Chronology of Selected World Events Outside the United States, 1920–1929

1920

- Agatha Christie publishes *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, introducing Hercule Poirot.
- On January 10, the Treaty of Versailles takes effect.
- On January 13, workers attack the Reichstag, the German parliament, during rioting in Berlin.
- In February, physicist William D. Harkins posits the existence of the neutron, a subatomic particle with neutral charge and mass equal to that of a proton.
- On March 7, Russia invades Poland, which, on April 20, counterattacks into Russia.
- On March 10, three hundred thousand workers in India go on strike against British rule.
- On March 11, the Syrian Congress declares Syrian independence and proclaims Prince Faisal king.
- On April 6, French troops occupy Darmstadt, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hamau, and Dieburg in an attempt to force German troops to leave the Ruhr, Germany’s industrial region.
- On April 7, Italy recognizes the state of Albania, which Italian troops occupy.
- From April 23 to April 25, the Allies grant Armenia independence under United States protection, and declare Syria a French mandate, Mesopotamia (Iraq) a British mandate, and Palestine a Jewish state under British protection.
- On May 16, Pope Benedict XV canonizes Joan of Arc.
- Russia invades Persia (Iran), which Britain occupies.
- On June 2, German physicist Max Planck delivers his Nobel lecture.
- On July 10, Peking comes under martial law after conflict between President Hsu Shihchang and the Chinese military.
- On July 12, Russia recognizes Lithuanian independence.
- On July 23, Britain names its East Africa protectorate the colony of Kenya.
- On July 24, the Treaty of Saint-Germain designates Austria’s boundaries.
- On August 9, the Treaty of Trianon defines Hungary’s boundaries.
- On August 10, the Treaty of Sèvres sets Turkey’s boundaries.
- On August 14, the Summer Olympics begin in Antwerp, Belgium.
- On August 22, five hundred thousand Italian workers take over more than five hundred factories to protest economic and political difficulties.
- On September 25, twenty-five die in anti-Japanese protests in Gensan, Korea.
- On September 26, five thousand attacks on individuals and property cause more than one hundred deaths in Ireland.
- From November 18 to November 20, Germans plunder the Jewish Quarter in Prague.
- On November 26, Russia drives Turkish troops out of Armenia.
- On November 29, Russian leader Vladimir I. Lenin disavows all Soviet treaties, agreements, and debts.
- On December 12, German physicist Walter H. Nernst receives the Nobel Prize in chemistry for his discovery of the Third Law of Thermodynamics, which states that the entropy (amount of disorder) of a crystal is zero at absolute zero (-273 degrees Celsius).
- On December 16, an earthquake in northern China kills more than one hundred thousand people.
• On December 24, Russia conquers the country of Georgia, making it a Soviet republic.

1921

• Pablo Picasso paints *Three Musicians.*
• On February 9, the first Indian parliament under the Government of India Act of 1919 convenes in New Delhi.
• On February 21, Gen. Reza Khan launches a coup d'état against British rule in Persia (Iran) and establishes an independent government.
• On March 24, Greece invades Turkey to enforce the Treaty of Sèvres, establishing an Allies-supported government in Turkey.
• On March 31, Coal miners strike in Great Britain.
• From May to July, German war criminals are tried at Leipzig, Germany.
• On July 21, Moroccan rebels, led by Abd-el-Krim, defeat a Spanish force, killing twelve thousand, and establish the Republic of the Rif.
• On July 27, Canadian Frederick Grant Banting discovers insulin, for which he shares the 1923 Nobel Prize in medicine.
• On September 12, Russia declares war on Bessarabia, a new Romanian province.
• On October 19, Portuguese troops assassinate premier António Granjó and several officials.
• On December 6, the Free State government replaces the provisional government in Ireland, establishing the Irish Free State.

