

CHRONOLOGY OF SELECTED WORLD EVENTS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, 1970–1979

1970

- Soviet cosmonauts are in space seventeen days, a record to that date.
- In January, molecular biologist Hamilton O. Smith isolates the first enzyme that cuts a sequence of nucleotide bases from a strand of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).
- On January 12, the Biafran independence movement capitulates to the Nigerian government after a secessionist struggle of thirty-one months.
- On January 16, Colonel Muammar el-Gadhafi becomes premier of Libya in North Africa.
- On February 10, an Arab terrorist kills one person and wounds twenty-three in Munich, West Germany.
- On February 21, a Swissair jetliner explodes and crashes, killing forty-seven en route from Zürich to Tel Aviv, Israel.
- On March 1, Rhodesia declares independence from Britain.
- On March 4, the French submarine *Eurydice* disappears with fifty-seven sailors in the Mediterranean Sea.
- On March 15, Expo '70 opens in Osaka, Japan.
- On March 18, Gen. Lon Nol overthrows the Cambodian government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.
- On April 8, gas explosions in Osaka, Japan, kill seventy-two and injure 282.
- On April 22, people in countries throughout the world celebrate the first Earth Day.
- On April 30, President Richard M. Nixon of the United States reports on television that he has ordered U.S. and South Vietnamese troops to invade Cambodia to attack North Vietnamese and Viet Cong sanctuaries.
- On May 5, West German chancellor Willy Brandt, following a policy of *Ostpolitik*, signs a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union.
- On May 31, an earthquake in Peru kills seventy thousand people and leaves seven hundred thousand homeless.
- On June 7, Swiss voters reject a proposal to expel some three hundred thousand foreign workers.
- On June 19, in an electoral upset the British Conservative Party defeats the Labour Party, Great Britain.
- From June 24 to June 27, Israeli and Syrian troops clash on the Golan Heights in the heaviest fighting since the 1967 war.
- On June 29, the last U.S. and South Vietnamese troops leave Cambodia.
- On July 21, engineers complete the Aswan High Dam project in Egypt.
- On August 7, the United States negotiates a cease-fire between Israel and the Arab states.
- On September 6, Palestinian terrorists hijack four New York-bound airliners, carrying over six hundred people.
- On September 16, King Hussein of Jordan declares martial law.
- On September 24, the Soviet unmanned spacecraft *Luna 16* returns to Earth with a collection of Moon rocks.
- In October, the Swedish Royal Academy awards Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn the Nobel Prize in literature.
- On October 14, voters elect Anwar as-Sadat president of the United Arab Republic (Egypt).
- On October 24, voters elect Salvador Allende Gossens, leader of the Socialist Party, president of Chile.

- On November 13, cyclones and tidal waves kill two hundred thousand people and leave three million people homeless in East Pakistan.
- On November 25, Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima harangues one thousand Japanese troops on their defeat in World War II and challenges them to join him in a coup.
- On December 1, the Italian parliament approves Italy's first divorce law.
- On December 4, the Irish government assumes emergency powers to combat an outbreak of kidnapping and lawlessness.
- On December 11, U.S. agronomist Norman Borlaug becomes the first scientist to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.
- On December 11, the United States and the Soviet Union sign a treaty on fishing rights off the coast of the Middle Atlantic states.
- On December 16, fifty nations at The Hague, Netherlands, declare air hijacking an international crime.

1971

- A cholera epidemic sweeps Bangladesh (former East Pakistan).
- On January 1, the Shah of Iran celebrates the twenty-five-hundredth anniversary of the Persian empire with a gala, attended by over fifty heads of state, at Persepolis, the ancient Persian capital.
- On January 2, in Glasgow, Scotland, a crowd barrier at a soccer stadium collapses, killing sixty-six and wounding over one hundred.
- On January 25, General Idi Amin overthrows President Milton Obote of Uganda.
- On February 4, Rolls-Royce, the British automobile and airplane engine manufacturer, declares bankruptcy.
- On February 6, the British send six hundred troops to Northern Ireland to end renewed violence.
- On February 8, South Vietnamese troops, with American air support, invade Laos in an attempt to cut North Vietnamese supply lines.
- On February 9, the European Economic Community establishes a plan to unify member currencies over ten years.
- On February 14, twenty-three Western oil companies pay the Persian Gulf oil states \$10 billion for the rights to sell Gulf oil for five years.
- On February 19, the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* warns Soviet Jews against espousing Zionism.
- On February 21, the 380-mile Karakoram highway links China to Pakistan.
- On February 28, male voters in Liechtenstein reject women's suffrage, leaving it the only Western nation denying women the right to vote.
- On March 11, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India wins a majority in national elections.
- On March 25, President Mohammad Yahya Khan of Pakistan sends troops to East Pakistan and declares martial law.
- In April, the British Parliament votes to join the European Common Market.
- On April 4, Salvador Allende Gossens's liberal coalition wins 49.7 percent of Chileans' votes in local elections.
- On April 27, Park Chung Hee wins a third term as South Korean president.
- On May 3, Erich Honecker replaces Walter Ulbricht as East German Communist Party leader.
- On May 19, the Soviet Union and Canada sign a friendship agreement.
- On May 20, in Leningrad nine Soviet Jews are sent to prison camp for "anti-Soviet activity."
- On June 21, the International Court of Justice at The Hague orders South Africa to end its administration of South-West Africa.
- On July 19, three Soviet cosmonauts are found dead in their returning spacecraft.
- On July 22, Sudanese leader Jaafar Mohammad Nimeiri crushes a three-day military coup.
- On July 30, a midair collision over Honshu, Japan, kills 162 people.
- On August 9, India and the Soviet Union sign a friendship treaty.
- On August 15, Bahrain declares independence from Britain.
- On August 19, Mount Etna produces its most spectacular eruption in forty-three years.
- On August 22, a military coup ousts General Juan José Torres of Bolivia as president.
- On September 18, Israel and Egypt exchange rocket fire over the Suez Canal.
- On September 21, Adam Malik of Indonesia is elected president of the twenty-sixth UN General Assembly.
- On September 24, Britain expels 105 Soviets suspected of espionage.
- On October 3, General Nguyen Van Thieu, the only candidate on the ballot, wins reelection as president of South Vietnam.
- From October 20 to October 21, West German chancellor Willy Brandt wins the Nobel Peace Prize and Chilean poet Pablo Neruda wins the Nobel Prize in literature.
- On October 25, the United Nations with U.S. support votes to admit the People's Republic of China and to expel Taiwan.
- On November 10, Cuban leader Fidel Castro begins a twenty-five-day visit to Chile.
- On November 19, one person dies and 1,785 are arrested during demonstrations in Tokyo, Japan, over the return of Okinawa to Japan.
- On December 2, President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile decrees a state of emergency following demonstrations in Santiago over food shortages and the visit of Fidel Castro.
- On December 3, Pakistan attacks Indian airfields.

