



# Chronology

*c. 2300 BC:*

Akkad invades and conquers the city-states of Sumer.

*c. 2100 BC:*

Ur-Nammu orders the construction of the Ziggurat of Ur.

*c. 2004 BC:*

Ur is overrun by the Elamites and Amorites, ending the Ur III Dynasty.

*c. 1780 BC:*

King Hammurabi of Babylon creates the Code of Hammurabi.

*c. 1503 BC:*

Queen Hatshepsut of Egypt declares herself Pharaoh.

*c. 1380 BC:*

The reign of Hittite King Suppiluliumas I begins.

*c. 1350 BC:*

King Pageng of the Shang Dynasty relocates his capital to the city of Yin, commencing the dynasty's prosperous Yin period.

*c. 1122 BC:*

Chou Hsin, the final king of China's Shang Dynasty, is deposed by Wu Wang, first king of the Chou Dynasty.

*c. 957 BC:*

The Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem is completed.

*c. 771 BC:*

The Chou Dynasty's western capital at Hao is destroyed, ending a period of prosperity and stability.

*c. 701 BC:*

The Assyrians lay siege to Jerusalem.

*680 BC:*

The Spartans defeat Persia at the battle of Thermopylae.

*670 BC:*

The Cushites are driven out of Egypt by the Assyrians.

*613 BC:*

Persian King Darius I unsuccessfully invades Scythia.

*612 BC:*

The Assyrians are defeated by an alliance between the Babylonians and the Medes.

*594 BC:*

Democracy is first introduced and codified in Athens.

*586 BC:*

Jerusalem falls to the armies of Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon.

*c. 550 BC:*

Thebes establishes the Boeotian league, a confederacy of Greek city-states.

Cyrus II leads a successful Persian revolt against the Mede Empire.

*522 BC:*

Darius I becomes king of Persia.

*510 BC:*

The Etruscans are expelled from Rome, marking the decline of their power in Italy.

*509 BC:*

Republican government is established in Rome.

- 494 BC: The Persians quell the Ionic Revolt orchestrated by an alliance of Greek city-states.
- 479 BC: The philosopher Confucius dies.
- 404 BC: Sparta defeats Athens in the Second Peloponnesian War.
- 371 BC: Thebes defeats Sparta at the battle of Leuctra, ending the Spartan hegemony.
- c. 343 BC: Ptolemy seizes power in Egypt.
- 323 BC: The Macedonian King Alexander the Great dies.
- c. 297 BC: Candragupta, under whose leadership Magadha conquered almost all of the Indian subcontinent, dies.
- 264 BC: The First Punic War between Carthage and Rome begins.
- 206 BC: The Han Dynasty is founded by Emperor Liu Pang in China.
- 185 BC: The Mauryan Dynasty in Magadha ends.
- 146 BC: Carthage falls before Rome's armies, ending the Third Punic War.
- 133 BC: A series of civil wars begin in Rome that last for more than one hundred years and ultimately lead to the end of the Republic.
- 53 BC: The Parthians defeat the Roman army at Carrhae.
- 27 BC: Augustus is named the first emperor of Rome.
- AD 220: The Han Dynasty officially ends, with its lands divided into three kingdoms.
- 325: Aksum defeats the Cushites at Meroë.
- 395: The Roman Empire is divided into Western and Eastern empires after the death of Emperor Theodosius I.
- 410: Visigoth forces, under Alaric I, capture Rome.
- 413: The reign of Jangsu, the king of Goguryeo, begins.
- 445: Attila becomes the undisputed ruler of the Huns.
- 531: Khosrow I becomes king of the Sassanid Empire.
- 550: The reign of the Gupta Empire comes to an end.
- 680: Death of the first Umayyad Caliph, Mu 'āwiyah.
- 727: The first Doge of Venice is selected.
- c. 750: The city-state of Teotihuacán collapses. Abū al-'Abbās as-Saffāḥ founds the 'Abbāsīd caliphate. The Umayyad caliphate ends with the death of Marwān II in Egypt.
- 800: Charlemagne is crowned Holy Roman Emperor.
- 802: Jayavarman II founds the Khmer Empire.
- 830: Mojmir conquers various Slovak lands and becomes king of Great Moravia.
- 863: Byzantine clerics Cyril and Methodius come to Great Moravia. They go on to create the Cyrillic alphabet.
- 909: Al-Mu'izz establishes the Shia Fāṭimid caliphate, based in Egypt.
- 965: The Khazars are conquered by the armies of Sviatoslav I of Kievan Rus'.
- 976: Basil II claims the throne of the Byzantine Empire.
- 1019: Yaroslav the Wise becomes grand prince of Kievan Rus'.
- 1038: The Fāṭimid Dynasty and Byzantine Empire reach a peace accord after decades of hostilities.
- 1054: The Great Schism divides Christianity into eastern and western churches, based in Constantinople and Rome, respectively.
- 1066: England is invaded by William the Conqueror of Normandy.
- 1076: Almoravids conquer Kumbi Saleh, initiating the final decline of the Empire of Ghana.
- 1099: Genoa becomes a self-governing commune.
- 1100: The Bantu tribe dominates the region that later becomes Gabon.
- 1138: The Treaty of Constance ensures the right of Milan and other Italian city-states to self-governance and broad autonomy within the Holy Roman Empire.
- 1190: Khmer Emperor Jayavarman VII conquers Champa (Vietnam).

