### Timeline of key international relations events

#### 1945

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>USSR requests American loan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Yalta conference of Big Three leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ceasefire in Greek Civil War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>British Foreign Office discusses value of a tougher stance against the Soviets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Some Anglo-American concern over Soviet installation of puppet Romanian government (27 Feb.) and failure to broaden Lublin governments in Poland in breach of Yalta agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soviets denounce Turkish treaty and refuse to sign another one unless Turkey returns provinces of Kars and Ardahan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>President Roosevelt dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Truman confronts Molotov over Soviet failure to stick to all the Yalta agreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>German surrender ends the war in Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May–June</td>
<td>Hopkins mission to Moscow succeeds in securing agreement on Poland with Stalin broadening the Polish government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Soviets inform Turkey of their desire for bases in the Straits of the Dardanelles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Department report on international communism concludes it poses a serious challenge to the US.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UN Charter agreed at San Francisco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soviet request for say in the international administration of Tangier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Byrnes becomes US Secretary of State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George Kennan reports that the end of the Comintern has not weakened Moscow’s control over international communism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Potsdam conference of Big Three leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>British Foreign Office debating value of concentrating on protecting vital interests in the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Germany at the expense of endeavouring to retain a say in areas such as Poland and Romania where no interests were at stake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 August</td>
<td>Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 August</td>
<td>USSR declares war on Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 August</td>
<td>Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>Japanese cease fighting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>54 per cent of US public opinion trusts Soviets to cooperate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Communists are defeated in Hungarian elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marshall leaves for China to mediate between communists and Nationalists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44 per cent of US public opinion trusts Soviets to cooperate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Ethridge report on Soviet policy in Romania and Bulgaria concludes that to concede Soviet sphere of influence in Eastern Europe would be to invite its extension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–26 December</td>
<td>Moscow Council of Foreign Ministers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1946

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>UN meeting where Iran complains about alleged Soviet interference in its internal affairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Truman tells Byrnes he is tired of babying the Soviets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secret Yalta agreement on Soviet acquisition of South Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands made public in the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>US warship sent to Istanbul to signal support for Turkey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>Stalin speech calling for new 5-year plan to prepare for the inevitable conflict between communism and capitalism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>35 per cent of US public opinion trusts the Soviets to cooperate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reports on Soviet spy ring providing information on US atomic bomb.

22 February
Kennan’s Long Telegram from Moscow.

March
Soviets fail to withdraw troops from Iran in accordance with agreement.

5 March
Churchill’s Fulton speech describing an Iron Curtain across Europe from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic.

March
US send a note complaining of the Soviet troops present in Iran which violated the Soviet–Iranian treaty.

70 per cent of Americans disapprove of Soviet actions.

April
Soviets agree to withdraw troops from Iran in May.

April–May
Fighting begins again in Manchuria between Chinese Nationalists and communists.

April–May
First Paris Council of Foreign Ministers takes place.

June–July
Second Paris Council of Foreign Ministers.

July–October
Paris Peace Conference (all Allied nations attend).

November–December
New York Council of Foreign Ministers takes place.

December
The Bi-Zone agreement fuses US and British occupation zones in Germany.

1947

January
Polish elections are rigged.

12 March
Truman makes his Doctrine speech.

March–April
Moscow Council of Foreign Ministers on Germany.

June
The Marshall Plan is launched.

July
Kennan’s Mr X article in Foreign Affairs.

August
Elections in Hungary are rigged.

September
Rio Treaty of Latin American states signed.

November
UN partition plan for Palestine.

1948

February
Communist coup in Czechoslovakia.

March
Brussels Treaty signed.

March
British leave Palestine and Israel established.

June
The Berlin blockade begins as the Soviets block the surface access to West Berlin.

Yugoslavia is expelled from Cominform.

1949

April
The North Atlantic Treaty is signed.

May
Berlin blockade is ended.

August
Soviets explode their first atomic bomb.

September
The Chinese People’s Republic is proclaimed by Mao Tse-tung.

1950

January
Acheson speech withdraws Korea from US defensive perimeter.

February
Stalin decides to authorize N. Korean plan to attack S. Korea.

February
The Sino–Soviet Alliance is signed.

April
The National Security Council memorandum number 68 (NSC 68) proposes a large arms build up.

May
Schuman Plan launched for a European Coal and Steel Community.

June
North Korean forces invade South Korea.

October
Pleven plan for a European army launched.

November
The Chinese intervene by using force in Korea.
1951

June Establishment of Psychological Strategy Board.
July Ceasefire talks concerning Korea begin.
September US Japanese defence treaty is signed.
November An agreement on the ceasefire line is reached in Armistice Talks in Korea.

1952

May The occupation of West Germany is ended.
November US explodes first hydrogen bomb.

1953

January Eisenhower becomes President of the US.
March Death of Stalin.
April Eisenhower’s Chance for Peace Speech.
May Malenkov’s peace offensive.
June Riots in East Germany.
July An Armistice agreement ends the Korean war.
August Soviets explode their first hydrogen bomb.
October ‘New Look’ doctrine laid down in the NSC.
December Eisenhower makes his ‘Atoms for Peace’ speech.

1954

January–February Berlin Foreign Ministers’ Conference on Germany.
January Dulles makes Massive Retaliation Speech.
April Eisenhower talks of the ‘falling dominoes’ in South-East Asia.
April–July Geneva Conference on Korea and Indo-China takes place.
May The French are defeated in Vietnam at Dien bien phu.
June The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) backed coup takes place in Guatemala.
July Geneva Accords on Vietnam.
August French refusal to ratify EDC treaty.
September The South-East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) is created.
Chinese Offshore islands crisis begins as Chinese communists begin shelling Jinmen.

1955

January Malenkov’s speech on the necessity of peaceful coexistence.
February Formosa Doctrine announced authorising US troops to defend Formosa.
April Khrushchev assumes sole effective leadership of USSR.
April The Baghdad Pact is created.
Bandung conference of developing nations takes place.
First Chinese Offshore Islands Crisis ends.
May Austrian peace treaty signed.
West Germany joins NATO.
Creation of the Warsaw pact.
June Jawarahal Nehru visits the USSR.
July Geneva Summit takes place (US, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union attend).
Eisenhower’s Open Skies speech.
September Chancellor Adenauer goes to Moscow.
October–November Geneva Foreign Ministers’ Conference takes place.
1956

February  
Khrushchev denounces Stalin at 20th Party Congress.

April  
The Cominform is dissolved.

October  
Polish crisis resolved peacefully.

October–November  
Suez Crisis.

Soviets suppress the Hungarian anti-Communist revolt.

November  
Eisenhower is re-elected.

1957

January  
Eisenhower doctrine for the Middle East is created.

March  
Agreement to establish the European Economic Community.

May  
Gaither Committee formed.

August  
US and Canada begin a Distant Early Warning (DEW) system against nuclear attack.

October  
First sputnik is launched by the Soviets.

Rapacki Plan.

November  
Mao’s visit to Moscow forms watershed in ending Sino-Soviet cooperation.

1958

January  
First US intercontinental missile launched.

May  
Vice-President Nixon encounters strong anti-American feeling during a trip to Latin America.

July  
Iraq coup overthrows monarchy.

August  
Second Chinese offshore islands crisis begins with shelling of Jinmen.

November  
Khrushchev delivers an ultimatum over Berlin. and calls for it to become a free city.

1959

January  
Castro takes power in Cuba.

July  
Nixon visits the USSR and takes part in the ‘Kitchen Debate’.

September  
Khrushchev visits the US.

1960

February  
The French perform their first atomic bomb test.

Soviet-Cuban trade agreement.

May  
An American U2 spy plane is shot down over Soviet territory.

May  
Khrushchev storms out of the Paris summit.

November  
John F. Kennedy is elected to be the President of the US.

December  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is founded.

1961

January  
Eisenhower’s farewell speech condemns military industrial complex.

Kennedy is inaugurated as President.

March  
Alliance for Progress announced.

April  
The Bay of Pigs invasion takes place.

Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space.

Hundreds of US military advisers in Laos.

May  
Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space.

June  
The Vienna Summit, involving Khrushchev and Kennedy, takes place.

August  
Berlin Wall is constructed.

October  
1962

January  Cuba is excluded from the Organisation of American States (OAS).
June  Laos becomes neutral.
October  Cuban Missile Crisis.
December  Kennedy–Macmillan Nassau meeting takes place.

1963

20 January  Indonesia begins opposition campaign to creation of ‘Malaysia’.
5 August  Test Ban Treaty signed in Moscow.
16 September  Formal launch of Malaysia leads Sukarno of Indonesia to intensify ‘confrontation’ with it.
1 November  Overthrow of President Diem of South Vietnam following months of instability.
22 November  President Kennedy assassinated in Texas.

1964

February–March  Fighting between Greek–Cypriot and Turkish–Cypriot communities, leads to deployment of UN peacekeeping force.
2–4 August  Gulf of Tonkin incident: supposed attacks on US ships by North Vietnam.
14 October  Khruschev replaced by Brezhnev and Kosygin.
16 October  First Chinese atom bomb exploded.
3 November  Johnson wins US election.

1965

8 March  Marines are first US ground troops deployed in Vietnam War.
25 April  Attempt to overthrow Cabral government in Dominican Republic.
28–29 April  Johnson sends Marines to forestall leftist drift in Dominican Republic.
August  Indo–Pakistani tension mounts in disputed Kashmir.
22 September  Cease-fire in Indo–Pakistani War.
30 September  Coup in Indonesia followed by army crackdown on Communist party.

1966

January  Violent overthrow of Abubakar’s government in Nigeria.
10 March  De Gaulle quits NATO military structure.
March  General Suharto effectively becomes Indonesian leader.
20 June–1 July  De Gaulle visits USSR.
July  Warsaw Pact calls for Pan-European security system.
August  Indonesia ends ‘Confrontation’ with Malaysia.
September  Violence in Northern Nigeria, directed against Ibos from the Eastern Region.

1967

7 April  Israelis shoot down several Syrian aircraft in latest border tension.
5–10 June  Six day Arab–Israeli war.
23–25 June  Glassboro’ meeting of Johnson and Kosygin.
5 July  Civil war begins between Nigerian government and secessionist ‘Biafra’.
22 November  UN resolution 242, on Middle East, passed.
14 December  NATO adopts Harmel Report, opening way for talks with Warsaw Pact.

1968
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 January</td>
<td>North Korea seizes USS Pueblo: not released until December.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>Start of 'Tet' offensive in Vietnam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Czechoslovakian Communist Party, under Dubček, begins to liberalize.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 July</td>
<td>Non-Proliferation Treaty signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late August</td>
<td>USSR leads invasion of Czechoslovakia to end liberalization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 November</td>
<td>Nixon wins US Presidency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1969</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Major Soviet–Chinese border clash on Damyansky island.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 July</td>
<td>Nixon’s ‘Guam Doctrine’ on Vietnam: will hand fighting over to South Vietnamese.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>SALT talks open between US and USSR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1970</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Nigerian forces overrun what remains of ‘Biafra’; major international aid programme to relieve famine there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia overthrown by Lon Nol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April–June</td>
<td>US and South Vietnamese launch incursion into Cambodia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 August</td>
<td>Cease-fire agreed in Arab–Israeli 'war of attrition', which followed the 1967 war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 August</td>
<td>Soviet–West German Treaty signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Civi war in Jordan between royal government and Palestinians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1971</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February/March</td>
<td>South Vietnamese incursion into Laos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 July</td>
<td>Forthcoming visit of Nixon to China announced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>US introduces trade restrictions and ends convertibility of dollars into gold.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 September</td>
<td>Four-power agreement on Berlin signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>Brandt of West Germany wins Nobel Peace Prize for Ostpolitik.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 October</td>
<td>UN votes for Communist Chinese membership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Rising Indo–Pakistan tension over East Pakistan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 December</td>
<td>NATO agrees to Warsaw Pact proposal for a European Security Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 December</td>
<td>Cease-fire in Indo–Pakistan War over ‘Bangladeshi’ independence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1972</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21–28 February</td>
<td>Nixon’s visit to China includes meetings with Mao Zedong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15–16 April</td>
<td>Breakthrough on SALT in ‘tundra talks’ between US and Soviets in Finland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17–19 May</td>
<td>West German Bundestag ratifies ‘Ostpolitik’ treaties with USSR and Poland (signed in 1970).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22–26 May</td>
<td>Nixon–Brezhnev summit in Moscow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 July</td>
<td>President Sadat of Egypt expels thousands of Soviet advisers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>US–North Vietnamese peace talks reopen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 October</td>
<td>US–Soviet trade deal finalized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>Nixon defeats George McGovern in landslide election win.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–30 December</td>
<td>‘Christmas bombing’ campaign by US against North Vietnam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 December</td>
<td>‘Basic Treaty’ on bilateral relations between East and West Germany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1973</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 January Britain, Ireland and Denmark join the EEC, in its first enlargement.
27 January In Paris a Vietnam peace settlement is signed.
22 February US and China agree to open 'liaison offices' in the other's capital.
23 April Kissinger, speaking in New York, proposes a 'New Atlantic Charter'.
30 April Watergate crisis begins to intensity, with resignations of key White House staff.
3 July Thirty-five countries begin talks on European security in Helsinki.
15 August US ends all military involvement in Cambodia.
12 September President Allende of Chile toppled in a military coup.
6–29 October Middle East War.
18 October Arab oil producers raise prices and introduce oil embargo against US.
30 October ‘Mutual Balanced Force Reduction’ talks open in Vienna between NATO and Warsaw Pact.
11 December West German–Czechoslovakian Treaty signed.

1974

1 January New price rises, introduced by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, take effect.
25 April Portuguese dictatorship overthrown by the military, leading to Leftist-dominated governments.
18 May India explodes its first atomic bomb.
27 June–3 July Nixon–Brezhnev summit in USSR.
16 July Coup against President Makarios of Cyprus.
20 July–16 August Turkish military intervention in Cyprus.
8 August Nixon resigns over Watergate scandal.
12 September Emperor Haile Selassie overthrown by Marxist army officers.
23–24 November Ford–Brezhnev summit in Vladivostok.

1975

Late March Major communist advances in South Vietnam.
16 April Fall of Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, to Khmer Rouge
25 April Communists fare badly in Portuguese elections.
30 April Fall of Saigon to communists.
12 May Cambodians seize US ship, the Mayaguez.
15 May US attacks on Cambodia; crew of Mayaguez released.
10 June Rockefeller Commission (sitting since January) reports that the CIA had spied on US citizens.
30 July–1 August Helsinki summit of US, Canada and European states; signs Helsinki Accords.
23 August Vientiane, capital of Laos, falls to communist Pathet Lao.
11 November Angolan independence from Portugal; rival governments established by three independence movements.
1–5 December Ford–Mao summit in Beijing.

1976

11 February Organization of African Unity accepts pro-Soviet MPLA as government of Angola.
15 March Egypt ends its 1971 treaty with USSR.
13 April Kissinger opposes a communist role in Italian government
21 June Christian Democrats only narrowly ahead of communists in Italian elections.
9 September Death of Mao Zedong.

