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French idiomatic expressions can be hard to understand (as opposed to the expression “C’est la vie”), and French people love to use them all the time. French idiomatic expressions are an essential aspect of the French language and its culture. Learning French expressions will help you to understand better French movies or French music. These expressions, also known as “les expressions idiomatiques,” are phrases that carry a figurative meaning different from their literal meaning. They are used in everyday conversations and add flavor to the language. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced learner of French, understanding and using idiomatic expressions can greatly enhance your communication skills and help you sound more like a native speaker. From “être dans la lune” to “quand les poules auront des dents” French idiomatic expressions are fascinating, amusing, and key to French language learning. Some of those French idioms are quite old but they are still popular in French society. French idiomatic expressions enrich language and culture; examples include “Quand les poules auront des dents” (never happen) and “C’est la douche froide” (cold shower). Understanding idioms enhances communication skills and cultural appreciation. Expanding vocabulary with idioms helps learners sound more native. List of French Idiomatic Expressions Let’s start with this list of French expressions explained in English! Quand les poules auront des dents Literally: When the chickens will have teeth It is used to say that something will never ever happen. This French idiomatic expression “Quand les poules auront des dents” is from the end of the 18th century. A synonym for this French idiom would be “À la Saint-Glinglin”. The equivalent in English would be “When pigs fly” which is a funny expression too. Example Maman, je veux un nouvel ordinateur. Bien sûr, quand les poulets auront des dents Mom, I want a new computer. For sure, when pigs fly. Mettre les points sur les i Literally: Put the dot on the i When someone wants to make things clear by adding more details about an issue or subject. An equivalent that you will hear for sure if you watch a rugby game of the French team is “Remettre l’église au milieu du village” (Put back the church in the middle of the village). I would recommend you watch a rugby game with French commentators, they are using tons of French expressions while commenting on the game. Example Je vais mettre les points sur les i avec mes enfants. I will make things clear with my kids. Literally: Peeing in a violin This French idiomatic expression means that the action or speech is useless and has no efficiency since peeing in a violin won’t produce anything. The expression appeared for the first time written in the 19th century and gained popularity until nowadays. Example Faire le nettoyage de son appartement avant de faire une fête c’est comme pisser dans un violon. Cleaning your apartment before a party is like peeing in a violin. Enfoncer des portes ouvertes Literally: Pushing open doors The first meaning is when someone is celebrating having overcome a difficulty that did not exist. The idiom dates back to the end of the 18th century. There is nothing glorifying about kicking an open door. Since this action presents no difficulty, it is from this observation that the expression was born. The second use of the expression is when someone is trying to demonstrate something obvious, stating a banality by presenting it as a discovery. Example Dire que la terre est ronde, c’est enfoncer des portes ouvertes. To say that the earth is round is to push open doors. Literally: Having the yellow laugh When someone is forcing himself to laugh. This famous French expression is used when someone is being teased and laughs about it but deep down the person is upset about it. The yellow laugh can also be used when a person does not want the speaker to be embarrassed about his speech. Even though the color yellow can be seen as a positive color like the sun, gold, or wheat, it has in the past a negative connotation. For example, in the religion, Judas was represented as wearing yellow or there is an expression not popular anymore that is “Être peint en jaune” (Being painted yellow) meaning that your wife cheated on you. Those negative expressions using this color might be the reason that yellow means kind of being fake in that case. Example Ça se voit que tu as le rire jaune. It’s obvious, you have a yellow laugh. C’est l’hôpital qui se fout de la charité Literally: It’s the hospital that doesn’t care about charity. Someone who makes fun of a default of another person, who himself has. There is an irony in this idiom, a certain sarcasm that fits perfectly with French culture/humor. Few French know the origin of the expression, it is coming from the 17th century when hospitals designate a medical establishment, which could be both religious and secular. At the same time, hospitals run by orders such as the Brothers of Charity or the Sisters of Charity took the name ‘charité’. In the end, a hospital and a charity were two establishments with the same function but there was some rivalry between those two. The expression is coming from this opposition between hospitals and charities. From my research, the equivalent in English (American) is “that’s the pot calling the kettle black” (c’est le pot qui traite la bouilloire de noir). Example Les Belges qui se moquent du mauvais temps en Angleterre, c’est l’hôpital qui se fout de la charité. The Belgians who make fun of the bad weather in England, that’s the pot calling the kettle black. Ne pas vendre la peau de l’ours avant de l’avoir tué Literally: Do not sell the bear’s pelt before killing it A person should not take for granted a thing that is not yet in his possession. This is another French idiom that you will always hear in a sports game when a team is leading and think that the game is over before the end. Example L’équipe mène 1/0 mais il ne faut pas vendre la peau de l’ours avant de l’avoir tué. The team leads 1/0 but you can’t sell the bearskin before you kill it. Ne pas casser trois pattes à un canard Literally: Do not break three legs of a duck This expression designs an action that is easy to make. As you know, a duck has only two legs. In that case, it is impossible to break the three legs of a duck. There is another popular similar French saying is “Ce n’est pas la mer à boire” translated into English “ as “It’s not the sea to drink”. Example Faire cuire des pâtes, ça ne casse pas trois pattes à un canard. Cooking pasta doesn’t break the three legs of a duck. Il fait un froid de canard Literally: It’s as cold as a duck An idiom used to express that the weather is pretty cold. The French expression might come from the duck hunt. The hunters have to do it in autumn and most of the time they stay for hours in the cold to be able to shoot the poor animal. Example Je ne sors pas dehors, il fait un froid de canard ! I don’t go outside, it’s freezing cold! L’habit ne fait pas le moine French expression : L’habit ne fait pas le moine Literally: The outfit does not make the monk Proverb of which we find the first traces in the 13th century. Wearing religious clothes won’t make you a religious person. By making assumptions by the look of a person, you might be wrong. In English, it would be “Don’t judge a book by its cover”. Example Je ne savais pas que vous étiez un fan de musique métal. Oui, l’habit ne fait pas le moine. I didn’t know that you were a fan of metal music. Yes, don’t judge a book by its cover. Literally: Being in the same bath It means to be in the same difficult situation as someone else. The equivalent in English would be “To be on the same boat”. Do not make the mistake associate this expression with “Mettre dans le même bain” translated into English gives “Put in the same bath” which means when a group of people is being judged in the same way. Example Avec cet examen, on est dans le même bain. With this exam, we are in the same boat. Mettre la charrue avant les boeufs Literally: Putting the plough before the oxen When a person does not act in a logical way. In English, it would be to “put the cart before the horse”, which is quite similar to the French one. Example N’oublies pas de mettre tes chaussettes avant de mettre tes chaussures, ça serait mettre la charrue avant les bœufs. Don’t forget to put on your socks before putting on your shoes, it would be like putting the cart before the horse. Literally: Elbow oil An idiom that every single French kid heard from their parents. This expression is for an action that can be done with motivation and physical exercise. In other words, it evokes the energy to devote to a work requiring effort. Example Avec de l’huile de coude, tu pourras finir de peindre ta chambre aujourd’hui. With elbow grease, you can finish painting your room today. Casser du sucre sur le dos Literally: Breaking sugar on the back It means to criticize someone that is not present. In the 19th century, “Sucre” (Sugar) in slang meant to mistreat. Nowadays the verb “sucrer” means “to get robbed”, but it still has a negative significance. Example Merci de ne pas casser du sucre sur