- 1206: Genghis Khan founds the Mongol Empire.
- 1235: Mandinka chieftain Sundiata founds the Mali Empire.
- 1236: Alexander Nevsky becomes prince of Novgorod.
- 1238: The first Thai kingdom is established in Southeast Asia.
- 1246: Mikhail Vsevolodovich, the last grand prince of Kievan Rus', is captured and killed by Mongol invaders.
- 1277: Ottone Visconti becomes lord of Milan, establishing a dynasty that rules the city-state for more than a century.
- 1278: By agreement between Spain and France, the Bishop of La Seu d'Urgell and the Count of Foix are declared co-princes of Andorra.
- 1282: Danish King Eric V signs the Great Charter, Denmark's first constitution.
- 1297: The House of Grimaldi comes to power in Monaco.
- 1324: Mali Emperor Mansa Mūsā commences his pilgrimage to the Muslim holy city of Mecca.
- 1325: Aztecs found the city of Tenochtitlán in central Mexico.
- 1339: Simon Boccanegra is elected the first Doge of Genoa.
- 1348: The Black Plague sweeps through northern Italy.
- 1355: Montenegro emerges as an independent state.
- 1405: Timur, the last great Mongol ruler, dies, leaving the Mongol Empire to decline.
- 1418: The Portuguese Empire begins exploration of the islands off the west coast of Africa, beginning an era of expansion.
- 1420: Nyatsimba Mutota comes to power in Great Zimbabwe.
- 1434: Cosimo de' Medici becomes the first Medici ruler of Florence.
- 1452: Frederick III, the first Habsburg Holy Roman emperor, takes the throne.
- 1464: The Songhai Empire under Sonni 'Ali begins its expansion throughout western Africa.
- 1469: The marriage of Ferdinand I of Aragon and Isabela I of Castile unites Spain under one crown.
- 1471: Defeat by the princes of Moscow in the battle of Shelon marks the end of the Novgorod Republic's independence.
- 1482: Portuguese explorer Diogo Cão is the first European to visit the region that later becomes the Republic of the Congo.
- 1492: Spanish explorer Christopher Columbus lands on an island in what is now the Bahamas, in the first landfall of his voyage to the New World.
- 1520: Süleyman I becomes sultan of the Ottoman Empire, bringing the empire to the zenith of its power.
- 1521: The Spanish capture the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán, leading to the demise of the Aztec Empire.
- 1523: Sweden overthrows Danish rule to establish its own monarchy.
- 1526: Ṣahīr-ud-Dīn Muḥammad founds the Mughal Empire in India.
- 1532: Inca Emperor Atahualpa is kidnapped and killed by the conquistador Francisco Pizarro.
- 1565: The Philippine Islands are claimed as colonies of the Spanish Empire.
- 1572: The Venetian navy defeats the Ottomans at the Battle of Lepanto.
- 1581: Northern provinces of the Netherlands sign the Union of Utrecht, forming the Dutch Republic.
- 1598: Tokugawa Ieyasu becomes the first Tokugawa shogun, seizing control of feudal Japan.
- 1614: The British open the East India Trading Company in Mumbai, beginning an era of British control in India.
- 1630: Portugal establishes a colonial administration for the territory of Portuguese Guinea.
- 1642: Tibet is unified under the theocratic rule of the Dalai Lama.
- 1644: Qing armies take Beijing, marking the beginning of the end of the Ming Dynasty's dominance in China.
- 1665: The Act of Royalty overturns Denmark's Great Charter, making the country an absolute monarchy.
- 1680: The Ashanti Empire is established in Africa by Osei Tutu.
- 1701: Frederick I becomes the first king of Prussia.
- 1707: England and Scotland are united under the Act of Union, and a single parliament of Great Britain is formed.
- 1719: Liechtenstein is granted independence within the Holy Roman Empire.
- 1721: Czar Peter I founds the Russian Empire.

