Chronology of Selected World Events Outside the United States, 1930–1939

1930

- Max Beckmann paints *Self-Portrait With Saxophone*.
- Luis Buñuel’s movie *L’Age d’or* (The Golden Age) is released.
- Agatha Christie’s mystery novel *The Murder at the Vicarage* is published.
- Sigmund Freud’s *Das Unbehagen in der Kultur* (Civilization and Its Discontents), a study of the political consequences of neurosis, is published.
- Alfred Hitchcock’s movie *Murder* is released.
- Wyndham Lewis’s novel *The Apes of God* is published.
- The Villa Savoye, designed by Le Corbusier, is completed in Poissy-sur-Seine, France.
- José Ortega y Gasset’s *La Rebelión de Las Masas* (The Revolt of the Masses), a study of political authoritarianism, is published.
- Ezra Pound’s *A Draft of XXX Cantos*, the first collected edition of Cantos 1–30 in his ongoing epic poem *The Cantos*, is published.
- Diego Rivera’s murals *Fall of Cuernavaca* and *Cortez and His Mercenaries* are unveiled at the Palacio de Cortez in Mexico City.
- Stephen Spender’s *Twenty Poems* is published.
- Tristan Tzara’s *L’Homme approximatif* (Approximate Man), a Dadaist prose poem, is published.
- Uruguay wins the first World Cup soccer championship.
- British Arctic explorer H.G. Watkins continues to explore Greenland.
- Sir Douglas Mawson, of Great Britain, and Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen continue independent investigations of Antarctica.
- On January 1, the Indian National Congress, meeting at Lahore, votes for India’s complete independence from Great Britain.
- On January 15, four hundred thousand Dubliners pour into the streets to welcome Archbishop Pasquale Robinson, an Irish-born prelate. He is the first papal nuncio to Ireland in more than three hundred years.
- From January 21 to April 22, the world’s major naval powers meet in London to discuss limiting the tonnage and armaments of their navies. The conference concludes with the signing of a treaty by Great Britain, Italy, France, Japan, and the United States.
- On January 28, Spanish strongman Miguel Primo de Rivera resigns as prime minister because of ill health. He dies on March 16.
- On February 3, France passes a national workman’s compensation law.
- On February 12, the Church of England, following the example of Roman Catholic Pope Pius XI, protests against the Soviet Union’s antireligion campaign.
- On March 11, authorized by the All-India Trade Congress, Mohandas Gandhi begins a civil disobedience campaign against British rule by leading a 165-mile march to extract salt from the sea.
- On May 5, Gandhi is arrested by British authorities.
- On May 19, South Africa gives white women the right to vote. Black Africans of both sexes remain unable to vote.
- On June 30, in accordance with the Treaty of Versailles, Allied troops leave the Rhineland.
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1931

• Salvador Dalí paints *The Persistence of Memory.*
• Frida Kahlo paints *Portrait of Frida and Diego,* a self-portrait of the artist with her husband, muralist Diego Rivera.
• Paul Klee paints *The Ghost Vanishes.*
• Fritz Lang’s movie *M* is released.
• The planned capital of New Delhi, India, designed by British architects Edwin L. Lutyens and Herbert Baker, is formally opened.
• Paul Maximilian Landowski’s statue *Christ the Redeemer* is dedicated atop a mountain overlooking Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
• Anthony Powell’s novel *Afternoon Men* is published.
• Jean Renoir’s movie *La Chienne* (The Bitch) is released.

1932

• George Seferis’ *Strophe,* a volume of poetry, is published.
• Virginia Woolf’s novel *The Waves* is published.
• Professor Auguste Piccard becomes the first human to venture into the stratosphere, ascending to a height of fifty-two thousand feet in a balloon.
• On January 8, Pope Pius XI condemns birth control and common-law marriages. He also denounces divorce as contrary to the “laws and nature of God.”
• On January 26, British authorities release Mohandas Gandhi from prison.
• On January 29, Winston Churchill resigns from the conservative government of Stanley Baldwin because of differing opinions on the India question.
• On February 8, the Spanish monarchy restores the country’s constitution and sets March as the date for parliamentary elections.
• On March 1, the Soviet government purges 138,000 government employees.
• On March 4, Indian nationalists agree to end civil disobedience in India in return for the release of political prisoners.
• On March 24, President Mustapha Kemal restructures Turkey’s government along fascist lines.
• On April 12, municipal elections in Spain result in victory for those favoring the establishment of a republic. Republican leader Niceta Alcalá Zamora will become president of a new provisional government.
• On April 14, King Alfonso XIII leaves Spain after a forty-five-year reign, paving the way for the creation of a republic.
• On April 26, Frederick Ashton’s ballet *Façade* premiers at Cambridge Theatre in London.
• On April 27, Pope Pius XI states that “fascistic practices” inspire hate in youths, rendering almost impossible the practice of religious faith.
• On April 30, troops led by rebel general Chen Jitang seize control of the Chinese city of Canton from forces loyal to Chiang Kai-shek.
• On May 11, the failure of the Austrian bank Kreditanstalt precipitates a financial panic in Germany and eastern Europe.
• On June 17, Vietnamese nationalist leader Ho Chi Minh is arrested by British authorities in China.
• On July 1, the Benguela-Katanga Railway, the last link in the Trans-African Railway, is finished.
• On August 3, a dam bursts on the Yangtze River in China, flooding forty thousand square miles, killing hundreds, and precipitating widespread famine.
• On August 24, amid disputes over the nation’s financial crisis, Great Britain’s Labour government collapses, but Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald is able to assemble a new coalition, which governs until 1935.
• On September 10, economic austerity measures provoke riots in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow.
• On September 18, Japanese officers bomb a section of the South Manchurian Railway. Attributing the explosion to
On November 4, Jean Giraudoux’s play *Judith* premières at the Comédie des Champs-Élysées in Paris.