mon dos quand je vais partir de cette réunion./em> Thank you for not breaking any sugar on my back when I will leave this meeting. Literally: Tongue of wood A French idiomatic expression that you can often hear in the news when a journalist is asking a politician not to speak with a tongue of wood. The expression qualifies as a speech devoid of reality, which does not answer the problem posed. The message communicated by the speaker is intentionally fake. Example Je vous remercie de ne pas avoir utilisé la langue de bois pour mon interview. I would like to thank you for not using the tongue of wood for my interview. Literally: It doesn’t eat bread A French idiom to express that an action is easy to make or it does not require great expense or effort. In that case, there are no risks in doing it so the French would say it doesn’t eat bread. The expression is from the 17th century when bread had much bigger importance in French society since it represented the main expense for the food budget and so the main food consumption. Saying this expression meant that buying an object for example won’t be deducted from the bread budget meaning it costs nothing. Example Je vais vous cuisiner des pâtes, ça ne mange pas de pain. I’ll cook you some pasta, it doesn’t eat bread. Avoir les yeux plus gros que le ventre Literally: Having eyes bigger than the belly Overestimating his capability to do an action. The French expression is mostly used when someone orders too much food and cannot finish it in the end. Example T’as eu les yeux plus gros que le ventre en prenant ce dessert. Your eyes were bigger than your stomach when you took this dessert. La goutte d’eau qui fait déborder le vase Literally: The drop of water that makes the vase overflow It refers to an over-the-top situation, a situation that has crossed the line. It is a metaphor that appeared in the 19th century, where the contents of a nearly full tank overflow because of one drop. This drop can be understood as a word or action that will provoke an explosion of anger. Example Ton insulte c’est la goutte d’eau qui fait déborder le vase. Your insult is the drop of water that makes the vase overflow. Literally: Turning the thumbs The French will reproduce this idiom by crossing the fingers of each hand and turning the thumbs around. It means that the person is lazy and doing nothing at all just using his hands for a useless activity. Example Peux-tu arrêter de te tourner les pouces et finir cette présentation ? Can you stop turning your thumbs around and finish this presentation? Il y a de l’eau dans le gaz Literally: There is water in the gas An idiom that describes a situation with some tension. It is used when there is a clash, an argument in a couple, for example. In the 19th century, for domestic needs, households began to be supplied with gas, produced by coal distillation. However, this gas contained a fairly high level of water vapor that can cause small explosions and make the flame flicker or even extinguish it. Even though the type of gas changed later on and there were no anymore those little explosions this expression remains still popular today. Example Il y a de l’eau dans le gaz en ce moment entre Antoine et Camille. There is water in the gas at the moment between Antoine and Camille. Vouloir le beurre et l’argent du beurre Literally: Want the butter and the butter money An idiom that expresses the fact that someone wants everything with only the pros and not the cons. In English, it would be “Have your cake and eat it too”. There is a colloquial joke with this expression, the French tend to add at the end “Et le cul de la crémière” translated into English gives, “and the milk lady’s ass”. Example Les Anglais voulaient le beurre et l’argent du beurre en étant dans l’Union européenne. The English wanted to have their cake and eat it too by being in the European Union. Literally: Counting for butter Another expression with butter. When someone is being ignored, not given importance. This expression steps apart since in the French language butter is normally seen as a sign of wealth. Example Et moi ? Je compte pour du beurre ? What about me? Do I count as butter? Mettre du beurre dans les épinards Literally: Put butter in the spinach A third French idiom with butter in this list. It means that the person manages to improve his living conditions and earn more money. This increase in buying power is represented by the action of adding butter to the dish. Example La vente de mon pull va mettre du beurre dans les épinards. The sale of my sweater will put butter in the spinach. Il n’y a pas le feu au lac French expression: Il n’y a pas le feu au lac Literally: There’s no fire at the lake There is no need to rush, it can wait for later. I’ve learned that at first, the expression was simply “There is no fire”. Then, later on, the French add the absurdity “at the lake” to make fun of the Swiss, their neighborhood. The French people tend to think that the Swiss people are slow because of their accent. The lake in that case was a reference to lake Geneva (lac Léman) a famous symbol of Switzerland. This modification represents French humor from my point of view, the French love to tease and joke. Example On peut le faire cet après-midi, il n’y a pas le feu au lac. We can do it this afternoon, there is no fire at the lake. Avoir le cul entre deux chaises Literally: Having the ass between two chairs Being torn between two situations, not knowing what to choose, simply having a dilemma. French idiomatic expression refers to the feeling of discomfort one can feel when sitting between two chairs. This is an expression to use between friends. Example Entre toi et François, j’ai le cul entre deux chaises. Between you and François, I have my ass between two chairs. Literally: Pull the worms out of the nose This expression means to get someone to talk. This old expression dates from at least the 15th century. They were a disease called in French “vers rinaires”, a common parasite that was staying in the nose. People were ashamed of telling their doctors. The medical practitioner had to interrogate the patient to make him/her confess, it was said that the doctor was “pulling the worms out of the noses” of the patient. Example J’ai dû lui tirer les vers du nez pour savoir s’ il avait pris la dernière part de gâteau. I had to pull the worms out of the nose to know if he had taken the last piece of cake. Se mettre le doigt dans l’oeil Literally: Put your finger in the eye It is when a person is grossly mistaken. There are some explanations for this French expression, the eyes can design a lower part of the human body. Another probable explanation is when a person is wrongly doing the sign of the cross by putting his finger in his eye. Example Si tu pensais que j’allais le faire, tu pouvais te mettre le doigt dans l’œil ! If you thought I was going to do it, you could put your finger in your eye! Literally: Spit in the soup In the past, the soup was considered an essential dish. Spitting in it, therefore, meant refusing something that was perceived as beneficial. You might hear more often the negative version of the expression with “don’t spit in the soup” meaning that the person won’t miss an opportunity. Example Je ne crache pas dans la soupe si tu me dis que tu me payes le restaurant. I won’t spit in the soup if you tell me that the restaurant is on you. Literally: Looking for the little beast It is when a person is trying hard to discover an error and/or being picky. This expression is coming from the situation when a person has head lice and someone else needs to look for those little insects. Example Tu cherches vraiment la petite bête sur cette présentation ! You’re really looking for the little beast on this presentation! Péter plus haut que son cul Literally: Farting higher than your ass When a person acts in a pretentious way and feels very important. This is probably the most colloquial expression from this list of French idiomatic expressions. Example Ce mec pète plus haut que son cul avec sa nouvelle voiture. This dude farts higher than his ass with his new car. C’est simple comme bonjour Literally: It’s as simple as a hello The equivalent in English would be “It’s easy as pie”. This French idiom came from the observation of greeting someone. Saying “Hello” to someone is associated with the idea of an act of great simplicity. Example Faire ses lacets, c’est simple comme bonjour. Tying your shoelaces is easy as pie. Literally: The youngest of my worries A French expression that would be translated into English to “The least of my worries”. In French “Le cadet” is a specific word to say the youngest kid of a family. By being the youngest kid, you are the last one, the smallest one. In that case the worry, the issue is the least important. Example Trouver un moyen pour rentrer chez moi ce soir est le cadet de mes soucis. Finding a way home tonight is the least of my worries. Literally: Like a rooster on paste It means that this person is having a good life. Long time ago, the rooster was moved with great care for farming exhibitions. In addition, breeders applied a special paste to the feathers of the animals to make them shiny. Example Depuis que je suis à la retraite, je