- 1744: Ahmad bin Said expels Persians from Oman.
- 1754: The French and Indian War begins, and the Iroquois Confederation allies itself with the British against the French.
- 1769: Prithvi Narayan Shah becomes the first king of Nepal.
- 1776: Thirteen British colonies in North America declare independence from the United Kingdom.
- 1788: The first British expedition, led by Captain Arthur Phillip, arrives in Australia.
- 1789: The government of the United States is established.  
French revolutionaries storm the Bastille, beginning the overthrow of the French monarchy and France's first republic.
- 1792: The British firm Sierra Leone Company settles freed slaves in Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- 1799: Napoléon Bonaparte overthrows the republican government of France, installing himself as an autocratic First Consul.
- 1804: In the culmination of the most successful slave rebellion in world history, Haiti gains its independence from France.
- 1809: Sweden becomes a constitutional monarchy.
- 1811: Uruguay and Paraguay secure their independence from Spain.
- 1812: The Chippewa Native American tribe allies itself with its longtime enemies, the British, against the United States in the War of 1812.
- 1814: The Treaty of Kiel transfers control of Norway from Denmark to Sweden.
- 1815: The Kingdom of the Netherlands is established in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars.
- 1816: Thousands are killed in a slave revolt on Barbados.
- 1818: Chile secures its independence from Spain.
- 1819: Gran Colombia, a state occupying the area of Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador, declares its independence from Spain under the leadership of Simón Bolívar.
- 1821: Peru is liberated from Spanish control by General José de San Martín.  
The Treaty of Córdoba grants Mexico independence from Spain.
- 1822: Dom Pedro I, son of the Portuguese king and regent of Brazil, declares the independence of the Empire of Brazil.
- 1823: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua join to form the United Provinces of Central America.
- 1825: Bolivia proclaims its independence from Spain as the Republic of Bolívar.  
Uruguay liberates itself from Brazil.
- 1827: The Cherokee Nation adopts a constitution modeled on the constitution of the United States.
- 1828: Shaka, founder of the Zulu Empire, is assassinated.
- 1830: The London Protocol of 1830 declares Greek independence.  
Belgium declares independence from the Netherlands.  
Venezuela and Ecuador separate from Gran Colombia to become independent nations.
- 1838: Costa Rica declares its independence from the United Provinces of Central America.
- 1840: British warships bombard the coast of China, seeking to protect the right of British traders to sell opium. The Qing government is ultimately forced to capitulate to British demands.  
New Zealand becomes a British possession, and the British colonists make peace with the Maori natives under the terms of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- 1841: El Salvador declares its independence after the collapse of the United Provinces of Central America.
- 1842: Hong Kong is ceded to the British by China at the end of the First Opium War.
- 1844: The Dominican Republic obtains its independence from Haiti.
- 1845: A potato blight strikes Europe, resulting in the Irish Famine. Over the next decade a mass exodus from Ireland ensues, spurring economic depression and political unrest for those who remain.  
Tongan King George Tupou I establishes the dynasty that will continue to rule Tonga into the twenty-first century.
- 1847: Liberia, Africa's oldest republic, declares independence from the United States.
- 1848: Mexico loses several northern territories to the United States in the aftermath of the Mexican American War.