1972

- One hundred thousand die in fighting between the Tutsi and Hutu in Burundi.
- On January 22, Britain, Norway, Denmark, and Ireland seek admission to the European Economic Community.
- On January 24, the Soviet Union becomes the first major power to recognize Bangladesh.
- On January 30, thirteen die in riots in Northern Ireland.
- On February 13, the Soviet Union wins eight gold medals as the Winter Olympics end in Sapporo, Japan.
- On March 12, Indira Gandhi's Congress Party wins 70 percent of assembly seats in Indian national elections.
- On March 30, Northern Ireland's prime minister and his cabinet resign after the British Parliament establishes direct rule of Northern Ireland.
- On March 31, North Vietnam invades South Vietnam with tanks, artillery, and infantry.
- On April 10, seventy nations sign a treaty banning biological weapons.
- On May 15, the United States returns Okinawa to Japan.
- On May 17, the West German Parliament approves non-aggression treaties with the Soviet Union and Poland.
- On May 21, a Hungarian refugee damages part of Michelangelo's *Pieta* at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.
- On June 1, Iraq and Syria seize the assets of Iraq Petroleum Company, a consortium of Western firms.
- On June 13, Israeli and Egyptian fighter planes clash.
- On July 3, India and Pakistan sign a peace agreement.
- On July 18, Egypt expels Soviet military advisers and experts.
- On July 24, UN secretary-general Kurt Waldheim urges the United States to stop bombing North Vietnam.
- On August 3, Britain declares a state of emergency due to a dockworkers' strike.
- On August 16, King Hassan II of Morocco survives an assassination attempt.
- On August 26, seven thousand athletes from 120 nations open the twentieth Summer Olympics in Munich, West Germany.
- On September 1, American Bobby Fischer defeats Boris Spassky of the U.S.S.R. for the world chess championship in Reykjavík, Iceland.
- On September 5, Arab terrorists kill eleven Israeli Olympic athletes in Munich, West Germany.
- On September 17, Uganda reports that Tanzania has invaded it with one thousand troops.
- On September 23, President Ferdinand Marcos imposes martial law in the Philippines following terrorist attacks.
- On September 26, voters in Norway reject membership in the European Economic Community.
- On October 2, Danish voters approve membership in the European Economic Community.
- On October 13, an Aeroflot flight crashes in Moscow, killing 176 people.
- On October 24, opponents of President Allende Gossens stage a "day of silence" to protest his government in Chile.
- On October 29, Arab guerrillas win release of three Olympic terrorists after the hijacking of a German airline.
- On October 30, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau loses his parliamentary majority in Canadian elections.
- On November 2, President Allende Gossens of Chile restructures his cabinet following three weeks of strikes.
- On November 4, the Bangladesh national assembly approves a new constitution.
- On November 17, former dictator Juan D. Perón returns to Argentina after seventeen years of exile.
- On November 21, Israel and Syria clash in the heaviest fighting in two years in the Golan Heights.
- On December 1, the Irish Parliament passes a bill to crack down on the Irish Republican Army.
- On December 23, an earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua, kills ten thousand people and destroys 80 percent of the city.

