Chronology of Selected World Events Outside the United States, 1960–1969

1960

- On January 1, Soviet prime minister Nikita Khrushchev states in a New Year’s toast that the Soviet Union might disarm unilaterally if it fails to reach an arms agreement with the West.

- On January 3, the Moscow State Symphony becomes the first Soviet orchestra to play in the United States.

- On January 8, West Berlin students demonstrate against outbreaks of neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism.

- On January 12, Soviet police expose a black-market rock ‘n’ roll ring that produces phonograph records on X-ray plates.

- On January 19, the United States and Japan sign a treaty of mutual cooperation and security.

- On January 23, the bathyscaphe Trieste, a joint U.S.-French venture, plunges almost seven miles to the deepest part of the Pacific Ocean.

- On January 24, Pope John XXIII presides over the first diocesan ecclesiastical council in Rome.

- On February 1, in Algeria a revolt by European immigrants collapses.

- On February 5, anti-Communist demonstrators disrupt the Soviet Exhibition in Havana.

- On February 7, archaeologists discover ancient biblical scrolls in a cave one thousand feet above the Dead Sea.

- On February 8, France becomes the world’s fourth nuclear power after detonating an atomic bomb in the Sahara Desert in Africa.

- On February 18, the Winter Olympics begin in Squaw Valley, California.

- On February 19, despite appeals by anti-U.S. Chileans, several hundred thousand flock to welcome President Dwight Eisenhower to Santiago.

- On March 1, earthquakes, a tidal wave, and fires level the Moroccan resort city of Agadir, killing nearly twelve thousand and leaving almost everyone homeless.

- On March 14, in New York, Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion and West German chancellor Konrad Adenauer meet for the first time to discuss German-Israeli relations.

- On March 18, the Shanghai People’s Court sentences Roman Catholic bishop James Edward Walsh, a U.S. citizen, to twenty years in prison for leading Chinese priests to spy against Communist China.

- On March 21, Cuban soldiers shoot down an American private plane and capture its pilot and copilot, whom they suspect of attempting to rescue Cuban political prisoners.

- On March 21, South African police fire on twenty thousand anti-apartheid demonstrators, killing fifty-six.

- On April 9, a white man shoots and wounds South African white supremacist prime minister Hendrik Verwoerd in Johannesburg.

- On April 26, South Korea’s National Assembly demands President Syngman Rhee’s resignation after a student protest against government election policies.


- On May 7, twenty-three-year-old Mikhail Tol of Soviet Latvia becomes the youngest world chess champion in the twentieth century after defeating Mikhail Botvinnik in two months of matches in Moscow.
On May 7, the Paris summit between Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev and U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower breaks down.

On May 11, France launches the SS France, the world’s longest passenger liner, at Saint Nazaire, France.

On May 20, La Dolce Vita, by Italian director Federico Fellini, wins the award for best film at the Cannes Film Festival.

On May 23, the Israeli government announces its detention of former Nazi SS Colonel Adolf Eichmann.

On May 27, a military coup overthrows Turkish dictator Adnan Menderes.

On June 1, British composer Benjamin Britten premieres the opera A Midsummer Night’s Dream at Jubilee Hall in Aldeburgh, England.

On June 9, Typhoon Mary, packing 135 mph winds, hits Hong Kong, killing many and leaving 120,000 homeless.

On June 13, a Rome court announces the annulment of actress Ingrid Bergman’s marriage to Roberto Rossellini.

On June 16, President Eisenhower agrees, at the request of Japanese officials, to postpone his visit to Japan due to anti-American riots.

On June 20, U.S. boxer Floyd Patterson defeats Ingemar Johansson of Sweden to reclaim the world heavyweight boxing title.

On June 20, Algerian rebels agree to peace talks in Paris after nearly six years of war.

On June 30, King Baudouin I of Belgium grants the Republic of Congo in Africa independence.

On July 1, British Somaliland and the U.N. trust territory of British Somaliland merge to form the Republic of Somalia in Africa.

On July 4, the United States second.

On July 10, the British government agrees, at President Eisenhower’s request, to exchange old rubles for new at a rate of ten old to one new ruble.

On July 12, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev and Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrive in New York City under police security for the convening of the U.N. General Assembly.