suis comme un coq en pâte. Ever since I retired, I’ve been living the best of my life. Literally: Going from rooster to donkey When a person changes the topic of the conversation with no whatsoever link to the previous one. Example Rémi passe tout le temps du coq à l’âne quand il est bourré. Rémi switches, all the time, the subject of the conversation when he is drunk. Changer son fusil d’épaule Literally: Changing one’s shoulder rifle When a person changes his mind, his opinion about a subject. In that case, the rifle represents the opinion. The person is changing his point of view like a soldier might change the way he holds a rifle. Example L’entraîneur a changé son fusil d’épaule pour la composition de l’équipe. The coach changed his mind about the composition of the team. On n’est pas sorti de l’auberge ! Literally: We did not leave the inn yet! Something that is complicated to be done. In English, it would be “not be out of the woods”. There are two possible explanations for this French idiom. The first explains that in slang the word “inn” ironically refers to prison. Indeed, a person receives lodging and food but the guest can leave whenever he wants. Another interpretation would find its origin in Ardèche (A French county) in a criminal case from the beginning of the 19th century. The case is known as the Auberge Rouge. The owners Pierre and Marie Martin of the Auberge (=Inn) of Peyrebeille were accused of scary murders. Example Il a mis une heure pour changer le premier pneu de la voiture, on n’est pas sorti de l’auberge ! It took one hour to change the first tire of the car, we did not leave the inn yet! Ne pas y aller de main morte Literally: Don’t go with a dead hand When a person does act with a lot of energy. The “dead hand” actually symbolizes an inactive or powerless hand. In this way, it is clear that the use of this expression demonstrates an action carried out dynamically, even violently. Example Le serveur n’est pas allé de main morte pour remplir mon plat de frites. The waiter didn’t go with a dead hand to fill my plate with fries. Poser un lapin à quelqu’un French expression: Poser un lapin à quelqu’un Literally: Put a rabbit to someone The real translation in English is to “Stand someone up”. At the end of the 19th century, lapin (rabbit) meant a refusal of payment. Nowadays, it means refusing, and no-showing at a meeting. Example J’ai attendu pendant une heure Vincent. Il m’a posé un lapin ! I’ve been waiting for one hour Vincent, he stood me up! Chercher midi à quatorze heure Literally: Look for noon at 2 p.m When someone complicates things unnecessarily and sees difficulties where none exist. There is another super colloquial version with “On va pas tortiller du cul pour chier droit” meaning in English “We won’t wiggle our ass to shit straight”, a funny one right? Example On va pas chercher midi à quatorze heure pour résoudre ce problème simple. We’re not going to look for noon at 2 PM to solve this simple problem. Literally: Fingers in the nose Achieve an action without difficulty and without effort. This French expression might have appeared for the first time around 1912 in horse racing. The expression was used to say that the jockey arrived first with his fingers up his nose. This image is supposed to show how easy, and how carefree the jockey won a race. Example Je l’ai battu au ping-pong les doigts dans le nez ! I beat him at ping pong with the fingers in the nose! Pas de nouvelles bonne nouvelles Literally: No news good news If we don’t hear from someone, we can assume that nothing bad has happened to them. They are different explanations for this idiom. The first one is from WW1, when a postman brought a letter, it was to announce the death of a soldier. In the city of Rouen in the state of Normandy, the expression has another meaning. Their jail is named “Bonne-Nouvelle”, in that case, not receiving news from someone means that this person is in jail. Example Cela fait quatre jours que je n’ai pas de nouvelle d’Alice. Pas de nouvelles, bonne nouvelle ! It’s been four days since I haven’t heard from Alice. No news, good news! Le jeu en vaut la chandelle Literally: The game is worth the candlelight In English, it would be a “simple” expression with “It’s worth the risk”. The origin of this French expression dates back to the 16th century when electricity did not yet exist. Card and dice players then had to light the rooms by candlelight during their nightly games, which was very expensive at that time. So it was a luxury that participants were only willing to pay for in high-stakes games. By winning, they could eventually pay back the high cost of lighting. Example Je vais parier sur Paris il y a une cote de trois, le jeu en vaut la chandelle. I’m going to bet on Paris there’s an odds of three, it’s worth the money. Literally: It’s the cold shower When a person experiences a sudden disappointment, a bad surprise. This is a close feeling when a person takes a shower and the first water jet is completely cold. The person is, most of the time, surprised in a negative way. Example L’équipe a encaissé un but à la dernière minute du match, c’est la douche froide ! The team conceded a goal in the last minute of the game, it’s a cold shower! Avoir du pain sur la planche Literally: Having bread on the board When a person has some work to do. The meaning changed a lot during that time. In the 19th century, this meant that people had enough reserves to face the future. The peasants were preparing large quantities of bread which they kept on a wooden board fixed to the ceiling. The meaning of the expression was probably later on when convicts had to work in exchange for free food, in that case, bread. Example J’ai pas le temps de te parler, j’ai du pain sur la planche. I don’t have time to talk to you, I have work to do. Ne pas être dans son assiette Literally: Not being on your plate An expression that means to be in a bad mood or not feeling well. In that case, the plate refers to the physical disposition of a thing or a person or its state of mind. Example Je me sens mal aujourd’hui, je ne suis pas dans mon assiette. I feel bad today, I am not on my plate. Quand on parle du loup on en voit la queue Literally: When we talk about the wolf, we see its tail You might have heard a shorter version of the idiom with just “Quand on parle du loup”. The exact translation in English is “Speaking of the devil”. This expression is used when someone appears when he or she was the heart of the conversation. In French, it is also as negative as in English since the wolf always had a bad image in France. Example Benjamin arrive ! Quand on parle du loup. Benjamin is coming! Speaking of the devil. Literally: Feet in the dish When someone clumsily approached a subject to be avoided without realizing it. It is a visual expression, if you put your feet in the dish it would be a silly mistake. Example Quand Pauline a parlé de ta rupture, elle a vraiment mis les pieds dans le plat. When Pauline talked about your break-up, she really put her feet in the dish. Literally: Take from the bottle When someone starts to age, gains experience, meaning the person became better. It is a positive expression to tell someone. This expression was first used in the wine industry, in reference to alcohol that ages in the bottle and gets better. Now it is used to describe people that gain experience. Example En vivant cinq à l’étranger, Charles a pris de la bouteille. While living for five abroad, Charles took a lot of experiences. Literally: With small onions When someone does an action with a lot of care, with a lot of attention. This idiom came from the world of cooking. When someone cooks a dish, he/she might add onions to make it even better. Example Ma grand-mère était aux petits oignons pour moi quand je suis allé manger chez elle. My grandmother was taking care of me when I went to eat at her house. Literally: Seeing only fire The last idiom from this list of French expressions is when a person doesn’t notice anything. The person is dazzled by the light and cannot see anything. Here, the “fire” would therefore represent a bright and blinding light, which would not allow us to see reality. Example Mes parents n’ont vu que du feu quand je suis sorti faire la fête. My parents did not see anything when I went out partying. I hope that you liked this article about French expressions. Now you might be able to understand better French while watching a French movie, the French news, or French television. By the way, what is your favorite French expression so far? I might add it to this list. I now invite you to read my articles about French slang and French insults: Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Idioms were sayings that had a figurative meaning often unrelated to the actual phrasing. By studying the etymology of an idiom, one could determine how it came to be used. (TNG: "All Good Things...") The Leyron were known to communicate using gestural idioms. (VOY: "Macrocosm") Artistic, economic, medical, military, and nautical terms, as well as sports sayings often contained idioms. Popular idioms[] All hell breaking loose[] If all hell broke loose, the situation was chaotic or violent. When Kira Nerys asked