European Dynasties and Ruling Houses Cheat Sheet
Version 3.0
*Dynasties are listed chronologically. **Bolded terms** appear frequently in tossups.*
"Place" refers to the kingdom or polity with which the dynasty or house is primarily associated.
"Period" refers to the approximate time during which the dynasty or house maintained active power.
"Founded' indicates the establishment of the dynasty or house as a ruling power, and not as a family.
Also see French and English Ruling Houses Cheat Sheets.

Dynasty	Place and Period	Details
House of **Aviz**	Portugal, 1300s-1500s	included **Henry the Navigator**; founded by John I; preceded the House of Braganza
House of **Borgia**	Spain, 1400s-1500s	in the 1500s, led by **Cesare**, the illegitimate son of **Roderigo**, who became **Pope Alexander VI**; Cesare's illegitimate sister, **Lucrezia**, was widely believed to be a poisoner; Cesare inspired **Niccolò Machiavelli** to write *The Prince*
House of **Medici** [MEH-dih-chee]	Florence, 1400s-1600s	led by **Lorenzo the Magnificent**, who was targeted by the **Pazzi Conspiracy**, and by **Cosimo**; expelled from Florence by **Girolamo Savonarola**; **Catherine** was an instigator of the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre of Huguenots; patronized Michelangelo and Botticelli; Medici popes included Leo X, Leo XI, and Clement VII
House of **Habsburg**	Holy Roman Empire, 1400s-1700s	extensive family founded in **Austria**, with members in many ruling families across Europe and the world; many had a **prominent "Habsburg jaw"** that arose through inbreeding amongst noble European families; due to the **Pragmatic Sanction**, **Maria Theresa** took power after the death of Charles VI and the **War of the Austrian Succession**, during which the Habsburgs opposed the Hohenzollerns; included King Phillip II of Spain and Portugal, Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico, and many more; used the motto A.E.I.O.U. in Austria
House of **Vasa**	Sweden and Poland, 1500s-1600s	Swedish rulers included Queen **Christina** (nicknamed "Minerva of the North") and her father, King **Gustavus Adolphus** (nicknamed "Lion of the North"), who led Sweden during the **Thirty Years' War**
House of **Romanov**	Russia, 1600s-1900s	final ruling house of Russia; Tsar **Nicholas II** was forced to step down during the **February Revolution**, during which his family was killed by the **Bolsheviks**; **Peter I** (Peter the Great) won the Great Northern War against Sweden and westernized Russia; Alexander II freed the serfs; founded by Michael I, who succeeded the Rurik dynasty at the end of the **Time of Troubles**
House of **Hohenzollern**	Germany, 1400s-1900s	last ruling member of the German Empire was **Wilhelm II**, who lost power at the end of World War I with the establishment of the Weimar Republic; a branch ruled Brandenburg-Prussia under a personal union and unified the **German Empire** in the 1800s;
House of **Orange**-Nassau	Netherlands, 1500s-current	with his wife, Mary II, **William of Orange** deposed **James II** of England (see "House of Stuart" on the British Dynasties Cheat Sheet) during the **Glorious Revolution** and became William III of England after success at the **Battle of the Boyne**