On July 14, the U.N. Security Council authorizes Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld to send United Nations troops to the Republic of Congo to restore peace to the emerging nation plagued by civil war.

On July 21, fifty-nine-year-old Francis Chichester wins the transatlantic solo race aboard his sloop Gypsy Moth in a record forty days.

On July 24, Marshal Andrei A. Grechko succeeds Ivan S. Konev as supreme commander of Warsaw Pact forces.

On July 27, the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union agree at the Geneva test-ban talks to bar atmospheric tests as well as all underground detonations of more than 4.75 on the Richter scale.

On July 29, Dr. Andre Danjon, director of the Paris Observatory, reports that the day has lengthened by one-tenth of a second because three solar eruptions in July 1959 slowed the earth’s rotation.

In August, Harvard University physicists confirm Albert Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity.


On August 6, Bangu of Brazil defeats Kilmarnock of Scotland 2-0 in New York to win the American Challenge Cup in the International Soccer League’s first title playoff.

On September 5, the U.N. Security Council authorizes Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld to send United Nations troops to the Republic of Congo in Africa independence.

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1961

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On January 31, Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion resigns.

On February 1, Thieves steal Spanish painter Francisco Goya’s portrait of the duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London.

On February 2, U.S. boxer Floyd Patterson defeats Ingemar Johansson of Sweden to reclaim the world heavyweight boxing title.

On February 28, the Soviet Union launches a spacecraft carrying a dog into orbit around Earth.

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On October 5, Jean Anouilh premiers the play Becket in New York City.

On October 10, a cyclone and a tidal wave kill five thousand people in East Pakistan along the Bay of Bengal.

On October 12, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchevounds his desk with his shoe to protest a speech at the United Nations by a Philippine delegate against Soviet colonialism in Eastern Europe.

On October 21, Britain announces its first nuclear submarine, the Dreadnought.

On October 28, the Swedish Royal Academy awards no Nobel Peace Prize for the seventeenth time since 1901.

On November 2, a London court rules, in the first test of Great Britain’s new obscenity laws, that D.H. Lawrence’s Lady Chatterley’s Lover is not obscene.

On November 7, the Soviet team wins the Olympic chess tournament in Leipzig, East Germany, with the United States second.

On December 1, Congolese troops arrest Congolese premier Patrice Lumumba, whom political enemies accuse of inciting rebellion.

On December 12, British biologist and writer Peter Brian Medawar receives the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

On December 13, former Deputy Premier Antoine Gizenga forms a new government in the Congo.

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• From April 17 to April 20, Fidel Castro’s forces repulse an invasion of Cuban exiles backed by the United States at Cuba’s Bay of Pigs.
• On April 26, the French army puts down a revolt in Algiers, Algeria.
• In June, Arthur Ramsey becomes the one hundredth archbishop of Canterbury.
• In June, France suspends peace negotiations with Algerian nationalists.
• In June, oil-rich Kuwait becomes independent of Britain.
• On June 30, the U.S. government abandons its efforts to exchange U.S. bulldozers for Cuban exiles captured during the Bay of Pigs invasion.
• In July, British troops enter Kuwait to counter an Iraqi threat of invasion.
• On July 1, Brazil defeats Czechoslovakia, 3-1, to defend its World Cup soccer title in Santiago, Chile.
• On July 7, the United States and Soviet Union join fifteen nations in Geneva, Switzerland, for disarmament talks.
• On July 25, the British Royal College of Physicians concludes that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer.
• On July 30, the Soviet Union closes the border between East and West Berlin.
• From August 15 to August 17, East Germany constructs the Berlin Wall to separate East and West Berlin.
• On August 13, the Soviet Union detonates a bomb of between thirty and fifty megatons, the largest explosion to date.
• From August 26 to August 28, U.S. and Soviet tanks face off at the border between East and West Berlin.
• On November 14, the United States and Soviet Union sign a truce ending nearly seven years of Algerian rebellion against French rule in Algeria.
• On November 17, British anthropologist Louis S.B. Leakey announces his 1961 discovery of the remains of a 14-million-year-old humanlike creature.
• On November 18, the Soviet Union announces that it will pay debts owed to the United States.
• On November 22, a military court in Havana, Cuba, sentences 1,179 prisoners of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion to thirty years in prison.
• On November 24, French voters approve the Algerian peace agreement in a national referendum.
• On December 1, the United States and Egypt sign a military agreement.
• On December 3, U Thant of Burma becomes secretary-general of the United Nations.
• On December 6, Sweden executing U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers and Soviet spy Rudolf Abel at the border between East and West Germany.
• On December 20, the Israeli Knesset votes to maintain military rule over Arabs in Israeli-occupied lands.
• On December 27, South Vietnamese Air Force officers flying U.S. planes bomb the presidential palace in Saigon, South Vietnam.