1973

- On January 17, President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines announces the indefinite continuation of martial law.
- On February 11, General Alfredo Stroessner wins a fifth term as president of Paraguay.
- On February 21, Israeli jets shoot down a Libyan airliner over the Sinai Peninsula, killing 106.
- On March 2, Palestinian terrorists kill one Belgian and two U.S. diplomats in Khartoum, Sudan.
- On March 12, China releases John T. Downey, a Central Intelligence Agency agent held since 1952.
- On March 17, President Lon Nol of Cambodia declares a state of emergency after a bomb attack on the presidential guard barracks.
- On April 21, the United Nations Security Council condemns Israel for attacks in Lebanon and for all violence against human life.
- On May 11, a new sixteen-member cabinet, headed by Premier Joop den Uyl, is sworn in, ending a 163-day political crisis in the Netherlands.
- On May 15, gold reaches \$128.50 an ounce in Paris, a new high.
- On June 1, the Greek Council of Ministers abolishes the monarchy and proclaims a republic.
- From June 7 to June 11, West German chancellor Willy Brandt visits Israel.
- On June 8, Spanish dictator Francisco Franco appoints Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco premier of Spain, but Franco remains chief of state.
- On June 29, troops loyal to President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile crush an attempted coup.

- On July 3, the thirty-five-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe convenes in Helsinki, Finland.
- On July 10, Britain grants the Bahamas independence.
- On July 17, the military overthrows King Mohammad Zahir Shah of Afghanistan.
- On July 21, France detonates a nuclear bomb in a test in the Pacific Ocean.
- On August 2, thirty-two members of the British Commonwealth begin a nine-day conference in Ottawa, Canada.
- On August 5, Arab terrorists attack the airport in Athens, Greece, killing three and injuring fifty-five.
- On August 19, George Papadopoulos is sworn in as the first president of Greece.
- On August 28, Indian officials agree to repatriate ninety thousand Pakistani prisoners from the 1971 Indian-Pakistani War.
- On September 1, Libya nationalizes 51 percent of all oil companies assets in Libya.
- On September 5, the fourth Conference of Nonaligned Nations meets in Algiers, Algeria.
- On September 18, the twenty-eighth meeting of the United Nations General Assembly votes to admit the Bahamas, East Germany, and West Germany as members.
- On September 23, voters elect Juan Perón president of Argentina.
- On September 29, the Austrian government announces it will no longer admit large numbers of Soviet Jews.
- In October, the Swedish Royal Academy awards the Nobel Peace Prize to Henry A. Kissinger of the United States and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam for negotiating an end to the war between the United States and North Vietnam.
- On October 6, Israel and the combined forces of Egypt and Syria clash in the first battle of the Yom Kippur War.
- On October 16, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), led by the Arab states, stops selling oil to the United States and Europe as punishment for their support of Israel.
- On October 22, Stanford University molecular biologist Stanley Cohen inserts a sequence of nucleotide bases into a bacterium, producing the world's first genetically-engineered organism.
- On October 24, Israel, Syria and Egypt cease fire in the Yom Kippur War.
- On October 27, the United Nations Security Council votes to send a peacekeeping force to the Middle East to diffuse tensions.
- In November, the Soviet Union agrees to abide by the Universal Copyright Convention and to cease publishing pirate editions of Western works.
- On November 7, the United States and Egypt reestablish diplomatic relations, suspended since 1967.
- On November 11, Israel and Egypt sign a cease-fire.
- On November 25, the military overthrows George Papadopoulos as president of Greece in a bloodless coup.
- On November 29, Egyptian-Israeli peace talks collapse.
- On December 12, Austrian zoologist Konrad Lorenz receives the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.
- On December 17, Arab terrorists attack a U.S. plane in Rome, killing thirty-one people.
- On December 20, assassins kill Spanish premier Luis Carrero Blanco in a car explosion in Madrid, Spain.
- On December 21, an Arab-Israeli peace conference begins in Geneva, Switzerland.

1974

- Russian novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago* is published in English.
- On January 18, Israel and Egypt sign an accord on military disengagement.
- On January 19, China expels five Soviet citizens for espionage.
- On February 3, Communist Party chairman Mao Tse-tung launches a new cultural revolution in China.
- On February 13, the U.S.S.R. expels Nobel laureate and novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.
- On February 22, Pakistan recognizes Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan.
- In March, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia attempts to placate a rebellious military by appointing Edalkachew Makonnen premier and increasing army wages.
- On March 2, archeologists unearth the first of six thousand life-size pottery figures of warriors and horses in China. Chinese Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi had them built and buried with him upon his death in 210 B.C.E.
- On March 3, a Turkish jumbo jet crashes outside Paris, killing 346 people, in the worst air disaster to date.
- On March 10, Premier Golda Meir and a new cabinet assume power in Israel.
- On April 9, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh sign an agreement to repatriate all Pakistani prisoners of war.
- On April 12, Israel raids several villages in southern Lebanon after an Arab terrorist attack on Qiryat Shemona killed eighteen.
- On April 15, the military overthrows President Hamani Diori of Niger.
- On April 22, Israel's Labor Party nominates Yitzhak Rabin to replace Golda Meir, who resigned on April 10 as premier.
- On April 25, army officers in Portugal announce the end of forty years of authoritarian rule.
- On May 9, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau of Canada loses a vote of confidence. The House of Commons schedules parliamentary elections for July 8.
- On May 18, India tests a nuclear weapon, raising fears of a nuclear arms race in southern and central Asia.
- On May 19, voters elect Finance Minister Valéry Giscard d'Estaing president of France.