On November 12, the republican government of Spain finds King Alfonso XIII guilty of treason in absentia, preventing his return from exile.

On December 9, Spain adopts a republican constitution. Alcálá Zamora becomes the country’s first president.

**1932**

- Jean de Brunhoff’s *L’Histoire de Babar* (The Story of Babar), the first of a popular series of children’s books featuring Babar the Elephant, is published.
- Aldous Huxley’s novel *Brave New World* is published.
- Henri Matisse completes his mural of *La Danse*.
- François Mauriac’s novel *Le Neud de vipères* (Vipers’ Tangle) is published.
- Pablo Picasso paints *Girl Before a Mirror*.
- Joseph Roth’s novel *Radetzkymarsch: Roman* (Radetzky March) is published.
- Georges Rouault paints *Christ Mocked by Soldiers*.
- Chemists at Imperial Chemical Industries in Great Britain synthesize the first plastic.
- German biochemist Gerhard Domagk discovers sulfa drugs, revolutionizing the treatment of infectious diseases.
- Civil war rages in El Salvador, where communist insurgents attack the military oligarchy.
- Labour Party M.P. (member of Parliament) Oswald Mosley establishes the British Union of Fascists.
- Severe famine sweeps through Russia, owing in part to outdated Soviet agricultural policy.
- On January 4, Mohandas Gandhi is arrested again for civil disobedience to protest British rule. The Indian National Congress is outlawed, but after a six-day fast Gandhi succeeds in changing the law that governs the treatment of the “untouchables,” the lowest of the rigidly defined castes in India.
- On January 4, the Japanese occupation of Shanhaikwan, Manchuria, effectively solidifies Japan’s control over southern Manchuria.
- On January 7, the United States formally protests the Japanese occupation of Manchuria.
- On January 22, American and British warships are summoned to quell a communist uprising in the republic of El Salvador.
- From January 28 to March 4, Japanese forces attack the Chinese city of Shanghai.
- On February 5, Germany’s minister of defense permits Nazis to join the army.
- On February 18, acting for Japanese authorities, Chinese ofﬁcials in Manchuria proclaim that province the independent nation of Manchukuo.
- On February 21, Arnold Schoenberg’s *Four Orchestral Songs* premières at Frankfurt-am-Main.
- On March 9, the Dail Eireann (parliament) of the Irish Free State elects American-born Eamonn de Valera as president. He takes the oath of allegiance to the king of England.
- On March 18, the Harbor Bridge, the largest arch bridge in the world, opens in Sydney, Australia.
- On April 4, the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo stages *Cotillon* at the Théâtre de Monte Carlo.
- On April 13, German president Paul Hindenburg dissolves Hitler’s 500,000-man “Brownshirt” army.
- On May 6, French president Paul Doumer is assassinated by a deranged Russian émigré. He is succeeded by Albert Lebrun.
- On May 15, Japanese prime minister Inukai Tsuyoshi is assassinated by military reactionaries.
- On May 20, Austrian minister of agriculture Engelbert Dollfuss forms a new government.
- On May 28, the Dutch complete nine years of work on a dike that reclaims millions of acres of farmland from the Zuider Zee.
- On May 30, Heinrich Brüning resigns as head of the German government. A political crisis arises after no German party polls a majority of votes. Franz von Papen forms a government responsible to German president Paul Hindenburg alone.
- On July 4, 150,000 communists and socialists demonstrate in Berlin against the suppression of a radical newspaper.
- On July 5, António de Oliveira Salazar becomes premier of Portugal. He is dictator of the country for nearly thirty-eight years.
- On July 31, German elections reveal that the Nazis have 230 seats in the Reichstag; socialists, 33; centrists, 97; and communists, 89. No party secures a majority, and no coalition forms.
- On August 10, military leaders in Seville launch a revolt against Spain’s republican government. Troops loyal to the government suppress the revolt.
- On August 13, Hitler refuses German president Hindenburg’s request to serve as vice chancellor under Franz von Papen.
- On August 30, Nazi leader Hermann Göring is elected president of the German Reichstag.
- On September 12, the German Reichstag is dissolved, and new elections are called.
- On September 16, Germany leaves an international conference on land armaments in Geneva, Switzerland because the French refuse to disarm before the signing of security arrangements.
- On October 3, Iraq is admitted to the League of Nations.
- On November 6, although the Nazis lose seats and the communists gain seats in the German national election, no party is able to break the Reichstag political deadlock.
- On November 12, the Soviet government transfers 25,000 Moscow government office workers to work on farms and factories.
- On November 17, Franz von Papen resigns as chancellor of Germany. Adolf Hitler rejects the position after President Hindenburg refuses to increase the powers of the office.
On December 2, General Kurt von Schleicher forms a new German cabinet.