- The Swiss Confederation enacts its first constitution.
- 1853: Argentina adopts a new constitution after the dissolution of the United Provinces of South America.
- A United States naval force under the command of Commodore Matthew Perry arrives in Japan to negotiate a treaty that would open Japan to foreign trade.
- 1856: American soldier of fortune William Walker becomes president of Nicaragua.
- 1857: The last Mughal emperor, Bahādur Shāh II, rebels against British control of India and is exiled to Rangoon.
- 1860: Civil war breaks out between the northern and southern United States. At the end of the four-year conflict, slavery is abolished in the country.
- 1861: The Italian peninsula is unified as the Kingdom of Italy.
- 1862: Otto von Bismarck is appointed Prussia's prime minister.
- During the national unification of Italy, San Marino's sovereignty is assured by treaty.
- 1864: Cambodia becomes a French protectorate.
- 1867: Emperor Meiji takes the throne of Japan, ending the Tokugawa shogunate.
- Luxembourg gains independence from the Netherlands.
- The Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary unite under Franz Josef I as the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- Canada achieves self-government as a dominion of the United Kingdom.
- 1870: The War of the Triple Alliance between Paraguay and the allied nations of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay ends.
- The Kingdom of Italy seizes Rome from the papacy, confining the pope to the Vatican and Lateran palaces.
- 1878: Conflicts over trade and coastal territorial rights lead to the War of the Pacific, in which Chile fights against the combined forces of Peru and Bolivia.
- 1888: Slavery is abolished in Brazil.
- 1893: Côte d'Ivoire becomes a French colony.
- 1894: The West African kingdom of Dahomey, now Benin, is subdued by the French, who establish a colony there.
- 1896: Ethiopia gains independence from Italy under the terms of the Treaty of Addis Ababa.
- 1898: In the aftermath of the Spanish American war, Spain cedes the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico to the United States.
- 1899: Russia begins a campaign of Russification in all the autonomous states within its empire to suppress nationalist movements in states such as Finland.
- Kuwaiti ruler Sheikh Mubarak al-Sabah signs a treaty with Britain to promote British interests in the region in return for British protection.
- 1901: The Commonwealth of Australia is founded.
- 1902: Prince 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abd ar-Raḥman captures Riyadh for the Saud family.
- 1903: Panama, under United States sponsorship, declares its independence from Colombia.
- 1904: José Batlle y Ordoñez becomes president of Uruguay on a platform of modernization.
- 1905: Norway declares independence from Sweden.
- The Maji Maji uprising against German rule in Tanzania becomes one of the first anticolonial rebellions in Africa.
- 1907: The British establish a monarchy in Bhutan.
- 1908: The Young Turk rebellion ends with the power of the Ottoman sultan being supplanted by the parliament.
- Bulgaria declares its independence from the Ottoman Empire.
- 1910: Japan annexes Korea and establishes a colonial government.
- Portugal abolishes its monarchy, becoming a republic.
- The French territories of Chad, the Central African Republic, the Congo, and Gabon are joined into a single administrative unit called French Equatorial Africa.
- 1911: Monaco becomes a constitutional democracy.
- 1912: Albania proclaims its independence after the First Balkan War.
- 1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, is assassinated in Bosnia, triggering World War I.
- 1915: The genocide of Armenians by Ottoman Turks begins.
- South Africa invades Namibia, wresting control from the German colonial government.