- On May 28, Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and the Labour Party win the Australian parliamentary election.
- On May 29, a fifteen-day general strike ends after the coalition government of Northern Ireland resigns.
- On May 31, Israel and Syria sign a troop disengagement agreement.
- In June, President Richard Nixon of the United States conducts a whirlwind tour of the Middle East and the Soviet Union.
- On June 3, the Israeli parliament installs Yitzhak Rabin as head of a three-party coalition government.
- On June 16, the United States and Syria announce the resumption of diplomatic relations.
- On June 17, China and France conduct separate atmospheric nuclear tests.
- On June 24, Prime Minister Harold Wilson announces that Great Britain recently conducted underground nuclear tests.
- On June 27, France and Iran sign an agreement that includes the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran.
- On June 28, more than two hundred people die in a landslide ninety-five miles east of Bogota, Colombia.
- In July, civil war in Cyprus provokes a confrontation between Greece and Turkey.
- On July 1, Isabel Perón assumes the presidency of Argentina after the death of her husband, Juan D. Perón, seventy-eight.
- On July 7, West Germany wins the World Cup, defeating the Netherlands, 2-1.
- On July 8, Pierre Trudeau and the Liberal Party win a majority in Canada's parliamentary elections.
- On July 15, the military overthrows the government of Archbishop Makarios in Cyprus.
- On July 20, Turkish troops invade Cyprus by air and sea.
- From August to September, floods in India and Bangladesh kill fourteen hundred people.
- On August 14, Greece withdraws from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- On September 4, the United States and East Germany establish diplomatic relations.
- On September 10, Portugal grants the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, formerly Portuguese Guinea, independence.
- On September 12, the military overthrows Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.
- On September 17, the United Nations elects Abdelaziz Bouteflika, foreign minister of Algeria, president of its twenty-ninth General Assembly.
- In October, the Vatican permits physicist Walter McCrone to examine the Shroud of Turin.
- On October 8, Eisaku Sato, former prime minister of Japan, and Sean MacBride of Ireland, United Nations commissioner for South-West Africa, share the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize.
- On October 10, Prime Minister Harold Wilson wins a three-seat majority for the Labour Party in Great Britain's second general election of 1974.
- On October 14, the United Nations General Assembly invites the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in its deliberations.
- On October 20, Swiss voters reject a proposal to deport half its foreign population.
- On October 21, Mexico announces the discovery of oil in southeastern Mexico.
- On October 28, Arab heads of state meeting in Rabat, Morocco, call for the creation of an independent Palestinian state.
- On October 30, the United States, Britain, and France veto a Security Council resolution to expel South Africa from the United Nations.
- On November 12, the United Nations General Assembly suspends South Africa from participation in the remainder of the 1974 session as punishment for its oppression of blacks.
- On November 16, the United Nations creates the World Food Conference to distribute food to hungry people throughout the world.
- On November 18, Premier Konstantinos Karamanlis and his New Democracy Party win the first Greek parliamentary elections held in ten years.
- On November 22, the United Nations General Assembly grants observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).
- On November 24, Donald C. Johanson, then director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Ohio, discovers in Ethiopia a 40 percent complete skeleton of an Australopithecine, an early man that lived between roughly 4 million and 1.5 million years ago.
- On November 26, Japanese prime minister Kakuei Tanaka resigns following a series of financial scandals. On December 9, Takeo Miki replaces him.
- On December 5, Premier Aldo Moro wins a vote of confidence from the Italian senate.
- On December 7, Archbishop Makarios returns to Cyprus to head the government.
- On December 8, Greek citizens vote in a national referendum to abolish the monarchy.
- On December 11, the white minority government of Rhodesia and black nationalists agree to a cease-fire in their civil war.
- On December 25, a cyclone destroys 90 percent of Darwin, Australia, and kills fifty people.
- On December 28, an earthquake in northern Pakistan kills fifty-two hundred people.
- On December 29, the government of Nicaragua agrees with leftist guerrillas to exchange political prisoners.

1975

- Portugal grants independence to Angola, Mozambique, the Cape Verde Islands, and lesser African possessions to end five hundred years of colonial rule.