1977
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>Carter letter to dissident scientist, Andrei Sakharov, backs human rights in USSR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>USSR rejects Carter’s hopes of a major change of direction in SALT II talks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>Carter cancels B-1 bomber.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 July</td>
<td>Ali Bhutto, President of Pakistan, overthrown by military under General Zia ul-Haq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Fighting breaks out between Ethiopia and Somalia over disputed Ogaden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 September</td>
<td>Treaties signed to transfer Panama Canal from US to Panamanian sovereignty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 October</td>
<td>‘Follow up’ conference to Helsinki, on European security, opens in Belgrade (closes 9 March 1979).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 October</td>
<td>Vaclav Havel and other ‘Charte 77’ members are sentenced to imprisonment in Prague.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 November</td>
<td>Somalia ends its 1974 friendship treaty with USSR; Soviets and Cubans are supporting Ethiopia in Ogaden War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–21 November</td>
<td>President Sadat of Egypt visits Israel and addresses its parliament.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>Cambodia breaks diplomatic relations with Vietnam due to border clashes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1978**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late March</td>
<td>Somali forces withdraw from Ogaden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>West Germany’s Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, agrees to deployment of controversial neutron bomb in Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>Carter suspends production of neutron bomb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>President Daud of Afghanistan overthrown by communists led by Mohammed Taraki.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>Soviet dissident Yuri Orlov imprisoned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>Carter warns Soviets they must choose between confrontation and détente.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 August</td>
<td>Sino–Japanese friendship treaty signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–17 September</td>
<td>Camp David Summit on Middle East peace, between Carter, Sadat and Begin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 November</td>
<td>Vietnam and USSR sign a Friendship Treaty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 November</td>
<td>Martial law declared in Iran after mounting unrest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 December</td>
<td>Soviet–Afghan friendship treaty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 December</td>
<td>Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1979**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 January</td>
<td>Normalization of Sino–American relations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 January</td>
<td>Vietnam replaces Pol Pot’s Cambodian government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 January</td>
<td>Shah of Iran goes into exile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 January–5 February</td>
<td>China’s Deng Xiaoping visits USA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>Egyptian–Israeli peace treaty signed in Washington.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 April</td>
<td>New round of oil price increases led by Iran.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>Greece becomes tenth member of EEC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>Carter decides to build ‘MX’ missile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15–18 June</td>
<td>Vienna Summit of Carter and Brezhnev; SALT II treaty signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 July</td>
<td>President Somoza of Nicaragua overthrown by Sandinistas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August</td>
<td>US complains over Soviet troop presence in Cuba.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 September</td>
<td>Soviets say their troops have been in Cuba since 1962.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 September</td>
<td>President Taraki of Afghanistan overthrown by Hafizullah Amin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 December</td>
<td>NATO agrees to deploy intermediate range Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 December</td>
<td>Soviet troops invade Afghanistan; replace President Amin with Babrak Karmal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1980**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>Carter suspends ratification of SALT II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 January</td>
<td>‘Carter Doctrine’ speech on defence of Persian Gulf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 January</td>
<td>Meeting of Islamic states condemns Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>Robert Mugabe wins first free elections in Zimbabwe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Failed US attempt to rescue the Tehran hostages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>Death of President Tito of Yugoslavia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>In Poland, Gdansk ship workers demand right to form a free trades union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>Polish communist leader Edward Gierek resigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 September</td>
<td>Launch of ‘Solidarity’ union by Gdansk ship workers; legalized on 10 November.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 September</td>
<td>Iraqis launch invasion of Iran.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1981

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 January</td>
<td>Martial law declared in El Salvador.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 January</td>
<td>Iran releases US Embassy hostages, held since November 1978.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>General Jaruzelski becomes Prime Minister of Poland (and, on 18 October, Communist Party leader).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>President Reagan ends anti-Soviet grain embargo, introduced by his predecessor after invasion of Afghanistan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>First American arms deal with Communist China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 September</td>
<td>US and USSR agree to open talks on intermediate nuclear forces (INF).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 October</td>
<td>President Sadat of Egypt assassinated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 November</td>
<td>Reagan proposes the ‘zero option’, the complete destruction of INF weapons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Jaruzelski declares martial law in Poland.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1982

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 April–14 June</td>
<td>The Falklands War: Argentinian forces invade the islands, which are reconquered by the British.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 May</td>
<td>Reagan’s Eureka College speech proposes Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START), which will reduce nuclear arsenals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>In the Iran–Iraq War, Iranian forces recapture the key city of Khorramshahr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>Israeli invasion of Lebanon launched, to drive out the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 June</td>
<td>START talks open in Geneva between the Superpowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>In the Iran–Iraq War, Iranians cross the Iraqi border for the first time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August</td>
<td>PLO begins to pull out of Beirut; moves headquarters to Tunis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>Death of Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev; succeeded next day by Yuri Andropov.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1983

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Reagan describes USSR as an ‘evil Empire’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Reagan speech launches the ‘Strategic Defense Initiative’ (SDI) for space-based anti-nuclear systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>Jaruzelski ends martial law in Poland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>A South Korean Airlines’ Boeing 747, flight KAL 007 shot down by Soviets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 October</td>
<td>Several South Korean government ministers assassinated by North Koreans on a visit to Rangoon, Burma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 October</td>
<td>Over 300 US and French troops, part of a multinational peacekeeping force, killed in bombings in Beirut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>Deployment of Cruise–Pershing missiles begins in Western Europe, despite widespread protests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 November</td>
<td>Soviets walk out of INF talks due to Cruise deployments; START talks suspended on 8 December.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1984

9 February  Death of Andropov; succeeded on 13th by Konstantin Chernenko.
26 April–2 May  Reagan visits China.
8 May  USSR says it will boycott forthcoming Los Angeles Olympics.
28 September  Reagan meets Soviet foreign minister, Andrei Gromyko, for the first time.
22 November  Reagan re-elected President.

1985

4 February  New Zealand refuses to let nuclear-capable US ships into its ports; leads to virtual breakdown of ANZUS Pact (US suspends obligations to New Zealand in August 1986).
11 March  Mikhail Gorbachev succeeds Chernenko as leader of the Soviet Union.
12 March  INF and START talks reopen.
7 April  Gorbachev suspends new deployments of nuclear missiles and urges NATO to do the same.
26 April  Warsaw Pact renewed for twenty years.
1 May  US launches trade embargo against Nicaragua.
6 August  Gorbachev initiates a moratorium on nuclear tests (lasts until April 1986).
19–21 November  First summit meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan, in Geneva.

1986

15 January  Gorbachev accepts ‘zero option’ for destruction of INF systems.
25 February  In the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, after an election defeat, finally surrenders the Presidency to Corazon Aquino.
15 April  US air forces strike targets in Libya.
26 April  Chernobyl nuclear reactor melts down, near Kiev, USSR.
28 July  Gorbachev’s Vladivostok speech urges improved relations with China.
23 August  Gennady Zakharov, a Soviet embassy official, is arrested for spying in US; on 30 August Soviets arrest Nicholas Daniloff, an American journalist.
30 September  Release of Zakharov and Daniloff.
11–12 October  Gorbachev and Reagan summit in Reykjavik breaks down over SDI.
3 November  The ‘Iranate’ scandal breaks: a Lebanese newspaper reveals that a high level US official visited Iran in May.

1987

10 April  Gorbachev’s Prague speech advocates a ‘common European home’.
20 July  UN passes Resolution 598 on an Iran–Iraq cease-fire and return to border as it was in 1980.
7 August  ‘Arias Plan’, for peace in Nicaragua, put forward by Central American governments.
29 November  In Poland, the Communist government holds a referendum on economic reform but fails to get 50 per cent support.

1988

8 February  Gorbachev announces Red Army will evacuate Afghanistan in March 1989 if a peace settlement is made.
3 March  US Congress effectively cuts financial support to Contras in Nicaragua.
23 March  Cease-fire in Nicaragua between the Contras and the government.
14 April  Geneva peace agreement on a settlement in Afghanistan.
29 May–2 June  Gorbachev–Reagan summit in Moscow.
30 June  Vietnam begins withdrawing its troops from neighbouring Kampuchea (Cambodia).
20 July  Ayatollah Khomeini reluctantly agrees to end the war with Iraq.
31 August  Lech Walesa meets a Polish government minister to discuss mounting internal unrest.
8 November George Bush wins Presidential election.
22 December UN agreements on independence of Namibia and Cuban withdrawal from Angola.

1989

11 January Non-communist parties legalized in Hungary.
15 February Last Red Army troops leave Afghanistan.
6 March Talks on reducing ‘Conventional Forces in Europe’ open between Eastern and Western representatives in Vienna.
26 March and 9 April First elections for a ‘Soviet Congress of People’s Deputies’.
5 April In Poland, the government agrees to recognize Solidarity and elect an assembly.
25 April Soviets begin to pull troops out of Hungary.
7 May In Panama, President Noriega annuls recent election results.
12 May Bush’s Texas A&M University speech effectively ends the policy of containment.
15–18 May Gorbachev–Deng Xiaoping summit held in Beijing. First Sino–Soviet summit for thirty years.
21 May Egypt rejoin the Arab League after ten years.
4 June Chinese Red Army forcibly ends the occupation of Tienmen Square, Beijing, by over 100,000 demonstrators (who had been there since 22 April).
4 and 18 June Solidarity scores major successes in Polish elections.
23 August Demonstrations in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, in favour of independence from USSR.
26 September Last Vietnamese troops leave Cambodia.
9–10 November Opening of the Berlin Wall.
2–3 December First Bush–Gorbachev summit in Malta.
20 December US forces invade Panama, to overthrow Noriega.
29 December Czechoslovakia chooses the dissident Vaclav Havel as its President.

1990

10 February In Moscow, Gorbachev and Kohl agree to principle of German reunification.
26 February Nicaraguan elections won by ‘Uno’ coalition of Violetta Chamorro, defeating the Sandinistas.
2 March Nationalists win elections in Lithuania, the first free elections ever in the USSR; Lithuania declares independence on 11 March.
11 March President Augusto Pinochet of Chile hands over to a civilian successor, Patricio Aylwin.
18 March Christian Democratic ‘Alliance for Germany’ triumphs in East German elections.
30 May–4 June Bush and Gorbachev meet in Washington.
29 June Lithuania suspends its declaration of independence, following an economic blockade (since 17 April) by Moscow.
1 July Economic and monetary union takes effect between the two Germanies.
5–6 July London summit of NATO leaders redefines the alliance’s role in the post-Cold War world.
2 August Iraqi invasion of Kuwait takes place.
9 September Bush and Gorbachev meet in Helsinki.
12 September US, USSR, Britain, France, and the two Germanies sign Moscow Treaty on a reunified Germany, which takes effect on 3 October.
2 December Helmut Kohl elected the first Chancellor of a reunified Germany.

1991

2 January Lithuania revives its claim to independence.
13 January Thirteen die in clashes with the Red Army in the Lithuanian capital.
17 January US-led alliance begins airstrikes in Iraq.
24–28 February Allied forces liberate Kuwait.
15–19 May Jiang Zemin becomes first general Secretary of Chinese Communists to visit Moscow since 1957.
21 May Collapse of the Marxist regime of Colonel Mengistu in Somalia, which slips into anarchy.
12 June  A popular vote in the Russian Federation (the largest republic in the USSR) elects Boris Yeltsin President.
13 June  End of communist domination of Albania, as a coalition government is formed.
23 June  Ceasefire agreed in Cambodia between Hun Sen government and Prince Sihanouk.
25–26 June  Yugoslav army attacks Croatia and Slovenia when they declare their independence.
1 July  Warsaw Pact is wound up.
29 July–1 August  Bush and Gorbachev finalize and sign START I treaty in Moscow.
18–21 August  A coup of hardliners against Gorbachev is opposed in Moscow by Yeltsin and rapidly collapses.
9–11 December  Maastricht summit of European Community leaders signs a Treaty on European Union and plans a single currency.
25 December  Gorbachev resigns as President of the USSR, which breaks up into its fifteen constituent republics.

1992

1 March  Bosnia-Herzegovina votes for independence from Yugoslavia.
27 March  Bosnian Serbs set up a separate government in Bosnia and fighting begins.
16 April  Fall of Marxist regime of Mohamed Najibullah in Afghanistan.
30 May  UN Security Council agrees first sanctions against Serbia over Bosnian conflict.
14 August  UN Human Rights Commission condemns Serb policy of ‘ethnic cleansing’ in Bosnia.
4 October  Treaty ends conflict between Mozambique government and RENAMO guerrillas.
9 October  UN Security Council introduces a ‘no-fly’ zone over Bosnia.
20 November  Macedonia declares its independence from Yugoslavia.
4 December  American forces land in Somalia to guarantee food supplies.
8 December  Serb siege of Sarajevo begins.

1993

1 January  ‘Velvet divorce’ separates Czech Republic and Slovakia.
3 January  Bush and Yeltsin sign START II treaty in Geneva.
15 January  Chemical Weapons Treaty signed by numerous UN members, banning manufacture of such weapons.
12 April  NATO starts to enforce Bosnia ‘no-fly’ zone.
13 September  Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin sign a peace declaration in Washington.
24 September  Sihanouk returns as King of Cambodia.
3–4 October  Hundreds killed in clashes in Somalia between US forces and militia of General Aidid.
4 October  Russian forces storm the Congress of Peoples Deputies in Moscow.
7 November  US President Clinton threatens force against North Korea if it obtains nuclear weapons.
17 December  US begin to withdraw forces from Somalia.

1994

11 January  NATO launches ‘Partnership for Peace’ programme with ex-Eastern bloc States.
14 January  Ukraine agrees to destroy its nuclear arsenal (the third largest in the world).
28 February  In NATO’s first military action, Yugoslav aircraft are shot down over Bosnia.
29 April  African National Congress under Nelson Mandela wins first free elections in South Africa.
17 June  North Korea agrees to end its nuclear programme.
19 September  US forces land unopposed in Haiti to restore its elected President Aristide.
5–6 December  Summit of Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe agrees to turn itself into a permanent Organization.

1995
1 January: Austria, Finland, and Sweden join the European Union.
15 January: After a month of fighting, Russian forces capture Grozny, capital of Chechnya, from rebels.
11 July: UN ‘safe-haven’ of Srbrenica is overrun by Serbs in Bosnia and many Muslims massacred; more ‘safe-areas’ are then attacked.
30 August: NATO launches ‘Operation Deliberate Force’, with air attacks on Serbs in Bosnia.
31 October–: Bosnian peace agreement brokered in Dayton, Ohio.
21 November: UN ‘safe-haven’ of Srbrenica is overrun by Serbs in Bosnia and many Muslims massacred; more ‘safe-areas’ are then attacked.

1996

12 March: Clinton approves Helms-Burton Act, raising possibility of sanctions against any country trading with Cuba.
23 March: First free elections for a Taiwanese President; bitterly criticized by China.
30 June: Communists lose power after elections in Mongolia.
3 July: Yeltsin re-elected Russian President after run-off against Communist Gennadi Zyuganov.
6 August: Chechen rebels seize control of Grozny.
29 August: Russia agrees to withdrawal from Chechnya.
27 September: Taleban movement seizes control of Afghan capital, Kabul.

1997

17 April: Communist China and Taiwan open direct sea link for first time.
16–17 May: President Mobutu of Zaire overthrown by Laurent Kabila after seven months of civil war.
27 May: NATO–Russian Founding Act signed.
1 July: Hong Kong returns to Chinese sovereignty from British rule.
4 December: Most UN members sign a treaty to ban anti-personnel mines; but not America, Russia, or China.
9 December: Geneva talks open between US, China, and the two Koreas to try to secure lasting Korean settlement.
14 December: President Khatami of Iran offers ‘dialogue’ with America.

1998

4–24 February: Crisis in Gulf as US and British mass forces because of Iraq’s refusal to allow arms inspectors to continue their work.
11–30 May: Series of nuclear tests by India, then by Pakistan.
21 May: Reorganization of President Suharto of Indonesia after five months of unrest.
7 August: Bomb attacks on US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania kill over two hundred; US launches retaliatory strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan on the 20th.
17 August: Economic crisis in Russia deepens, with value of rouble cut by a third.
September: Intensive fighting breaks out in Kosovo between Yugoslavian forces and local Albanians, after sporadic violence since March.
27 September: Following election defeat, Helmut Kohl loses power in Germany after sixteen years.
15–23 October: Clinton brokers Israeli–Palestinian peace deal at Wye Plantation, Maryland, ending 18-month stalemate in peace process.
25–30 November: Jiang Zemin becomes first Chinese Head of State to make an official visit to Japan.