1933

- Colette’s novel *La Chatte* (The Cat) is published.
- Dazai Osamu’s novel *Gyofukuki* is published.
- Alberto Giacometti sculpts *The Palace at Four A.M.*
- Henri Matisse completes his painting *Danse II.*
- George Orwell’s first book, the autobiographical *Down and Out in Paris and London,* is published.
- Diego Rivera’s controversial mural *Man at the Crossroads,* at Rockefeller Center in New York, is destroyed for including a portrait of Russian leader Vladimir Lenin.
- Ignazio Silone’s antifascist novel, *Fontamara,* is published.
- Franz Werfel’s novel *Die Vierzig Tage des Musa Dagh* (The Forty Days of Musa Dagh) is published.
- The Soviet Union completes two massive public works projects: the Dnieper River Dam (overseen by Hugh Lincoln Cooper) and the Baltic–White Sea Stalin Ship Channel.
- On January 8, anarchists and syndicalists in Barcelona foment a rebellion against the Spanish government. The uprising is suppressed.
- On January 28, Kurt von Schleicher’s government in Germany collapses.
- On January 30, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler becomes German chancellor. In the absence of a political majority, elections are set for March 5.
- On February 3, Hitler issues a memorandum informing German naval officers that he intends to commit Germany to a massive rearmament campaign.
- On February 27, the Reichstag is destroyed by a fire likely set by the Nazis. Hitler denounces the fire as a communist plot and secures an emergency decree from President Hindenburg, allowing Nazi storm troopers to attack political enemies with impunity.
- On March 4, responding to growing political confusion in Austria, Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss suspends parliament and constitutional rights. “Austria’s Parliament has destroyed itself,” he explains, “and nobody can say when it will be allowed to take up its duties again.”
- On March 5, the Nazis win 44 percent of the vote in the German elections.
- On March 7, German leader Hermann Wilhelm Göring orders the suspension of the nudist movement, claiming that it constitutes “one of the greatest dangers to German culture and morals.”
- On March 20, in Dachau, Germany, near Munich, the Nazis establish their first concentration camp for party enemies.
- On March 23, the Reichstag passes the Enabling Act, giving the Nazi government dictatorial powers until April 1, 1937. On March 24, the Berlin Central Union of German Citizens of the Jewish Faith denounces foreign press reports of atrocities committed by Nazis against German Jews as "pure inventions."
- On April 1, the Nazis inaugurate a national boycott of all Jewish-owned businesses and professions in Germany. As a result, ten thousand Jews leave for Poland, France, and Belgium.
- On April 8, France dispatches a military envoy to Moscow for the first time since World War I.
- On May 17, the Spanish government nationalizes church property and abolishes religious education.
- On May 26, Australia assumes control of almost one-third of Antarctica.
- On May 27, Japan announces its withdrawal from the League of Nations, effective in two years.
- On June 19, the Austrian government dissolves the Austrian Nazi Party.
- On July 1, despite Nazi opposition to the performance of works by Jews, Richard Strauss’s opera *Arabella,* with a libretto by part-Jewish Austrian writer Hugo von Hofmannsthal, is performed at the Staatsoper in Dresden.
- On July 14, the Nazi Party is declared the sole political party in Germany.
- On July 20, the Vatican signs a concordat with the Nazi government of Germany, stating that the Nazis will tolerate Catholic religion and education in return for political neutrality from Catholic officials in Germany.
- On August 1, Mohandas Gandhi is arrested again in India, but he is released after a few days because his health is deteriorating from a hunger strike.
- On September 12, Fulgencio Batista y Zalívar leads a successful military coup against the government of Cuba.
- On October 15, Dmitry Shostakovich’s Concerto for Piano, Trumpet, and String Orchestra premieres in Leningrad.
- On November 12, Chancellor Adolf Hitler wins a 90 percent vote of confidence from German voters in a plebiscite on Nazi policy. No electoral opposition is permitted.
- On November 16, the United States and Soviet Union establish diplomatic relations.
- On November 19, Spanish elections result in gains for right-wing groups, who occupy 44 percent of the seats in the Cortes.
- On December 29, Romanian premier Ion Duca is assassinated by members of the fascist Iron Guard. Gheorghe Tătărescu assumes the premiership.