Miles O'Brien if there was a way of beaming more than two prisoners from the Hutet labor camp, he replied, "I'm afraid not. As soon as we beam the first two up, all hell is going to break loose in that camp." (DS9: "The Homecoming") As plain as the nose on someone's face[] If something was as plain as the nose on someone's face, it was exceedingly obvious. When Odo said that Bajorans were worse than other Humans at hiding their emotions, Shakaar responded, "So you're saying it's as plain as the nose on my face?" (DS9: "Crossfire") Beat the tar out of[] To beat the tar out of someone was to give them a severe beating. Kirk once noted that he had always aspired to beat the tar out of Finnegan (TOS: "Shore Leave") Best of both worlds[] The best of both worlds referred to simultaneously benefiting from two very different situations. Intendant Kira once stated to Bareil Antos (mirror) that he must be attracted to her dressed as Major Kira, since that was like the best of both worlds. (DS9: "Resurrection") Between a rock and a hard place[] Referred to someone who was in a situation where they could choose between two alternatives, and neither of them were acceptable. In 1986, Bob Briggs told Gillian Taylor, they were in such a position regarding the fate of George and Gracie, explaining "If we can't keep them here without risking their lives. We can't let them go without a taking the same chance." (Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home) Black and white [] To be "black and white" was for something to be either one thing or another, with no in between. The term was also related to another idiom, "cut and dry", and was the opposite of "a shade of gray". Break the ice[] To "break the ice" meant to introduce conversation or small talk into an awkward situation. In 2151, Captain Jonathan Archer called a planned dinner with Vulcan Captain Vanik, he described the event as a "good way to break the ice." (ENT: "Breaking the Ice") In 2372, The Doctor changed his program so that he would no longer say "Please state the nature of the medical emergency" when activated. When Kes discovered that he changed it back, and asked why, The Doctor explained that "I became so uncomfortable trying to find new ways to break the ice, as it were, that I restored it. Let's just say it works for me." (VOY: "Tattoo") Bump in the road[] Referred to an obstacle. When Automated Unit 3947 declared that B'Elanna Torres had failed at building another of his kind, she replied, "Hey, do all you automated units give up the minute you hit a bump in the road?" (VOY: "Prototype") Burning the midnight oil[] Referred to what one did when they stayed up late at night to work or study. (VOY: "Waking Moments", "Pathfinder") In 2143, A.G. Robinson, who got to be the first Human to test the NX-Alpha test vehicle, told Jonathan Archer that he didn't get this assignment because he tried too hard, "burning the midnight oil" in the simulator eighteen to twenty hours a day. (ENT: "First Flight") In 2376, Captain Kathryn Janeway, who was working very late one night in the mess hall, told Neelix that she was "just burning the midnight oil", to which Neelix replied that it was way past midnight. (VOY: "Fair Haven") In an alternate timeline in 2364, Captain Jean-Luc Picard ordered Miles O'Brien to bypass the secondary plasma inducer, which required O'Brien to realign the entire power grid, stating "we're all going to be burning the midnight oil on this one." Data, who overheard O'Brien, told him that that would be inadvisable because any "attempt to ignite a petroleum product on this ship at 0:00 hours [would] activate the fire suppression system." (TNG: "All Good Things...") Burying the hatchet[] Referred to putting aside a grudge. When an alien was making a group of Klingons, along with the crew of the Enterprise, hallucinate that they were at war, Kirk declared he and his underlings would have to bury the hatchet with the Klingons. (TOS: "Day of the Dove") Julian Bashir once expressed a desire to bury the hatchet with Kira Nerys. Being Bajoran, she did not understand the idiom, so he had to explain it. (DS9: "Crossover") Casting a pall over ____[] Referred to creating a somber mood in an otherwise pleasant situation. In 2371, Julian Bashir apologized for casting a pall over a party when his thoughts were still on Bareil Antos's medical condition. (DS9: "Life Support") Caught with one's pants down[] Referring to being found in the act of doing something which left one in an embarrassing position. In 2285, James T. Kirk characterized his having been trapped by Khan Noonien Singh as having been caught with his britches down, a fact he attributed to his own supposed senility. (Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan) In 2366, Geordi La Forge opined that Romulan defector Alidar Jarok was correct about Romulan activity at Nelvana III, and that the Romulans would indeed be caught with their pants down. Data, unfamiliar with the phrase, questioned what he meant, and La Forge explained. (TNG: "The Defector") Chasing ghosts[] To "chase ghosts" meant to pursue an imaginary threat, or to pursue someone despite them being dead. When Hengist was opposed to allowing Scotty to investigate three murders of which he was the prime suspect, but which new evidence suggested were committed by a non-corporeal lifeforms, he expressed disapproval at allowing Scotty to "go and start chasing ghosts". (TOS: "Wolf in the Fold") When the Sheliak asked the crew of the Enterprise-D to remove the Humans from Tau Cygna V and Riker noted that the planet contained hyperonic radiation, which was deadly to Humans, he said, "Then the Sheliak are asking us to chase ghosts?" (TNG: "The Ensigns of Command") When Kira Nerys was trying to find the creator of the Aphasia virus, Benjamin Sisko asked how she was doing. She replied that she was "chasing after ghosts", and he joked that she had twelve hours to catch one before the virus became fatal. (DS9: "Babel") Child's play[] Meaning: easy. Kirk once noted that attempting to search for his missing away team made finding a needle in a haystack seem like child's play. (TOS: "The Galileo Seven") When McCoy forgot how to reattach Spock's brain, Kirk noted that "Moments ago, it was child's play." (TOS: "Spock's Brain") When Quark was considering bribing some Nausicaans with a bar of latinum each to help break Rom out of a holding sail, he stated that "Breaking Rom out of the holding cell will be child's play compared to the things they're used to doing." (DS9: "Favor the Bold") Clean as a whistle[] Referred to something being completely clean. In 2369, retracing the murdered Ensign Aquino's steps, Chief O'Brien found that Runabout Pad C was as clean as a whistle. (DS9: "In the Hands of the Prophets") In 2374, The Doctor told B'Elanna Torres that her pericardium was as clean as a whistle, having repaired injuries caused by Dejaren. He was not able to say the same about sickbay's condition after a day in Tom Paris' charge. (VOY: "Revulsion") Clean their chronometers[] Colonel West, while proposing Operation Retrieve, assured the Federation President that should the operation precipitate a full-scale war with the Klingon Empire, Starfleet could quite frankly "clean their chronometers." (Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country) Clear someone's name[] To clear someone's name was to prove their innocence. When Worf said that it was not yet time to arrive at the Klingon home world for a council meeting, Picard replied, "That doesn't sound like the man who came to me a year ago fiercely determined to clear his father's name or die trying." (TNG: "Redemption") Coin a phrase[] To coin a phrase was either to introduce a new idiom or to repeat an old one. In 2267, upon meeting Apollo, Leonard McCoy, in the absence of Spock, remarked, "To coin a phrase, fascinating". (TOS: "Who Mourns for Adonais?") In 2376, The Doctor recalled pausing in his metallurgical scans on a rare away mission (for him) to Arakis Prime, in order "to smell the roses, to coin a phrase". Later, upon hearing him wax eloquent about the mission, saying, "one small step for a hologram, one giant leap for mankind", Seven of Nine repeated, "to coin a phrase". The Doctor allowed that his choice of words was not new. (VOY: "One Small Step") Cover one's tracks[] To cover one's tracks meant to destroy or hide evidence of one's secrets. When Dax was observing the crew of the Defiant rebelling against the Jem'Hadar, Dax commented, "I think Worf's trying to cover their tracks." (DS9: "One Little Ship") When Sisko denied that there was any real evidence that Bashir was a Dominion collaborator, Sloan said, "What other kind of case can I make against a man who covers his tracks so well?". Sisko stated that this was a "circular argument" and accused Sloan of being knowingly difficult. (DS9: "Inquisition") Chakotay once noted that whoever made an unauthorised transmission was "an expert at covering their tracks". Later, he explained to Seska that he and others were hoping that either she or Carey would try to cover their tracks. Seska retorted that entering her security code in would be a bad way of covering her tracks, but Chakotay countered that this was a double bluff. (VOY: "State of Flux") When B'Elanna Torres asked the EMH's malevolent alter ego, that he had acquired due to downloading many historical figures' personalities into his program, why he injected her with cateline to simulate anaphylaxis, he responded, "I had to cover my tracks, especially from him; from your doctor." (VOY: "Darkling") Tom Paris once mentioned he had to sabotage the comm system to cover Harry Kim's tracks regarding his secret relationship with Tal. (VOY: "The Disease") Cross that bridge when one comes to it[] To state that one would "cross that bridge when one came to it" was to state that one would wait until a problem arose before attempting to solve it. When a replicant of Miles O'Brien was escaping from the personnel of Deep Space 9, he did not know what to do once he dropped out of warp, but stated that he would cross that bridge when he came to it. (DS9: "Whispers") In an alternate 2374, when USS Voyager was extremely damaged, Commander Chakotay suggested that they should consider abandoning the ship and split the crew up into smaller groups as a more viable option of successfully crossing Krenim space. When asked by Captain Kathryn Janeway what they would do after that, Chakotay offered, "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it. But at least we'd be increasing our chances of survival." (VOY: "Year of Hell") Curl one's hair[] Something that would curl one's hair would scare or surprise them. In 2367, Guinan remarked that she had heard some Klingon belly laughs that would curl Worf's hair. (TNG: "Redemption") Cut someone slack[] To cut someone slack was to be lenient on them. When Benjamin Sisko was telling Quark not to be involved in a weapon sale, he said that while he did cut Quark slack in the past, but he would not let him get away with any more crime. (DS9: "Business as Usual") Cut to the chase[] To cut to the chase meant to get to the point. Kilana once stated, in referenced to a crashed Dominion ship, "So let me cut to the chase. I believe that is the correct expression. This is our ship. We want it back." (DS9: "The Ship") Dead in the water[] If something was dead in the water, it was completely non-functional or immobilized. Paris used this idiom when the propulsion systems on Voyager broke down. (VOY: "Prototype") When the Delta Flyer stopped moving in the middle of a race, Harry Kim noted, "They're stopping. They're dead in the water." (VOY: "Drive") When Voyager was losing containment, B'Elanna Torres noted, "At this rate, we'll be dead in the water in less than three minutes." (VOY: "The Void") Diamond in the rough[] A diamond in the rough was a person or thing that was valuable despite appearing worthless or being surrounded by worthless people or things. Tom Paris described Alice (ship) as being a diamond in the rough when trying to convince Chakotay to let him keep it. (VOY: "Alice") Don't let the door hit you on the way out[] "Don't let the door hit you on the way out" was a derogatory idiom used to indicate that one was glad that someone was leaving. Jadzia Dax used this expression when she was angry at Quark for being part of a weapons sale. (DS9: "Business as Usual") Dot the "I"s and cross the "T"s[] To "dot the 'I's and cross the 'T's" was to complete a task to the smallest details. Julian Bashir once noted on a medical procedure he was using to attempt to adjust Melora Pazlar's body so that she could function in Earth gravity, "Someone else's research actually; I just dotted the 'I's and crossed the 'T's." (DS9: "Melora") Dry spell[] A "dry spell" was a prolonged period without sexual activity. After learning that Vulcans only mated once in seven years, Trip Tucker remarked that that was "a hell of a dry spell." (ENT: "Fallen Hero") A dry spell could also be a synonym for a drought. When Kathryn Janeway was a child, a character on a holonovel she was using predicted a "dry spell" (as in a drought), so Janeway diverted a river. This backfired when it caused a flood and attracted a large mosquito named Stinger. (VOY: "Once Upon a Time") The dust settles[] If the dust settled, then a tense situation died down. When Vreenak asked Sisko which side he would pick in the Dominion War if he was in his position, Sisko replied that he woudl choose the side most likely to leave his people in peace when the dust settled. (DS9: "In the Pale Moonlight") Early bird gets the worm[] "The early bird gets the worm" meant that those who acted quickly/first were more likely to gain their objective. When Commander Shelby used the expression to explain why she was bringing William Riker, Geordi LaForge, and Data on an away mission so early, Data who did not know the idiom, confusedly remarked that Shelby must have erred, since there were neither birds nor worms on the planet. Geordi noted that it was an idiom, but added that nevertheless, Shelby had, in fact, erred. (TNG: "The Best of Both Worlds") When Voyager's EMH was trying to awaken B'Elanna Torres, he riffed on the idiom by stating that "The early bird gets the gagh". (VOY: "Drone") Everything but the kitchen sink []"Everything but the kitchen sink", meant that almost everything possible was being used to make something work, or likewise present in a single location. When the USS Enterprise was caught in Vaal's tractor beam, Montgomery Scott was "putting everything but the kitchen sink into impulse power" just to keep the ship from being pulled out of orbit. (TOS: "The Apple") While trapped inside a graviton ellipse, Commander Chakotay took note of the variety of debris contained within, describing "asteroid fragments, pieces of vessels, matter from every quadrant of the galaxy. Next time I lose something I'll know where to look. Instead of a graviton ellipse we should call it the "kitchen sink" anomaly." (VOY: "One Small Step") Face the music[] To "face the music" meant to accept negative consequences for one's actions. When the EMH noted that Janeway risked court martial for disobeying him, she said that she would be willing to face the music, because a court martial would be a small price to pay for the misery she was going through. (VOY: "Year of Hell") When Seven of Nine wondered why B'Elanna Torres wanted to return to Earth despite being a wanted criminal, B'Elanna replied that she would rather face the music on Earth than spend the rest of her life in the Delta Quadrant. (VOY: "Hope and Fear") The fat is in the fire[] If "the fat was in the fire", that meant something negative was sure to happen. McCoy once noted that the fat would be in the fire when the Federation High Commissioner found out that Elaan had recently tried to murder the ambassador of the man she was betrothed to. (TOS: "Elaan of Troyius") Fishing for a compliment[] To "fish for a compliment" meant to say something in hopes of the other person responding with a compliment. When Ambassador Troi mentioned that she used to "sparkle", she then added, "You see, that's called 'fishing for a compliment'; you're supposed to stay I still sparkle." (TNG: "Half a Life") Fit as a fiddle[] If somebody was "fit as a fiddle", this meant they were healthy. When Julian Bashir had his body controlled by the consciousness of Rao Vantika, Benjamin Sisko asked him what happened to Bashir. Bashir as Vantika stated that Bashir's body was "fit as a fiddle". (DS9: "The Passenger") Fit like a glove[] If something "fit like a glove", it fit perfectly. Scotty once used this idiom to refer to a new panel he installed. (TOS: "Where No Man Has Gone Before") Fortune favours the bold[] Meant that adventurous people tended to have better luck. Sisko used the expression when facing up to some enemy ships during the mission to retake Deep Space Nine. (DS9: "Favor the Bold") From day one[] Meant (something had occurred) from the beginning of an undertaking. When Ambassador Soval dismissed reasoning from Captain Archer that the Enterprise should not be recalled to Earth in 2152, Commander Tucker accused Soval of having wanted to cancel the mission "from day one." (ENT: "Shockwave, Part II") Upon meeting a man from the future on board a Suliban vessel in 2153, Archer accused him of having manipulated his mission "from day one." (ENT: "The Expanse") In the Nexus, Kirk expressed a desire to "start over" in his past and "do things right from day one" with his former love interest, Antonia. (Star Trek Generations) When the USS Voyager got involved in the war between the Borg and Species 8472 in 2374, Commander Chakotay argued against siding with the Borg in the conflict, citing that they had been taking advantage of the Voyager crew "from day one" of their alliance with the Borg. (VOY: "Scorpion") Chakotay admitted that he and Tuvok had been socially distant from one another "from day one" when he sought advice from Tuvok regarding Captain Janeway's behavior in 2375. (VOY: "Night") (A) genie from the bottle [] "A genie from the bottle" meant getting what one wanted, but with bad results. Give up the ghost[] To give up the ghost meant to die (lifeforms) or cease operating (machines). In 2152, Trip Tucker warned Jonathan Archer that it was only a matter of time before a plasma injector gave up the gh