1999

1 January: Introduction of the ‘euro’ as a single currency between most European Union members.
7 January: Trial of Clinton opens in Washington on charges of impeachment over the Monica Lewinsky affair.
12 February: US Senate throws out the impeachment charges against Clinton.
6–23 February: Rambouillet talks on Kosovo situation fail to secure a settlement.
12 March: The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland join NATO.
24 March: NATO begins air strikes against Yugoslavia.
7 May: US aircraft mistakenly bomb Chinese embassy in Belgrade.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 June</td>
<td>NATO suspends its bombing campaign as Serb forces withdraw from Kosovo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 June</td>
<td>NATO ground forces begin deployment in Kosovo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>Referendum in Indonesian-controlled East Timor votes for independence, sparking weeks of violence.</td>
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<td>4 September</td>
<td>Israel and Palestinian leaders sign the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement, supposedly paving the way for a ‘final’ settlement in a year.</td>
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<td>30 September</td>
<td>Following a month of tension, Russian ground forces invade Chechnya.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 December</td>
<td>Portuguese-ruled Macao is handed over to Chinese sovereignty, ending the last colonial possession in mainland Asia.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>Panamanian sovereignty over Panama Canal takes effect.</td>
<td>Sudden resignation of Yeltsin as President of Russia; Vladimir Putin becomes acting President.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2000**

**January**

**Haiti - Withdrawal of US troops**

A US government spokesman in the Haitian capital – Port-au-Prince – announced that the US would end its regular military presence in Haiti and consequently would replace the permanent troops with support units for humanitarian relief work. In 1994 the US had sent 20,000 troops to Haiti to restore the legitimately elected President, Jean Bertrand Aristide.

**Bosnia-Herzegovina - War crimes tribunal judgement**

On 14 January the Hague-based UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia awarded prison sentences (between 6 and 25 years) to five Bosnian Croat men for killing more than 100 Bosnian Muslims on 16 April 1993 during an offensive by Croatian Defence Council forces against Muslim villages. The case was the first to be tried by the tribunal.

**United Nations - Treaty on child soldiers**

A treaty to prohibit the use of child soldiers in war was agreed by 70 countries on 21 January at the end of a two-week meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

**February**

**Russia - The Fall of Grozny**

On 6 February, the acting Russian President, Vladimir Putin announces the fall of Grozny, the Chechen capital, to Russian troops.

**March**

**Lebanon - Vote by Israeli Cabinet on pullout from Lebanon**

On 5 March the Israeli Cabinet voted unanimously to withdraw its troops from Israel’s self-declared ‘security zone’ in southern Lebanon by July, regardless of whether a peace agreement had been reached with Syria.

**Spain - General Elections**

In legislative elections held on 12 March the ruling Popular Part (PP) of Prime Minister José María Aznar won an absolute majority, easily surpassing the expectations of pre-elections polls.

**Russia - Presidential Elections**

Acting Russian President Vladimir Putin won the presidential elections on 26 March with over 50 percent of the vote. The turnout was 68.88 per cent.

**April**

**Russia - Ratification of START II and CTBT**

Russia’s Duma (the lower house of the bicameral legislature) on 14 April ratified the 1993 strategic arms reduction treaty (START II) by 288 votes to 131 with four abstentions. The ratification of the treaty signed by Russia’s former President Boris Yeltsin had formerly been reportedly blocked by a majority of communist deputies in the Duma, which was lost in the December 1999 legislative elections. The treaty had been ratified by the US congress in 1996.

**May**

**Sierra Leone - Breakdown of peace agreement**

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The July 1999 peace agreement between the government and the main rebel movement, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) collapsed in May (2000) when the RUF abducted 500 peacekeepers belonging to the 8,500-strong UN Mission to Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). The abductions were followed by a full-scale resumption of fighting between the RUF and the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) and its militia allies.

United Kingdom - Election of Livingstone as mayor of London
Independent left-wing MP Ken Livingstone, who had been expelled from the Labour Party in the previous month, became London’s first directly-elected mayor in elections held on 4 May.

June

Historical meeting in Pyongyang
Presidents Kim Dae Jung of South Korea and Kim Jong II of North Korea met in Pyongyang between 13 and 15 June.

July

Russian-Chinese summit
From 17 to 19 July, a Russian-Chinese (Putin-Jiang) summit took place in China. The summit condemned US plans for a ‘National Missile Defence’ system based on Star Wars research.

September

Denmark - Rejection of euro
In a referendum on 28 September the Danish electorate voted by a narrow but decisive majority against participating in the euro, the single currency to which 12 of the 15 EU member states were currently admitted. The result was a major defeat for the pro-euro centre-left government of Poul Nyup Rasmussen, which had called the referendum in March.

Ariel Sharon’s visit to the Dome at the Rock
A visit by the right-wing Israeli politician, Ariel Sharon, to the Dome at the Rock in Jerusalem sparked serious Palestinian unrest, which became known as the ‘second intifada’.

October

Sierra Leone - Deployment of additional UN forces
Additional British troops were deployed in Sierra Leone at the end of October as the UN Mission to Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) came under increasing strain because of the impending withdrawal of its Indian contingent.

Yugoslavia - Overthrow of Milošević
The 13 year regime of President Slobodan Milošević ended in October after a dramatic and powerful people’s uprising. Milošević had clung on whilst the results of the September presidential, federal and legislative elections were disputed, but pressure to drive him from office had begun to gain momentum by the beginning of the month.

Palestine - New Palestinian intifada
Violent clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian police and civilians throughout October effectively destroyed the Middle east peace process, and led Palestinian leaders to describe it as a new intifada (uprising). As many as 2,500 people were injured in the violence and 144, the overwhelming majority of whom were Palestinians, were killed.

November

United States - Disputed presidential election
The result of the presidential election held on 7 November between Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic candidate, and his Republican rival, Texas governor George W. Bush, remained unresolved at the end of November. Gore secured a majority of 0.3 percent of the 102 million votes cast (the smallest majority of the nationwide popular vote won by a presidential candidate since 1960). With the result in Florida undecided and subject to legal challenges, Gore had 267 electoral college votes compared with 246 for Bush. Since both candidates had failed to secure the 270 votes needed for a majority in the 538-member electoral college, the result of the Florida election, in which 25 electoral college votes were at stake, would effectively decide the result of the entire election.

Vietnam - Visit by US President
US President Bill Clinton visited Vietnam on 16-19 November, the first US President to visit the country since Richard Nixon in 1969 and the first ever to set foot in a unified Vietnam. Clinton’s administration had consistently attempted to foster improved relations with Vietnam, notably with the lifting of the US trade embargo in 1994 and the conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement in July (2000). A number of US officials had recently visited Vietnam, the most senior being Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in September 1999.

Sweden - Proposal to end commitment to neutrality
During November 2000 Prime Minister Göran Persson proposed that Sweden end its century long commitment to neutrality. He said that following the end of the Cold War the concept was no longer relevant. Some military experts, however, claimed that the change could confuse the defense policy and endanger Sweden’s role as an independent arbiter of international conflicts.

December

United States - Bush victory in disputed presidential elections
Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic presidential candidate conceded the disputed November presidential election to the Republican candidate George W. Bush on 13 December, a day after the US Supreme Court had declined to overturn its earlier say on state-wide manual recounts ordered by the Florida Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruling was arguably the most important since US vs. Nixon, the 1974 ruling which had forced President Richard Nixon to surrender incriminating White House tape recording to congressional investigators in the Watergate affair. The Supreme Court’s action meant that, despite the fact that he had won a majority of the national popular vote, Vice President Gore had not secured a majority in the Electoral College.

2001

January

United States – Inauguration of President George W. Bush
George W. Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States on 20 January, the first son of a former President to be inaugurated since John Quincy Adams in 1825.

February

Israel – Election of Sharon as Prime Minister
Likud candidate Ariel Sharon easily defeated incumbent Labour Prime Minister Ehud Barak in a special premiership election held on 6 February. Sharon, a former Defence Minister and the architect of Israel’s invasion of Lebanon in 1982, had replaced Binyamin Netanyahu as Likud leader in 1999.

March

Macedonia – Serious clashes with ethnic Albanian guerrillas
Fighting between ethnic Albanian guerrillas and Macedonian police and troops during March raised fears that the unrest might spark ethnic conflict across Macedonia, thereby igniting a new Balkan war. Ethnic Albanians comprised at least a quarter of the population of Macedonia.

June

United Kingdom – Labour election victory
The ruling Labour Party on 7 June swept to a predicted victory in general elections to the House of Commons (the lower house of the bicameral UK legislature), winning a second successive overall majority only slightly smaller than the commanding margin achieved in May 1997.

July

Yugoslavia – Appearance of Milosevic before war crimes tribunal
Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic made his first appearance before the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (the war crimes tribunal) in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 3 July. Milosevic had been handed over to the tribunal by the Yugoslav authorities on 28 June. He had been indicted on charges of crimes against humanity in May 1999.

September

United States – Terrorist attacks on Washington DC and New York
In a series of suicide attacks on the morning of 11 September the US suffered the most devastating loss of life and property in peacetime since the attack on the Pearl Harbour naval base in 1941. Four passenger airliners were hijacked and two of those aircraft were deliberately flown by the hijackers into the twin towers of the 110-storey World Trade Centre in the financial

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district of New York city, resulting in huge explosions which ultimately led to the complete collapse of the towers in less than two hours. A third hijacked passenger aircraft struck the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Department of Defence, just outside the capital, Washington DC, and a fourth hijacked aircraft, apparently heading for another target in the Washington area, crashed in Pennsylvania.

October

United Nations – Elections to Security Council
The General Assembly on 8 October elected five new non-permanent members of the 15-member Security Council to serve a two-year term from 1 January 2002. The most controversial new member was Syria, which in March had been chosen unopposed as the representative of the 50-state Asian group of the Assembly.

2001 Centenary Peace Prize
The Nobel Committee of the Storting (the Norwegian legislature) on 12 October awarded the 2001 Centenary Nobel Peace Prize jointly to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and to the UN itself.

November

Uganda – Peace Agreement with Rwanda
Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Paul Kagame of Rwanda signed a peace agreement in London on 6 November aimed at pre-empting a fresh outbreak of hostilities in central Africa. The agreement was signed after the two leaders held talks chaired by UK International Development Secretary Clare Short and attended by UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. Uganda and Rwanda were former close allies that had fallen out over their involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Fighting had broken out between Ugandan and Rwandan troops, and their proxy militias, in and around the northern DRC city of Kisangani on numerous occasions.

2002

February

Indonesia – Signing of peace agreement in Moluccas
Christian and Muslim leaders from the eastern Molucca islands (the provinces of Maluku and North Maluku) on Feb. 12 signed a peace accord to end three years of sectarian fighting in which 5,000 people had been killed since January 1999 and 750,000 were rendered refugees.

Yugoslavia – Opening of Milosevic trial
The landmark trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic opened at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague, the Netherlands, on Feb 13. Milosevic was the first former head of state to stand trial for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

March

Yugoslavia – Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro on joint state
The leaders of Serbia, Montenegro, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) government signed an ‘agreement in principle’ in Belgrade, the capital of the FRY and Serbia, on March 14, to maintain a joint state under the name of Serbia and Montenegro. The deal, which effectively kept Montenegro within the Serb-dominated federation of the ‘rump Yugoslavia’ but with equal powers to Serbia, was designed to prevent further fragmentation of the western Balkans.

July

Democratic Republic of Kongo – DRC-Rwanda peace agreement
The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda signed a peace agreement in Pretoria (South Africa) on July 30. The agreement was widely regarded as a major step towards ending the four-year war that had engulfed the DRC. Rwanda was one of a number of African states that had maintained a military presence in the DRC during its civil war.

September

East Timor – UN membership
East Timor (Timor-Leste) on September 27 became the 191 member of the United Nations when its application, sponsored by Austria and Indonesia, was approved unanimously by the UN General Assembly.

Greece – Improved relations with Turkey
A series of meetings between ministers and officials from Greece and Turkey held during the month were hailed as bringing about a significant improvement in bilateral relations. They followed meetings between the two countries’ Foreign and Defence Ministers in September, respectively in New York and Istanbul. The easing of tensions between the countries had been aided also by the establishment of a direct telephone link between the Defence Ministries.

October

United States – Authorisation of Action Against Iraq
The House of Representatives (the lower house of the bicameral federal legislature) on Oct. 10 approved by a margin of 296 votes to 133 a resolution authorising President George W. Bush to take military action to deprive Iraq of any weapons of mass destruction (WMD) if the administration’s attempts to resolve the issue by diplomacy under the auspices of the UN failed. On the following day, the Senate (the upper house) approved the resolution by a margin of 77 votes to 23.

Indonesia – Bali bombing
A massive bomb blast on Oct. 12 devastated the tourist resort of Kuta on the ‘paradise’ island of Bali, killing at least 184 people and injuring over 300, the majority of them tourists. It was the world’s most serious terrorist incident since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US.

Russia – Theatre siege by Chechen separatists
The impact of the war in the separatist Russian republic of Chechnya was felt in the Russian capital when – on the evening of October 23 – about 40 heavily armed male and female Chechen separatists took hostage the audience (estimated 850 people) at one of Moscow’s most popular theatre spectacles. The hostage-takers demanded an end to the war in Chechnya, and threatened to blow up the theatre if their demands were not met. The siege came to a violent end in the early morning of October 26, when special forces recaptured the theatre after pumping a paralysing gas into the building. The end of the siege proved deeply controversial when it emerged that of the 119 hostages who died, only two were killed from gunshot wounds and the remainder succumbed to the effects of the gas.

November

Approval of UN Security Council Resolution on Iraq
The UN Security Council on Nov. 8 unanimously approved Resolution 1441 (2002) giving President Saddam Hussein of Iraq a last chance to comply with commitments to disarm or face ‘serious consequences’. The surprising show of international unity sent an unequivocal message to the Iraqi regime, leaving it without serious potential allies if it chose to defy the resolution. The text represented a compromise between France and Russia on one side and the USA and the UK on the other. Although it did not provide the USA with overt authority to attack Iraq, analysts agreed that it sent a very strong message to President Saddam that he must comply with the UN Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) the UN weapons inspectors), or face real possibility of war.

NATO – Offer of membership to Eastern European Countries
Leaders of the 19-member North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) held a summit meeting on November 20-22 in Prague, at which they invited Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to join NATO in 2004. All the prospective members apart from Slovenia were former members of the defunct Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact. The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, all former Warsaw Pact countries, had become full NATO members in March 1999. Whereas the earlier accession of former allies of the Soviet Union was achieved in the face of strong protests by Russia, the current invitations were issued in a new era of acceptance formalised by the establishment of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) in May. Russia’s Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, attended the Prague summit in a sign of his country’s reluctant acquiescence in NATO’s recruitment drive.
December

*European Union – Copenhagen Summit*
An historic EU summit conference on Dec. 12-13 in Copenhagen, the Danish capital, approved the enlargement of the EU to include 10 candidate countries, namely Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia, following the successful completion of their accession negotiations.

2003

February

*Serbia and Montenegro – Dissolution of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*
The Federal Assembly (the bicameral legislature of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – FRY), voted on February 4 to replace the FRY with a loose union between its two constituent republics, Serbia and Montenegro.

*Bosnia-Hercegovina – Sentencing of Plavsic*
Biljana Plavsic, the former President of the Republika Srpska (the Bosnian Serb entity), was on February 27 sentenced to 11 years’ imprisonment by the Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Plavsic, aged 72, had surrendered to the tribunal in January 2001 after she was indicted on eight separate war crimes charges, including genocide. In October 2002 she agreed to plead guilty to one count of crimes against humanity during the Bosnian war, and the prosecution had accordingly dropped the seven other charges.

March

*Serbia and Montenegro – Assassination of Djindjic*
Zoran Djindjic, Prime Minister of Serbia since 2001, was assassinated in the capital, Belgrade, on March 12. He had survived an apparent assassination attempt in February when a lorry cut across his speeding motorcade near Belgrade airport.

*Iraq – US-led invasion*
The US, with the support of the UK, launched a war against Iraq on March 20 with the aims of disarming the country of its weapons of mass destruction, freeing its people, and deposing President Saddam Hussein and his regime.

April

*China – SARS crisis*
In their first detailed briefing on the outbreak of a mysterious form of pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the Chinese health authorities said on April 8 that although the disease was spreading in southern China, it was nonetheless ‘under effective control’. The announcement came at the end of visit by World Health Organisation (WHO) officials to Guangdong, the southern province in which the disease first erupted in November 2002.

