962 – 1806

Put the Events in Order

Name _____ Date _____

These 9 events from the Holy Roman Empire timeline are out of order. Write a number from 1 to 9 in each box, from the earliest event (1) to the latest (9).

☐

Peace of Augsburg

Charles V negotiates the Peace of Augsburg with the Protestant German princes, establishing the principle of cuius regio, eius religio — 'whose realm, his religion' — allowing each prince to choose between Catholicism and Lutheranism for his territory.

☐

The Thirty Years' War

A devastating religious and political war engulfs the empire and draws in France, Sweden, Spain, and Denmark; fighting is accompanied by plague and famine; an estimated one-third of the German population dies.

☐

Charles V Unites the Habsburg Lands

Charles V is elected Holy Roman Emperor, uniting the empire with Spain, the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Naples, and the early Spanish colonies in the Americas under one ruler — the largest European domain since Charlemagne.

☐

Otto I Crowned Holy Roman Emperor

Pope John XII crowns the German king Otto I as Holy Roman Emperor in Rome, reviving the imperial title in the West for the first time since Charlemagne's descendants.

Peace of Westphalia

The treaties ending the Thirty Years' War grant the empire's princes full sovereignty within their territories — effectively making the emperor a ceremonial figurehead — and recognize the Swiss Confederation and Dutch Republic as independent states.

The Golden Bull

Emperor Charles IV issues the Golden Bull, establishing that seven specific prince-electors — three archbishops and four secular princes — have the exclusive right to elect the Holy Roman Emperor.

Frederick Barbarossa's Reign

Frederick I ('Barbarossa' — Red Beard) attempts to reassert imperial control over the wealthy Italian city-states through six military campaigns; he drowns crossing a river in Anatolia while leading the Third Crusade.

The Investiture Controversy

Emperor Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII clash over who has the right to appoint (invest) church bishops and abbots; Henry famously stands barefoot in the snow at Canossa in 1077 begging the pope's forgiveness; the conflict is finally settled by the Concordat of Worms in 1122.

Napoleon Dissolves the Empire

Napoleon defeats Austria at Austerlitz and pressures sixteen German princes to leave the empire and join his Confederation of the Rhine; faced with this collapse, Emperor Francis II abdicates the imperial title, ending the Holy Roman Empire after 844 years.

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Put the Events in Order: Answer Key

962 — 1. Otto I Crowned Holy Roman Emperor

1076–1122 — 2. The Investiture Controversy

1152–1190 — 3. Frederick Barbarossa's Reign

1356 — 4. The Golden Bull

1519 — 5. Charles V Unites the Habsburg Lands

1555 — 6. Peace of Augsburg

1618–1648 — 7. The Thirty Years' War

1648 — 8. Peace of Westphalia

1806 — 9. Napoleon Dissolves the Empire



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