

CALENDARS THROUGH THE AGES

www.webexhibits.org/calendars/year-countries.html

The following pages are copied directly from the website, **Calendars through the Ages**
<http://www.webexhibits.org/calendars/index.html>

See the following webpage for appropriate Credits regarding the various calendars and timeline information on the WebExhibits website.

<http://www.webexhibits.org/calendars/credits.html>

Countries' calendar reform

In most societies a calendar reform is an extraordinary event. Adoption of a calendar depends on the forcefulness with which it is introduced and on the willingness of society to accept it. For example, the acceptance of the Gregorian calendar as a worldwide standard spanned more than three centuries.

The legal code of the United States does not specify an official national calendar. Use of the Gregorian calendar in the United States stems from an Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom in 1751, which specified use of the Gregorian calendar in England and its colonies. However, its adoption in the United Kingdom and other countries was fraught with confusion, controversy, and even violence (Bates, 1952; Gingerich, 1983; Hoskin, 1983). It also had a deeper cultural impact through the disruption of traditional festivals and calendrical practices (MacNeill, 1982).

When did countries change from Julian to Gregorian calendars?

The papal bull of February 1582 decreed that 10 days should be dropped from October 1582 so that 15 October should follow immediately after 4 October, and from then on the reformed calendar should be used.

This was observed in Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Spain. Other Catholic countries followed shortly after, but Protestant countries were reluctant to change, and the Greek Orthodox countries didn't change until the start of the 1900s.

Changes in the 1500s required 10 days to be dropped. Changes in the 1600s required 10 days to be dropped. Changes in the 1700s required 11 days to be dropped. Changes in the 1800s required 12 days to be dropped. Changes in the 1900s required 13 days to be dropped. For example, when Soviet Russia undertook its calendar reform in February 1918, they moved from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian. This move resulted in a loss of 13 days, so that February 1, 1918, became February 14.

The following list contains the dates for changes in a number of countries. It is very strange that in many cases there seems to be some doubt among authorities about what the correct days are. Different sources give very different dates in some cases. The list below does not include all the different opinions about when the change took place.

> See the [British Calendar Act of 1751](#).

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Albania: December 1912

Austria: Different regions on different dates
Brixen, Salzburg and Tyrol:
5 Oct 1583 was followed by 16 Oct 1583
Carinthia and Styria:
14 Dec 1583 was followed by 25 Dec 1583
See also Czechoslovakia and Hungary

Belgium: Then part of the Netherlands

Bulgaria: 31 Mar 1916 was followed by 14 Apr 1916

Canada: Different areas changed at different times.
Newfoundland and Hudson Bay coast:
2 Sep 1752 was followed by 14 Sep 1752
Mainland Nova Scotia:
Gregorian 1605 - 13 Oct 1710
Julian 2 Oct 1710 - 2 Sep 1752
Gregorian since 14 Sep 1752
Rest of Canada:
Gregorian from first European settlement

China: The Gregorian calendar replaced the Chinese calendar in either 1912 or 1929 (depending on which authorities you believe).

Czechoslovakia 6 Jan 1584 was followed by 17 Jan 1584
(i.e. Bohemia and Moravia):

Denmark 18th Feb 1700 was followed by 1th Mar 1700
(including Norway):

Egypt: 1875

Estonia: 31 Jan 1918 was followed by 14 Feb 1918

Finland: Then part of Sweden. (Note, however, that Finland later became part of Russia, which then still used the Julian calendar. The Gregorian calendar remained official in Finland, but some use of the Julian calendar was made.)