1934

- Morley Callaghan’s novel *Such Is My Beloved* is published.
- Isak Dinesen’s *Seven Gothic Tales* is published.
- German geographer Karl Haushofer’s *Macht und Erde* (Power and Earth) is published. The Nazis use this geopolitical study to justify their policy of seeking lebensraum (living space).
- René Magritte’s painting *Homage to Mack Sennett* is unveiled.
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- Pablo Picasso paints *The Bullfight*.
- Christina Stead’s *The Salzburg Tales*, a collection of short stories, is published.
- P. Pamela Travers’s children’s book *Mary Poppins* is published.
- T’ao Yu’s play *Thunderstorm*, an attack on Chinese traditionalism, premieres in Peking.
- Jean Vigo’s movie *L’Atalante* is released.
- Evelyn Waugh’s *A Handful of Dust* is published.
- The British conduct two Arctic expeditions to Greenland, Baffin Island, and outlying islands.
- Australian John Rymill leads a two-year exploratory expedition to the Antarctic.
- American aviator Adm. Richard Byrd begins his second large Antarctic expedition.
- On January 22, Dmitry Shostakovich’s opera *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* premieres at the Maly Opera House in Leningrad with popular success, but government and critic sources express opposition.
- On January 26, Germany and Poland sign a ten-year nonaggression pact.
- From February 6 to February 9, street riots erupt in France following revelations of government corruption and cover-ups of the illegal activities of Serge-Alexandre Stavisky, a Russian-born con man who committed suicide on January 8.
- On February 9, Turkey, Greece, Romania, and Yugoslavia sign the Balkan Pact, designed to protect their territorial integrity against invasion by Bulgaria.
- From February 11 to February 15, Austrian Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss ruthlessly suppresses the Socialist Party. Fighting breaks out in the streets of Vienna as police raid the party headquarters and bomb a Socialist housing unit.
- On February 21, Nicaraguan strongman Gen. Anastasio Somoza García invites guerrilla leader Gen. Augusto César Sandino to a peace conference and then has him murdered.
- On March 1, the Nanking National Relief Commission reports that sixty-five million Chinese in fourteen provinces are refugees due to civil wars, famine, banditry, droughts, and floods.
- On March 12, the Estonian military establishes Konstantin Päts as dictator.
- On March 20, the world’s first practical radar tests are conducted by German naval scientist Rudolf Kuhnold in Kiel.
- On March 25, the Italian Fascist Grand Council proposes a slate of four hundred fascist candidates for parliament. The electorate approves of the slate by a vote of 10,045,477 to 15,201.
- On April 19, a prominent Belgian communist is assassinated and twenty other are injured. The violence signals the rise of the *Blue Shirt* movement.
- On April 30, a new Austrian constitution grants Chancellor Dollfuss near-dictatorial powers.
- On May 8, the Soviet Union establishes Biro-Bidgan, a Jewish state located in Siberia. It is half the size of Great Britain and has 50,000 inhabitants, 12,000 of whom are Jews.
- On May 15, following a military coup in Latvia, Karlis Ulmanis becomes dictator.
- On May 19, with the aid of Bulgarian ruler Boris III, fascists in that nation overthrow the constitutional government. Boris becomes dictator. On June 12, all political parties are abolished.
- On May 24, Tomáš Masaryk is re-elected president of Czechoslovakia.
- On May 29, the United States accedes to the removal from the Cuban constitution of the Platt Amendment of 1902, which gave the United States the right to intervene in the internal affairs of the island.
- On June 30, prominent Nazis attempt to assassinate Chancellor Hitler. In response, in what becomes known as the Night of Long Knives, Hitler loyalists conduct a political purge of their own membership, executing seventy-seven people.
- On July 2, Gen. Lárázaro Cárdenas is elected president of Mexico. Mexican muralists Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros subsequently return to that country as Cárdenas begins a program of land reform and socialization of industry.
- On July 13, Nazi leader Heinrich Himmler is appointed head of German concentration camps.
- On July 25, Nazi leaders in Austria assassinate Chancellor Dollfuss in an attempt to overthrow the government.
- On July 30, following the collapse of the Nazi coup in Austria, Dollfuss’s associate Kurt von Schuschnigg forms a new cabinet in Austria.
- On August 19, following the death of German president Paul Hindenburg on August 2, Hitler becomes president, preferring the title *Führer* (leader).
- On September 18, the Soviet Union joins the League of Nations.
- On September 27, effectively sabotaging French efforts to promote eastern European security arrangements, Poland announces that it will not allow Soviet troops to cross Poland to fulfill treaty obligations.
- In October, Mao Tse-tung’s Chinese Communist troops begin their famous Long March, with Nationalist Chinese forces in pursuit. Mao leads his troops six thousand miles, over eighteen mountain ranges and six major rivers, saving the majority of his army.
- On October 6, Catalonia declares independence from Spain. The Spanish government will successfully suppress the independence movement.
- On October 9, King Alexander of Yugoslavia and French foreign minister Louis Barthou are assassinated in Marseilles by a Macedonian terrorist.
- On December 1, Sergey M. Kirov, one of Joseph Stalin’s most trusted aides, is assassinated in Leningrad. Stalin uses the assassination as justification for a major purge of the Soviet Communist Party.
- On December 5, Italian and Ethiopian troops clash on the border between Ethiopia and Italian Somaliland.