*Afghanistan – Strikes against Taliban remnants*
In concentrated and heavy strikes, US forces launched airbone attacks on suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda operatives in the Tor Ghar mountains of southern Afghanistan, close to the border with Pakistan, on April 2. The bombardment was in response to an earlier attack on US and Afghan soldiers from a group of 40 suspected Taliban fighters. Afghan officials had expressed concern about an increase in Taliban activity apparently orchestrated from Pakistani territory.

*Iraq – Fall of Saddam*
In early April the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein collapsed under the pressure of an overwhelming military onslaught from US and UK forces launched on Iraq on March 20. The whereabouts of Saddam himself, who had served as President since 1979, remained unclear, although a number of his close associates were taken into custody by US forces.

May

*China – SARS crisis*
President Hu Jintao, general secretary of the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP), on May 2 called for a “people’s war” to combat the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), as the country reported 11 more deaths and 176 new cases of the disease.

*Saudi Arabia – Suicide bomb attacks in Riyadh*
At least 34 people died in three separate, coordinated suicide bomb attacks on expatriate residential compounds in the capital, Riyadh, on May 12. The attackers were immediately linked to Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network and more specifically to a group of 19 al-Qaeda suspects who had been under police observation, but had escaped a raid in Riyadh shortly before the attacks had taken place. The Saudi government’s failed attempt to foil the attacks followed warnings of an impeding terrorist act issued by the US State Department in early May.

Morocco – Suicide bomb attacks in Casablanca
A team of 12 suicide bombers attacked five targets in Morocco’s commercial capital, Casablanca, on May 16, killing 43 people (including the bombers) and injuring around 100 others. The Moroccan government declared that the attacks had been the work of a local Islamist fundamentalist group, al-Assirat al-Moustaqim (the Righteous Path), part of a fringe movement of ultra-conservative Islamists, the Salafiya Jihadiya. The attacks, however, bore the hallmarks of operations carried out by the al-Qaeda network. The Economist of May 25 said that there was a possibility that al-Qaeda had ‘subcontracted’ a local Moroccan group prepared to accept high suicide casualties.

June
Finland – Resignation of Prime Minister over ‘Iraqgate’ scandal
Centre Party (KESK) Prime Minister Anneli Jaatteenmaki resigned on June 18 after being accused of lying about the use of classified Foreign Ministry documents concerning the US-led war on Iraq, of publishing confidential information on the Internet, and leaking documents to the press. Jaatteenmaki rejected the allegations but announced that they had made her position untenable. The scandal, referred to as ‘Iraqgate’, severely damaged public confidence in the government.

August
Liberia – Departure of President Taylor
Charles Taylor announced on August 2 that he would step down as president of Liberia on August 11. Pressure for Taylor to resign had increased markedly in July as rebel forces surrounded the capital, Monrovia.

Afghanistan – NATO assumption of control of ISAF
In the first peacekeeping operation outside Europe’s borders in its history, NATO assumed formal control of the 5,500-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan on August 11.

November
Georgia – Overthrow of Sheverdnadze
Eduard Sheverdnadze, the former Soviet Foreign Minister who had served as President of Georgia since 1992, was forced to resign in late November after weeks of peaceful mass protests by opposition parties culminated in the storming of Parliament. The drive to remove Sheverdnadze, led by former Justice Minister Mikhail Saakashvili, began at the start of the month in the form of protests at the results of elections to Parliament, which were widely believed to have been rigged in favour of the President.

December
Macedonia – Ending of EU military mission
The mandate of the EU-led military mission to Macedonia, Operation Concordia, ended on December 15. Concordia, the EU’s inaugural military mission, was replaced by an EU-led police mission, Operation Proxima.

Iraq – Capture of Saddam Hussein
Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi President overthrown by US-led forces in April was captured by US soldiers near his home town of Tikrit on December 13. In July, US forces had killed his two sons during a fierce gun battle in Mosul in northern Iraq. Saddam’s capture, alone, dishevelled and hiding in a small hole in the ground, appeared to undermine the idea that he had been coordinating the guerrilla attacks against US forces and, instead, reinforced the view that the insurgency was being driven by hostility to the US-led occupation and Sunni Muslim resistance to the possibility of Shi’ite Muslim dominance in the post-Saddam era.

2004
January

*Somalia – Peace agreement*

The leaders of Somalia’s warring factions signed a peace agreement in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, on January 29. The peace initiative brought the factionalist leaders the closest to forming a central administration since the Somali state had effectively dissolved at the outbreak of civil war in 1991.

May

*European Union – Admission of new member countries*

The biggest single enlargement in the history of the EU and its precursors, increasing membership from 15 to 25 states and aggregate population from 380 to 445 million, took place on May 1 with the formal admission of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The main enlargement ceremonies were held in Ireland, the current holder of the EU’s six-monthly rotating presidency, and were attended by heads of government of the 10 new and 15 existing members.

June

*Sudan – Humanitarian crisis in Darfur*

The UN organised a meeting of donor countries and aid agencies in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 3 to discuss the growing humanitarian crisis in the western region of Darfur. … US Secretary of State Colin Powell and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan both visited Sudan in late June to discuss the crisis in Darfur. Powell, the most senior US official to visit Sudan for 25 years, visited the Abu Shouk refugee camp in northern Darfur, where some 40,000 black African villagers were sheltering after being driven from their homes by Arab janjawiet militiamen, reportedly backed by the government.

Iraq – Transfer of sovereignty

The transfer of sovereignty from the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), the occupying power in Iraq since May 2003 to an interim Iraqi government was carried out on June 28. The head of the CPA, L. Paul Bremer, handed over power to Ayad Allawi, who had recently been appointed as Prime Minister at the head of a new interim government.

July

*Iraq – Court appearance by Saddam Hussein*

Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi President overthrown by US-led forces in April 2003 and captured by US troops in December 2003 appeared before an Iraqi court in the capital, Baghdad, on July 1. It was the first time that Saddam had appeared in public since his capture.

September

*Russia – Siege of school by Chechen separatists*

A school in the town of Beslan in Russia’s republic of North Ossetia was the scene at the beginning of September of a terrorist attack… The three-day siege of the school where over 1,000 children, parents and teachers were held hostage by around 30 heavily armed men and women, ended on September 3 in confusion and disaster when the roof of the booby-trapped school hall caved in after bombs planted in the room exploded and the hostage-takers exchanged gunfire with troops and armed civilians outside as children and adults tried to flee in the chaos. The final death was officially put at 338, although relatives queried the figure and many individuals remained unaccounted for.

Libya – Lifting of US trade embargo

US President George W. Bush on September 20 issued executive orders lifting all restrictions on air travel, allowing for free movement of commercial and charter flights between the US and Libya. In addition, the US lifted measures dating back to 1986 that had resulted in the freezing of US$ 1.3 billion in Libyan assets in the US after Libya had been implicated in various terrorist attacks in Europe. The US move cleared the way for the payment in late September of more than US$1 billion to the 270 families of those killed when Pan Am Flight 103 was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

November

*United States – Victory for Bush in presidential elections*

Republican President George W. Bush defeated his Democratic rival, Senator John Kerry, in the presidential election held on November 2. The result of the election was especially significant for the President since, in the disputed presidential election of 2000, he had failed to secure a majority of the popular vote.
Israel – Developments concerning Gaza disengagement plan
The Knesset voted on November 3 to approve a bill to compensate Jewish settlers who would be uprooted from the Gaza strip and the West Bank under the terms of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s controversial Gaza disengagement plan, which had been approved by the Knesset in late October.

Afghanistan – Confirmation of Karzai’s election victory
Hamid Karzai was formally declared the winner of the October 9 presidential election by Afghanistan’s electoral board on November 3, following the announcement by an international panel of observers that its three-week investigation into voting irregularities had not produced evidence significant enough to alter the overall result.

Palestine – Death of Arafat
President Yasser Arafat died in a hospital near Paris, on November 11, aged 75. Arafat had been flown from the West Bank to France for treatment for an unknown illness on October 29. According to press reports, many Palestinians believed that Arafat had been poisoned. Mahmoud Abbas, who had served as Prime Minister for 6 months in October 2003, was announced to be the successor of Arafat, the first new chairman of the PLO executive in 35 years.

United Nations – US criticism of Annan
The US Senate permanent subcommittee on investigations on November 9 sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan accusing him and a UN panel established in April by the UN Security Council to investigate widespread allegations of bribery and illicit payments made during the UN-administered ‘oil-for-food programme’ in Iraq, of obstructing the Senators’ access to documentation, including internal audit reports, and preventing UN officials from being interviewed by the Senate committee.

2005

January

Sudan – Comprehensive southern peace agreement
Following some 30 months of intense diplomatic negotiations that had begun in July 2002, a comprehensive peace agreement was reached on January 9 between the representatives of the Sudanese government (led by the First Vice President Ali Osman Muhammad Taha) and those of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) (led by John Garang, leader of the SPLM’s military wing, the Sudan People’s Liberation Army – SPLA). The agreement ended the 21-year-long war in southern Sudan that had caused an estimated 2 million deaths and displaced a further 4 million people.

United States – Inauguration of President Bush for second term
President George W. Bush was inaugurated for a second successive term of office on January 20 following his victory in the 2004 presidential election.

Ukraine – Inauguration of new president
Victor Yushchenko, the winner of the presidential election that had been re-run on December 26 after allegations of fraud, was inaugurated as independent Ukraine’s third President on January 23.

February

Lebanon – Assassination of al-Hariri
Rafiq al-Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon and architect of the country’s reconstruction, was killed on February 14 in a massive car bomb explosion in Beirut. Another 16 people were killed and 135 injured. Lebanese opposition politicians said that they held both pro-Syrian administration and the Syrian government responsible for al-Hariri’s death. Since his resignation as Prime Minister in October 2004 al-Hariri was reported to have become increasingly critical of the Syrian military presence in Lebanon.

March

South Africa – New name for the capital city
The city council of Pretoria voted on March 7 to change the city’s name to Tshwane, meaning ‘we are the same’. The council vote formalised a discussion taken by the government in July 2000.

United States – George Kennan dies
George Kennan, the chief architect of US foreign policy for much of the Cold War era, died in Princeton, New Jersey, on March 17, aged 101. Kennan had conceived the policy of ‘containment’ under which the US sought to contain the spread of communism by any diplomatic, covert, and political means short of war.

April

Sudan – UN Security Council resolution on Darfur war crimes
On March 31 the UN Security Council approved Resolution 1593 (2005), which decided to refer any war crimes suspects from the Darfur region of Sudan to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The withdrawal of US opposition to sending the cases to the ICC represented a significant diplomatic change of course for the US government which vehemently opposed the court.

Turkey – Controversy over ‘genocide’ of Armenians
President Ahmet Necdet Sezer on April 7 said that Turkey would not bow to EU pressure to recognise the killing of some 1.5 million Armenians in Ottoman Turkey in 1915-1923 as ‘genocide’ rather than deaths in war. He criticised calls by a number of EU politicians for such recognition to be a condition of Turkish membership of the EU.

Lebanon – Syrian withdrawal
Syrian troops and intelligence officials completed their withdrawal from Lebanon on April 26, bowing to international pressure in the aftermath of the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Beirut on February 14.

May

China – Trade and currency disputes
Trade disputes between the government, and the EU and the US continues continued during May over increases in China’s exports of textiles and clothing to EU countries since the expiration of January 1 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)’s quota system governing the global textile trade. Chinese exports to the US had risen by more than 50 percent since the elimination of the quotas, alarming the US and EU textile and clothing makers, who claimed to be losing market share and jobs.

France – Rejection of EU Treaty
A national referendum on May 29 resulted in rejection of the treaty providing for the introduction of an EU constitution by a decisive margin of over 9 percent of the popular vote. The result was a major defeat for President Jacques Chirac, who had led the campaign for a ‘yes’ vote. On May 31 he announced that Interior, Internal Security, and Local Liberties Minister Dominique de Villepin would replace Jean-Pierre Raffarin as Prime Minister.

United Kingdom – Third Term for Labour Party
The Labour Party led by Prime Minister Tony Blair won an unprecedented third term in office in a general election on May 5, although with a reduced majority.

June

Netherlands – Overwhelming rejection of EU treaty
In a national referendum on June 1 the Dutch electorate overwhelmingly rejected the proposed ratification of the treaty providing for an EU constitution.

United Kingdom – Shelving of EU treaty bill
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Jack Straw on June 6 told the House of Commons that in light of the French and Dutch electorates’ decisive rejections of the treaty providing for an EU constitution, the government would not proceed with the second reading of its bill for a UK referendum on the Treaty.

Iran – Presidential Elections
The elections for the ninth four-year term of the presidency since the 1979 Islamic Revolution were won by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the ultra-conservative major of Teheran. Ahmadinejad
has vowed to resist international pressure to abandon the country’s highly controversial nuclear programme, and has branded Israel as source of instability in the Middle East.

July

Global – Live 8 Concerts
On July 2 the Live 8 concerts took place in London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Philadelphia, Barrie, Tokyo, Johannesburg, Moscow, and The Eden Project. The concerts were organized to help raise awareness about world poverty and took place in the lead up to Prime Minister Tony Blair, then chair of the G8, hosting a meeting of the G8 at the Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland.

Singapore – 2012 Olympic Games decision
On 6 July the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) announced that London will host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

United Kingdom – The London Bombings
On July 7 the London transport system was attacked by a series of four coordinated suicide bombings in which 52 people were killed and hundreds were injured. The first bomber, Shehzad Tanweer, hit an eastbound Circle Line train travelling between Liverpool Street and Aldgate Station. The second bomber, Mohammad Sidique Khan, hit a westbound Circle Line train which was departing Edgeware Road for Paddington Station. The third bomber, Germaine Lindsay (a Jamaican born Muslim convert), hit a southbound Piccadilly Line train travelling between King’s Cross St. Pancras and Russell Square Station. The fourth bomber, Hasib Hussain, was originally supposed to hit a Northern Line train – but the Line was temporarily suspended – so instead he hit a number 30 red double-decker bus in Tavistock Square.

United Kingdom – The Failed London Bombings
On July 21 another British based Al Qaeda cell (Muktar Said Ibrahim, Yasin Hassan Omar, Hussein Osman, Ranzi Mohammed and Mafo Asiedu) launched what was planned to be another ‘spectacular’ coordinated series of suicide bombings against London – thankfully though the five would-be suicide bombers bombs failed to detonate properly.

Egypt – Terrorism strikes holiday resort
On July 23 Sharm el-Sheikh, a popular holiday destination, was attacked by three coordinated bombings which killed 83 people and left over 100 people injured.

August

Saudi Arabia – King dies
On 1 August King Fahd of Saudi Arabia died at the age of 84.

Gaza – Evictions start in the Gaza Strip
On 17 August Israeli troops began forcibly evicting Israeli residents from the Gaza Strip.

Gaza – Gaza Strip evictions completed
On 22 August Israel declared that all Israeli residents had been evicted from the Gaza Strip.

Iraq – Draft constitution is completed
On 28 August Iraqi ministers announced that the new draft constitution was complete.

United States – Hurricane Katrina
On 29 August voluntary and mandatory evacuations were issued as Hurricane Katrina headed for New Orleans.

September

Gaza – Israeli flag is lowered
On 11 September Israel’s occupation of the Gaza Strip came to a symbolic end as the Israeli flag was lowered.

Germany – Federal elections
On 18 September Germany’s Federal elections ended in stalemate and so began an intense series of negotiations.
Denmark – 12 Prophet Mohammad cartoons are published
On 30 September 12 cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammad are published in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten.

October

Bali – Bali Bombings
On 1 October Bali was attacked by a series of coordinated bombings which killed more than 20 people and injured over 100.

Iraq – Draft constitution referendum
On 15 October a referendum was held to decide whether or not Iraq’s draft constitution should be ratified – the constitution was subsequently passed.

November

Somalia – Pirates attack cruise ship
On 5 November the luxury cruise ship Seabourn Spirit was attacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia but managed to fend off the pirates and sail to safety.

Israel – Prime Minister quits the Likud Party
On 21 November Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced to the Knesset his intention to leave the Likud Party, dissolve parliament, and form the Kadima Party.