- On January 2, the United Nations declares 1975 International Women’s Year.
- On January 17, China adopts a new constitution.
- On February 11, Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman to head a British political party when she is elected leader of the Conservatives.
- On February 12, a South Korean national referendum approves the government of Park Chung Hee.
- On February 13, Turkish Cypriots declare a separate state in the north of Cyprus.
- On February 25, the Greek government arrests twenty-five military officers for plotting a coup.
- On February 27, a Philippine national referendum supports President Ferdinand Marcos’s declaration of martial law.
- On February 28, the European Economic Community signs a trade pact with forty-six nations in Africa, the Pacific, and the Caribbean.
- On March 2, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi dissolves the political system in Iran and declares it a one-party state for the next two years.
- On March 4, Ethiopia’s military government nationalizes all rural land.
- On March 11, Portugal’s provisional government defeats a military coup.
- On April 13, a military coup kills President Ngarta Tombalbaye, who led Chad to independence in 1960.
- On April 14, voters in Sikkim approve referendums abolishing the monarchy and merging with India.
- On April 17, the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, falls to the Communist army of the Khmer Rouge, ending five years of civil war.
- On April 22, a bloodless coup in Honduras ousts General Oswaldo López Arellano.
- On April 30, North Vietnamese troops capture Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, ending the Vietnam War.
- On May 11, the European Economic Community and Israel sign a trade and cooperation pact.
- From May 13 to May 14, Cambodia seizes the U.S. merchant ship *Mayaguez*, releasing it following a rescue effort by the U.S. military.
- On May 15, Portugal declares martial law in Angola after weeks of violence.
- On May 28, officials of fifteen West African nations meeting in Lagos, Nigeria, agree to form the Economic Community of West African States.
- In June, the United States and the Soviet Union conduct a joint *Apollo-Soyuz* space mission—the first time manned spacecraft from different nations rendezvous in space.
- On June 5, Egypt reopens the Suez Canal, closed since the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.
- On June 7, UN discussions between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders end without an agreement on the future of the island.
- On June 9, Greece adopts a new constitution.
- On June 10, President Idi Amin of Uganda releases British citizen Denis Hills, whom Amin had condemned to death for his criticism of Amin.
- On June 13, Iraq and Iran sign a treaty of reconciliation, fixing the boundary between them and ending Iranian support of Iraq’s Kurdish rebels.
- On June 17, the Italian Communist Party polls 33.4 percent of the vote in regional elections.
- On June 26, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India declares a state of emergency and imprisons her political foes after her conviction for manipulating election results.
- On June 29, the Organization of American States ends its ban on diplomatic and commercial relations with Cuba.
- On July 15, The United States and the Soviet Union launch the joint *Apollo-Soyuz* space station that will orbit Earth.
- On August 6, the Indian Parliament approves retroactive changes in the election law under which Prime Minister Gandhi was convicted of campaign violations.
- On August 15, a military coup kills Bangladesh president Sheik Mujibar Rahman.
- On August 18, China and Cambodia sign a trade agreement.
- On August 29, the military overthrows President Juan Velasco Alvarado of Peru.
- On September 1, Guillermo Rodríguez Lara, president of Ecuador, defeats a military coup.
- On September 2, Canada, with the world’s fourth-largest foreign aid budget, announces grants to the world’s forty poorest countries.
- On September 6, an earthquake in eastern Turkey kills 2,312 people.
- On September 9, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, deposed leader of Cambodia, returns home after five years of exile in China.
- On September 16, Britain grants Papua New Guinea independence and commonwealth status.
- On October 1, OPEC raises crude oil prices 10 percent, raising inflation and deepening a recession in the U.S.
- On October 16, Isabel Perón returns to the presidency of Argentina after a month’s absence.
- On October 21, a nationwide postal strike begins in Canada.
- On November 7, India’s supreme court, citing retroactive changes in the election code, reverses an earlier conviction of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for election fraud.
- On November 10, the United Nations condemns Zionism as a form of racism by a 72-35 vote.
- On November 11, the governor-general of Australia, Sir John Kerr, removes the prime minister and dissolves parliament for the first time in history.
- On November 25, the Netherlands grants Suriname independence after three hundred years of colonial rule.
- On December 3, the Pathet Lao, a communist party, abolishes the monarchy and creates a coalition government in Laos.
- On December 5, Britain ends the detention of suspected terrorists from Northern Ireland without trial.

- On December 11, Russian physicist Andrei Sakharov receives the Nobel Peace Prize.
- On December 14, terrorists demanding the independence of South Moluccas from Indonesia release twenty-three hostages in Beilin, Holland.

1976

- On January 1, Venezuela nationalizes its oil industries.
- On January 7, Prime Minister Aldo Moro's Italian cabinet resigns.
- On February 10, Aldo Moro forms a one-party minority government in Italy.
- On February 26, with the agreement of Spain, Morocco and Mauritania annex the territory of the former Spanish Sahara.
- In March, hundreds of villagers die of a mysterious illness, with a 90 percent mortality in Zaire. Physicians isolate a new virus as the cause of the illness and name it Ebola, because the virus had first struck people near the Ebola River in Zaire.
- On March 5, Britain's secretary of state for Northern Ireland, Merlyn Rees, dismisses the seventy-eight-seat Northern Ireland Convention and announces that Britain will govern Northern Ireland.
- On March 24, the military overthrows President Isabel Perón of Argentina. Lt. General Jorge Videla assumes power.
- On April 25, socialists win a plurality of votes in Portugal's first free parliamentary elections in fifty years.
- On April 30, the Italian government of Aldo Moro collapses.
- On May 5, delegates from 153 nations meet in Nairobi, Kenya, for the fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- From May 15 to May 19, Arab riots against Israeli rule of what was once Palestine leave three protesters dead.
- On May 17, Liechtensteiner women gain the right to vote in local elections.
- From May 20 to May 21, North Atlantic Treaty Organization foreign ministers meet in Oslo, Norway.
- In June, the French-English supersonic jet Concorde begins regular passenger service.
- From June 16 to June 19, blacks riot in South Africa against the use of the Afrikaans language, a variant of Dutch, in South African schools.
- On June 22, Italian Communists gain forty-nine seats in the chamber of deputies and twenty-three seats in the senate following national elections.
- On June 23, the United States vetoes the admission of Angola to the United Nations.
- On July 3, Israeli commandos raid Entebbe Airport in Uganda and free ninety-one passengers and twelve crew of an Air France jet that Palestinian terrorists had hijacked on June 27.
- On July 27, police arrest former prime minister Kakuei Tanaka for financial misconduct in Japan.
- On July 30, Italian prime minister Giulio Andreotti leads a new minority government.
- On August 7, Uganda and Kenya renew diplomatic relations.
- On August 11, Palestinian terrorists kill four and wound thirty in the airport in Istanbul, Turkey.
- On August 12, thirty-five to forty people die in a week of rioting in South Africa.
- On August 20, right-wing extremists murder forty-six people in Argentina in retaliation for the assassination of a retired army general.
- On September 21, the thirty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly elects H. S. Amersinghe of Sri Lanka as president.
- In October, after Mao Tse-tung's death, India normalizes relations with China.
- On October 3, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's Social Democratic Party wins a narrow majority in West German parliamentary elections.
- On October 10, Mairead Corrigan and Betty William, two peace activists from Northern Ireland, share the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize.
- On October 22, President Cearbhall O. Dalaigh of Ireland resigns. On November 9 Patrick J. Hillery replaces him.
- On November 1, the military overthrows President Michel Micombero of Burundi in a bloodless coup. Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza assumes power.
- On November 13, the Donald A. Henderson, Johns Hopkins University physician and head of the World Health Organization (WHO) campaign against smallpox, reports Asia free of smallpox for the first time in history.
- On November 15, René Lévesque's separatist Parti Québécois wins a majority in Quebec's provincial elections.
- On November 26, Italy rescinds its recognition of Roman Catholicism as the state religion.
- In December, Donald Johanson discovers in Ethiopia the remains of thirteen Australopithecines. Johanson dubbed them the "First Family," because he suspected that all thirteen were part of the same clan and were thus related.
- On December 15, Prime Minister Michael Manley of Jamaica leads his People's National Party to victory in parliamentary elections.
- On December 17, OPEC announces a 5 percent increase in oil prices from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and a 10 percent increase from the other eleven OPEC members.
- On December 20, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel dissolves parliament and calls for elections.