Mudd, Eve McHuron, and Ben Childress, McCoy surmised Kirk must have talked them into rationality, asking if Kirk had ever thought of selling patent medicine. Kirk then quipped, "Why should I work your side of the street?" (TOS: "Mudd's Women") See also[] External links[] Idiom at Wikipedia Phrase at Wikipedia , the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit. 117,922 active editors 6,999,211 articles in English The first UK Phantom on a test flight in 1968 From 1968 to 1992, the United Kingdom used the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II as one of its principal combat aircraft. The Phantom was procured to serve in both the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm and the Royal Air Force (RAF) in several different roles. Most Phantoms operated by the UK were built as a special batch containing a significant amount of British technology. Two variants were initially built: the F-4K was a carrier-based air-defence interceptor for the Fleet Air Arm, while the F-4M was initially used by the RAF for tactical strike and reconnaissance, before transitioning to an air defence role in the 1970s. In the mid-1980s, a third Phantom variant was obtained when fifteen former US Navy F-4J aircraft were purchased to augment the UK's air defences. Although the Fleet Air Arm ceased using the Phantom in 1978, the RAF retained it until 1992, when it was withdrawn as part of a series of post-Cold War defence cuts. (Full article...) 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Magoffin made pilots in his group sprint around an airfield for not saluting him? Archive Start a new article Nominate an article Nicușor Dan Author Banu Mushtaq and translator Deepa Bhasthi win the International Booker Prize for Heart Lamp: Selected Stories. Nicușor Dan (pictured) is elected as president of Romania. In the Portuguese legislative election, the Democratic Alliance wins the most seats in parliament. Austria, represented by JJ with the song "Wasted Love", wins the Eurovision Song Contest. A tornado outbreak leaves at least 27 people dead in the Midwestern and Southeastern United States. Ongoing: Gaza war M23 campaign Russian invasion of Ukraine timeline Sudanese civil war timeline Recent deaths: Jim Irsay Yury Grigorovich Yuri Vladimirov Colton Ford Werenoi Benjamin Ritchie Nominate an article May 27 Manchu Prince Dorgon 1644 – Manchu regent Dorgon (depicted) defeated rebel leader Li Zicheng of the Shun dynasty at the Battle of Shanhai Pass, allowing the Manchus to enter and conquer the capital city of Beijing. 1799 – War of the Second Coalition: Austrian forces defeated the French Army of the Danube, capturing the strategically important Swiss town of Winterthur. 1954 – The security clearance of American nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, head of Project Y, was revoked. 1967 – Australians voted overwhelmingly to include Indigenous Australians in population counts for constitutional purposes and to allow the federal government to make special laws affecting them in states. 1997 – A destructive F5-rated tornado tracked through a subdivision of homes northwest of Jarrell, Texas, killing 27 people. Diego Ramírez de Arellano (d. 1624)Julia Ward Howe (b. 1819)Cilla Black (b. 1943)Gérard Jean-Juste (d. 2009) More anniversaries: May 26 May 27 May 28 Archive By email List of days of the year About Anemonoides blanda, the Balkan anemone, Grecian windflower, or winter windflower, is a species of flowering plant in the family Ranunculaceae. The species is native to southeast Europe and the Middle East. It grows up to 10 to 15 centimetres (4 to 6 inches) tall and is valued for its daisy-like flowers, which appear in early spring, a time when little else is in flower. The flowers are found in various colors and are radially symmetrical, containing seven or more sepals and petals. This purple A. blanda flower was photographed in Bamberg, Germany. Photograph credit: Reinhold Möller Recently featured: Bluespotted ribbontail ray Black Lives Matter art Germanicus Archive More featured pictures Community portal – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements. Village pump – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues. Site news – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement. Teahouse – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Help desk – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Reference desk – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics. Content portals – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia. 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Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below. 1,000,000+ articles العربية Deutsch Español فارسی Français Italiano Nederlands 日本語 Polski Português Русский Svenska Українська Tiếng Việt 中文 250,000+ articles Bahasa Indonesia Bahasa Melayu Bân-lâm-gú Български Català Čeština Dansk Eesti Ελληνικά Esperanto Euskara עברית Հայերեն Magyar Norsk bokmål Română Simple English Slovenčina Srpski Srpskohrvatski Suomi Türkçe Oʻzbekcha 50,000+ articles Asturianu Azərbaycanca [illegible] Bosanski کوردی Frysk Gaeilge Galego Hrvatski ქართული Kurdî Latviešu Lietuvių [illegible] Македонски [illegible] Norsk nynorsk [illegible] Shqip Slovenščina [illegible] اردو Retrieved from " 2 This article needs additional citations for verification. Please improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "1644" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (August 2016) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Calendar year Years Millennium 2nd millennium Centuries 16th century 17th century 18th century Decades 1620s 1630s 1640s 1650s 1660s Years 1641 1642 1643 1644 1645 1646 1647 vte July 1: The Battle of Colberger Heide is fought between Sweden and Denmark-Norway off of the German coast. July 2: Parliament wins control of northern England from King Charles in the Battle of Marston Moor. 1644 by topic Arts and science Architecture Art Literature Music Science Leaders State leaders Colonial governors Religious leaders Birth and death categories Births – Deaths Establishments and disestablishments categories Establishments – Disestablishments Works category Works vte 1644 in various calendarsGregorian calendar1644MDCXLIVAb urbe condita2397Armenian calendar1093ԹՎ ՌՂԹԳAssyrian calendar6394Balinese saka calendar1565–1566Bengali calendar1050–1051Berber calendar2594English Regnal year19 Cha. 1 – 20 Cha. 1Buddhist calendar2188Burmese calendar1006Byzantine calendar7152–7153Chinese calendar癸未年 (Water Goat)4341 or 4134 — to 甲申年 (Wood Monkey)4342 or 4135Coptic calendar1360–1361Discordian calendar2810Ethiopian calendar1636–1637Hebrew calendar5404–5405Hindu calendars - Vikram Samvat1700–1701 - Shaka Samvat1565–1566 - Kali Yuga4744–4745Holocene calendar11644Igbo calendar644–645Iranian calendar1022–1023Islamic calendar1053–1054Japanese calendarKan'ei 21 / Shōhō 1(正保元年)Javanese calendar1565–1566Julian calendarGregorian minus 10 daysKorean calendar3977Minguo calendar268 before ROC民前268年Nanakshahi calendar176Thai solar calendar2186–2187Tibetan calendar阴水羊年(female Water-Goat)1770 or 1389 or 617 — to 阳木猴年(male Wood-Monkey)1771 or 1390 or 618 1644 (MDCXLIV) was a leap year starting on Friday of the Gregorian calendar and a leap year starting on Monday of the Julian calendar, the 1644th year of the Common Era (CE) and Anno Domini (AD) designations, the 644th year of the 2nd millennium, the 44th year of the 17th century, and the 5th year of the 1640s decade. As of the start of 1644, the Gregorian calendar was 10 days ahead of the Julian calendar, which remained in localized use until 1923. Calendar year It is one of eight years (CE) to contain each Roman numeral once (1000(M)+500(D)+100(C)+(-10(X)+50(L))+(-1(I)+5(V)) = 1644). Kolumna Zygmunta erected. January 22 – The Royalist Oxford Parliament is first assembled by King Charles I of England.[1] January 26 – First English Civil War: Battle of Nantwich – The Parliamentarians defeat the Royalists, allowing them to end the 6-week siege of the Cheshire town.[2] January 30 Dutch explorer Abel Tasman departs from Batavia in the Dutch East Indies (modern-day Jakarta in Indonesia) on his second major expedition for the Dutch East India Company, to map the north coast of Australia. Tasman commands three ships, Limmen, Zeemeeuw and Braek, and returns to Batavia at the beginning of August with no major discoveries. Battle of Ochmatów: Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth forces under hetman Stanisław Koniecpolski secure a substantial victory over the horde of Crimean Tatars under Tugay Bey. February 5 – The first livestock branding law in America is passed in Connecticut.[3] March 24 – Roger Williams is granted an official grant for his Rhode Island Colony from the Parliament of England, allowing the establishment of a general assembly. April 18 – Opchanacanough leads the Powhatan Indians in an unsuccessful uprising against the English at Jamestown. Although 300 of the English colonists are slain, the settlers pursue Opchanacanough, who is imprisoned in Jamestown for the rest of his life.[4] This is the last such Indian rebellion in the region. April 25 – A popular Chinese rebellion led by Li Zicheng sacks Beijing, prompting Chongzhen, the last emperor of the Ming dynasty, to commit suicide. May 6 – Johan Mauritius resigns as Governor of Brazil.