1922

• James Joyce publishes *Ulysses* in Paris.
• The silent movie classic of German expressionist horror, *Nosferatu,* directed by F.W. Murnau, is released.
• Centre Court at Wimbledon is built in London.
• On January 22, Pope Benedict XV dies at age sixty-five.
• On February 6, the College of the Cardinals elects Achille Cardinal Ratti, who takes the name Pius XI.
• On February 15, the International Court of Justice is established at The Hague, in the Netherlands.
• On February 25, Henri-Désiré Landru, the modern Bluebeard, is guillotined in Versailles, France, for the murder of ten women and a young boy.
• On March 3, Italian Fascists seize the disputed port city of Fiume, which had been independent from both Italy and Yugoslavia.
• On March 15, four hundred followers of revolutionary Irish leader Eamon de Valera capture Limerick and evict conservative officials in the Free State government.
• On March 18, the British government sentences Indian nationalist leader Mohandas Gandhi to six years in prison for sedition.
• On April 3, Joseph Stalin becomes general secretary of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party.
• On April 16, Germany and Russia sign the Treaty of Rapallo to promote trade and military cooperation.
• On September 14, Great Britain sends a fleet of warships to the Dardanelles after Turkish troops rout the Greek army in Smyrna and destroy the city.
• On October 28, Benito Mussolini leads Italian Fascists in a march on Rome.
• On November 20, the Lausanne Conference convenes in Switzerland to rewrite the Treaty of Sèvres.
• On December 11, Danish physicist Niels Bohr receives the Nobel Prize in physics for his work on the structure of the hydrogen atom.
• On December 12, British physicist Frederick Soddy delivers his Nobel lecture.
• On December 30, Russian leaders establish the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.).
• On April 5, George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert, Fifth Earl of Carnarvon, an amateur Egyptologist who is financing excavation of the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamen, dies in Cairo following an insect bite. Sensationalists in the British press speculate that an Egyptian spell on the tomb had killed Stanhope.

• In April, a priest finds old manuscripts in a vault of a church in Sienna, Italy. Musicologists confirm them as compositions of the eighteenth century Venetian composer Antonio Vivaldi.

• On April 5, Soviet troops massacre 340 Ukrainian peasants for protesting the execution of Roman Catholic vicar general Constantine Butchkavitch six days earlier.

• On June 9, army officers overthrow Aleksandr Stambolyiski, premier of Bulgaria and leader of the Peasant Party.

• On July 11, Albert Einstein delivers his Nobel lecture.

• On August 27, the murder of an Italian delegation on the ship Potemkin.

• On September 28, the League of Nations admits Ethiopia, Greece-Albanian border precipitates an international crisis.

• On September 13, General Miguel Primo de Rivera seizes power in Spain with the approval of King Alfonso XIII.

• On September 10, the League of Nations votes to admit the Irish Free State.

• On September 10, the Soviet republic of Georgia revolts against the Soviet Union in a desire for independence.

• On October 13, Ibn Sa’ud, sultan of Nedj and leader of the Arabian Wahabis, captures Mecca, a sacred city for Muslims, to expand his dominion in the Arabian Peninsula.

• On October 24, clashes between police and communist revolutionaries in Hamburg, Germany, kills 44 and wound 350.

• On October 28, Reza Khan, minister of war in Persia (Iran), declares himself prime minister.

• On October 29, three weeks after Turkish troops occupy Istanbul, the Grand Assembly in Turkey proclaims a republic and elects a new president, Mustafa Kernal, and a new premier, Ismet Pasha, ending six centuries of Ottoman rule.

• On November 30, London sends photographs to New York City.

• In August, British anatomist Raymond Dart discovers the ancient skull of a six-year-old child in South Africa and christens a new species, Australopithecus africanus.

• On November 19, the assassination of Sir Lee Stack, commander of the Anglo-Egyptian army and British governor general of the Sudan, leads Britain to reassess its authority in Egypt.

• On December 6, France begins arresting Russian Communists throughout the country.

• On January 7, Germany elects a socialist, Paul Loebe, president of the Reichstag.

1924

• German novelist Thomas Mann publishes Der Zauberberg (The Magic Mountain), set in a Swiss tuberculosis sanatorium.

• On January 18, Joseph Stalin engineers a plot by the executive committee of the Communist International to exile Russian Communist leader Leon Trotsky, who retires to the Crimea.

• On January 21, Vladimir I. Lenin dies at age fifty-three, leaving Joseph Stalin to consolidate power in the Soviet Union.

• On January 22, the British Labour Party wins its first election, making Ramsay MacDonald the first Labour prime minister.

• On January 25, the first Winter Olympics open in Chamonix, France.

• On January 27, the Treaty of Rome between Italy and Yugoslavia determines that Italy will take the disputed port of Fiume but cede Porto Barros to Yugoslavia.