1962
• Russian novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn publishes One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, a grim novel of life in exile in Siberia.
• British novelist Anthony Burgess publishes A Clockwork Orange.
• On April 10, a two-sided Pablo Picasso painting, Death of a Harlequin and Woman Sitting in a Garden, is purchased in London for $224,000, a record for a painting by a living artist.
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• On May 27, South Vietnamese Air Force officers flying U.S. planes bomb the presidential palace in Saigon, South Vietnam.
• On June 3, three thousand government troops crush an uprising by five hundred marines at Venezuelan naval headquarters in Puerto Cabello.
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• On June 27, South Vietnamese Air Force officers flying U.S. planes bomb the presidential palace in Saigon, South Vietnam.
• On June 30, the Vatican censures Catholic priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin’s The Phenomenon of Man, a book in which the late French priest attempted to reconcile church teachings and evolution.
On July 4, British yachtsman Francis Chichester sets a transatlantic solo voyage record of thirty-three days aboard the Gypsy Moth III.

On July 10, American Telephone and Telegraph’s Telstar, the first privately owned satellite, relays television images from the United States to Europe.

On July 18, a military junta overthrows the Peruvian government in a bloodless coup.

On July 30, Eastern and Western European countries dispute Berlin air rights.

On August 14, violence between East and West Berliners continues along the Berlin Wall.

On August 21, Soviet cosmonauts contradict Western reports that their two spaceships docked when they tell reporters that the spaceships had not come within three miles of each other.

On September 28, a Canadian satellite, the first from a country other than the United States or the Soviet Union, launches into orbit from California.

On October 8, the U.S. Defense Department reports that forty-six American soldiers have died in South Vietnam.

On October 20, Indian and Chinese troops clash at the border between India and Tibet.

On October 22, President John F. Kennedy announces a naval blockade against Cuba in response to evidence that the Soviets are constructing missile installations on the island and shipping weapons there.

On October 23, Dick Tiger of Nigeria scores a fifteen-round decision over Gene Fullmer in San Francisco to win boxing’s world middleweight championship.

On October 24, the United States begins its quarantine on arms shipments to Cuba.

On October 28, Soviet premier Nikita Krushchev announces the withdrawal of all Soviet missiles from Cuba in response to Kennedy’s October 27 pledge not to invade Cuba.

On November 20, the United States ends its quarantine of Cuba after the Soviets agree to remove all their bombers from the island.

On November 21, the Soviet Union ends its military alert in the aftermath of the Cuban missile crisis.

On November 25, candidates loyal to President Charles de Gaulle win National Assembly elections, the first time in modern French history that a single party controls Parliament.

On November 30, U Thant wins a four-year term as secretary-general of the United Nations.

In December, a team of English surgeons transplants a dead man’s kidney into a living patient at the Leeds General Infirmary.

On December 11, U.S. chemist James D. Watson and his British colleagues Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins share the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for the discovery of the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

On December 20, the Dominican Republic holds its first free elections in thirty-eight years.

On December 24, Cuba exchanges 1,113 prisoners from the Bay of Pigs invasion for $53 million of medicine and baby food from the U.S.-based Cuban Families Committee.

On December 31, North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh vows to outlast American aid to South Vietnam and wage war for ten years if necessary.

1963

On January 25, North and South Korea announce that they will field a joint team for the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

On January 29, France blocks Great Britain’s application to join the European Economic Community.

On February 5, the Canadian Parliament removes the conservative Canadian government headed by John Diefenbaker in a no-confidence vote over Canadian defense policies.

On February 6, the executive board of the International Olympic Committee bars Indonesia from the Olympics for refusing to allow Israeli and Nationalist Chinese participation in the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

On February 8, anti-communist air force officers overthrow Iraqi premier Abdul Karim Qassim and execute him the next day.