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- On December 14, Turkish women secure the right to vote and to sit in the national assembly.
- On December 29, Federico García Lorca’s play Yerma premieres at the Teatro Español in Madrid.

1935

- Alfred Hitchcock’s movie The 39 Steps is released.
- Afrikaans poet N. P. van Wyk Louw’s Alleenspraak (Monologue) is published.
- Nazi propagandist Leni Riefenstahl’s Triumph of the Will, a documentary of her party’s Nuremberg rallies, is released.
- German radio bans jazz music of African American or Jewish origin.
- American Lincoln Ellsworth successfully flies twenty-three hundred miles across the Antarctic.
- On January 7, France and Italy announce diplomatic agreements regarding conflicting interests in Africa.
- On January 13, a plebiscite in the Saarland results in the return of that territory to Germany, effective March 1. Afterward, Jews, French and other anti-Nazis flee to neighboring France.
- On January 14, the Lower Zambezi railroad bridge is completed and is the world’s longest until the completion of the Huey P. Long Bridge in Metairie, Louisiana, on December 10.
- From January 15 to January 17, Soviet Communists Grigory Zinoviev, Lev Kamenev, and others are tried for treason in connection with their alleged complicity in the murder of Sergey Kirov and are sent to prison for terms of five to ten years.
- On March 8, Hitler reveals the existence of a German air force and announces plans to expand the size and strength of German armed forces.
- On March 16, Germany formally denounces the disarmament clauses of the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler announces the reintroduction of universal military conscription.
- On March 19, the Soviet Union arrests and exiles 1,074 former members of the aristocracy and bourgeoisie.
- On March 24, Persia officially changes its name to Iran.
- From April 11 to April 14, French, British, and Italian representatives meet in the Italian resort city of Stresa to negotiate common responses to German rearmament.
- On April 17, the League of Nations formally denounces Germany’s repudiation of the Treaty of Versailles.
- On April 23, Poland adopts a new, authoritarian constitution.
- On May 2, France and the Soviet Union conclude a pact of mutual military assistance.
- On May 16, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia conclude a pact of mutual military assistance.
- On May 18, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie abolishes selfdom.
- On May 31, Emlyn Williams’ play Night Must Fall premieres at the Duchess Theatre in London.
- On June 7, Stanley Baldwin replaces Ramsay MacDonald as British Prime Minister.
- On June 12, Bolivia and Paraguay end a three-year war over the disputed Chaco region but do not sign a peace treaty until 1938.
- On June 15, T.S. Eliot’s play Murder in the Cathedral premieres at the Canterbury Festival; on November 1 it opens at the Mercury Theatre in London.
- On June 18, an Anglo-German naval agreement is announced, allowing Germany to exceed limits on naval tonnage placed on it by the Treaty of Versailles, so long as German tonnage does not exceed 35 percent of the combined fleets of the British Commonwealth.
- From July 25 to August 20, at the meeting of the Third International in the Soviet Union, the Communist Party announces the strategy of creating Popular Front coalitions of liberals, communists, and other leftists to combat fascism.
- On August 2, the British Parliament approves the Government of India Act, radically restructuring the administration of British possessions in Asia.
- On August 30, Soviet coal miner Aleksey Grigorievich Stakanov and his crew bring in a record tonnage of coal mined in a single night, becoming the symbol of Stalin’s Stakhanov movement to increase industrial productivity.
- On September 15, the Nuremberg Laws, which deprive Jews of the rights of citizenship and forbids intermarriage between Gentiles and Jews, are decreed in Germany. Further, these laws authorize the Swastika as the national flag.
- On September 25, the Nazi government places the German Protestant churches under state control.
- On October 3, Italian troops invade Ethiopia.
- On November 3, radical, socialist, and communist parties in France unite to form an antifascist Popular Front coalition.
- On November 18, the League of Nations votes to impose economic sanctions on Italy because of its invasion of Ethiopia.
- On November 21, Jean Giraudoux’s play La Guerre de Troie n’aura pas lieu (The Trojan War Will Not Take Place) premieres at the Théâtre de l’Athénée in Paris.
- On December 13, Tómas Masaryk resigns as president of Czechoslovakia and is succeeded by foreign minister Edvard Beneš.

1936

- Max Ernst paints La Ville Entière.
- Aldous Huxley’s novel Eyeless in Gaza is published.
- Robin Hyde’s novel Passport to Hell is published.
- Piet Mondrian paints Composition in Yellow and Black.
- Meret Oppenheim produces her Fur Breakfast, a fur-covered teacup, saucer and spoon.
- Leni Riefenstahl’s documentary movie Olympia is released.
- Georges Rouault paints The Old King.
- Simon Vestdijk’s novel Meer Visser’s hellevaarb (Mr. Visser’s Descent Into Hell) is published.
- The Soviet Communist Party begins its Great Purge. By 1938, an estimated ten million people will have died.
On January 9, Noël Coward’s plays The Astonished Heart and Red Peppers are staged at the Phoenix Theatre in London.