1977

- On January 6, 240 prominent intellectuals in Czechoslovakia sign Charter 77, demanding human rights as enumerated in the Helsinki accords of 1975.

- On January 18, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India announces parliamentary elections in March, the first since she had declared a state of emergency in 1975.
- On January 24, discussions between the white elite and blacks break down over whether to grant free election and thus black majority rule in Rhodesia.
- In February, the Soviet Union begins to seek alliances with African nations in hopes of bringing former European colonies within the Soviet sphere of influence.
- On February 9, Spain and the Soviet Union resume diplomatic relations, suspended since the Spanish Civil War.
- On February 23, President Idi Amin of Uganda forbids two hundred Americans from leaving Uganda in response to U.S. president Jimmy Carter's condemnation of Amin's brutality toward his own people.
- In March, a U.S. delegation visits Vietnam for the first time since the war.
- On March 7, Saudi Arabia announces \$1 billion in assistance to black Africa at the opening of the fifty-nine nation Arab-African conference in Cairo, Egypt.
- On March 20, in a surprise defeat, Indira Gandhi and her Congress Party lose the Indian parliamentary election.
- On March 27, two jumbo jets collide in the Canary Islands, killing more than 570 people, the worst air disaster to date.
- On April 21, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan imposes martial law in three cities following weeks of political unrest.
- On April 22, Great Britain grants independence to the Solomon Islands.
- On April 30, an oil spill from a platform in the North Sea is capped after twenty thousand metric tons of crude oil had polluted the sea.
- In May, Guillermo Vilas becomes the first Argentine to win the French Open tennis championship. In September he will win the U.S. Open.
- From May 5 to May 9, leaders of five Western nations and Japan meet in London for economic discussions.
- On May 17, Menachem Begin's Likud Party defeats the Labour Party in Israeli parliamentary elections.
- On June 11, Dutch marines storm a hijacked train in northern Holland, where South Molluccan terrorists, seeking independence from Indonesia, held fifty-one hostages, some of them schoolchildren.
- In July, Mary Leakey, wife of the late British anthropologist Louis S.B. Leakey, discovers a set of Australopithecine footprints some 3.5 million years old. The tracks are of an adult and child and are in synchrony, suggesting that the two had held hands as they walked.
- In July, oceanographers discover deep-sea vents on the ocean floor near the Galapagos Islands.
- On July 5, the forty-eight member Organization of African Unity ends a four-day conference in Libreville, Gabon.
- On July 31, demonstrators riot during an antinuclear rally in Creys-Malville, France.
- On August 26, the province of Quebec passes Bill 101, making French the official—and principal—language of the province.
- On September 3, police arrest former Pakistani prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for conspiracy to murder his political opponents.
- On September 15, South African police arrest twelve hundred black students mourning the September 12 death of black nationalist leader Steven Biko in prison.
- On September 20, President Idi Amin of Uganda bans, as "security risks," twenty-seven religious organizations from his country.
- On September 26, Israeli-backed Christians and Palestinians cease fire after ten days of fighting on Lebanon's southern border.
- On September 28, Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot arrives in Peking in hopes of gaining economic aid from China.
- On October 3, police arrest former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi on two counts of corruption in office but later drop the charges.
- On October 10, Amnesty International, a human rights organization, wins the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize.
- On October 31, Western nations veto a UN resolution to impose economic sanctions against South Africa.
- On November 13, Somalia expels all Soviet advisers and breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba, charging both with favoring Ethiopia in its land dispute with Somalia.
- On November 20, President Anwar as-Sadat of Egypt journeys to Jerusalem to address the Israeli parliament in hopes of forging a peace agreement with Israel.
- On December 5, Arab states, meeting in Tripoli, Libya, denounce Egyptian president Sadat's peace overture to Israel.
- On December 26, President Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menochem Begin of Israel continue peace talks in Egypt.
- On December 31, Cambodia and Vietnam break off diplomatic relations.