On February 22, Norwegian explorer Helge Ingstad reports the discovery of Nordic artifacts in Newfoundland dating about 1000 C.E.

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On March 9, U.S. officials say their use of chemical defoliants do not harm humans and animals in response to a Chinese accusation that the chemicals kill South Vietnamese civilians, livestock, and crops.

On March 21, an eruption of the Agung volcano on the island of Bali kills some fifteen hundred people.

On March 27, delegates to the Union of Writers Conference in Moscow denounce Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko for having allowed Western publication of his Precocious Autobiography.

On April 2, a Soviet fighter plane fires on a private twin-engine plane flying an air corridor to West Berlin in violation of international law.

On April 15, tens of thousands protest nuclear weapons at a peace rally in Hyde Park, London.

On April 17, Canadian prime minister Diefenbaker resigns after the opposition Liberal Party gains a majority in Parliament.

On April 22, Liberal Party leader Lester Pearson becomes Canada’s new prime minister.

On May 1, Soviet premier Nikita Krushchev salutes Cuban Premier Fidel Castro at a May Day celebration in Moscow.

On May 22, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) approves a nuclear alliance.

On May 27, voters elect Jomo Kenyatta the first African prime minister of Kenya.
On May 31, Pope John XXIII receives last rites and dies on June 3 at age eighty-one.

On June 5, British war secretary John Profumo resigns after admitting that he lied to Parliament about his relationship with Christine Keeler, who had ties to the Soviet Union.

On June 16, Valentina V. Tereshkova, a Soviet cosmonaut, becomes the first woman in space.

On June 16, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of Israel resigns.

On June 21, the College of the Cardinals elects Giovanni Battista Cardinal Montoni Pope. He takes the name Paul VI.

On June 26, President John F. Kennedy proclaims "Ich bin ein Berliner." (I too am a Berliner) in pledging U.S. support of West Germany against communism.

On June 27, President John F. Kennedy appoints Henry Cabot Lodge U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam.

On July 20, U.S., British, and Soviet negotiators draft a nuclear test-ban treaty.

On July 24, Cuba takes over the U.S. embassy in Havana after the U.S. freezes Cuban accounts in U.S. banks.

On July 30, after disappearing in Beirut, Lebanon, British journalist H.A.R. Philby takes refuge in the Soviet Union.

On August 8, a masked gang escapes with more than $5 million from a mail train near London.

On August 30, Washington and Moscow open an emergency hotline for instant communication between U.S. and Soviet leaders.

On September 15, the British create the country of Malaysia.

On October 9, the Summer Olympics begin in Tokyo.

On October 12, the Soviet Union launches the first space flight with more than one cosmonaut.

On October 15, Leonid Brezhnev replaces Nikita Khrushchev as premier of the Soviet Union.

On October 15, Harold Wilson, leader of the Labour Party, becomes prime minister of Britain.

On October 16, China detonates its first nuclear bomb in a test.

On October 23, the republic of Zambia, formerly the British protectorate Northern Rhodesia, becomes independent.

On November 2, Saudi Arabian religious and political authorities dethrone the sick King Saud and crown his half brother, Crown Prince Faisal.

1965

The Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico shows that Venus rotates in the opposite direction from the other planets.

Goya’s portrait of the duke of Wellington, which was stolen in 1961, is returned to London’s National Gallery.

On January 4, in his State of the Union address, President Lyndon Johnson of the United States invites an exchange of Soviet and U.S. television broadcasts.

On January 14, the two Irish prime ministers meet for the first time since Ireland’s 1922 partition.

On January 19, the United States claims that a recent Soviet underground nuclear test may violate the test-ban treaty between the two nations.

On January 21, Indonesia withdraws from the United Nations.

On January 24, fashion reports indicate that European designers have turned to plastics in creating new household items.

On January 30, the United States agrees to widen cultural ties with the Soviet Union.

On February 1, troops loyal to the Laos government repel a coup attempt by army officers.
On February 8, the Soviet Union pledges antiaircraft systems to North Vietnam following President Lyndon Johnson’s authorization of U.S. aircraft to bomb North Vietnam in “Operation Rolling Thunder.”