- Finland gains its independence from Russia.
- 1917: The short-lived Kazakh state of Alash Orda is established. It is annexed by the Soviet Union in 1920.
- 1918: The independent state of Lithuania is declared.  
The short-lived Azerbaijan Democratic Republic is established. It is annexed by the Soviet Union two years later.  
The Russian Empire ends with the execution of Czar Nicholas II by Bolshevik rebels.  
With the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I, Austria becomes an independent republic.
- 1919: Upper Volta, now Burkina Faso, becomes a French colony.
- 1921: The Anglo-Irish Treaty establishes the Irish Free State as part of the British Commonwealth.  
A short-lived constitutional monarchy is established in Mongolia, under the leadership of Bogdo Khan.
- 1922: Fascist leader Benito Mussolini takes power in Italy.  
Britain grants Egypt independence as a constitutional monarchy.  
At the conclusion of the Russian civil war, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, composed of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine, comes into existence.  
Niger becomes a French colony.
- 1923: After the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey proclaims itself a republic under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.
- 1924: After the death of Mongolian King Bogdo Khan, the Mongolian People's Republic is established, existing as a satellite of the Soviet Union and becoming the world's second Communist country after the Soviet Union.
- 1925: Reza Shah Pahlavi takes power in Iran with British support.
- 1929: Italy recognizes the sovereignty of the Holy See, creating the independent state of Vatican City.
- 1932: The Kingdom of Siam (Thailand) becomes a constitutional monarchy after a bloodless coup.  
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is officially founded.
- The Kingdom of Iraq becomes independent from Britain.
- Bahrain becomes the first Arab Gulf state to discover large supplies of oil and to prosper from its extraction and sale.
- 1933: Adolf Hitler is appointed chancellor of Germany.
- 1935: Juan Vicente Gómez, the longtime dictator of Venezuela, dies.
- 1936: The Italo-Ethiopian War results in Italian occupation of Ethiopia.
- 1938: Germany annexes Austria in the military invasion known as the Anschluss.
- 1939: The Spanish Civil War ends in victory for the Nationalists; a right-wing dictatorship under General Francisco Franco is established.  
Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia are invaded and annexed by the Soviet Union.
- 1941: Japan attacks the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, bringing the United States into World War II.  
Peru invades Ecuador over a territorial dispute.  
Nazi Germany begins the mass extermination in concentration camps of Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, and political undesirables.
- 1943: Lebanon declares independence from France.
- 1944: Germany surrenders to Allied forces, ending World War II in Europe.  
During occupation by the Allies during World War II, Iceland declares its independence from Denmark.
- 1945: The United Nations is established after a majority of its members ratify the Charter of the United Nations.
- 1946: The Republic of the Philippines obtains its independence from the United States.  
Bulgaria abolishes its monarchy and becomes a republic.  
The Kingdom of Jordan achieves independence from England.  
The Roman Catholic priest Barthélemy Boganda becomes the first African elected to the French National Assembly.
- 1947: French forces put down a nationalist uprising in Madagascar; approximately eleven thousand people are killed in the battle.  
New Zealand obtains independence from Britain.

As part of the agreement to end British rule, India is partitioned into two independent states, Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India.

1948: Myanmar is granted independence from England.

Mohandas Gandhi, father of Indian independence, is murdered.

A United Nations mandate creates Israel in former Palestinian territory.

The former Japanese colony of Korea is divided into two separate states, the northern Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the southern Republic of Korea.

Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg enter the Benelux Customs Union, allowing free trade and reciprocal rights among the three countries.

The Nationalist Party takes power in South Africa and immediately pursues a policy of legal measures—called apartheid—to suppress South Africa's black population.

1949: Indonesia's war of independence against the Dutch ends with Indonesia's independence.

India and Bhutan conclude an agreement whereby India protects Bhutan and represents Bhutan internationally.

Leaders of the Kuomintang faction, after losing a civil war with Communists in China, flee the mainland for the island of Taiwan, establishing the Republic of China there, while the Communists establish the People's Republic of China on the mainland.

Germany is divided into the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), which is dominated by the Soviet Union, and the democratic Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany).

1951: The European Coal and Steel Community, an international group unifying the European markets for making resources essential to war, is formed under the terms of the Treaty of Paris.

1953: Armistice is achieved in the Korean War.