• On February 1, Britain becomes the first nation to extend diplomatic recognition to the Soviet Union.

• On February 12, British authorities open the sarcophagus of Pharaoh Tutankhamen for the first time in four thousand years.

• On April 5, rigged elections give Mussolini’s Fascist Party a huge majority in the Italian parliament.

• On April 6, interior minister Giacomo Matteotti, a critic of Mussolini.

• On June 10, fascists murder socialist Giacomo Matteotti, a critic of Mussolini.

• On October 29, General Miguel Primo de Rivera seizes power in Spain with the approval of King Alfonso XIII.

• On December 6, a military junta in Chile overthrows the liberal government of President Arturo Alessandri Palma.

• On December 6, France begins arresting Russian Communists throughout the country.

1925

• Russian Dmitry Shostakovich composes his first symphony.

• Russian Sergey Eisenstein produces the movie The Battleship Potemkin.

• Franz Kafka’s novel Der Prozess (The Trial) is published posthumously.

• On January 7, Germany elects a socialist, Paul Loebe, president of the Reichstag.
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- On February 24, Kurdish rebels, under Sheik Said, revolt against the Turkish government.
- On April 15, Bolsheviks in Bulgaria, backed by Soviet agents, attempt to assassinate the Bulgarian czar, Boris III.
- From April 18 to April 19, military leaders attempt a coup against the democratic government of Portugal’s Manuel Teixeira Gomes.
- On April 26, voters elect Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, at age seventy-eight, president of Germany in a runoff election.
- On May 15, the Italian parliament grants women limited voting rights.
- On June 10, the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational Churches in Canada merge to form the United Church of Canada.
- On June 19, the French and Spanish armies, allied against the Riffs in Morocco, begin to blockade all shipments to Morocco in an attempt to prevent arms smuggling.
- On July 18, L’Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes (known as the Paris Exposition) opens and provides a venue and the name for art deco.
- On August 7, Druze rebels in Syria kill two hundred French soldiers and wound six hundred more in a revolt against the French.
- On August 21, Bulgarian and Greek troops skirmish near the tiny Turkish town of Demir Hisar, beginning a six-week border dispute between Bulgaria and Greece.
- In September, German physicist Werner Heisenberg announces the Uncertainty Principle.
- On September 15, Russian Bolsheviks revolt in Bessarabia, killing fifty Romanian troops, but the Romanian army crushes the revolt.
- On October 16, seven European nations negotiate at Locarno, Switzerland, a series of treaties that guarantee post World War I borders.
- In December, British dramatist George Bernard Shaw receives the Nobel Prize in literature.

1926

- Director Fritz Lang premieres the film Metropolis, a critique of power and technology.
- Ninette de Valois founds Britain’s Academy of Choreographic Art, later the Royal Ballet.
- English writer A.A. Milne publishes Winnie-the-Pooh, the first in a series of children’s books.
- On January 3, General Theodoros Pangalos leads a military coup in Greece and declares himself dictator.
- On March 8, the League of Nations calls a special session to admit Germany to membership but adjourns because of complications raised by Brazil and Spain over permanent seating on the council.
- On April 7, British woman, Violet Gibson, shoots Benito Mussolini, whose injuries are slight.
- On April 25, Reza Khan, prime minister of Persia (Iran), becomes shah, reigning as Reza Shah Pahlavi.
- On May 1, British coal miners go on strike.
- On May 2, Nicaraguan rebels, under Augusto César Sandino, launch a rebellion against the conservative government of Emiliano Chamorro Vargas.
- On May 12, a coup led by Marshal Józef Piłsudski overthrows the Polish government of Wincenty Witos.
- On July 14, President Mustafa Kemal Pasha of Turkey has fifteen members of the Young Turk Party executed for plotting against the government.
- On December 25, Yoshihito, emperor of Japan, dies at forty-seven. His son, Hirohito, will preside over a military expansion that leads Japan to attack the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