On February 12, twenty-one protesters die in riots in southern India.

On February 19, U.N. secretary-general U Thant says that a financial crisis at the United Nations will force the organization to seek additional funds for 1965.

On February 20, the United Nations announces it will try to help India lower its birth rate.


On February 24, U.S. officials admit that U.S. military advisers are leading combat troops in the Vietnam War.

On February 24, U.N. secretary-general U Thant urges the United States to withdraw its troops from South Vietnam and to stop bombing both North and South Vietnam.

On February 26, Indonesia seizes rubber estates in which U.S. banks had invested, outraging U.S. financiers.

On February 27, China opens its borders to visits by Japanese citizens.

On March 1, the Russian film The Overcoat opens in New York City.

On March 3, Great Britain announces cuts in defense spending.

On March 4, two thousand students attack the U.S. embassy in Moscow.

On March 14, Israel and West Germany agree to talks aimed at establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On March 17, French philosopher, novelist, and dramatist Jean-Paul Sartre cancels a U.S. lecture tour to protest the American war in Vietnam.

On March 18, cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov walks ten minutes in space.

On March 29, a bomb explosion at the U.S. embassy in Saigon, capital of South Vietnam, kills six.

On April 3, the United States accuses the Soviet Union of harassing U.S. ships at sea.

On April 4, East German guards prohibit West Berlin mayor Willy Brandt from driving to Berlin from West Germany.

On April 8, the Vatican names Cardinal Konig as its envoy to atheists.

On April 25, U.S. officials confirm for the first time that North Vietnamese troops are fighting in South Vietnam.

On May 24, satellite television links art buyers in New York and London.

On June 5, U.S. officials acknowledge that U.S. troops are fighting in South Vietnam, rather than merely protecting U.S. air bases as President Lyndon Johnson had promised.

On June 7, guerrillas murder U.S. consul Allison Wannemaker in Argentina.

On June 18, Air Force officer Nguyen Cao Ky becomes South Vietnamese premier.

On June 28, six nations join in opening the Comsat telephone system.

On July 5, France withdraws its delegate from the Common Market.

On July 20, the British House of Lords bans the death penalty for criminals convicted of murder.

On August 5, Greek premier George Athansiadas-Novas resigns as thousands of backers of former prime minister George Papandreou continue to protest.

On September 1, India and Pakistan clash over Kashmir.

On September 10, the Vatican exonerates the Jews of responsibility in the death of Jesus.

On September 17, Stephanos Stephanopoulos becomes prime minister of Greece.

From September 21 to September 22, India and Pakistan accept a U.N.-sponsored cease-fire in Kashmir.

On October 14, Paul Cézanne’s Maisons a l’Estaque sets an auction record for impressionist art.

On October 15, Soviet writer Mikhail Sholokhov wins the Nobel Prize in literature.

On October 25, the United Nations Children’s Fund wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

From October 28 to November 14, the U.S. Army and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) clash in the Ia Drang Valley in South Vietnam, one of the few traditional battles of the war.

On November 12, Philippine senator Ferdinand Marcos wins his country’s presidential election.

On November 24, Soviet officials sentence U.S. tourist Newcomb Mott to eighteen months in prison for crossing the Soviet border without authorization.

On November 27, the Vatican recovers stolen manuscripts by Italian poets Petrarch and Torquato Tasso.

On November 30, France urges the United States to leave Vietnam.

On December 10, The New York Times reports that South Vietnamese troops have withdrawn from combat to leave U.S. marines and soldiers to do the fighting.

On December 19, five international teams of scientists report having identified evidence of the explosion that created the universe 15 billion years ago. Scientists call this explosion the Big Bang.

On December 19, President Charles de Gaulle wins 54.7 percent of the vote in the French presidential elections.
• On December 20, General William Westmoreland, commander of U.S. troops in South Vietnam, authorizes troops to pursue enemy troops into Cambodia.
• On December 21, the Soviet Union pledges to increase aid to North Vietnam to counter the ferocity of U.S. attacks.
• On December 25, Mexico begins a televised literacy program.
• On December 27, a gas rig collapses in the North Sea, killing thirteen.
• On December 30, Ferdinand Marcos begins his presidency in the Philippines.