1978

- The cosmonauts of *Soyuz 27* spend a record ninety-six days in space.
- "Boat people" from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos seek asylum in Malaysia, Thailand, and the United States.
- On January 4, General Augusto Pinochet of Chile confirms his dictatorship by plebiscite.
- On January 10, riots engulf Managua, Nicaragua, following the assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, publisher of the anti-government newspaper *La Prensa*.
- On January 20, President Suharto of Indonesia bans several newspapers and suppresses student dissent in an attempt to end criticism of his authoritarian rule.
- On January 24, fragments of a radioactive Soviet satellite crash into a remote area of Canada's Northwest Territories.
- On February 7, a nationwide general strike that began on January 23 ends in Managua, Nicaragua.
- In March, orchestras throughout the world sponsor Vivaldi festivals to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi's birth.

- On March 16, Red Brigades terrorists kidnap and kill former Italian premier Aldo Moro, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, in Rome.
- On March 17, the *Amoco Cadiz* runs aground near Brest, France, spilling oil along the Brittany coast in the worst spill to date.
- On March 18, Former Pakistani prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is sentenced to death for having ordered an assassination attempt on a political opponent.
- On March 24, Ethiopia declares it has reestablished control over the southeastern Ogaden region after an eight-month conflict with Somalia.
- On April 3, China and the European Economic Community sign a five-year trade agreement.
- On April 9, police charge antigovernment demonstrators with sedition in the Philippines following the first parliamentary elections since 1972.
- On April 21, thieves steal paintings valued at over \$1 million, including Peter Paul Rubens's masterpiece *The Three Graces*, from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy.
- On April 30, the military overthrows the government in Kabul, Afghanistan. Nur Mohammad Taraki heads the new regime.
- On May 3, alternative energy advocates celebrate Sun Day to publicize the need for renewable sources of energy.
- On May 4, South African troops raid guerrilla bases of the South-West Africa People's Organization in Angola.
- On May 11, Muslim fundamentalists riot throughout Iran.
- On May 15, Peruvians angered at an austerity program riot.
- On May 18, Italy legalizes abortion.
- On May 22, Belgian troops rescue twenty-five hundred Europeans trapped in fighting between Zaire and the Congo.
- On June 23, an Italian court sentences twenty-nine members of the Red Brigades to prison in Turin, Italy, for murdering former Italian premier Aldo Moro.
- On June 25, Argentina defeats the Netherlands, 3-1, to win the World Cup soccer championship.
- On July 3, China ends economic assistance to Vietnam.
- On July 14, a Soviet court sentences dissident Anatoly B. Scharansky to thirteen years in prison for espionage.
- On July 19, Quebec modifies Bill 101—the 1977 law mandating the use of French in Quebec, now to include English, after many businesses relocate to English-speaking Ontario.
- On July 25, the first test-tube baby is born in England.
- On August 10, the ten provincial premiers of Canada reject Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's plan for a new Canadian constitution.
- On August 12, Japan and China sign a ten-year peace treaty.
- On August 22, twenty-five Sandinista guerrillas seize the National Palace in Managua, Nicaragua, killing six guards and wounding dozens.
- In September, genetically-engineered bacteria begin to produce insulin, the first human hormone derived through recombinant DNA.
- On September 8, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi declares martial law in Iran, following antigovernment demonstrations in twelve cities and hundreds of deaths in Tehran.
- On September 17, Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, President Anwar as-Sadat of Egypt, and President Jimmy Carter of the United States conclude eleven days of peace negotiations at Camp David, Maryland.
- On September 20, an Italian court sentences Red Brigades leader Corrado Alunni to twelve years in prison for illegal possession of firearms.
- On September 26, China and Vietnam end diplomatic talks after China accuses Vietnam of amassing troops on its border.
- On September 28, Pieter Willem Botha succeeds B.J. Vorster as prime minister of South Africa.
- On October 12, Ugandan and Tanzanian troops clash over the Kagera Salient, land each nation claims its own.
- On October 31, forty thousand petroleum workers go on strike in Iran, halving Iranian oil exports.
- On November 2, two Soviet cosmonauts set a 139-day spaceflight record.
- On November 3, Vietnam and the Soviet Union sign a twenty-five-year peace treaty.
- On November 5, former prime minister Indira Gandhi wins election to India's lower house of parliament, demonstrating the loyalty of Indians to the Nehru-Gandhi legacy.
- On December 5, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union sign a twenty-year treaty of friendship.
- On December 10, President Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel share the Nobel Peace Prize for forging peace between their nations.
- From December 27 to December 30, the Shah of Iran attempts to placate fundamentalists by passing the government to Shahpur Bakhtiar, a government critic.