Germany – Federal election result announced
On 22 November Angela Merkel was appointed the first female Chancellor of Germany.

Chile – Pinochet is indicted
On 24 November General Augusto Pinochet was indicted by the Chilean Supreme Court over human rights abuses in 1974 and was placed under house arrest.

December

Lebanon – Report about the killing of Rafik Hariri is given to the UN
On 11 December the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan received a report linking Syria with the killing of Rafik Hariri, the former Lebanese Prime Minister.

Iraq – Parliamentary elections take place
On 15 December Iraq’s parliamentary elections took place and Nouri al-Maliki was declared leader of the new coalition government.

Israel – New leader of the Likud Party
On 20 December Benjamin Netanyahu was elected leader of the Likud Party.

2006

January

Israel – Ariel Sharon has a stroke
On 4 January Ariel Sharon suffered a major stroke.

Saudi Arabia – Stampede in Mecca
On 12 January hundreds were killed and thousands were injured when a stampede broke out at the Hajj (a pilgrimage) in Mecca.

Chile – New President elected
On 15 January Michelle Bachelet was elected President of Chile.

Gaza – Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) election
On 25 January Hamas won the PLC election.
Saudi Arabia – Saudi Ambassador recalled from Denmark
On 26 January Saudi Arabia recalled its Ambassador from Denmark and called for an immediate boycott of all Danish products. This was a response to the publication in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten, on 30 September 2005, of 12 cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammad.

February
Denmark – Danish Prime Minister appears on the Al-Arabiya news channel
On 2 February the Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen appeared on the Saudi Arabian news channel Al-Arabiya in an attempt to calm the Prophet Mohammad cartoon crisis.

Jordan – Al-Shihan newspaper reprints the Prophet Mohammad cartoons
On 2 February the Jordanian newspaper Al-Shihan reprinted the 12 Prophet Mohammad cartoons and its editor was promptly sacked.

Syria – Norwegian and Danish Embassies in Damascus are attacked
On 4 February both the Norwegian and Danish Embassies in Damascus were attacked as protests about the publication of the 12 Prophet Mohammad cartoons turned violent.

March
India – United States and India agree new nuclear pact
On 2 March the United States and India agreed to a new nuclear pact, a significant break with existing US nuclear policy.

Netherlands – Slobodan Milošević is found dead
On 11 March the former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević was found dead in his cell at a detention centre in The Hague.

Israel – Kadima Party wins Israel’s General Election
On 28 March the Kadima Party under the leadership of Ehud Olmert won Israel’s General Election.

April
Iran – Success claimed in producing enriched uranium
On 11 April Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that his scientists had successfully produced enriched uranium.

Nepal – Direct rule is ended
On 24 April King Gyanedra ended his direct rule of Nepal and agreed to reinstate parliament.

United States – UN nuclear watchdog on Iran
On 28 April the UN’s nuclear watchdog reported that Iran was defying UN Security Council resolutions by continuing its programme to produce enriched uranium.

May
Iraq – New cabinet approved
On 20 May Iraq’s parliament approved a new cabinet made up of Shia, Kurd, and Sunni Party members.

June
Iraq – Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is killed
On 7 June the insurgent leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed in a US airstrike.

July
North Korea – Long-range and short-range missiles test fired
On 4 July the North Korean leader Kim Jon-il ordered the test firing of both long-range and short-range missiles.

India – Mumbai train bombings
On 11 July the Suburban Railway in Mumbai was attacked by a series of seven coordinated bombings in which 209 people were killed and hundreds were injured. Responsibility for the attacks was claimed by both Laskar-e-Toiba and the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).
Lebanon – 2006 Israeli-Hezbollah War starts
On 12 July the 2006 Israeli-Lebanon War started when Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel and simultaneously crossed the Israeli-Lebanon border and kidnapped two Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldiers.

Lebanon – Israeli airstrike begins
On 15 July Israel launched its first series of airstrikes against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

Lebanon – Israeli land troops are deployed
On 23 July Israel deployed ground troops in Lebanon.

Cuba – Raul Castro in charge while President Fidel Castro undergoes surgery
On 31 July President Fidel Castro transferred his responsibilities to his brother Raul Castro whilst he underwent surgery.

August
United Kingdom – Transatlantic bomb plot foiled
On 9 August police made a number of arrests in connection with a plot to blow up a number of Transatlantic flights.

Lebanon – UN brokers a ceasefire
On 14 August the UN announced that it had successfully brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

September
United Kingdom – Prime Minister Tony Blair announces his ‘long goodbye’
On 7 September Prime Minister Tony Blair announced his intention to stand down as leader within 12 months.

October
North Korea – Nuclear test carried out
On 9 October North Korea carried out a nuclear test.

United States – New UN Secretary-General is elected
On 13 October the UN elected Ban Ki-moon as its new Secretary-General.

November
Iraq – Saddam Hussein is sentenced to death by hanging
On 5 November Saddam Hussein was sentenced to death by the Iraqi Special Tribunal for Crimes Against Humanity.

United States – Democrats take control of the House of Representatives
On 7 November the Democratic Party took back control of the House of Representatives from the Republican Party.

United States – A new Secretary of Defense is appointed
On 8 November President George W. Bush announced that Robert Gates would be replacing Donald Rumsfeld as Defense Secretary.

United Kingdom – Former KGB spy dies
On 23 November the former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko died in a London hospital after being poisoned with polonium-210.

Gaza – Ceasefire agreed in the Gaza Strip
On 26 November both Israel and the Palestinians agreed to a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

December
Chile – Pinochet dies
On 10 December General Augusto Pinochet died at the age of 91.
United States – UN votes for sanctions against Iran
On 23 December the UN voted to impose sanctions on Iran for continuing with its uranium enrichment programme.

United States – Former President Gerald Ford dies
On 26 December the 38th President of the United States of America Gerald Ford died at the age of 93.

Iraq – Saddam Hussein is executed
On 29 December Saddam Hussein was hanged. His execution was shown on Al Iraqiya (the state-run television channel) and unauthorized camera-phone footage of his execution soon began to circulate on the internet.

Spain – ETA bomb explodes
On 30 December the Basque separatist group ETA detonated a bomb in Madrid which ended the ceasefire between Spain and ETA.

2007

January

Romania / Bulgaria – The EU expands
On 1 January the EU expanded to include Romania and Bulgaria.

China – Chinese ballistic missile gets fired into space
On 18 January China destroyed one of its weather satellites when it fired its first ballistic missile into space.

February

Saudi Arabia – The Mecca Accords are signed
On 8 February Hamas and Fatah signed a power sharing agreement (the Mecca Accords).

March

Gaza – BBC journalist Alan Johnston gets kidnapped
On 12 March BBC journalist Alan Johnston was kidnapped by the Army of Islam in the Gaza Strip.

Iran – British sailors are detained
On 23 March Iranian authorities detained 15 British sailors.

April

Russia – Boris Yeltsin dies
On 23 April former Russian President Boris Yeltsin died at the age of 76.

May

France – Nicolas Sarkozy wins French Presidential election
On 6 May Conservative candidate Nicolas Sarkozy won the French Presidential election.

United States – World Bank President resigns
On 17 May Paul D. Wolfowitz resigned as President of the World Bank.

June

United Kingdom – Terror strikes Glasgow International Airport
On 30 June terrorists drove a 4x4 vehicle, loaded with propane canisters, into the glass front doors of Glasgow International Airport. Fortunately the propane canisters failed to explode and only the terrorists themselves were harmed in the incident.

July

Gaza – BBC journalist Alan Johnston is freed
On 4 July BBC journalist Alan Johnston was freed by his kidnappers in a deal brokered by Hamas.
Australia – Live Earth takes place

August
United States – American Home Mortgage Investment Corporation in trouble
On 6 August the American Home Mortgage Investment Corporation (AHMI) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

September
Syria – Israel launches Operation Orchard
On 6 September Israel launched Operation Orchard (an Israeli airstrike against a suspected nuclear facility in Syria).

October
North Korea – Second Inter-Korea Summit starts
On 2 October the Second Inter-Korea Summit started in Pyongyang.

Pakistan – General Pervez Musharaf is re-elected
On 6 October General Pervez Musharaf was re-elected as Pakistan’s President.

November
Pakistan – State of Emergency declared
On 3 November Pakistan’s President General Pervez Musharaf declared a State of Emergency in Pakistan in response to growing protests over his re-election.

United States – President Bush hosts Middle East peace talks
On 27 November President George W. Bush started a new round of Middle East peace talks when he hosted Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

December
Bali – Agreement reached at the UN climate change convention
On 15 December a ‘Bali roadmap’ was agreed after America made a last minute U-turn and decided to back the proposals at the UN climate change convention in Bali.

Pakistan – Benazir Bhutto is assassinated
On 27 December the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto was assassinated.

Kenya – President Mwai Kibaki wins Presidential election
On 27 December President Mwai Kibaki was declared winner in the Kenyan Presidential election. However, some Raila Odinga supporters quickly began violent protests against the election result.

2008

January
Gaza – A border wall section between the Gaza Strip and Egypt is blown up
On 23 January Palestinian gunmen blew up a section of the border wall separating the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

Indonesia – Former Indonesian President dies
On 27 January former Indonesian President Haji Muhammad Suharto died at the age of 86.

February
Kosovo – Kosovo claims independence
On 17 February Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia.

Cuba – Cuban President resigns
On 19 February Cuban President Fidel Castro resigned from office.
Cuba – New Cuban President announced
On 24 February Raul Castro was declared the new President of Cuba.

Kenya – Power-sharing agreement is reached
On 28 February President Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga agreed to a power-sharing agreement.

March

Russia – New Russian President is elected
On 2 March Dmitry Medvedev won the election to become the next Russian President.

Greece – Pro-Tibet activists disrupt Olympic torch lighting ceremony
On 24 March Pro-Tibet activists tried to disrupt the lighting of the Olympic torch at a ceremony in Olympia.

April

France – Protestors temporarily extinguish the Olympic torch
On 7 April Protestors successfully managed to momentarily extinguish the flame of the Olympic torch as it passed through the streets of Paris.

Italy – New Italian Prime Minister is elected
On 14 April Silvio Berlusconi was elected Prime Minister of Italy.

May

Russia – New Russian President assumes office
On 7 May Russian President Dmitry Medvedev assumed office.

Nepal – Monarchy is abolished
On 28 May Nepal abolished its monarchy.

June

United States – Democratic Party Presidential nominee is announced
On 3 June the Democratic Party nominated Senator Barack Obama as their nominee for President, beating Senator Hillary Clinton.

Gaza – Ceasefire begins
On 19 June a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas began.

July

Serbia – War Crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic is arrested
On 21 July the former President of Republika Srpska and war crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic was arrested in Serbia.

August

Georgia – The 2008 South Ossetia War begins
On 7 August Russian troops entered Georgia thus beginning the 2008 South Ossetia War.

China – 2008 Olympic Games ceremony
On 8 August the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games opening ceremony took place.

Georgia – Ceasefire agreed
On 12 August a ceasefire between Russia and Georgia was agreed.

Georgia – Ceasefire signed
On 16 August the ceasefire between Russia and Georgia was officially signed, thus ending the 2008 South Ossetia War.

Pakistan – Pakistan’s President resigns
On 18 August Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf resigned.
United States – Senator John McCain announces Vice-President nomination
On 29 August Senator John McCain, the Republican Party nominee for President, announced Senator Sarah Palin as his nominee for Vice-President.

September

United States – US government takes over two major mortgage firms
On 7 September the US government took over the mortgage firms Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae.

Pakistan – New President of Pakistan is inaugurated
On 9 September Asif Ali Zardar (the window of Benazir Bhutto – the assassinated former Prime Minister of Pakistan) became Pakistan’s new President.

United States – Major investment bank in trouble
On 15 September the investment bank Lehman Brothers filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

South Africa – President resigns
On 21 September the South African President Thabo Mbeki resigned.

Somalia – Pirates seize a Ukrainian ship
On 25 September Somali pirates seized a Ukrainian ship carrying tanks and other weapons.

China – First spacewalk completed
On 27 September the Chinese astronaut Zhai Zhigang completed China’s first spacewalk.

October

United States – President Bush signs a US$700 billion bailout bill
On 3 October President George W. Bush signed the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) – a US$700 billion bailout bill to buy back assets and equity from struggling financial institutions.

November

United States – Senator Barack Obama wins American Presidency
On 4 November the Democratic Senator Barack Obama won the US election and became the first black President of the United States of America.

Somalia – Pirates seize an oil tanker
On 16 November Somali Pirates seized an oil tanker in the Indian Ocean.

India – Mumbai Terror Attacks begin
On 26 November the city of Mumbai was hit by a series of ten coordinated attacks, including bombings, shootings and sieges against The Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (a railway station), The Oberoi Trident (a complex of two hotels), The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower (another hotel), The Leopold Café, The Cama & Albless Hospital, Nariman House (an Orthodox Jewish Centre), The Metro Cinema, an alley near The Times of India building and St. Xavier’s College, The Mazagaoen Docks and finally a taxi in the Vile Parle suburb of Mumbai. Laskar-e-Toiba later claimed responsibility for the attacks.

India – Mumbai Terror Attacks end
On 29 November the sieges at The Oberoi Trident and The Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotels were finally brought to an end.

December

Iraq – Shoes thrown at President George W. Bush
On 14 December – at a press conference in Iraq, with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki – President George W. Bush had shoes thrown at him by the Iraqi journalist Muntadar al-Zaidi.

Gaza – Israel begins airstrikes
On 27 December Israel began airstrikes in the Gaza Strip.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| January | Gaza – Israel enters the Gaza Strip  
On 3 January Israeli ground troops entered the Gaza Strip.  
Gaza – A unilateral ceasefire is announced  
On 17 January Israel announced a unilateral ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.  
United States – President–elect Barack Obama is sworn in  
On 21 January President–elect Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America. |
| February | Iran – First satellite launched  
On 2 February Iran launched its first satellite into space. |
| March | Cameroon – The Pope restates the Catholic Church’s position on contraception  
On 17 January Pope Benedict XVI on a visit to Cameroon restated the Catholic Church’s position on contraception – an ‘absolute ban’ on the use of condoms and other contraceptives. |
| April | North Korea – North Korea launches a rocket  
On 4 April North Korea launched a rocket and was quickly condemned by the international community for doing so.  
Mexico – Swine Flu or Influenza A (H1N1) is confirmed in Mexico  
On 29 April, after cases of Swine Flu or Influenza A (H1N1) were confirmed in Mexico, Mexican President Felipe Calderon made a television address announcing that all major services in Mexico would be immediately shut down and he also strongly discouraged travel to and from Mexico. An attempt to prevent the spread of Swine Flu. |
| May | North Korea – A second nuclear test is carried out  
On 24 May North Korea announced that it had successfully conducted a second nuclear test.  
North Korea – 2 short-range missiles are test fired  
On 25 May North Korea test fired 2 short-range missiles. |
| June | United States – General Motors in trouble  
On 1 June General Motors filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.  
Egypt – President Obama announces a new beginning in the Middle East  
On 4 June President Barack Obama attempted to build bridges with the Muslim World in a keynote speech at Cairo University, entitled ‘On a New Beginning’.  
Global – Swine Flu or Influenza A (H1N1) is declared a pandemic  
On 11 June The World Health Organization declared Swine Flu or Influenza A (H1N1) a pandemic.  
Iran – President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is re-elected  
On 12 June President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won Iran’s Presidential election, however, the international community were quick to express their concerns over the validity of his election victory and thousands in Iran also took to the streets in violent protest against President Ahmadinejad’s re-election.  
Honduras – President overthrown in coup d’état  
On 28 June Honduran President Manuel Zelaya was overthrown by a coup d’état. |
July

China – 100 protestors die in Urumqi
On 5 July over a 100 protestors were killed and hundreds more injured during a protest in the city of Urumqi where protestors gathered to demand that the Chinese government investigate the deaths of two Urumqi citizens who had been killed during the Shaoguan incident (where violence broke out when protestors took to the streets of Shaoguan on 25 and 26 June 2009).