After a military coup, Egypt's king is exiled and an Egyptian republic is established.

1954: Algerian nationalists launch a revolution against French rule under the name National Liberation Front .

A United States-supported coup in Guatemala installs Colonel Castillo Armas as the new president.

1956: Sudan obtains its independence from England and Egypt.

Morocco reaches accords with both France and Spain to obtain its independence.

Tunisia gains independence from France.

French Cameroon declares itself the independent Republic of Cameroon.

Thousands are killed in a Hungarian uprising against the country's Communist dictatorship.

1957: Dictator François "Papa Doc" Duvalier takes control of Haiti.

Ghana gains independence from Britain.

1958: Guinea obtains independence from France.

The Batista administration abdicates power in Cuba, leaving revolutionaries under the command of Fidel Castro in control.

Mao Tse-tung, leader of the People's Republic of China, initiates a modernization program known as the Great Leap Forward.

1959: Tibetan rebellion against the Chinese military fails, and the Dalai Lama goes into exile in India.

Twelve countries sign the Antarctic Treaty, which calls for peaceful, nonmilitary use of Antarctica and cooperation in research between signatories.

1960: Togo becomes a sovereign nation.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo gains full independence from Belgium.

The former Sudanese Republic declares itself the independent Republic of Mali, dissolving the short-lived Federation of Mali in which it was united with Senegal.

Nigeria gains its independence from Britain.

Madagascar, Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Senegal, and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania gain their independence from France.

1961: Dominican dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo is assassinated.

A plebiscite splits British Cameroon into two parts: The northern region joins Nigeria

- and the southern region becomes part of the Republic of Cameroon.
- Sierra Leone gains its independence from Britain.
- 1962: The United States and Soviet Union come to the brink of war over the issue of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba.
- Samoa becomes the first of the Pacific microstates to achieve independence.
- Algeria attains independence from France.
- Jamaica attains independence from Britain, as does Trinidad and Tobago.
- The Sultan of Brunei, whose dynastic line has ruled the country since the fifteenth century, declares a state of emergency that allows him to suspend most provisions of the constitution. The state of emergency is still in effect in 2007.
- 1963: Kenya attains its independence from Britain.
- 1964: Malta gains its independence from Britain.
- Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia gain their independence from Britain, with Nyasaland becoming the nation of Malawi and Northern Rhodesia becoming the nation of Zambia.
- The Arab League unites various Palestinian groups into the Palestine Liberation Organization.
- The Romanian Communist Party, under the leadership of Nicolae Ceausescu, declares itself independent from the Soviet Communist Party.
- 1965: Singapore withdraws from the Federation of Malaysia to become an independent state.
- Maldives and The Gambia gain their independence from Britain.
- White settlers in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) declare independence from Britain without regard to the black majority, setting off a protracted guerilla war.
- 1966: Guyana, Botswana, Lesotho, and Barbados gain their independence from Britain.
- In China Mao Tse-tung initiates the Cultural Revolution as a means of purging dissent through violence and forcible reeducation.
- Nauru becomes an independent nation.
- 1967: Israel defeats Egypt, Jordan, and Syria in the Six Days' War.
- Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- 1968: Swaziland gains independence from Britain.
- The forty-year reign of Portuguese ruler António de Oliveira Salazar comes to an end.
- Equatorial Guinea gains its independence from Spain.
- A military junta led by General Juan Velasco Alvarado takes control of Peru.
- The Communist Khmer Rouge launches an insurgency against the Cambodian government from bases in Vietnam.
- Mauritius gains independence from Britain.
- Czechoslovakia enjoys a period of political liberalization under Communist rule in a period called the Prague Spring.
- 1969: The so-called "Soccer War" breaks out between Honduras and El Salvador. Although the fighting only lasts four days, there are thousands of casualties.
- 1970: Jordan initiates military action against Palestinian guerillas using Jordan as a base to attack Israel.
- Qabus bin Said deposes his father to become Sultan of Oman.
- 1971: Idi Amin stages a successful coup in Uganda, initiating a brutal dictatorship that persists until 1979.
- Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates gain their independence from Britain.
- Bangladesh declares its independence from Pakistan.
- 1973: A military junta led by Augusto Pinochet deposes Chilean president Salvador Allende.
- The Bahamas gain independence from Britain.
- 1974: The Greek monarchy is abolished.
- Cyprus is divided into Greek and Turkish zones after an invasion by the Turkish military.
- Guinea-Bissau gains its independence from Portugal.
- Residents of the Ellice Islands elect to break away from the Gilbert Islands to form a separate colony, Tuvalu.
- 1975: São Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde, and Portuguese East Africa gain their independence