On January 30, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposes an Inter-American Conference on Western Hemispheric Security.

On February 4, Switzerland forbids National Socialists from politically organizing.

On February 6, Lithuania abolishes all political parties except the fascist Nationalist Union.

On February 14, Ramón María del Valle-Inclán’s play Los cuernos de don Friolera (The Horns of Don Friolera) is staged at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid.

On February 15, Hitler opens the annual auto show with the announcement that Germany has solved the problem of manufacturing synthetic rubber and gasoline.

On February 16, a left-liberal Popular Front coalition wins a decisive victory over right-wing parties in Spanish elections.

On February 26, prominent Japanese officials, including Keeper of the Privy Seal Saito Makoto and Finance Minister Takahashi Korekiyo, are assassinated in an uprising of young army officers.

On February 27, the French Chamber of Deputies ratifies the Franco-Soviet Pact, a mutual-defense agreement.

On March 7, battalions of German infantry move into the demilitarized zone of the Rhineland in violation of the Versailles and Locarno Treaties.

On March 12, Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Italy denounce German militarization of the Rhineland.

On April 1, Austria resumes military conscription.

On April 30, Great Britain announces the construction of thirty-eight new warships.

On May 24, in Belgian parliamentary elections, the Rexists, a fascist party led by Léon Degrelle, win twenty-one seats.

On May 5, Italian troops occupy Addis Ababa, completing their invasion of Ethiopia. In a June 30 address to the League of Nations, Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie warns, “It is us today. It will be you tomorrow.”

On May 10, Manuel Azaña y Díaz is elected the new president of Spain.

On May 21, the German government announces the beginning of the Four-Year Plan, a program to develop economic self-sufficiency in strategic materials.

On May 24, in Belgian parliamentary elections, the Rexists and Locarno Pact, a security accord aimed at mutual protection from the Soviet Union.

On October 27, Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson is granted a divorce from her husband on the grounds of infidelity.

On November 25, Germany and Japan sign the Anti-Comintern Pact, a security accord aimed at mutual protection from the Soviet Union.

On December 10, King Edward VIII of Great Britain voluntarily abdicates the throne to marry an American-born divorcée, Wallis Warfield Simpson. The first British king to give up the crown of his own accord, Edward VIII is succeeded by his brother, George VI.

1937

- André Breton’s Surrealist novel L’Amour fou (Mad Love) is published.
- Kawabata Yasunari’s novel Yukiguni (The Snow Country) is published.
- Paul Klee paints Revolutions of the Viaducts.
- Arthur Koestler’s Spanish Testament, a pro-Republican account of the Spanish Civil War, is published.
- René Magritte paints The Pleasure Principle.
- Joan Miró paints Still Life With Old Shoe.
- George Orwell’s The Road to Wigan Pier, a study of the British unemployed is published.
- J.R.R. Tolkien’s novel The Hobbit is published.
- Leon Trotsky’s The Revolution Betrayed, an indictment of Stalinism, is published.
- The Nazis open their first exhibition of “degenerate art,” mostly abstract works that they consider decadent.
- The Soviet Union establishes a research station near the North Pole.
- The Soviet Union opens the Moscow-Volga ship canal.
- Frozen foods are introduced in Great Britain.
- From January 23 to January 30, public show trials of communist leaders charged with treason in Moscow result in long prison terms or death sentences.
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- On January 24, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia conclude a nonaggression pact.
- On January 28, the communists and nationalists in the Chinese civil war declare a truce to join in opposition to Japanese military and political pressure.
- On January 30, Hitler, while celebrating the fourth anniversary of Nazi rule, forbids Germans from accepting future Nobel Peace Prizes.
- On February 26, Christopher Isherwood and W.H. Auden’s play The Ascent of F6 opens at the Mercury Theatre in London.
- On March 25, Italy and Yugoslavia conclude a nonaggression pact.
- On April 26, German warplanes destroy the defenseless Basque town of Guernica. Pablo Picasso’s 1937 painting Guernica is his outraged protest against this bombing and war in general.
- On May 28, following the retirement of Stanley Baldwin, Chancellor of the Exchequer Neville Chamberlain becomes British prime minister.
- On May 31, German warships bombard Almería, Spain.
- On June 12, Stalin’s government executes Soviet military leaders who allegedly conspired with Germany and Japan.
- On June 17, Soviet fliers Valeri P. Chkalov, Georgi P. Baidukov, and Alexander V. Beliakov fly nonstop over the North Pole from Moscow to Vancouver.
- On June 19, the French Popular Front government of Léon Blum falls after failing to gain emergency fiscal powers. Radical socialist leader Camille Chautemps forms a new government.
- On July 7, the Japanese launch full-scale military operations against China.
- On July 8, the Peel Report, recommending the division of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, is published in London. Parliament rejects the proposal.
- On July 9, Turkey signs a nonaggression pact with Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan.
- On July 14, Russian aviator Mikhail Gromov and two companions fly nonstop over the North Pole from Moscow to Riverside, California, setting a new nonstop distance record.
- On July 16, the Nazis open a concentration camp for political prisoners at Buchenwald, near Weimar.
- On July 28, Peking falls to the Japanese.
- From August 8 to November 8, fierce fighting between Japanese and Chinese troops results in the Japanese occupation of Shanghai. Japan earns worldwide condemnation for its bombing of Chinese cities.
- On August 25, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia conclude a nonaggression pact, allowing military aircraft sales to China.
- On September 8, a Pan-Arab Congress meeting at Bludan, Syria, rejects the Peel plan for the division of Palestine.
- On September 27, Italian Premier Mussolini arrives in Munich in a special bulletproof train to meet with Hitler. The next day, both dictators pledge world peace.
- From October 5 to October 6, the League of Nations and the United States formally condemn Japanese actions in China.
- On October 13, the German government promises not to violate Belgian sovereignty so long as Belgium abstains from military action against Germany.
- On November 6, Italy signs the Anti-Comintern Pact.
- On November 7, Mexico’s National Revolutionary Party prepares a report of the number of Jews in Mexico, their citizenship status, and an estimate of their capital worth.
- On November 10, Brazilian president Getúlio Vargas proclaims a new constitution and assumes dictatorial powers, which he will exercise for the next fifteen years.
- On November 20, the Chinese capital is moved from Nanking to Chungking.
- On November 21, Dmitry Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5 premieres to acclaim in Leningrad.
- On November 26, Robert Schumann’s Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D minor, written in 1853, is performed for the first time, at the Deutsches Opernhaus in Berlin.
- On November 28, naval forces loyal to Francisco Franco blockade Spain.
- On December 11, Italy withdraws from the League of Nations.
- On December 12, Japanese bombers attack American and British ships near Nanking, provoking a serious diplomatic confrontation.
- On December 13, after serious fighting, Nanking falls to the Japanese.
- On December 28, King Carol of Romania appoints fascist leader Octavian Goga prime minister. Goga immediately embarks on a program of anti-Semitic legislation.