1966
• China publishes a book of quotations of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.
• On January 19, voters elect Indira Gandhi, daughter of former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, prime minister of India.
• On February 3, an unmanned Soviet craft, Luna 9, makes the first soft landing on the Moon.
• On February 17, France launches its first satellite into orbit around Earth.
• On March 1, in the first contact with another planet, a Soviet spacecraft crashes onto the surface of Venus.
• On March 13, the archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Arthur Michael Ramsey, meets with Pope Paul VI in Rome.
• On April 3, the Soviet Union’s Luna 10 becomes the first man-made object to orbit the Moon.
• In May, China executes thousands of people it suspects of disloyalty in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.
• On May 10, the Guatemalan Congress elects Mendez Montenegro president in a runoff election.
• On May 13, China accuses the United States of violating its airspace and shooting down a Chinese military training plane.
• On May 30, two Buddhist monks burn themselves to death in protest over government policies in South Vietnam.
• On June 6, the government press criticizes army official Lo Juiching for the first time in Communist Chinese history.
• On June 15, Syrians and Israelis fight a three-hour sea and air battle in and over the Sea of Galilee.
• On June 19, South Vietnamese troops end Buddhist resistance in Hue, the ancient Imperial city and symbol of Vietnamese independence.
• On June 28, a three-man military junta led by Lt. General Juan Carlos Ongania ousts Argentine President Arturo Illia.
• On June 29, Prime Minister Harold Wilson of Britain publicly criticizes U.S. bombing of Vietnam.
• On June 30, the United States begins to withdraw troops from France.
• On July 1, the United States begins to withdraw troops from the Dominican Republic.
• On July 4, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, a thirty-pound concrete block is dropped on the roof of a car containing Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip; no one is injured.
• On July 9, Egyptian President Gamal Nasser declares that Arab countries will never accept Israel as their neighbor.
• On July 11, the Soviet Union announces its athletes will not participate in the eighth annual U.S.-Soviet track meet to protest U.S. policy in Vietnam.
• On July 14, Welsh nationalists for the first time win a seat in the British House of Commons.
• On July 16, Chinese officials report that Chairman Mao Tse-tung recently swam fifteen kilometers in an hour and five minutes in the Yangtze River.
• On July 18, the International Court of Justice dismisses a lawsuit challenging South Africa’s right to govern Southwest Africa.
• On July 19, Argentina and Great Britain open talks on the future of the Falkland Islands.
• On August 12, North Korea asserts independence from both Chinese and Soviet influence and declares it will follow its own path.
• On August 13, a parade of ten thousand East German soldiers marks the fifth anniversary of the construction of the Berlin Wall.
• On August 17, North Korea aligns itself with the Soviet Union after accusing China of “Trotskyism.”
• On August 20, a survey reports that a majority of Roman Catholics use some form of artificial birth control.
• On August 24, Pro-Mao Chinese youths called Red Guards further the Cultural Revolution by breaking into private homes to destroy all items they deem Western.
• On August 30, North Vietnam and China sign an aid agreement.
• On September 1, President Charles de Gaulle of France urges the United States to withdraw from Vietnam in a speech in Cambodia.
• On September 6, an assassin stabs South African prime minister Hendrik Verwoerd to death during a session of Parliament.
• On September 6, Syria announces it has crushed a coup by Baath Party founder Michel Aflak.
• On September 14, new South African prime minister B.J. Vorster pledges to continue apartheid, a policy whereby the white minority oppressed the black majority.
• On September 19, the last American troops leave the Dominican Republic.
• On October 20, Israeli writer Shmuel Agnon wins the Nobel Prize in literature.
• On October 22, the U.S. delegation opposes United Nations sanctions against South Africa on the grounds that they would be counterproductive.
• On October 23, the International Cancer Congress convenes in Tokyo.
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1967