from Portugal; the latter becomes the nation of Mozambique.

The Union of Comoros declares its independence from France.

Formerly under Australian control as a United Nations trust, Papua New Guinea gains its independence.

Indonesia invades East Timor ten days after the Timorese declare independence.

Angola gains its independence from Portugal, initiating a civil war that lasts for nearly thirty years and results in an estimated one million killed.

Suriname attains full independence from the Netherlands.

The Pathet Lao movement in Laos establishes the Communist Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Vietnam War ends in victory for North Vietnam; United States troops withdraw.

1976: The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is established in Western Sahara, but not recognized by Morocco, which claims sovereignty over the territory.

Seychelles gains its independence from Britain.

North Vietnam conquers South Vietnam, and the two are unified under a single government as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

1977: Djibouti gains its independence from France.

Civil war begins in Mozambique. By the time a peace accord is signed in 1992, more than one hundred thousand have been killed and one million wounded.

1978: Dominica, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu gain complete independence from Britain.

1979: Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Kiribati achieve full independence from Britain.

Under pressure from the Sandinistas, Anastasio Somoza Debayle flees Nicaragua, ending forty-three years of Somoza family rule.

The Iranian Pahlavi dynasty is overthrown by the Islamic Revolution, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who returns from exile to lead Iran.

1980: Dominica prime minister Dame Mary Eugenia Charles becomes the first female head of government in the Caribbean.

The international community recognizes the independent state of Zimbabwe under majority black leadership.

The independent republic of Vanuatu is established.

Protests by shipyard workers in Gdańsk, Poland, lead to the formation of Solidarity, a nationwide trade union, which begins to extract concessions from the Communist government.

1981: Belize and Antigua and Barbuda gain full independence from Britain.

1982: After nearly thirty years of military rule, free elections are held in Honduras.

Argentina's failed invasion of the Falkland Islands leads to the downfall of its military government.

Canada achieves true independence from the United Kingdom, with a new constitution called the 1982 Canada Act.

1983: Civil war begins in Sri Lanka between government forces and the Tamil Tigers rebel group.

The United States invades Grenada to restore order and rid the country of Cuban troops after a Marxist coup.

Saint Kitts and Nevis gains full independence from Britain.

1984: Brunei gains full independence from Britain, after assurances from Malaysia and Indonesia that they will respect Brunei's sovereignty.

1985: Communist Albanian premier Enver Hoxha dies, after more than forty years in office.

1986: Both the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands enter Compacts of Free Association with the United States. The treaties grant independence to the two countries and pledge military defense and financial assistance from the United States. In 2003 both compacts are renegotiated for an additional twenty years.

The worst nuclear accident in history, at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, intensifies the Ukrainian movement for independence from the Soviet Union.

1987: Forty years of martial law ends in Taiwan.