France: 9 Dec 1582 was followed by 20 Dec 1582

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Alsace: 5 Feb 1682 was followed by 16 Feb 1682
Lorraine: 16 Feb 1760 was followed by 28 Feb 1760
Strasbourg: February 1682

Germany: Different states on different dates:
Catholic states on various dates in 1583-1585
Prussia: 22 Aug 1610 followed by 2 Sep 1610
Protestant states: 18 Feb 1700 followed by 1 Mar 1700
(Many local variations)

Great Britain & Dominions: 2 Sep 1752 was followed by 14 Sep 1752

Greece: 9 Mar 1924 was followed by 23 Mar 1924
(Some sources say 1916 and 1920)

Hungary: 21 Oct 1587 was followed by 1 Nov 1587

Ireland: See Great Britain

Italy: 4 Oct 1582 was followed by 15 Oct 1582

Japan: The Gregorian calendar was introduced to supplement the traditional Japanese calendar on 1 Jan 1873.

Latvia: During German occupation 1915 to 1918

Lithuania: 1915

Luxemburg: 14 Dec 1582 was followed by 25 Dec 1582

Netherlands (including Belgium): Zeeland, Brabant, and the "Staten Generaal":
14 Dec 1582 was followed by 25 Dec 1582
Holland:
1 Jan 1583 was followed by 12 Jan 1583
Limburg and the southern provinces (currently Belgium):
20 Dec 1582 was followed by 31 Dec 1582
or
21 Dec 1582 was followed by 1 Jan 1583
Groningen:
10 Feb 1583 was followed by 21 Feb 1583
Went back to Julian in the summer of 1594
31 Dec 1700 was followed by 12 Jan 1701
Netherlands cont'd Gelderland:

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30 Jun 1700 was followed by 12 Jul 1700
Utrecht and Overijssel:

30 Nov 1700 was followed by 12 Dec 1700
Friesland:

31 Dec 1700 was followed by 12 Jan 1701
Drenthe:

30 Apr 1701 was followed by 12 May 1701

Norway: Then part of Denmark.

Poland: 4 Oct 1582 was followed by 15 Oct 1582

Portugal: 4 Oct 1582 was followed by 15 Oct 1582

Romania: 31 Mar 1919 was followed by 14 Apr 1919
(The Greek Orthodox parts of the country may have changed later)

Russia: 31 Jan 1918 was followed by 14 Feb 1918
(In the eastern parts of the country the change may not have occurred until 1920)

Scotland: See Great Britain.

Spain: 4 Oct 1582 was followed by 15 Oct 1582

Sweden (including Finland): 17 Feb 1753 was followed by 1 Mar 1753
(see note below this list of countries)

Switzerland: Catholic cantons: 1583, 1584 or 1597
Protestant cantons:
31 Dec 1700 was followed by 12 Jan 1701
(Many local variations)

Turkey: Gregorian calendar introduced 1 Jan 1927

USA: Different areas changed at different times.
Along the Eastern seaboard:
With Great Britain in 1752.
Mississippi valley:
With France in 1582.
Texas, Florida, California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico:
With Spain in 1582

USA cont'd Washington, Oregon:
With Britain in 1752.
Alaska:

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Oct 1867 when Alaska became part of USA.

Wales: See Great Britain

Yugoslavia: 1919

Sweden has a curious history. Sweden decided to make a gradual change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. By dropping every leap year from 1700 through 1740 the eleven superfluous days would be omitted and from 1 Mar 1740 they would be in sync with the Gregorian calendar. (But in the meantime they would be in sync with nobody!)

So 1700 (which should have been a leap year in the Julian calendar) was not a leap year in Sweden. However, by mistake 1704 and 1708 became leap years. This left Sweden out of synchronisation with both the Julian and the Gregorian world, so they decided to go *back* to the Julian calendar. In order to do this, they inserted an extra day in 1712, making that year a double leap year! So in 1712, February had 30 days in Sweden.

Later, in 1753, Sweden changed to the Gregorian calendar by dropping 11 days like everyone else.

- * Check out the other fascinating pages on this website concerning calendars around the world and through the ages. Also have a look at the Timeline link on the top banner of the website for more information on "time" and how Earth's movement changes time every year. They also have a wonderful Museum Store to browse through.
- * Enjoy everything you learn about past history. Once you start searching you will find more fascinating bits of lore and science and history – all of which will help you make better sense of your ancestors' lives.

Cheers,
- Celia

Questions? Celia@rootsbasic.com