1927

- On January 6, wireless communication connects London and New York City and is available to the public.
- On March 7, an earthquake in Osaka and Kobe, Japan, kills five thousand.
- On April 7, the British government in India convicts eighteen men of antigovernment activity and sentences three to death.
- On April 18, Nationalist Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek splits with Chinese Communists and sets up a government at Nanjing.
- In May, German physicist Erwin Schroedinger announces that one can understand an atom as the interaction of waves.
- On May 4, the United States negotiates an end to the civil war in Nicaragua.
- On May 12, British agents seize documents intended to undermine the British government in a raid on the headquarters of the Soviet propaganda office in London.
- On May 15, excavation begins on the ancient Roman city of Herculaneum in southern Italy, which Mount Vesuvius had buried in an eruption in 79 C.E.
- On May 21, Charles Lindbergh arrives in Paris and is greeted by ecstatic crowds after a thirty-three-and-one-half-hour nonstop flight from New York City.
- On June 22, an earthquake in northern Italy kills more than two hundred thousand people.
- On June 1, prohibition ends in Ontario, Canada, after eighteen years.
- On July 15, socialists and monarchists clash in Vienna, Austria, killing eighty-nine and injuring more than six hundred.
- On August 29, Hindus and Moslems clash in India, killing three hundred and injuring almost three thousand.
- On October 2, France expels the Soviet ambassador for encouraging communists to rebel against the French government.
On October 20, anthropologist Davidson Black discovers the first fragment of a skull of an early man.

On November 12, Joseph Stalin expels Leon Trotsky and his followers from the Communist Party and banishes them to the Soviet provinces.

On December 2, voters elect Olga Rudel-Zeunek the first female president of the Austrian senate.

On December 10, French philosopher Henri Bergson receives the Nobel Prize in literature.

On December 14, Britain grants Iraq a nominal independence but maintains military bases throughout the country.

1928

- Sergey Eisenstein premieres in the Soviet Union a film on the Russian Revolution, October.
- French composer Maurice Ravel composes Boléro, among the most popular compositions of the twentieth century.
- D.H. Lawrence publishes Lady Chatterley’s Lover, in Florence, Italy. Critics condemn its sexuality as obscene.
- On January 6, Pope Pius XI issues an encyclical condemning “Pan-Christian unity.”
- On February 2, Transjordan signs a treaty with Britain creating an independent constitutional monarchy.
- On March 2, Egypt rejects a treaty with Britain, limiting Egyptian sovereignty.
- On April 24, Chinese Nationalist forces led by Chiang Kai-shek capture Peking.
- On May 17, the ninth Summer Olympics open in Amsterdam, Holland.
- On June 7, the League of Nations cites Hungary for importing five freight cars of machine-gun parts from Italy in violation of the Treaty of Trianon.
- On July 2, Great Britain lowers the voting age for women from thirty to twenty-one, the voting age for British men.
- On July 10, Japan withdraws troops from Shandong, China.
- On July 19, King Faud of Egypt suspends the Egyptian parliament and assumes control under British authority.
- On August 27, twenty-three nations sign the Pact of Paris, which attempts to outlaw war.

1929

- Erich Maria Remarque publishes Im Westen Nichts Neues (All Quiet on the Western Front), in Germany.
- British novelist Virginia Woolf publishes A Room of One’s Own, in England.
- The French Army begins building the Maginot Line, a system of fortifications on the French-German border, to deter another German invasion of France.
- On January 5, Alexander I, king of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes since August 1921, proclaims himself dictator.
- On January 16, Joseph Stalin expels Leon Trotsky from European Russia and on January 23 arrests 150 of Trotsky’s followers on charges of conspiracy.
- On February 11, Benito Mussolini and the Roman Catholic Church sign the Lateran treaties, creating Vatican City—a 108.7-acre section of Rome encompassing Saint Peter’s Church and the Vatican—as a sovereign state ruled by the Pope.
- On May 1, communists riot in Berlin, killing twenty and injuring fifty.
- On May 20, Germany signs the Pact of Paris, outlawing war.
- On August 22, Arabs attack Jews in the British mandate of Palestine, killing hundreds.
- On October 20, the new state of Tadzhikistan joins the U.S.S.R.
- On November 17, the Soviet Politburo of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party expels moderate leader Nikolay Bukharin from the U.S.S.R.
- On December 5, U.S. Marines quell a revolt against American control in Haiti.
- On December 10, German novelist Thomas Mann receives the Nobel Prize in literature.
- On December 12, French physicist Louis de Broglie receives the Nobel Prize in physics for his discovery that electrons have the properties of waves.
- On December 21, police arrest seventy in Mexico after discovery of a plot to assassinate public officials.