- On January 4, Pope Paul VI bans unorthodox liturgies such as jazz masses.
- On January 5, British dramatist Harold Pinter premieres the play The Homecoming in New York.
- On January 16, Lyndon Oscar Pindling becomes the first black prime minister of the Bahamas.
- On January 20, Cuba executes Enrique Gonzalez Rodriguez for acting as an agent for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.
- On January 20, Pope Paul VI confers with Soviet president Nikolai Podgorny in the first meeting between a Roman Catholic pontiff and a Communist head of state.
- On January 31, Romania becomes the first Eastern Bloc country to recognize West Germany.
- On February 3, Prime Minister Lester Pearson announces the creation of a government commission on the status of women in Canadian society.
- On February 13, Canada denies entry to U.S. psychiatrist and LSD proponent Timothy Leary.
- On February 21, Mao Tse-tung orders Red Guards to cease political activity.
- On March 1, Marshall McLuhan publishes The Medium Is the Message.
- On March 5, Colonel Fidel Sanchez Hernandez wins the presidential election in El Salvador.
- On March 6, Svetlana Stalin, only daughter of the late Joseph Stalin, asks for U.S. asylum at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, India.
- On March 15, Artur Da Costa e Silva becomes president of Brazil.
- On April 15, the Soviets announce that they will allow 390 state farms to sell crops and livestock for profit.
- On April 20, René Ribiere and Gaston Deferre, two French politicians, fight a duel after a heated argument in the French Assembly; neither man is hurt.
- On April 21, the army overthrows the interim government of Premier Panayotis Kanellopoulos of Greece.
- On April 24, Greek authorities ban miniskirts for girls and long hair for boys.
- On April 25, Swaziland, a former British colony, becomes a self-governing British protectorate.
- On April 26, Eugene Blake, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, urges the United States to stop bombing North Vietnam.
- On May 19, U.S. B-52s bomb downtown Hanoi.
- In June, physicists Steven Weinberg and Sheldon Glashow independently propose electroweak unification, stating that it should be possible to unify the four basic forces of physics into one grand theory.
- On June 17, China detonates its first hydrogen bomb.
- From June 23 to June 25, U.S. president Lyndon Johnson and Soviet premier Aleksey Kosygin discuss arms control, Vietnam, and the Middle East in Glassboro, New Jersey.
- On June 26, U.S. and Panamanian officials meet to discuss transferring U.S. control of the Panama Canal to Panama.
- On June 28, Israel occupies Jerusalem, a city sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims.
- On July 4, Britain’s House of Commons decriminalizes private homosexual acts between consenting adults.
- On July 24, President Charles de Gaulle of France proclaims “Long live free Quebec” during a visit to Canada.
- On July 25, in Turkey, Pope Paul VI becomes the first Pope to enter an Eastern Orthodox church.
- In August, a man who had returned from a trip to Africa dies of a mysterious illness in Marburg, Germany. Physicists discover in him a new virus, which they name Marburg.
- On August 3, President Lyndon Johnson announces that the United States will send forty-five thousand to fifty thousand more troops to Vietnam.
- From August 6 to August 7, five supporters of Fidel Castro hijack a Columbian plane and force it to land in Cuba.
- On August 27, India sets up camps for nearly five hundred Tibetans who fled their country under persecution from China’s Red Guards.
- On September 14, molecular biologists Vincent M. Sarich and Allan C. Wilson stun the anthropological community by announcing that the genetic clock of U.S. chemist and Nobel laureate Linus Pauling puts the divergence of the line leading to humans and the line leading to the African apes at five million years ago. Before this announcement, anthropologists had estimated the divergence at some twenty to thirty million years ago.
Chronology of Selected World Events Outside the United States, 1960–1969

- On September 17, riots at a soccer game in Kayseri, Turkey, kill forty-two people and injure more than six hundred.
- On September 20, Britain launches the luxury liner the Queen Elizabeth II.
- On September 23, the Soviet Union agrees to continue military and economic assistance to North Vietnam.
- On September 24, the Organization of American States agrees to fight Cuban-promoted revolutionary activities in the Western Hemisphere.
- In October, molecular biologists Charles T. Caskey, Richard E. Marshall, and Marshall W. Nirenberg find that the genetic code is essentially the same in guinea pigs, toads, and bacteria, evidence that all life shares a common ancestor, a tenet of evolutionary biology.
- On October 9, Bolivian troops execute Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara.
- On October 18, the Soviet Union lands a spacecraft on Venus, revealing that the atmosphere consists largely of carbon dioxide and that temperatures range from 104 to 536° Fahrenheit.
- On October 21, Israeli archaeologists announce the discovery of a new Dead Sea scroll.
- On October 26, the shah of Iran proclaims himself king of kings and his wife Iran’s first crowned queen.
- On October 31, Queen Elizabeth II announces the elimination of membership in the House of Lords by heredity.
- On December 3, Dr. Christiaan Barnard performs the world’s first successful heart transplant on Louis Washkansky in Cape Town, South Africa.
- On December 11, Britain and France unveil the first supersonic airliner, the Concorde.
- On December 17, Prime Minister Harold Holt of Australia disappears while swimming and is assumed dead.
- On December 21, heart-transplant recipient Louis Washkansky dies of pneumonia.

