1835 Samuel Morse invents the telegraph.

1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone.

1880 *Scientific American* magazine runs an article about the possibility of distance vision (television).

1884 German scientist Paul Nipkow invents the optical scanning disk used in mechanical television systems.

1887 Heinrich Rudolph Hertz discovers radio waves.

1895 Guglielmo Marconi develops a wireless or radio telegraph.

1897 German scientist Karl Ferdinand Braun develops the first cathode ray tube.

1900 Russian scientist Constantin Perskyi coins the term “television” at the Paris World’s Fair.

1900 David Sarnoff immigrates to the United States from Russia.

1901 Guglielmo Marconi sends and receives radio signals across the Atlantic Ocean.

1907 Russian physicist Boris Rosing designs an electronic television receiver with a cathode ray tube.

1911 Boris Rosing and his assistant, Vladimir Zworykin, achieve the first successful transmission of crude television images, using a mechanical transmitter and an electronic receiver.

1912 The Radio Act of 1912 allows the U.S. government to issue licenses to people who wish to broadcast signals over radio waves.
1912  David Sarnoff, working as a telegraph operator, claims to have received distress signals from the sinking luxury oceanliner Titanic.

1919  The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) is formed.

1921  American inventor Philo T. Farnsworth, age 14, has a vision of an all-electronic television system.

1921  Commercial radio broadcasting begins in the United States.

1922  Philo T. Farnsworth explains his television system to his high school science teacher.

1923  Vladimir Zworykin applies for a patent on an all-electronic television system.

1925  Vladimir Zworykin demonstrates a TV system for his bosses at Westinghouse, but they decide against funding further TV research.

1926  Philo T. Farnsworth gathers investors and opens a television research laboratory in San Francisco, California.

1926  The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) is formed as a radio network.

1926  American Charles Francis Jenkins and Scotsman John Logie Baird independently invent working mechanical television systems.

1927  Philo T. Farnsworth builds his all-electronic TV system and successfully transmits an image.

1927  The Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) is founded as a radio network.

1927  Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover appears in the first long-distance transmission of television signals, between Washington, D.C., and New York City.

1927  The Radio Act of 1927 first mentions broadcasters’ duty to serve the public interest.

1928  The U.S. government issues the first permits for experimental TV stations.