jiajing Emperor died in the Forbidden City. Longjing Emperor ascended the throne of Ming dynasty. 1567: Mary, Queen of Scots, is imprisoned by Elizabeth I. 1568: The Transylvanian Diet, under the patronage of the prince John Sigismund Zápolya, the former king of Hungary, inspired by the teachings of Ferenc Dávid, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, promulgates the Edict of Torda, the first law of freedom of religion and of conscience in the World. 1568–1571: Morisco Revolt in Spain. 1568–1600: The Azuchi-Momoyama period in Japan. 1568: Hadiwijaya sent his adopted son and son-in-law Sutawijaya, who would later become the first ruler of the Mataram dynasty of Indonesia, to kill Arya Penangsang. 1569: Rising of the North in England. 1569: Mercator 1569 world map published by Gerardus Mercator. 1569: The Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth is created with the Union of Lublin which lasts until 1795. 1569: Peace treaty signed by Sultan Hairun of Ternate and the Portuguese. 1570: The Union of Arras unifies the southern Netherlands, a foundation for the later states of the Spanish Netherlands, the Austrian Netherlands and Belgium.The Irish Gaelic chieftain's feast, from the Image of Ireland 1579: The British navigator Sir Francis Drake passes through Maluku and transit in Ternate on his circumnavigation of the world. 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