1968

- Japan’s gross national product (GNP) climbs 12 percent, making it second only to the United States.
- On January 1, C. Day Lewis becomes Great Britain’s poet laureate.
- On January 5, the Czechoslovak Communist Party elects Alexander Dubcek as its first secretary, a move toward political liberalization in Czechoslovakia.
- On January 12, Simon & Schuster publishes the late German theologian Martin Buber’s A Believing Humanism.
- On January 21, the North Vietnamese attack the U.S. Marines base at Kesan.
- On January 23, North Korean patrol boats capture the U.S. intelligence-gathering ship Pueblo.
- On January 30, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces attack every provincial city including Saigon in South Vietnam in the Tet offensive.
- On January 31, the Viet Cong capture the U.S. embassy in Saigon. U.S. marines retake the embassy in a six-hour battle.
- In February, engineers complete the Aswan Dam in Egypt.
- On February 6, Sweden grants asylum to six U.S. soldiers opposed to the Vietnam War.
- On February 6, Soviet officials forbid a literary magazine from publishing Russian novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s The Cancer Ward.
- In March, molecular biologist Werner Arber discovers that some enzymes can cut sequences of nucleotide bases from a strand of DNA.
- From March 8 to March 11, thousands of students in Poland fight police in protests against Communist Party involvement in cultural matters.
- On April 6, voters elect Pierre Trudeau leader of Canada’s Liberal Party.
- On April 21, the International Olympic Committee excludes South Africa from the 1968 games as punishment for its oppression of blacks.
- On April 23, in shifting to a decimal monetary system, Britain issues its first five-and-ten-pence coins.
- On April 27, Britain legalizes most abortions.
- In May, Britain’s Theatres Act ends censorship of literature and drama.
- In June, geologist Elso S. Barghoorn finds amino acids in three-billion-year-old rocks, raising the possibility that life is 3 billion years old.
- On June 26, the United States returns Iwo Jima to Japan after more than twenty-three years of U.S. administration.
- On July 29, Pope Paul VI urges Catholics to limit the size of their families only by abstinence or the rhythm method.
- From August 20 to August 22, Warsaw Pact troops invade Czechoslovakia.
- On August 22, in Columbia, Pope Paul VI becomes the first Pope to visit South America.
- On September 29, Greek voters support a new constitution that strips the king of most of his power.
- On October 9, police arrest five Soviet citizens for protesting the invasion of Czechoslovakia.
- On December 16, the Spanish government rescinds its 1492 expulsion of Jews from Spain.
- On December 27, the United States announces it will sell fifty fighter jets to Israel.

1969

- On January 12, some five thousand people march in London to protest discrimination against nonwhites.
- On February 6, Palestinians elect Yasser Arafat chair of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.
- On March 17, Golda Meir is sworn in as premier of Israel.
- On April 28, Charles de Gaulle resigns as president of France after voters reject his constitutional reforms.
On June 5, the Soviet Writers’ Union expels Russian novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

On July 1, Queen Elizabeth II makes her son Charles Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester.

On July 7, Canada’s House of Commons decrees French the second official language.

On July 14, El Salvadoran troops invade Honduras.

On July 20, U.S. astronauts make the first manned landing on the Moon.

On July 22, Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain names Prince Juan Carlos as his successor.

On July 31, Pope Paul VI is the first Pope to visit Africa.

On September 3, North Vietnamese president Ho Chi Minh dies at age seventy-nine. For half a century, he had kept alive Vietnamese dreams of independence.

On October 17, the Bolivian government nationalizes Bolivia Gulf Company, a subsidiary of the Gulf Oil Corporation.

On October 31, a U.S. marine hijacks a jet from California to Rome in the first transatlantic hijacking.