1979

- Peter Shaffer premieres the play *Amadeus*, which traces Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's career from the lightweight pieces of his childhood to the dark, even violent, music of adulthood.
- On January 1, the United States and China establish diplomatic relations.
- On January 7, the Kampuchean United Front captures the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, ending the Khmer Rouge regime of Pol Pot.
- On January 16, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi leaves Iran for a "vacation," presumed to be exile.
- On January 19, President Anastasio Somoza Debayle rejects a plebiscite, supervised by the Organization of American States, to end the civil war in Nicaragua.
- On February 1, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returns to Iran to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state after fifteen years of exile in France.
- On February 17, several hundred thousand Chinese troops invade Vietnam following border clashes.

- On February 22, the United States cuts aid to Afghanistan following the assassination of U.S. ambassador Adolph Dubs.
- On February 24, troops clash along the border between North and South Yemen.
- On March 5, China announces the withdrawal of its troops from Vietnam after suffering thousands of casualties in less than a month of fighting.
- On March 13, Maurice Bishop, leader of the New Jewel Movement, ousts Prime Minister Eric Gairy in a bloodless coup on the Caribbean island of Grenada.
- On March 14, India and the Soviet Union sign treaties of economic and scientific cooperation.
- On March 18, Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq attack government troops.
- On March 26, Israel and Egypt sign a peace treaty in Washington, D.C., ending thirty-one years of war.
- On March 26, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada dissolves Parliament and sets national elections for May 22.
- On March 27, the pro-Communist Revolutionary Council in Afghanistan names Hafizullah Amin prime minister.
- On March 28, the British House of Commons votes no confidence in the government of Prime Minister James Callaghan, who resigns.
- On March 29, North and South Yemen agree to end their border conflict and unite under one government.
- On March 31, the eighteen-nation Arab League denounces Egypt for its peace treaty with Israel.
- On April 4, Former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan is hanged on charges of conspiring to murder a political opponent.
- On April 11, Tanzanian troops capture the Ugandan capital of Kampala, deposing Ugandan president Idi Amin and installing a new government under Yusufu Lule.
- On April 12, five years of international negotiations conclude in Geneva, Switzerland, in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), reducing world tariffs by 33 percent on average.
- On April 27, the United States exchanges two Soviet spies for five Soviet dissidents, including Aleksandr Ginzburg.
- On May 3, the Conservative Party defeats the Labour Party in British national elections, making Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher Britain's first woman prime minister.
- On May 8, police in El Salvador kill twenty-three and wound seventy during antigovernment demonstrations in San Salvador.
- On May 18, geologists discover 3.5-billion-year-old traces of bacteria and algae from Western Australia. The discovery is among the earliest evidence for life on Earth.
- On May 22, the Progressive Conservative Party wins a plurality of votes in Canadian national elections.
- On May 24, President Carlos Humberto Romero of El Salvador suspends the constitution and declares a thirty-day state of siege.
- From June 2 to June 10, Pope John Paul II visits his native Poland.
- On June 20, Godfrey Binaisa ousts President Yusufu Lule of Uganda in a bloodless coup.
- On July 11, the International Whaling Commission, meeting in London, bans hunting in the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, and most of the Indian Ocean for ten years.
- On July 16, President Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr of Iraq resigns, citing poor health, and appoints Saddam Hussein, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and the armed forces, his successor.
- On July 17, President Anastasio Somoza Debayle of Nicaragua resigns and goes into exile.
- On July 23, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini bans music broadcasting in Iran, saying it has corrupted Iranian youth.
- On August 13, China announces it will limit population growth by discouraging couples from having more than one child.
- On August 18, Muslim rebels in Afghanistan announce the formation of an insurgent government.
- On August 19, two Soviet cosmonauts set a 175-day space-flight record.
- On August 27, the Irish Republican Army explodes a bomb on a fishing boat off the Irish coast, killing Earl Mountbatten of Burma, cousin to Queen Elizabeth II of Britain.
- On September 13, in Peking's Tiananmen Square nearly one thousand people protest Communist Party privileges.
- On September 21, Britain and France cancel the supersonic Concorde program declaring it too expensive.
- On October 12, President Fidel Castro of Cuba addresses the United Nations, denouncing the United States and calling for grants and loans for developing nations.
- On October 15, the military overthrows the government of General Carlos Humberto Romero in El Salvador.
- On October 24, the deposed Shah of Iran enters a New York hospital for a gallbladder operation and cancer treatments.
- On October 26, the head of the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency assassinates President Park Chung Hee of South Korea.
- On November 4, Iranian militants storm the U.S. embassy in Tehran, seizing ninety hostages and precipitating an international crisis.
- On November 20, several hundred Islamic extremists seize the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, a site sacred to Muslims.
- On November 21, Islamic extremists attack the U.S. embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- On November 28, geologists discover amino acids in an Antarctic meteorite, believed to be uncontaminated by Earth, suggesting that life may have arisen elsewhere in our solar system.

- On December 3, Puerto Rican nationalists kill two American sailors outside the Sabana Seca naval communications center.
- On December 8, Greek poet Odysseus Elytis receives the Nobel Prize in literature.
- On December 11, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, receives the Nobel Peace Prize for her care of India's poor and homeless.
- On December 13, the Canadian Supreme Court strikes down the portions of Quebec's Bill 101 that had mandated the use of French language in Quebec.
- On December 15, the Shah of Iran leaves the United States to live in Panama.
- On December 27, the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan with tens of thousands of troops following a Soviet-sponsored coup that kills President Hafizullah Amin.