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- Isak Dinesen’s novel Out of Africa is published.
- Sergey Eisenstein’s movie Aleksandri Nevsky is released.
- Daniel O. Fagunwa’s novel Ogboju Ode Iinn Igbo Irumale (The Forest of Thousand Demons) is published.
- Alfred Hitchcock’s movie The Lady Vanishes is released.
- George Orwell’s Homage to Catalonia, about his experiences fighting the fascists in the Spanish Civil War, is published.
- Marcel Pagnol’s movie La Femme du boulanger (The Baker’s Wife) is released.
- Jean-Paul Sartre’s novel La Nausée (Nausea) is published.
- Violence escalates between Jews and Arabs in British-controlled Palestine.
- Hitler declares that he will protect ethnic Germans living outside the Reich by military force if necessary.
- On January 18, the Soviet Union announces the end of the purges from the Communist Party.
Chronology of Selected World Events Outside the United States, 1930–1939

- On February 10, King Carol of Romania dismisses Prime Minister Octavian Goga, suspends the constitution, and abolishes all political parties.
- From March 2 to March 15, Soviet authorities try, convict, and execute Bolshevik leaders Nikolay Bukharin, Aleksey Rykov, and other enemies of Stalin.
- On March 9, responding to increasing political turmoil, Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg announces a plebiscite on Austrian independence to be held the following Sunday; only “Yes” ballots are to be provided.
- On March 10, Camille Chautemp’s government in France collapses; Edouard Daladier reorganizes the French cabinet.
- On March 12, German troops cross the Austrian border to face German military occupation.
- On March 14, Hitler arrives in Vienna to take formal possession of Austria.
- On March 18, the Mexican government nationalizes $450 million worth of American and British oil properties.
- On March 28, the Japanese install a puppet government in occupied areas of China.
- On April 10, a rigged plebiscite in Austria results in overwhelming approval of the German Anschluss.
- On April 24, Sudeten German leader Konrad Henlein issues his Karlsbad program, demanding complete autonomy for German Czechs.
- From May 3 to May 9, Hitler pays a state visit to Rome.
- On May 26, the Volkswagen (people’s car) factory is dedicated in Wolfsburg, Germany. The low-cost “Beetle” automobile is designed by engineer Ferdinand Porsche on commission from Hitler. Despite the dedication of the car plant, mass production of the Volkswagen will not occur for ten years.
- From July 11 to August 10, Soviet and Japanese troops clash along the border between Siberia and China.
- On July 21, the ballet St. Francis, with choreography by Léonde Massine and music by Paul Hindemith, is performed at Drury Lane Theatre in London.
- On August 3, Italy passes laws governing the conduct of the Italian Jews.
- On August 10, William Butler Yeats’s play Purgatory premieres at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.
- On September 7, France calls up its military reservists.
- On September 15, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain flies to Berchtesgaden to negotiate a resolution of the Czech crisis with Hitler.
- On September 22, Prime Minister Chamberlain flies to the German city of Godesberg for further negotiations with Hitler over the Czech crisis.
- On September 24, as British and French peace negotiations with the Germans deadlock, Czechoslovakia mobilizes its armed forces for war with Germany.
- On September 27, in response to the Czech crisis, Britain and France mobilize their armed forces.
- On September 29, representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany meet in Munich in a last-ditch effort to avert war over Czechoslovakia.
- On October 1, the Munich Conference ends with an agreement that cedes the Sudetenland to Germany, leaving the rest of Czechoslovakia outside the German Reich.
- On October 4, following socialist and communist objections to the Munich Pact, the French Popular Front collapses. The Daladier government turns right in search of political support.
- On October 5, Edvard Benes resigns as president of Czechoslovakia.
- From October 6 to October 8, Slovakia and Ruthenia are separated from Czechoslovakia as autonomous states.
- On October 18, British troops retake the old city of Jerusalem, which is occupied by Arab extremists.
- On October 21, following a ruthless bombing campaign, Japanese troops occupy Canton.
- On November 1, British Prime Minister Chamberlain reaffirms his policy of German appeasement.
- On November 9, following the assassination of a Nazi official by a German-born Polish Jew, Nazis conduct the worst pogrom in German history, destroying Jewish homes, synagogues, and shops and sending twenty thousand to thirty thousand Jews to concentration camps. It will become known as the Kristallnacht (Crystal Night).
- On November 10, the founder of the Turkish republic, Kemal Atatürk, dies from cirrhosis of the liver. He is succeeded by Ismet İnönü.
- On November 12, the German government levies a fine of one billion marks on Jews. The fines are to aid the poor, who supposedly have suffered economic losses at the hands of the Jews.
- On November 12, the Daladier government of France modifies the forty-hour workweek, provoking widespread labor unrest.
- On November 17, Great Britain, Canada, and the United States sign a trade pact.
- On November 26, Poland and Russia sign a nonaggression pact.

