

Vienna in context – World timeline 1850–1939

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| 1851 | Australian gold rush Great Exhibition held in London |
| 1853 | Admiral Perry opens Japan to the West |
| 1854 | The scientist John Snow demonstrates that cholera is transmitted by bacteria in polluted water |
| 1856 | Tsar Nicholas I of Russia dies Louis Pasteur invents pasteurisation |
| 1857 | Emperor Franz Josef orders the destruction of Vienna's old city walls and lays out plans for a new Boulevard – the Ringstrasse |
| 1859 | Charles Darwin's <i>The Origin of Species</i> is published |
| 1861 | Abraham Lincoln takes office as President of the United States The American Civil War begins (1861–1865) |
| 1862 | Gustav Klimt is born |
| 1863 | In London, the first underground passenger system opens |
| 1867 | In Sweden, Alfred Nobel patents dynamite Karl Marx's <i>Das Kapital</i> , a critical analysis of capitalism is published In Vienna, <i>The Blue Danube Waltz</i>, by Johann Strauss, premiers |
| 1870 | Franco-Prussian War; Napoleon III abdicates; Third French Republic established Germany is united as an empire |
| 1874 | First Impressionist exhibition held in Paris |
| 1875 | The light bulb is invented in Canada. Thomas Edison buys the patent Morris and Co established in England |

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| 1876 | Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone Klimt enrolls in State School of Applied Arts in Vienna |
| 1877 | Thomas Edison develops the gramophone and phonograph |
| 1880 | Ned Kelly is hanged in Australia |
| 1883 | Karl Marx dies Gustav and Ernst Klimt and Franz Matsch open the Kunstler-Compagnie studio |
| 1884 | The first underground railway opens in London |
| 1885 | In Germany Karl Benz develops an internal combustion engine The first steel-frame skyscraper, the Home Insurance Building, is built in Chicago, Illinois |
| 1888 | In London, five murders are attributed to Jack the Ripper Wilhelm II becomes Emperor in Germany |
| 1889 | Adolf Hitler is born La Grande Exposition Universelle is held in Paris; buildings include the Eiffel Tower |
| 1890 | Vincent Van Gogh dies |
| 1892 | <i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> , a collection of twelve stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, is published Gustav Klimt's brother and father die |
| 1893 | New Zealand becomes the first country to give women the vote in national elections Klimt and Matsch are commissioned to paint the University Murals |

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| 1895 | The Lumiere brothers hold the world's first public film screening Karl Lueger is elected mayor of Vienna |
| 1897 | The Vienna Secession is founded |
| 1898 | The Spanish-American war begins The Vienna Secession building opens The Vienna Metro (Stadtbahn) opens |
| 1899 | Johann Strauss jnr. dies Josef Hoffmann begins teaching at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna |
| 1900 | Sigmund Freud publishes <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> The Sixth Vienna Secession Exhibition is devoted to Japanese Art Charles Rennie Mackintosh exhibits at the Eighth Vienna Secession Exhibition |
| 1901 | Queen Victoria dies. Edward VII is crowned The Commonwealth of Australia is proclaimed |
| 1902 | The Secession launches its Beethoven exhibition |
| 1903 | The Wright brothers make their first engine-powered air flight The Wiener Werkstätte is founded The Sixteenth Vienna Secession Exhibition is devoted to Impressionism The Seventeenth Vienna Secession Exhibition is devoted to Wiener Werkstätte The Eighteenth Vienna Secession Exhibition is devoted to a Gustav Klimt retrospective |
| 1904 | Josef Hoffmann and Wiener Werkstätte build the Purkersdorf Sanatorium Emilie Flöge, along with her sisters Helene and Pauline, found fashion salon Schwestern Flöge |
| 1905 | Expressionism is featured at the 'Fauve' exhibition in Paris, which includes paintings by Derain, Rouault, Matisse Einstein develops his Theory of Relativity Gustav Klimt leaves the Secession Hoffmann designs and begins to build the Palais Stoclet with Wiener Werkstätte. Klimt designs Stoclet Frieze |
| 1907 | Picasso paints <i>Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)</i> (The Young Ladies of Avignon) which heralds the development of Cubism by Braque and Picasso Cabaret Fledermaus opens |

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| 1908 | Henry Ford produces his Model T automobile Architect Adolph Loos writes pamphlet called <i>Ornament and Crime</i> decrying the excessive use of ornament in architecture and design Klimt and Wiener Werkstätte colleagues organise the Kunstschau art exhibition to celebrate the sixty-year reign of Emperor Franz Joseph |
| 1909 | Poet F.T. Marinetti produces his Futurist Manifesto, celebrating the modern age and asking for the violent destruction of all institutions that enshrine the past The first true plastic (Phenol-Formaldehyde, trade-named Bakelite) is invented by Leo Hendrik Baekeland The second Kunstschau introduces the work of Egon Schiele |
| 1910 | Gustav Klimt has a dedicated room at the Venice Biennale, where Renoir also has a one-man show Karl Lueger dies |
| 1913 | Mary Phelps Jacob invents the bra Josef Hoffmann designs rooms for the Gallia apartment |
| 1914 | First World War begins Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated in Sarajevo. |
| 1917 | Russian Revolution begins |
| 1918 | First World War ends Egon Schiele participates in the Forty-Ninth Vienna Secession Exhibition Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Koloman Moser, Otto Wagner die |
| 1919 | Bauhaus School of art and design opens in Germany |
| 1922 | Mussolini is appointed Prime Minister of Italy |
| 1924 | Vladimir Lenin dies. Gandhi is released from prison The Surrealist Manifesto is published in Paris |
| 1927 | Charles Lindbergh makes the first non-stop solo transatlantic flight from the USA to France First complete talking film is shown |
| 1928 | Scotsman Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin |
| 1929 | The New York Stock market crashes Edwin Hubble discovers that the universe is expanding. This leads to the 'Big Bang' theory, which states that the universe originated at a single point |
| 1932 | Wiener Werkstätte closes |
| 1933 | Nazi revolution in Germany |
| 1939 | The Second World War begins |