- Zine El Abidine Ben Ali deposes Habib Bourguiba, who spent more than thirty years in office as president of Tunisia.
- 1988:** Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announces the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and an end to the Soviet Union's policy of intervention in the internal affairs of Eastern Bloc countries.
- Myanmar's military takes over the government.
- 1989:** Hungary's ruling Communist Party announces that it is abandoning Communism for democracy.
- Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu is executed, ending his twenty-four-year reign.
- Communist rule collapses peacefully in Czechoslovakia in the Velvet Revolution.
- Lebanon's fourteen-year civil war ends with the Taif Accord.
- Free elections are held in Poland for the first time since the start of Communist rule in 1945.
- 1990:** Namibia gains independence from South Africa.
- The Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen are united under a single government as the Republic of Yemen.
- East Germany and West Germany are reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.
- Liberian dictator Samuel K. Doe is assassinated, sparking a decade-long civil war.
- 1991:** Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia declare their independence from Yugoslavia.
- The leaders of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine sign the Belavezha Accords, resulting in the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Soviet republics Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan declare independence.
- An assemblage of clan-based militias, disaffected soldiers, and ordinary citizens drive the Somali dictator Mohammed Siad Barre into exile. Chaos and civil war follow.
- Iraq invades Kuwait and is repelled the following year by international forces led by the United States.
- Somaliland declares its independence from Somalia but is not granted international recognition.
- 1992:** Rakhman Nabiyev is kidnapped and forced to resign after allegations of electoral fraud in Tajikistan's first presidential elections.
- El Salvador's twelve-year civil war comes to an end.
- A civil war in Transnistria, a Moldovan territory, ends in a stalemate after the area is occupied by Russian troops.
- The newly independent state of Bosnia is torn apart by civil war.
- Serbia and Montenegro declare their independence as a joint state under the name Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
- 1993:** Czechoslovakia dissolves into separate Czech and Slovak republics.
- After a thirty-year rebellion, Eritrea becomes a sovereign nation.
- The Maastricht Treaty, which formally establishes the European Union, goes into effect.
- Andorra approves a constitution, becoming a parliamentary democracy.
- 1994:** Palau becomes an independent state after more than a century of foreign rule and administration.
- After decades of international protest, the apartheid system is abandoned in South Africa, and free elections are held with universal suffrage.
- North Korea's premier, Kim Il Sung, dies, ending a forty-six-year reign. His son, Kim Jong Il, becomes North Korea's new leader.
- The death of Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana in a plane crash provokes one of the century's worst episodes of ethnic violence as Hutu extremists murder more than eight hundred thousand Tutsis and moderate Hutus.
- The Palestinian Authority is created in 1994 with the approval of Israel.
- United States President Bill Clinton helps negotiate the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia.
- 1995:** The Dayton Peace Accords end wars between Serbia and Croatia and civil war in Bosnia.
- Austria, Finland, and Sweden join the European Union.

- 1996: Civil war breaks out in Nepal between Maoist rebels and the monarchist government.  
Guatemala's thirty-six-year civil war ends.
- 1997: The treaty allowing a century of British rule in Hong Kong expires; the territory is returned to Chinese rule and named the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
- 1998: General Suharto, Indonesia's autocratic ruler since 1965, resigns amid public demonstrations against his regime.
- 1999: War breaks out between India and Pakistan over the disputed Kashmir region. In the aftermath of the conflict, the military assumes command of Pakistan's government.  
Control of the Panama Canal, held by the United States since its opening in 1914, reverts to Panama.  
The Serbian war against the Kosovo independence movement ends after intervention by NATO forces.
- 2002: East Timor is recognized as an independent state.
- 2003: Iraq is invaded by the United States, ending the reign of dictator Saddam Hussein.  
Arab militias initiate genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.  
Mass demonstrations in the Republic of Georgia bring down the authoritarian government of Eduard Shevardnadze in the peaceful Rose Revolution.
- 2004: More than four hundred people are killed when Chechen rebels take hostages at a school in Beslan, heightening hostilities in the decade-old Chechen rebellion against Russian rule.  
Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia join the European Union.
- 2005: Mass demonstrations in Kyrgyzstan bring down the authoritarian government of Askar Akayev.
- 2006: Montenegro declares independence from Serbia.  
Sapamurad Niyazov, Turkmenistan's dictator since 1985, dies, ending a notorious period of dictatorial rule and cult of personality; his deputy prime minister and personal dentist, Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov, is named to succeed him.  
Fijian military commander Frank Bainimarama ousts the country's democratically elected government in a military coup.  
A cease-fire agreement is signed in the Burundi civil war.
- 2007: Bulgaria and Romania join the European Union.