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- On December 1, Great Britain begins voluntary registration for the draft.
- On December 6, Germany and France sign a diplomatic accord guaranteeing the inviolability of existing frontiers.
- On December 10, Germany and Romania sign an economic agreement providing Germany access to Romanian oil.
- On December 18, German physicists led by Otto Hahn produce the first nuclear fission of uranium.
- On December 24, twenty-one American republics adopt the Declaration of Lima, an affirmation of their intention to resist attacks on their sovereignty from outside the Western Hemisphere.

- On March 28, Madrid and Valencia surrender to the fascists, ending the Spanish Civil War. Estimates place the number of dead at close to one million people.
- On March 31, Great Britain and France pledge to protect Poland from German territorial ambitions.
- On April 7, Spain joins Germany, Italy, and Japan in the Anti-Comintern Pact.
- On April 7, Italy invades Albania.
- On April 11, Hungary withdraws from the League of Nations.
- On April 13, Britain and France provide diplomatic guarantees of independence to Greece and Romania.
- On April 17, Stalin authorizes simultaneous Soviet diplomatic negotiations to form military alliances with either Great Britain and France or Germany.
- On April 27, the British government begins universal military conscription.
- On April 28, in an address to the Reichstag, Hitler denounces the 1935 Anglo-German naval agreement and the 1934 German nonaggression pact with Poland.
- On May 17, a British white paper repudiates the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and limits Jewish immigration to Palestine.
- On May 20, following a victory parade in Madrid, German and Italian troops begin to withdraw from Spain.
- On May 22, Germany and Italy announce a military alliance they call the “Pact of Steel.”
- On May 23, the SS St. Louis leaves Hamburg with 937 Jewish refugees. After its passengers are denied entry into Cuba and the United States, the ship will return to Hamburg, and most of those aboard will die in the Holocaust.
- On June 27, for the first time, Dubliners elect a woman mayor, Mrs. Tom Clarke. Her husband was killed by the British during the 1916 Republican Easter Uprising.
- On July 25, Britain and France dispatch envoys to Moscow to pursue negotiations for a military alliance with the Soviet Union.
- On July 26, the United States notifies Japan that it intends to abrogate the commercial agreement of 1911, opening the way to American trade restrictions.
- On August 23, the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany agree to two treaties: one to maintain military neutrality toward one another; the other to divide Poland and the Baltic states following a German attack on Poland in the autumn. The Anti-Comintern Pact is rendered null and void.
- On August 24, the Luftwaffe’s new turbojet aircraft is tested at Rostock-Marienehe.
- On September 1, following a fabricated border clash, German troops invade Poland.
- On September 3, Great Britain and France declare war on Germany, beginning World War II.
- On September 17, Soviet troops invade Poland.
• On September 21, Romanian premier Armand Calinescu is assassinated by the fascist Iron Guard.
• From September 23 to October 3, representatives of Western Hemisphere nations meet in Panama to plan a Pan-American response to the European war.
• On September 27, Poland surrenders to Germany.
• On September 28, Germany and the Soviet Union partition Poland.
• On November 30, the Soviet Union invades Finland.