United Kingdom – The Iraq Inquiry begins
On 30 July The Iraq Inquiry (or Chilcot Inquiry) – a public inquiry into the UK’s role in the Iraq War – began.

August

North Korea – Two American journalists are officially pardoned
On 4 August Laura Ling and Euna Lee – two American journalists – who had been accused of entering North Korea illegally were officially pardoned by Kim Jong-il, the Supreme Leader of North Korea.

Libya – Lockerbie bomber is released from a Scottish prison
On 20 August Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi, who was convicted over the 1988 Lockerbie bombings, was flown back to Libya after being released from a Scottish prison on compassionate grounds (terminal prostate cancer). A number of world leaders – including President Obama – were quick to express their concerns about the Scottish government’s decision to grant him compassionate release from prison.

September

Japan – A new Prime Minister takes over
On 16 September Yukio Hatoyama took over as Japanese Prime Minister.

October

Norway – The 2009 Nobel Peace Prize is awarded
On 9 October President Barack Obama was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize.

Afghanistan – Presidential election enters a second round of voting
On 19 October Afghan President Hamid Karzai was forced to accept a second round of voting as no clear winner emerged during the first round of voting in the Afghan Presidential election.

November

Afghanistan – President Hamid Karzai is re-elected
On 2 November it was announced that President Hamid Karzai had been re-elected as President of Afghanistan after the second round of voting was completed.

Germany – 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall
On 9 November Berlin celebrated the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Belgium – First full-time President of the European Council is elected
On 19 November Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy was elected by European Council members as the first full-time President of the European Council.

Ireland – Ireland seeks financial support
On 21 November Ireland sought financial support from the EU’s European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

December

Italy – Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is attacked
On 13 December the Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was left bloodied and shaken by an attack at a political rally in Milan.

United States – Transatlantic plane bombing is thwarted
On 25 December a Nigerian man was restrained and later arrested after attempting to ignite explosives onboard a flight travelling from Amsterdam to Detroit.
**January**  
*Haiti – Earthquake strikes Haiti*  
On 12 January an earthquake measuring 7.0 devastated Haiti.

**February**  
*Dubai – Hamas military commander is assassinated*  
On 16 February Hamas military commander Mahmud al-Mabhuh was assassinated in Dubai by a hit squad travelling on forged British passports.

*Sudan – Ceasefire is signed with rebel group in Darfur*  
On 23 February the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir signed a ceasefire agreement with one of the main rebel groups in Darfur, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

**March**  
*Greece – Financial crisis is likened to a ‘wartime situation’*  
On 2 March Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou likened the Greek financial crisis to a ‘wartime situation’.

*Israel – Israeli plans to build in East Jerusalem are agreed*  
On 9 March plans for Israel to build new homes on Palestinian occupied land in East Jerusalem were agreed and the decision was immediately condemned by the international community.

**April**  
*Russia – Poland’s President dies in a plane crash*  
On 10 April Poland’s President Lech Kaczynski was killed when his plane crashed in Russia.

*Iceland – Ash cloud from the Eyjafjallajoekull eruption causes travel chaos*  
On 14 April the ash cloud from the Eyjafjallajoekull eruption in Iceland moved south and caused major air travel disruptions as all flights in and out of the UK were suspended. The airports in other Northern European countries were also severely affected by the ash cloud.

**May**  
*United Kingdom – UK General Election takes place*  
On 6 May the polls opened in the 2010 UK General Election.

*Belgium – European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) is agreed*  
On 9 May EU finance ministers – in a move designed to help stabilize the crisis in the Eurozone – agreed to set up the EFSF which provides Eurozone states in financial crisis with monetary support.

*United Kingdom – A new coalition government is formed*  
On 11 May and after days of negotiations it was announced that the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats would form a coalition government with David Cameron serving as Prime Minister and Nick Clegg serving as Deputy Prime Minister.

**June**  
*Colombia – New Colombian President is elected*  
On 20 June the former Colombian Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos won the election to become Colombia’s next President.

**July**  
*United States – Suspected Wikileaks whistleblower Bradley Manning is charged*  
On 5 July US Army intelligence analyst PFC Bradley Manning was charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for allegedly leaking classified US military documents to Wikileaks.

*Austria – Russian spy exchange takes place*  
On 9 July American and Russian officials met in Vienna to hand over ten Russian spies in exchange for four Russian prisoners.
Global – The Afghanistan War Logs are leaked by Wikileaks

Pakistan – Floods hit Pakistan
On 26 July unprecedented flooding hit Pakistan and ended up directly affecting the lives of 20 million people.

August

Iran – Fuelling begins at Iran’s first nuclear reactor
On 21 August fuelling began at the Bushehr nuclear reactor (Iran’s first nuclear power plant).

Iraq – US combat operations in Iraq cease
On 31 August President Barack Obama announced the end of the US combat mission in Iraq.

September

West Bank – Freeze on new settlement construction expires
On 26 September Israel’s agreement to freeze new settlement construction in the West Bank expired.

October

Norway – 2010 Nobel Peace Prize is announced
On 8 October the imprisoned Chinese pro-democracy activist Liu Xiaobo was announced as the recipient of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

Global – The Iraq War Logs are leaked by Wikileaks
On 22 October Wikileaks leaked some 400,000 documents (The Iraq War Logs) to The Guardian, The New York Times, and Der Spiegel newspapers.

November

United States – Republicans win back the House of Representatives
On 2 November the Republican Party took back control of the House of Representatives.

Burma – Aung San Suu Kyi is released from house arrest
On 13 November the pro-democracy leader and recipient of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest after being detained for 15 of the past 21 years.

Vatican – The Catholic Church amends its ‘absolute ban’ on condoms
On 20 November Pope Benedict XVI announced a slight change to the Catholic Church’s position on the use of condoms: from an ‘absolute ban’ to instead recognizing that in some instances the use of condoms is necessary to help stop the spread of Aids.

South Korea – North Korea fires artillery shells at South Korean border island
On 23 November North Korea fired a dozen artillery shells at Yeonpyeong island, a South Korean island, killing 2 soldiers and injuring a number of civilians.

Global – The US Embassy Cables are leaked by Wikileaks

December

United Kingdom – Wikileaks founder is arrested
On 7 December Wikileaks founder Julian Assange was arrested in London after allegations of rape were made against him in Sweden and a European arrest warrant was issued.

Norway – 2010 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony takes place
On 10 December the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony took place, however, the recipient (the imprisoned Chinese pro-democracy activist Liu Xiaobo) and his family were prevented from attending the ceremony by the Chinese government. Instead the award was placed symbolically on an empty seat at the ceremony.
Sweden – A car bomb and a suicide bombing in Stockholm
On 11 December a car bomb and a suicide bomber (Taimour Abdulwahab al-Abdaly) struck Stockholm.

Tunisia – Mohamed Bouazizi sets fire to himself
On 17 December Mohamed Bouazizi (a street vendor in Tunisia) committed self-immolation after having his stock confiscated.

Tunisia – Mass protests against Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
On 18 December, inspired by the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi on the previous day, protests started against the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the corruption, unemployment, poor living conditions and erosion of free speech in Tunisia.

Australia – Floods hit Queensland
In December major destruction was caused by the floods in Queensland.

Algeria – Anti-government protestors and the police clash
On 29 December anti-government protestors and the police clashed on the streets in Algeria.

2011

January

Russia – Russia-China oil pipeline opens
On 1 January the first Russia-China oil pipeline opened.

North Korea – US envoy visit North Korea
On 4 January a US envoy arrived in North Korea in an attempt to begin a new round of diplomacy with North Korea.

United States – Republican Party takes control of US Congress
On 6 January the Republican Party took control of the United States Congress.

United States – US defense budget cuts
On 7 January it was announced that the US defense budget would be cut by US$78b.

Sudan – Referendum on the independence of Southern Sudan begins
On 9 January a referendum about whether Southern Sudan should become independent began.

Tunisia – Tunisian President dissolves parliament
On 14 January Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was forced to dissolve parliament, declare a state of emergency and then flee to Saudi Arabia.

Israel – Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barack leaves the Labour Party
On 17 January the Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barack resigned from the Labour Party in order to form a new party.

Tunisia – Tunisian Prime Minister defends new Cabinet
On 18 January Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi defended his new Cabinet.

United States – President Obama hosts the Chinese President
On 18 January the US President Barack Obama hosted the Chinese President Hu Jintao at the White House.

Albania – Anti-government protests start
On 21 January anti-government protests started in Tirana.
Russia – Moscow’s Domodedovo airport is bombed
On 24 January a suicide bomber attacked Moscow’s Domodedovo airport killing 35 and injuring 113 people.

Global – The Palestinian Papers are leaked
On 24 January the Palestinian Papers were leaked by al-Jazeera.

Egypt – Egyptian protests begin
On 25 January, and inspired by the Tunisian protests, Egyptians took to the streets in protest against President Hosni Mubarak and his government.

United States – First Guantanamo Bay detainee is sentenced
On 26 January Ahmed Ghailani was the first Guantanamo Bay detainee to be sentenced by an American civilian court. He was given a life sentence for conspiracy to damage and destroy US property during the 1998 US Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

Yemen – Anti-government protests start
On 27 January anti-government protests against President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his government started in Sana’a.

Jordan – Anti-government protests start
On 28 January protestors took to the streets in protest against Prime Minister Samir Rifai.

Egypt – President Mubarak announces a new Egyptian Cabinet
On 29 January President Hosni Mubarak announced a new Egyptian Cabinet after having sacked his former Cabinet.

Sudan – Result of the Southern Sudan referendum is announced
On 30 January it was announced that Southern Sudan had voted overwhelmingly for independence in the referendum.

Egypt – Further changes to the new Egyptian Cabinet are announced
On 31 January, and amid growing protests, President Hosni Mubarak announced that he would be making further changes to the new Egyptian Cabinet (replacing Interior Minister Habib al-Adly and also the Culture and Finance Ministers).

February

Jordan – Jordanian government are sacked
On 1 February King Abdullah II announced that he had sacked the Jordanian government.

Yemen – President announces he will not be standing for re-election in 2013
On 2 February President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced that he would not be standing for re-election in 2013 and he would also not be passing over power to his son.

Egypt – President Mubarak announces that he will not be stepping down
On 2 February President Hosni Mubarak announced that he would not be stepping down.

Yemen – ‘Day of Rage’ takes place
On 3 February a ‘Day of Rage’ took place in protest against the Yemeni government.

Bahrain – Anti-government protestors gather in front of the Egyptian Embassy
On 4 February anti-government protestors gathered in front of the Egyptian Embassy in Manama, Bahrain.

Jordan – New Prime Minister is appointed
On 9 February Dr. Marouf Suleiman al-Bakhit was appointed the new Prime Minister of Jordan by King Abdullah II.

**Egypt – President Mubarak resigns**
On 12 February President Hosni Mubarak resigned.

**Algeria – Anti-government protestors gather in Algiers**
On 12 February anti-government protestors gathered in May First Square in Algiers.

**Bahrain – Police and anti-government protestors clash**
On 14 February there were violent clashes between the police and anti-government protestors in Manama, Bahrain.

**Iran – Anti-government protests began**
On 14 February anti-government protests began against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

**Bahrain – Anti-government protestors gather at the Pearl Roundabout**
On 15 February anti-government protestors began to gather at the Pearl Roundabout.

**Libya – Anti-government protestors gather in Benghazi**
On 15 February anti-government protestors gathered outside the police headquarters in Benghazi to protest against the arrest of human rights activist Fethi Tarbel.

**Yemen – Anti-government protests take place in Aden**
On 16 February anti-government protests took place in Aden.

**Libya – Anti-government protests increase in Benghazi**
On 16 February anti-government protestors gathered in Maydan al-Shajara Square in Benghazi.

**Bahrain – Riot police, the military and protestors clash at the Pearl Roundabout**
On 17 February riot police, the military and protestors clashed at the Pearl Roundabout.

**Libya – ‘Day of Rage’ takes place**
On 17 February a ‘Day of Rage’ took place in Libya and around the world in protest against Colonel Gaddafi.

**Yemen – ‘Friday of Fury’ takes place**
On 18 February a ‘Friday of Fury’ took place as protests took to the streets in other cities across Yemen.

**Bahrain – The riot police and the military are ordered to withdraw**
On 19 February riot police and the military were ordered to withdraw from Manama and so protestors once again protestors began to gather at Pearl Roundabout.

**Yemen – Students start a sit in at Sana’a University**
On 20 February students began a sit in at Sana’a University.

**Libya – Anti-government protests spread to the Libyan capital Tripoli**
On 21 February anti-government protests escalated as protests spread to the Libyan capital Tripoli.

**Global – The UN condemns Colonel Gaddafi over his excessive use of force**
On 21 February the UN condemned Colonel Gaddafi for ordering the Libyan Air Force to open fire on anti-government protestors in Tripoli.
Libya – Two Libyan fighter pilots defect
On 21 February two Libyan fighter pilots refused to open fire on anti-government protestors and instead defected by flying to Malta.

New Zealand – Christchurch hit by an earthquake measuring 6.3
On 22 February Christchurch was hit by an earthquake which measured 6.3. Dozens were killed and hundreds were either injured or reported missing.

Egypt – Two Iranian naval ships passed through the Suez Canal
On 22 February two Iranian naval ships passed through the Suez Canal on route to Syria. It was the first time that Iranian naval ships had passed through the Suez Canal since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Bahrain – 50 political prisoners are released from prison
On 22 February 50 political prisoners were released from prison in an attempt to appease protestors.

Libya – Colonel Gaddafi makes a television address
On 22 February Colonel Gaddafi made a defiant television address in which he vowed to fight on and die as a ‘martyr’.

Algeria – State of emergency is repealed
On 23 February the Algerian cabinet agreed to repeal its 19-year-old state of emergency.

Global – Governments work towards evacuating foreign nationals from Libya
On 23 February governments around the world sent planes and ships to Libya in order to evacuate foreign nationals still trapped in the country.

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Russia – Government releases ambitious military plan
On 24 February government planned a $650bn defence spend up to 2020. This means that spending on defence development would triple.

Israel – Rocket reaches Be’er Sheva in Southern Israel
On 24 February a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip struck the Nargev’s largest city for the first time since Israeli Operation Cast Lead was launched 2 years ago.

Egypt – New Protests in Cairo
On 25 February thousands protesters gathered in Tahrir Square to push for the fulfilment of the revolution and for new Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq’s dismissal.

Libya – USA imposes sanctions on the Lybian Government
On 26 February Barack Obama signed an executive order freezing the assets of Gaddafi, his family, central bank and government’s members.

Tunisia – Protests lead to Prime Minister’s resignation
On 28 February security forces clashed with protesters in Tunis demanding the removal of some ministers of Ghannouchi’s interim government before the premier announced his resignation.

March

Ivory Coast – Fire on UN sanctions experts
On 1 March forces loyal to Gbagbo opened fire on UN experts who were investigating on a suspected breach of international arms embargo of the country.

Libya – Rebels take Eastern part of the country
On 2 March Gaddafi’s troops withdrew from Eastern Libya, thousands of rebels celebrate in Benghazi.

Libya – UN urges refugees’ mass evacuation
On 2 March UN refugee agency issued an urgent appeal for the evacuation of thousands of people fleeing into Tunisia.

Sudan – Government to organise Darfur referendum
On 3 March government announced that Sudan will hold a referendum on whether to unify the three states of its Darfur territory into one region.

Yemen – Police opens fire on protesters
On 9 March Yemeni police forces opened fire against protesters in an effort to prevent the protesters against President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s three-decade rule expanding the camp they have set up in a square near Sanaa university.

Morocco – King announces constitutional reform
On 9 March King Mohammed VI announced broad revision of Morocco’s constitution: the overall project would be put to Moroccan voters in a referendum.

Egypt – Killings during protests
On 10 March thirteen Egyptians were killed during riots between Christians and Muslims in Cairo, while new government met for the first time.