[3] May 25 – Ming general Wu Sangui forms an alliance with the invading Manchus and opens the gates of the Great Wall of China at Shanhaiguan Pass, letting the Manchus through towards the capital Beijing. May 26 – Battle of Montijo: The Kingdom of Portugal is victorious over Habsburg Spain, in the first major action between the two nations during the Portuguese Restoration War. May 27 – Battle of Shanhai Pass: The Manchu Qing dynasty and Wu Sangui gain a decisive victory over Li Zicheng's Shun dynasty. June 3 – Li Zicheng proclaims himself emperor of China. June 6 – The invading Qing army, with the help of Ming general Wu Sangui, captures Beijing in China, marking the beginning of Manchu rule over China proper. June 11 – During the English Civil War, Prince Rupert and his men take Liverpool Castle.[5] Liverpool is later reclaimed by Sir John Moore. July 1 – Torstenson War: Battle of Colberger Heide – The Dano-Norwegian and Swedish fleets fight a naval battle off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein. The battle is indecisive but represents a minor success for the Dano-Norwegian fleet. July 2 – English Civil War: Battle of Marston Moor – The Parliamentarians crush the Royalists in Yorkshire, ending Charles I's hold on the north of England.[6] September 1 – English Civil War: Battle of Tippermuir – Montrose defeats Lord Elcho's Covenanters, reviving the Royalist cause in Scotland. September 2 – English Civil War: Second Battle of Lostwithiel (in Cornwall) – Charles I and the Royalists gain their last major victory.[7] September 15 – Pope Innocent X succeeds Pope Urban VIII, becoming the 236th pope.[8] October 1 – The Jews of Mogilev, Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, are attacked during Tashlikh. November 8 – The Shunzhi Emperor, the second emperor of the Qing dynasty, is enthroned in Beijing after the collapse of the Ming dynasty as the first Qing emperor to rule over China proper. November 23 Battle of Jüterbog (December 3 New Style): Sweden's forces defeat those of the Holy Roman Empire. Areopagitica, an appeal for freedom of speech written by John Milton, is published in London. November – The Castle of Elvas in Portugal resists a 9-day siege by the Spanish during the Portuguese Restoration War. December 8 (December 18 New Style) – As Christina comes of age, she is made ruling queen of Sweden. December – Bubonic plague breaks out in Edinburgh (Scotland). A Spanish officer is murdered in St. Dominic's Church, Macau during mass by colonists loyal to Portugal during the Portuguese Restoration War. Sigismund's Column is erected in Warsaw to commemorate King Sigismund III Vasa, who moved the capital of Poland from Kraków to Warsaw in 1596. Philosopher René Descartes publishes Principia Philosophiae (Principles of Philosophy) in Amsterdam. The opera Ormindo is first performed in Venice (music by Francesco Cavalli, and libretto by Giovanni Faustini). The West India Company[which?] displays greater interest in profit than in colonization.[vague] Thomas Britton Veit Hans Schnorr von Carolsfeld Otto Mencke Henry Winstanley Henrietta of England January 9 – Robert Gibbes, English-born landgrave in South Carolina (d. 1715) January 10 Louis François, duc de Boufflers, Marshal of France (d. 1711) Celestino Sfondrati, Italian Catholic cardinal (d. 1696) January 11 – Hayashi Hōkō, Japanese philosopher (d. 1732) January 14 – Thomas Britton, English concert promoter (d. 1714) January 18 – John Partridge, English astrologer (d. 1708) January 23 – Jonas Budde, Norwegian army officer (d. 1710) January 25 – Antoine Thomas, Jesuit missionary priest and astronomer (d. 1709)[9] January 26 – Thomas Boylston, American colonial doctor (d. 1695) February 2 Isaac Chayyim Cantarini, Italian rabbi (d. 1723) Johannes Hancke, German writer (d. 1713) February 7 – Nils Bielke, member of the High Council of Sweden (d. 1716) February 8 – Pierre de La Broue, American bishop (d. 1720) February 12 – Jakob Ammann, Swiss founder of the Amish sect (d. 1712) February 24 – Maria Elisabeth Lämmerhirt, German mother of Johann Sebastian Bach (d. 1694) March 1 – Simon Foucher, French polemicist (d. 1696) March 15 – Veit Hans Schnorr von Carolsfeld, German iron and cobalt magnate (d. 1715) March 21 – Sir Walter Bagot, 3rd Baronet, English politician (d. 1704) March 22 Otto Mencke, German philosopher and scientist (d. 1707) Sir James Rushout, 1st Baronet, English politician (d. 1698) March 25 – Heinrich von Cocceji, German jurist from Bremen (d. 1719) March 31 – Henry Winstanley, English engineer (d. 1703) April 6 – António Luís de Sousa, 2nd Marquis of Minas, Portuguese general, governor-general of Brazil (d. 1721) April 7 Nathaniel Johnson, American politician (d. 1713) François de Neufville, duc de Villeroy, French soldier (d. 1730) April 11 – Marie Jeanne Baptiste of Savoy-Nemours, Duchess of Savoy (d. 1724) April 17 – Abraham Storck, Dutch painter (d. 1708) April 21 – Conrad von Reventlow, Danish statesman, first Grand Chancellor of Denmark (d. 1708) May 2 – Robert Cotton, English politician (d. 1717) May 4 – Juan Caballero y Ocio, Spanish priest remarkable for lavish gifts to the Catholic Church and charity (d. 1707) May 5 – Sir Richard Newdigate, 2nd Baronet, English landowner (d. 1710) May 26 – Michael Ettmüller, German physician (d. 1683) June 2 – William Salmon, English medical writer (d. 1713) June 7 – Johann Christoph Volkamer, German botanist (d. 1720) June 16 – Henrietta Anne Stuart, Princess of Scotland, England and Ireland and Duchess of Orléans (d. 1670)[10] June 17 – Johann Wolfgang Franck, German baroque composer (d. 1710) July 2 – Abraham a Sancta Clara, German Augustinian friar (d. 1709) July 4 – Josceline Percy, 11th Earl of Northumberland, English noble (d. 1670) July 7 – Joan Geelvinck, Dutch politician (d. 1707) July 10 – Miguel Bayot, Spanish Catholic prelate, Bishop of Cebu (from 1697) (d. 1700) July 22 – Peter Drelincourt, Irish chaplain (d. 1722) August 6 Christian Ernst, Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth (1655–1712) (d. 1712) Louise de La Vallière, French mistress of Louis XIV of France (d. 1710)[11] August 12 – Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber, Bohemian composer and violinist (d. 1704) August 28 (bapt.) – Gilles Schey, Dutch admiral (d. 1703) August 29 – Anne Bourdon, nun in New France (d. 1711) August 30 – Thomas Tufton, 6th Earl of Thanet, English politician (d. 1729) September 3 – Richard Newport, 2nd Earl of Bradford, English politician (d. 1723) September 6 – Juan Bautista Cabanilles, Spanish composer (d. 1712) September 11 – Jacob Rotius, Dutch painter (d. 1681) September 22 – Jacques Échard, French Dominican, historian of the Order (d. 1724) September 25 – Ole Rømer, Danish astronomer (d. 1710) October 1 – Jean Rousseau, French viol player (d. 1699) October 2 – François-Timoléon de Choisy, French abbé, author and cross-dresser (d. 1724) October 3 – Adriaen Frans Boudewijns, landscape painter (d. 1719) October 12 – Christopher Sandius, Dutch Arian writer (d. 1680) October 13 – Sipihr Shikoh, Mughal Emperor (d. 1708) October 14 – William Penn, English Quaker and founder of Pennsylvania (d. 1718) October 26 – Mathias Steuchius, Swedish archbishop (d. 1730) November 23 (bapt.) – Cornelia van der Gon, Dutch art collector (d. 1701) December 8 – Maria d'Este, Italian noble (d. 1684) December 9 – Robert Kirk, Scottish folklorist, Bible translator, Gaelic scholar (d. 1692) December 23 – Tomás de Torrejón y Velasco, Spanish composer, musician and organist (d. 1728) December 25 – Walter Scott, Earl of Tarras, Scottish nobleman (d. 1693) December 29 – Philips van Almonde, Dutch Lieutenant Admiral (d. 1711) Matsuo Bashō, Japanese poet (d. 1694) Pietro Erardi, Maltese chaplain and painter (d. 1727)[12] Antonio Stradivari, Italian violin maker (d. 1737)[13] Pope Urban VIII Johannes Wtenbogaert January 20 – Stefano Amadei, Italian painter (b. 1580) January 30 – William Chillingworth, controversial English churchman (b. 1602) January 31 – Georg II of Fleckenstein-Dagstuhl, German nobleman (b. 1588) February 28 – Guru Har Gobind, the Sixth Sikh Guru (b. 1595) March 15 – Countess Louise Juliana of Nassau, Regent of Bohemia (b. 1576) March 24 – Cecilia Renata of Austria, Queen of Poland (b. 1611) March 29 – Lord John Stewart, Scottish aristocrat, Royalist commander in the English Civil War (b. 1621) April 2 – Diego Salcedo, Spanish bishop (b. 1575) April 10 – Reverend William Brewster, English Pilgrim leader (b. 1567) April 25 – Chongzhen, last Ming Emperor of China (suicide) (b. 1611) April 28 – Zsófia Bosnyák, Hungarian noblewoman (b. 1609) May 26 – Alfonso III d'Este, Duke of Modena, Italian noble (b. 1591) June 17 Anne de Montafié, Countess of Clermont-en-Beauvaisis, French countess (b. 1577) John of St. Thomas, Portuguese philosopher (b. 1589) July 4 – Brian Twyne, English archivist (b. 1581) July 7 – Hedwig of Hesse-Kassel, countess consort of Schaumburg (b. 1569) July 16 – Giovanni Biliverti, Italian painter (b. 1585) July 25 – Amar Singh Rathore, Rajput nobleman affiliated with the royal house of Marwar (b. 1613) July 29 – Pope Urban VIII (b. 1568)[14] August 25 – Johann Heinrich Alting, German Lutheran theologian (b. 1583) September 4 – Johannes Wtenbogaert, Dutch leader of the Remonstrants (b. 1557) September 7 Guido Bentivoglio, Italian statesman and historian (b. 1579)[15] Ralph Corbie, Irish Jesuit (b. 1598) September 8 John Coke, English politician (b. 1563)[16] Francis Quarles, English poet (b. 1592)[17] October 6 – Elisabeth of France, queen of Philip IV of Spain (b. 1602) October 19 – Johann Friedrich, Count Palatine of Sulzbach-Hilpoltstein (b. 1587) October 30 – Jorge de Cárdenas y Manrique de Lara, Spanish noble (b. 1584) November 6 – Thomas Roe, English diplomat (b. c. 1581) November 10 – Luis Vélez de Guevara, Spanish writer (b. 1579) November 20 – Nathaniel Foote, American colonist (b. 1592) November 24 – Deodat del Monte, Flemish painter, architect (b. 1582) December 20 – Albert IV, Duke of Saxe-Eisenach (from 1640) (b. 1599) December 23 – Sir Alexander Carew, 2nd Baronet, English politician (b. 1609) December 28 – John Bankes, Attorney General and Chief Justice to King Charles I of England (b. 1589) December 30 – Jan Baptist van Helmont, Flemish chemist (b. 1577) ^ Braddick, Michael J. 