Tibet – Dalai Lama will give up his political role
On 11 March Dalai Lama announced that he will give up his political role in Tibet's government-in-exile, shifting that power to an elected representative.
Japan – Tsunami follows massive earthquake
On 11 March a magnitude 8.9 earthquake slammed Japan’s north-eastern coast, unleashing a four-meter tsunami that swept boats, cars, buildings and tons of debris miles inland. Official estimations number the civilian deaths at 20000.

Israel – New Housing in West Bank
On 11 March Israeli government authorized the construction of hundreds of new homes in West Bank.

Bahrain – Protests continue
On 12 March thousands of anti-government protesters blocked the access to the financial district in Manama.

Japan – Government fears a nuclear disaster
On 12 March, following multiple explosions at the Fukushima nuclear plant, Japanese authorities warned of health risks, telling people in a 20-mile area to stay indoors.

Libya – Gaddafi’s troops push into Benghazi
On 16 March, Gaddafi’s forces pushed into the rebel-held city of Benghazi, defying world demands for an immediate ceasefire and forcing rebels to retreat.

Libya – UNSC passes resolution
On 17 March UN Security Council passed a resolution authorizing its member states “to take all necessary measures (...) to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack in the Libyan Arab Jamhariya, including Benghazi”.

Libya – International forces start air strikes
On 19 March the first air strikes contributed to halt the advance of Gaddafi’s troops on Benghazi. The initial international coalition includes Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Qatar, Spain, UK and US.

Gaza – Israel launches air strikes
On 23 March, Israeli forces launched air strikes in the Gaza Strip killing eight civilians.

Syria – Anti-government protests continue, 15 killed
On 23 March, security forces raided a mosque in the city of Dara where protesters had sought shelter.

Portugal – Prime Minister resigns
After parliamentary rejection of government’s austerity plan, Prime Minister Jose Socrates resigned on 23 March.

Libya – Foreign Minister resigns
On 30 April Libyan Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa resigned.

April

Israel/Gaza Strip – Hamas fighting continue
On 9 April, Israeli warplanes killed five militants as response to the launch of more than 30 rockets towards Southern Israel

Egypt – Protesters in Tahrir Square
On 10 April, thousands protesters gathered again in Tahrir Square to demand the removal of the military council ruling the country

Ivory Coast – Former President Gbagbo is arrested
On 11 April new government’s forces, with support of French officials, arrested Gbagbo in Abidjan, ending de facto the Ivorian civil war.
Japan – Nuclear alarm
On 12 April, Japanese authorities have raised the crisis level to a severity on par with Chernobyl disaster after new assessments of radiation leaks from the Fukushima nuclear plant.

Cuba – Fidel Castro leaves Communist Party’s leadership
On 19 April it became official that Fidel Castro was removed from the leadership of the party, while other senior stalwarts were appointed to the top positions. In his speech, Fidel Castro announced that “the revolution will go on”.

Yemen – President agrees to quit
On 23 April Yemeni President Saleh agreed on a proposal of Arab Gulf mediators to quit within 30 days. Seven opposition parties welcomed this decision with reservation.

Tibet – Harvard scholar elected PM of the Tibetan exile government
On 27 April Lobsang Sangay has been appointed to head the Central Tibetan Administration based in the Indian town of Dharamasala. He will inherit much of the political powers relinquished by the Dalai Lama in March.

Palestine – Fatah and Hamas reach agreement
On 27 April, and after several days of secret meetings in Cairo, Fatah and Hamas have reached an historical agreement on planning to form a transitional government and holding new elections in West Bank and Gaza Strip next year.

May

USA – President Obama announces Osama bin Laden’s death
On 1 May Osama bin Laden was slain in his luxury hideout in Pakistan in a fire-fight with U.S. forces.

Vatican City – John Paul II is beatified
On 1 May Pope Benedict XVI beatified John Paul II in St. Peter’s Square. 1.5 million pilgrims attended the event.

Pakistan – Government criticizes American raid
On 3 May Pakistani authorities manifested their concern on what they considered “an unauthorized raid that violated the country’s sovereignty”.

Pakistan – Talibans’ terror attack kills 80 military recruits
On 13 May twin suicide bombings killed 80 recruits in Shabqadar; Talibans said attack had carried out to avenge bin Laden’s death.

USA – Government imposes sanctions on Syrian President Assad
In response to the bloody crackdown perpetrated by Syrian government on protesters since mid-March, on 18 May, US government has frozen any financial asset that Assad has in the US.

USA – Strauss-Kahn resigns as IMF director
On 18 May Strauss-Kahn resigned saying he wanted to devote all his energy to battle the sexual assault allegations he faced in New York from a 32-year-old hotel maid that lead to his arrest on 15 May.

Ivory Coast – Alassane Ouattara inaugurated as president
On 21 May Ouattara was proclaimed Ivory Coast’s president in a ceremony he should have enjoyed six months ago when, after being elected, he faced the opposition of former president Gbagbo who refused to accept his election defeat and dragged the country into civil war.

Bosnia – Commander Mladic extradited to ICC in The Hague
On 31 May former Serbian commander Mladic was placed in UN detention to await trial on genocide charges.

June

Russia – Foreign Minister warns US and Europe on Syria
On 1 June Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned Europe and US not to support anti-government Syrian protesters by holding out the possibility of military support as provided in Libya.

Afghanistan – Talks between US and Taliban
On 28 June the American administration confirmed that negotiations with Taliban have begun after Obama earlier announced US will draw down troops.

Libya – ICC issues arrest warrants for Gaddafi
On 28 June the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Gaddafi.

Greece – Government approves austerity measures
On 29 June the Greek Parliament voted in favor of a drastic austerity package, welcomed by the EU. Meanwhile, a nationwide 48-hour strike was declared and violent riots continued in Athens.

July

Morocco – Pools open for Constitutional Referendum
On 1 July Moroccans voted in a historic referendum on diminishing the almost absolute powers of King Mohammed VI and devolved some of them to the prime minister.

Libya – Gaddafi threatens attacks to Europe
On 2 July Gaddafi, in a public speech, warned that Libya would take the battle to Europe if NATO would not stop its bombing campaign.

Syria – Protests continue
On 3 July hundreds of thousands people gathered in the biggest cities facing extreme violence of Assad’s security forces that killed nine protestors.

Thailand – Puea Thai wins election
On 3 July Yingluck Shinawatra's Puea Thai (For Thais) party won political elections in a victory for urban and rural poor protesters who clashed with the army in 2010.

South Sudan – A new State
On 9 July South Sudan became an independent State and member of the United Nations.

USA – Obama suspends $800m in military aid to Pakistan
On 10 July Obama aide confirmed the withholding of almost a third of the $2.7bn in security assistance to Pakistan. Relations between US and Pakistan have deteriorated since US forces killed Osama bin Laden in a Pakistani town.
In response, Pakistani Defense Ministry Mukhtar threatened to pull back troops from the Afghan border as it became economically unaffordable.

India – Terror attack in Mumbai
On 14 July India’s financial capital suffered a major terror attack that killed at least 21 people. No one took responsibility for the attack.

Libya – US recognizes rebels’ authority
On 15 July the US government aligned its position to Italy, France and Qatar by recognizing the Libyan rebels as “the legitimate governing authority”.

Syria – Security forces kill 32 protesters
During the largest protest since the uprising began, on 19 July, at least 32 were killed by the national security forces. Protesters dedicated protests to the tens of thousands of people detained since the uprising began in mid-March.

Norway – Devastating terror attacks kill 77
On 22 July two sequential attacks, perpetrated by an isolated right-wing and anti-Islamic Norwegian extremist, shocked Norway. The first attack, a car bomb explosion in front of the Prime Minister’s building, killed 8 people. Two hours later the extremist, disguised as a policeman, opened fire at a youth camp organized by the Labour Party killing 69 participants.

Libya – Rebels' commander killed
On 28 July the commander of Libya’s rebel army was killed in Benghazi along with two senior officers.

August

Syria – UN condemns violence
On 4 August United Nations Security Council condemned Assad’s forces for committing human rights violations in the attacks on civilians and has called on the government’s authorities to end the violence and launch a participated political reform. The government has been using violence to put down protests since March and, according to activists’ and US sources, governmental forces have already killed 2000 civilians.

England – Widespread riots after police killed a suspect
On 6 August, several hundred protesters started rioting in London to protest after a 29-year-old suspect was shot dead by police. Riots spread in different regions for several days and were characterized by rampant looting and arson attacks of unprecedented levels.

Israel/Gaza – Terror attack in Eilat
On 18 August terrorists opened fire on buses in Eilat, a southern Israeli city, killing 7 civilians. In response, Israeli forces carried out air strikes on the Gaza Strip, killing six militants.

Libya – Rebels raced into Tripoli
On 21 August Libyan rebel forces, after six months of struggle, overran a major military base defending the capital and entered Tripoli with no resistance. Gaddafi’s end appears near.

Pakistan – CIA killed Al Qaida’s second in command
On 27 August, Al-Rahman was killed by the American intelligence in Pakistan.

September

USA – UN condemns Israel
On 1 September, a United Nation’s report concluded that the Israeli armed raid on the flotilla Mavi Marmara was characterized by “excessive force” and urged the Israeli government to offer compensations to the families of the dead.

Turkey – Israeli’s ambassador expelled
On 3 September, Turkey expelled Israeli’s ambassador over Israeli refusal to apologize for the deadly raid on the Freedom Flotilla.

Libya – Rebels prepare to attack Bani Walid
On 5 September, Libyan rebel forces massed for an attack on one of ousted leader Gadafi’s last bastions Bani Walid, as their effort to negotiate the surrender of the desert town broke down.

Libya – Rebels accused of war crimes
On 13 September, Amnesty International released a report, based on three months of investigation in Libya, highlighting numerous human right abuses perpetrated by the Libyan opposition.
Palestine – Violent protest against U.S.
On 22 September, thousands of Palestinians gathered outside the residence of PA president Abbas to protest against United States’ pledge to veto any request for U.N. membership for a Palestinian state.

Yemen – President Ali Abdullah Saleh returned home
On 24 September, Yemenite president moved back to Yemen after more than three months of being treated in Saudi Arabia for wounds from an assassination attempt.

October

Norway – Nobel Peace Prize to three women
On 7 October, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirlefe, Liberian women’s rights activist Leymah Gbowee and democracy activist Tawakkul Karman of Yemen.

Ukraine – Tymoshenko sentenced to 7 years
On 11 October, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was found guilty of abuse of office and sentenced to 7 years in jail.

Libya – Gadhafi’s son captured in Sirte
On 12 October, Libyan rebels captured Mo’tassim Gadhafi in Sirte after he tried to escape the battle-torn city in a car with his family.

Worldwide – “Occupy” protests expand
On 16 October, hundreds of thousands people nicknamed “the indignant” marched in cities across the world to protest against governments’ cost-cutting and failed financial policies.

Israel/Palestine – Prisoners’swap
On 18 October, Hamas released Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit after 5 years of imprisonment. At the same time, Israeli government released 477 Palestinian prisoners. They are the first of 1027 that will be released in the coming months.

Libya – Gadhafi captured and killed
On 20 October, Libyan fighters captured and killed 69-years-old Moammar Gadhafi as last loyal town Sirte fell.

Spain – ETA ends armed independence campaign
On 20 October, after killing more than 800 people across Spain, the ETA Basque separatists announced they would lay down their arms.

Libya – Liberation Ceremony
On 23 October, Libya’s interim rulers declared the country liberated after an 8-month civil war.

Palestine – UNESCO admits Palestine as member state
On 31 October, UNESCO’s General Conference voted to admit Palestine as a Member of the Organization. The vote was carried by 107 votes in favour of admission and 14 votes against, with 52 abstentions.

November

Greece – New Government Coalition
On 6 November, Greek Prime Minister Papandreou and opposition leader Samaras have agreed on a new coalition government to approve a euro zone bailout deal before elections. Papademos, former vice president of the European Central Bank, was named new prime minister.
Italy – Berlusconi resigns
On 12 November, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi resigned after the Parliament’s lower chamber passed austerity reforms.

Italy – Monti named to head government
On 14 November, Italy’s president appointed former European Commissioner Mario Monti to head a new government charged with implementing urgent structural reforms.

Yemen – President Saleh steps down
On 23 November, Yemenite autocratic leader agreed to step down after months of demonstrations against his 33-year rule. He was the fourth leader to lose power in the wave of Arab Spring uprisings during 2011.

Syria - Arab League agrees to sanctions on Syria
On 26 November, Arab League economy ministers agreed to impose a list of sanctions after Damascus ignored a deadline to end a violent crackdown on opposition.

December

Iraq – U.S. formally ends Iraqi war
On the 15 December, US military officially declared an end to its mission in Iraq, no senior Iraqi political figures attended the ceremony.

North Korea – Kim Jong Il has died
On the 17 December, North Korea’s leader died. His third son, Kim Jong Un, was unveiled as his successor.

Iraq – Bombings kill 60 civilians
On 21 December, a wave of at least 14 bombings ripped across Baghdad killing at least 60 people in the worst violence in Iraq for months.

2012

January

Syria – Arab League halts observer mission
On 28 January, the Arab League halted its observer mission because of escalating violence that killed nearly 100 people in three days.

Israel – Netanyahu wins primary
On 31 January, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won the leadership race of his Likud Party over his ultranationalist rival, hours after his government approved new incentives to entice people to move to West Bank settlements.

February

Syria – Governmental forces killed 200 activists
On 4 February, Syrian forces killed 200 people in an offensive that appeared to be the bloodiest episode in the 11-month-old uprising.

Iran – U.N. nuclear inspectors
On 20 February, the International Atomic Energy Agency met Iranian nuclear scientists and visited the Parchin military complex for inspections.

Greece – Extra bailout loans
On 21 February, the Eurozone countries reached an agreement to hand Greece 130 billion in extra bailout loans to save it from a potential disastrous default.
March

Russia – Putin declares victory
On 4 March, Putin gained over 64% votes, enough to give him a first round victory. Opposition groups reported widespread fraud and called for mass protests.

Greece – Debt swap unblocks second bailout
On 9 March, Greek government approved the largest restructuring of government debt in history. Eurozone finance ministers said the conditions for a new 130bn-euro were now in place.

Afghanistan – US soldier kills 16 Afghan civilians
On 11 March, a US soldier killed 16 civilians, entering their homes in the province of Kandahar. He handed himself over to the US military authorities after carrying out the killings.

Egypt – Pope Shenouda III dies
On 17 March, Coptic Christian Pope Shenouda III died at the age of 88. He was reported to suffer from cancer.

Mali – Soldiers in revolt
On 21 March, a group of Army mutineers appeared on Mali’s national television station to declare they had ended President Amadou Toumani Toure’s regime and put in place the “National Committee for the Return of Democracy and the Restoration of State” (CNRDR).

April

Myanmar – Suu Kyi wins election
On 1 April, opposition leader and Nobel peace prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy won the presidential elections.

Syria – Civilians targeted
On 7 April, the Local Coordination Committees of Syria reported that the regime targeted civilians and killed 127 in the eastern city of Rastan.

Syria – UN Security Council plans monitors’ deployment
On 14 April, the UNSC has passed a resolution authorising the deployment of a team of monitors to Syria to oversee the agreed ceasefire.

Sierra Leone – Charles Taylor found guilty
On 26 April, after a five-year-long trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, former Liberian leader Charles Taylor has been found guilty of aiding and abetting civil war crimes during the Sierra Leone civil war.

May

France – Francois Hollande wins the elections
On 7 May, the socialist Francois Hollande defeated French President Nicolas Sarkozy in the presidential runoff.

Serbia – Tomislav Nikolic elected new president
On 21 May, nationalist Tomislav Nikolic has been elected president of Serbia with liberal incumbent Boris Tadic admitting defeat soon after polls closed.

Yemen – Suicide blast kills over 100 troops
On 21 May, a suicide bomber set off a blast that killed more than 100 Yemenite soldiers in what appeared to be the deadliest attack ever on troops in Yemen.

USA – NATO accept Obama’s timetable on Afghanistan
On 21 May, NATO leaders signed off Obama’s exit strategy from Afghanistan that calls for an end to combat operations in 2013 and withdrawal of the international military force in 2014.