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Defeating the parliamentarians at Stockport, he forced his way into Lancashire, stormed Bolton on 28 May, and captured Liverpool on 11 June", quoting Ormerod, Civil War Tracts of Lancashire, p. 187) ^ Levene, Mark (1999). The massacre in history. New York: Berghahn Books. p. 93. ISBN 9781571819345. ^ Jeremy Black (1996). The Cambridge Illustrated Atlas of Warfare: Renaissance to Revolution, 1492-1792. Cambridge University Press. p. 80. ^ Levillain, Philippe (2002). The papacy : an encyclopedia. New York: Routledge. p. 801. ISBN 9780415922289. ^ Walle, Willy (2003). The history of the relations between the Low Countries and China in the Qing era (1644-1911. Leuven, Belgium: Leuven University Press Ferdinand Verbiest Foundation. p. 90. ISBN 9789058673152. ^ Lowther, Kenneth (1979). Dartmoor, Exeter... London: Ward Lock. p. 35. ISBN 9780706357929. ^ Dumas, Alexandre (1998). The Vicomte de Bragelonne. Oxford New York: Oxford University Press. p. 674. 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Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "16th century" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (September 2022) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Millennia 2nd millennium Centuries 15th century 16th century 17th century Timelines 15th century 16th century 17th century State leaders 15th century 16th century 17th century Decades 1500s 1510s 1520s 1530s 1540s 1550s 1560s 1570s 1580s 1590s Categories: Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments vte The world map by the Italian Amerigo Vespucci (from whose name the word America is derived) and Belgian Gerardus Mercator shows (besides the classical continents Europe, Africa, and Asia) the Americas as America sive India Nova', New Guinea, and other islands of Southeast Asia, as well as a hypothetical Arctic continent and a yet undetermined Terra Australis.[1]The 16th century began with the Julian year 1501 (represented by the Roman numerals MDI) and ended with either the Julian or the Gregorian year 1600 (MDC), depending on the reckoning used (the Gregorian calendar introduced a lapse of 10 days in October 1582).[1] The Renaissance in Italy and Europe saw the emergence of important artists, authors and scientists, and led to the foundation of important subjects which include accounting and political science. Copernicus proposed the heliocentric universe, which was met with strong resistance, and Tycho Brahe refuted the theory of celestial spheres through observational measurement of the 1572 appearance of a Milky Way supernova. These events directly challenged the long-held notion of an immutable universe supported by Ptolemy and Aristotle, and led to major revolutions in astronomy and science. Galileo Galilei became a champion of the new sciences, invented the first thermometer and made substantial contributions in the fields of physics and astronomy, becoming a major figure in the Scientific Revolution in Europe. Spain and Portugal colonized large parts of Central and South America, followed by France and England in Northern America and the Lesser Antilles. The Portuguese became the masters of trade between Brazil, the coasts of Africa, and their possessions in the Indies, whereas the Spanish came to dominate the Greater Antilles, Mexico, Peru, and opened trade across the Pacific Ocean, linking the Americas with the Indies. English and French privateers began to practice persistent theft of Spanish and Portuguese treasures. This era of colonialism established mercantilism as the leading school of economic thought, where the economic system was viewed as a zero-sum game in which any gain by one party required a loss by another. The mercantilist doctrine encouraged the many intra-European wars of the period and arguably fueled European expansion and imperialism throughout the world until the 19th century or early 20th century. The Reformation in central and northern Europe gave a major blow to the authority of the papacy and the Catholic Church. In England, the British-Italian Alberico Gentili wrote the first book on public international law and divided secularism from canon law and Catholic theology. European politics became dominated by religious conflicts, with the groundwork for the epochal Thirty Years' War being laid towards the end of the century. In the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire continued to expand, with the sultan taking the title of caliph, while dealing with a resurgent Persia. Iran and Iraq were caught by a major popularity of the Shia sect of Islam under the rule of the Safavid dynasty of warrior-mystics, providing grounds for a Persia independent of the majority-Sunni Muslim world.[2] In the Indian subcontinent, following the defeat of the Delhi Sultanate and Vijayanagara Empire, new powers emerged, the Sur Empire founded by Sher Shah Suri, Deccan sultanates, Rajput states, and the Mughal Empire[3] by Emperor Babur, a direct descendant of Timur and Genghis Khan.[4] His successors Humayun and Akbar, enlarged the empire to include most of South Asia. Japan suffered a severe civil war at this time, known as the Sengoku period, and emerged from it as a unified nation under Toyotomi Hideyoshi. China was ruled by the Ming dynasty, which was becoming increasingly isolationist, coming into conflict with Japan over the control of Korea as well as Japanese pirates. In Africa, Christianity had begun to spread in Central Africa and Southern Africa. Until the Scramble for Africa in the late 19th century, most of Africa was left uncolonized. For timelines of earlier events, see 15th century and Timeline of the Middle Ages. Mona Lisa, by Leonardo da Vinci, c. 1503–1506, one of the world's best-known paintings 1501: Michelangelo returns to his native Florence to begin work on the statue David. 1501: Safavid dynasty reunifies Iran and rules over it until 1736. Safavids adopt a Shia branch of Islam.[5] 1501: First Battle of Cannanore between the Third Portuguese Armada and Kingdom of Cochin under João da Nova and Zamorin of Kozhikode's navy marks the beginning of Portuguese conflicts in the Indian Ocean. 1502: First reported African slaves in the New World 1502: The Crimean Khanate sacks Sarai in the Golden Horde, ending its existence. 1503: Spain defeats France at the Battle of Cerignola. Considered to be the first battle in history won by gunpowder small arms. 1503: Leonardo da Vinci begins painting the Mona Lisa and completes it three years later. 1503: Nostradamus is born on either December 14 or December 21. 1504: A period of drought, with famine in all of Spain. 1504: Death of Isabella I of Castile; Joanna of Castile becomes the Queen. 1504: Foundation of the Sultanate of Sennar by Amara Dunqas, in what is modern Sudan 1505: Zhengde Emperor ascends the throne of Ming dynasty. 1505: Martin Luther enters St. Augustine's Monastery at Erfurt, Germany, on 17 July and begins his journey to instigating the Reformation. 1505: Sultan Trenggono builds the first Muslim kingdom in Java, called Demak, in Indonesia. Many other 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 Cerignola: El Gran Capitan finds 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 Mamlûk Burji 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 Serrão. Serrão 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 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 Descrittione 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 fo-lang-ji, 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 Toulon in 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 Mughayat Shah of Aceh begins an expansionist campaign capturing Daya 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 Trengganа. 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-Sundanese Treaty signed between Portugal and Sunda Kingdom granted Portuguese permit to build fortress in Sunda Kelapa. 1523: Sweden gains independence from the Kalmar Union. 1523: The Cacao bean is introduced to Spain by Hernán Cortés 1524–1525: 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, 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