June

Egypt - Mubarak sentenced to jail
On 2 June, former Egyptian President was sentenced to life in prison for complicity in the killings of protesters during last year’s uprising.

Syria – Massacres continue
On 7 June, Syrian pro-government forces killed 78 people, many of them women and children, in Houla, a village in Hama province.

Spain – Bailout request welcomed
On 10 June, the International Monetary Fund welcomed Spain’s decision to request a loan of up to 100bn euros from Eurozone funds to help shore up its struggling banks.

Egypt – Highest court annuls parliament
On 15 June, Egypt’s highest court declared the parliament invalid. The Supreme Constitutional Court found that all articles regulating parliamentary elections are invalid. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces declared its full legislative power.

Syria – UN suspends peace mission
On 16 June, UN observers have suspended their activities because of the escalating violence.

Greece – Pro-bailout’s party wins the election
On 18 June, New Democracy gained a narrow election victory with 29.7% of the vote. Main opposition party Syriza reached 26.9%.

Egypt - Mursi elected president
On 23 June, Mohamed Mursi, member of the long-time Muslim Brotherhood, was declared his nation’s first democratically elected president.

July

Switzerland – Discovered ‘God-particle’
On 4 July, CERN scientists reporting from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) have claimed the discovery of a new particle consistent with the Higgs boson.

Syria – Mass killings in Tremseh
On 12 July, some 200 people were killed in the village of Tremseh, Hama province.

Syria – Top Syrian officials killed
On 19 July, a deadly attack delivered the harshest blow yet to al-Assad’s regime: three top officials were killed in Damascus.

Syria – UN renews its mission
On 20 July, the UNSC renewed its Syrian observer mission for 30 days.

August

Syria – Kofi Annan resigns
On 2 August, former UN secretary general Kofi Annan announced he was resigning because of the failure of what he defined a “mission impossible”.

USA – ‘Curiosity’ Rover lands on Mars
On 6 August, NASA’s new Mars Rover has reached the surface of its new home.

Syria – Prime Minister defects
On 6 August, Prime Minster Riyad Hijab defected the embattled regime of Bashar al-Assad. He announced “to join the ranks of the freedom and dignity revolution”.

Libya - Transitional Council hands over power
On 7 August, Libya’s National Council handed over power to the General National Congress elected in July.

USA - Neil Armstrong dies
On 26 August, the first man on the Moon, Neil Armstrong, has died aged 82 from complications from heart surgery.

September

Libya - Attack on US Consulate
On 11 September, armed gunmen stormed the US consulate and killed US ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other officials.

October

Venezuela - Hugo Chávez elected
On 7 October, Hugo Chávez was elected for a third term.

November

USA - Obama re-elected
On 6 November, Barack Obama was elected as president of United States.

United Nations - Upgrades Palestinian Authority status
On 29 November - The UN General Assembly upgraded the status of the Palestinian Authority from current observer to non-member state.

December

North Korea - launches rocket into orbit
On 12 December, North Korea successfully launched a rocket into orbit.

2013

January

European Union - Imposes Oil Embargo on Iran
On 4 January, countries within the European Union agreed to impose an embargo on Iranian oil.

February

Germany - Education Minister stripped of PhD
On 6 February, German education minister Annette Schavan was stripped of PhD for plagiarism.

United Kingdom - Same sex marriage bill advances through legislature
On 7 February, same-sex marriage in the UK passed second reading in Commons.

United Kingdom - UK loses AAA credit rating
On 25 February, Britain lost AAA credit rating due to poor economic growth and continued austerity.

March

Mali - Al-Qaeda commander killed
On 3 March, Al-Qaeda commander Abou Zeid killed in Mali by French forces.

Venezuela - Chávez dies
On 5 March, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez died aged 58.

Central African Republic - Rebels capture capital
On 22 March, Rebels captured Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, as President François Bozizé fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Scotland - Scotland sets date for referendum
On 23 March, Scotland's First Minister and Scottish National Party (SNP) leader, Alex Salmond, set the date September 18, 2014, for the country's referendum on political independence from the rest of the United Kingdom.

April

Palestine – Fayyad Resigns
On 13 April, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad resigned in Palestine amid infighting among the leaders of the Palestinian Authority and popular discontent.

Venezuela – Maduro replaces Chavez
On 14 April, Nicolas Maduro won special presidential elections to pick Hugo Chavez’s successor. He received the 50.8% of votes, while Henrique Capriles Radonski reached 49%. Maduro’s opposition questioned the constitutionality of his election.

May

Syria - Israeli Airstrikes hits Damascus
On 3-5 May, Israeli air forces struck Damascus. Israeli officials maintained that actions were not to be considered as Israel’s direct involvement in the Syrian’s ongoing civil war. Rather, the strikes targeted military warehouses in an effort to prevent Hezbollah from getting more weapons.

Syria – War spills over into Lebanon
On 25-26 May, Hezbollah and Syrian forces bombed the rebel-controlled town of Al-Qusayr. In response, several rockets hit Shiite suburbs of Beirut, considered to be strongholds of Hezbollah.

USA/Syria – McCain meets Syrian rebels

Turkey – Protests spread from Gezi Park
On 31 May, a sit-in protesting government’s plans to demolish Istanbul’s Gezi Park in Taksim Square to build a shopping-center turned into enormous anti-government demonstrations in several cities throughout Turkey.

June

Iran – Rowhani wins election
On 15 June, Hassan Rowhani – a moderate cleric and Iran’s former negotiator on nuclear issues- won presidential elections with just under 51% votes.

Australia – Gillard resigns
On 26 June, Prime Minister Julia Gillard resigned after being ousted as Labor Party leader in a party vote. Former PM Kevin Rudd substituted her as party leader and, the following day, replaced her as PM.

Egypt – Massive protests erupt
On 30 June, first anniversary of Morsi’s presidency, one million people took to the streets to protest in organized demonstrations calling for the president to step down.

July

Egypt – Morsi deposed by Military
On 4 July, the Egyptian military deposed Morsi and suspended the constitution in what they defined an act aimed at “national reconciliation”. Mohammed Morsi was taken into custody and numerous of his inner circle were placed under house arrest. Adli Mansour, chief of the Supreme Constitutional Court, was sworn in as interim president.

Palestine/Israel- New Peace Talks
On 30 July, Palestinian and Israeli negotiators adhered to the initiative of the US Secretary of State John Kerry to resume peace talks on all final status issues.

August

Russia- Asylum to Snowden
On 1 August, Russia granted a one-year asylum to Edward Snowden, the American who leaked info about US surveillance. The asylum allowed him to leave the Moscow airport where he had been since June. In response, Obama cancelled a planned summit with Russian President Putin which was to be held in Moscow in September.

**Egypt – State of Emergency declared**
On 19 August, while the crackdown and protests continued with casualties mounting and more than 1000 fatalities, a court ordered that former president Hosni Mubarak be released from prison.

**Syria – Obama considers a limited strike**
On 27 August, US President Obama declared to be considering a limited strike on the Syrian Military bases believed to be responsible for the chemical attack that killed as many as 1000 people on the 21 August.

**September**

**Egypt – Army hits Sinai militants**
On 7 September, the Egyptian army mounted a major operation against Islamist militants in North Sinai on Saturday, killing or wounding at least 30 people.

**Syria- USA and Russia reach deal over chemical weapons**
On 14 September, United States and Russia reached a deal to compel Syria to account for and eventually destroy its chemical weapons arsenal, leaving open the possibility that the UN could authorize sanctions or military action for future violations.

**Japan – Government switches off last nuclear reactor**
On 15 September, Japan concluded the process of switching off its last working nuclear reactor, for a scheduled inspection, with no restart in sight due to public hostility towards atomic power.

**Iran/USA- Diplomatic Relations are re-established**
On 27 September, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry during P5+1 and Iran talks, the highest-level direct contact between the United States and Iran in six years. USA and Iran cut diplomatic relations in 1980, after students and Islamic militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took American diplomats hostage.

**October**

**Norway- OPCW wins the Nobel Peace Price**
On 11 October, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons won Nobel Peace Prize.

**China/India- China-India reach border defense pact**
On 22 October, China and India signed a deal aimed at soothing tension on their contested border, as the two countries tried to break a decades-old stalemate on overlapping claims to remote stretches of the Himalayas.

**Afghanistan- Australia declares its war to be over**
On 28 October, Australian PM Tony Abbott visited Afghanistan and declares war over.

**November**

**DR Congo- Army defeats M23 rebels**
On 5 November, the M23 rebel group announced it was ending its rebellion after one year and a half of armed violence.

**Iran – Agreement on nuclear weapons**
On 23 November, Iran reached an interim agreement with the P5+1 countries over limiting its nuclear programs in exchange for reduced sanctions.

**Italy – Berlusconi expelled from parliment**
On 26 November, the Italian Senate expelled former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi over tax fraud conviction.
December

Central African Republic – UN creates MISCA
On 5 December, the UNSC resolution 2127 established the “African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic” to stabilize the country as a result of the Central African Republic conflict under the Djotodia administration and following the 2013 Central African Republic coup d’état.

South Africa – Mandela dies
On 5 December, Nelson Mandela died aged 95.

2014

January

Tunisia – Government steps down
On 9 January, Prime Minister Ali Larayedh stepped down following renewed protests, paving the way for new elections, in accordance with an agreement between his Islamist Ennahda party and secular opposition parties.

Egypt – New Constitution
On 14 and 15 January, Egyptians approved a new constitution that bans political parties based on religion, gives women equal rights and protects the status of minority Coptic Christians.

February

Ukraine – Agreement for unity government
On 20 February, and after more than two months of violent pro-European protests, opposition forces agreed on forming a unity government led by interim President Oleksandr Turchynov.

March

Egypt – Court bans Hamas
On 4 March, an Egyptian bans the Palestinian group Hamas and order its offices in the country to be shut down and brands the organization as a “terrorist organization”.

USA – Internet control to be relinquished
On 14 March, and following revelations on NSA’s surveillance, the US government announces plans to relinquish remaining controls of the internet.

Ukraine/Russia – Referendum on Crimea
On 16 March, voters in Crimea vote overwhelming to leave Ukraine and rejoin Russia.

April

Ukraine/Russia – NATO suspends cooperation with Russia
On 1 April, NATO suspends “all practical civilian and military cooperation” with Russia as a result of the annexation of Crimea, and no sign that Russian troops have withdrawn from the Ukrainian border.

Central African Republic – UN to send peacekeepers
On 11 April, the United Nations vote to send 12000 peacekeepers in the CAR to help protect citizens as Christians and Muslims continue fighting in the country.

Palestine – The PA signs 15 Un/Geneva treaties
On 12 April, the Palestinian Authority signs 15 UN/Geneva human rights treaties including the Fourth Geneva Convention.

May

Thailand – Army declares martial law
On 20 May, the Royal Thai Army declares martial law after six months of political unrest.

China/Russia – Massive gas export contract
On 21 May, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin sign a massive 30-year natural gas export contract worth $400 billion.
Ukraine/Russia – Federal State of New Russia is declared
On 22 May, the unrecognized Federal State of Ne Russia confederation is declared and agreements were signed between leaders of the self-proclaimed People’s republics of Donetsk and Lugansk.

June
Brazil – Massive protests against the World Cup
On 9 June, well participated protests diffuse all over the country to criticize the government over the high expenditures related to the World Cup 2014.

Syria – General amnesty
On 9 June, the Syrian government declares a general amnesty for all citizens.

Iraq: ISIS grows stronger
On 21-25 June, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant captures major cities in western Iraq.

July
Israel/Palestine- Operation Protective Edge is launched
On 8 July, Israel launches Operation Protective Edge in the Hamas-ruled Gaza strip to stop rocket fire into Israel.

August
Liberia/Sierra Leone- Ebola outbreak
On 2 August, Liberia and Sierra Leone declare a state of emergency as the Ebola virus disease spread over both countries.

Israel/Palestine – Internationally mediated ceasefire
On 26 August, most Israeli ground forces are withdrawn from Gaza as a consequence of a mediated ceasefire.

September
Scotland – Referendum on independence
On 19 September, Scotland votes “No” to Scottish Independence.

Syria – Airstrikes against the Islamic State
On 23 September, the United States commences air strikes against Islamic State in Syria.

Palestine – Unity Government
On 26 September, Fatah and Hamas agree to form a unity government on the Gaza Strip.

October
World– Nobel Peace Prize 2014
On 10 October, Pakistani child education activist Malala Yousafzai and Indian children’s rights advocate Kailash Satyarthi are awarded the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sweden- Recognition for the state of Palestine
On 30 October, the newly elected Swedish government announces its recognition of the State of Palestine.

November
North Korea- UNHRC resolution
On 18 November, the United Nations Human Rights Council passes a resolution recommending the Security Council authorize a probe into North Korea’s human rights abuses.

December
Denmark – Claim on the North Pole
On 15 December, authorized by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Denmark becomes the first country to officially submit a claim on the North Pole.

Cuba/USA – New diplomatic relations
On 17 December, and after 55 years, Cuba and the United States re-establish diplomatic relations.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 2015 | January  
Palestine – PA joins ICC  
On 1 January, the Palestinian Authority signs a treaty to join and participate in the International Criminal Court.  
France – Charlie Hebdo shooting  
On 7 January, al-Qaeda gunmen attack the Paris office of the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* killing twelve people.  
February  
Switzerland – UN negotiators agree on early draft of climate deal  
On 13 February, United Nations negotiators produced an early draft in preparation for the crucial climate conference to be held in Paris, December 2015.  
Lithuania – LNG imported from the US  
On 28 February, Lithuanian national liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer signed an agreement to purchase LNG from the United States in order to reduce their dependence on supplies from Russia.  
March  
Israel – Netanyahu wins elections  
On 17 March, Netanyahu’s Likud Party had captured 29 or 30 of the 120 seats in Parliament, sweeping past his chief rival, the center-left Zionist Union alliance, which got 24 seats.  
Armenia – National assembly recognizes Greek and Assyrian genocides  
On 23 March, the Republic of Armenia officially recognized the Greek and Assyrian genocide perpetrated by Ottoman Turkey between 1915 and 1923.  
Nigeria – General elections  
On 31 March, Nigerian voters elect Muhammadu Buhari, who previously ruled as a military dictator in 1983-1985, as the next president of Nigeria.  
April  
Cuba/USA – Obama meets Castro  
On 11 April, the president of the US Barack Obama and the president of Cuba Raul Castro meet at the sidelines of the Summit of the Americas in Panama. This marks the first meeting of the leaders of the two countries since after the Cuban Revolution.  
Yemen - UNSC votes to impose sanctions on Houthi rebels  
On 13 April, the United Nations Security Council voted to impose an arms embargo on Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi rebels in an attempt to quell violence.  
May  
UK- General elections  
On 8 May, the Conservative Party has won a majority in the general election, enabling them to lead without requiring a coalition government.  
Russia- 70th anniversary of Victory Day  
On 9 May, Russia stages its biggest ever military parade in Moscow’s Red Square to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Victory Day despite a boycott by many world leaders due to Russian involvement in the Ukrainian crisis.  
Vatican – Pope Francis receives Raul Castro  
On 10 May, the president of Cuba is received in an official private audience with Pope Francis, who will become the third Pope to visit the still officially Communist island in September 2015.  
June  
Israel/Palestine- UN Commission into 2014 Gaza conflict |
On 21 June, an independent UN commission, which was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, found evidence that both Israel and Hamas committed war crimes.

Hungary – European Union asylum seeker rules suspended
On 22 June, Hungary suspended EU asylum rules requiring it to take back refugees who have traveled through Hungary to other countries.

July

USA/Cuba- Embassies will reopen
On 1 July, the United States and Cuba officially announce that embassies will be reopened in each other’s countries for the first time since 1961.

Greece – EU’s austerity proposal rejected by referendum
On 5 July, Greek voters solidly rejected (61.3 percent) the latest austerity proposal of the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank.

Russia- Veto on UN resolution condemning 1995 Srebrenica massacre
On 8 July, Russia has vetoed a UN resolution that would have condemned the July 1995 Srebrenica massacre of more than eight thousands Bosniaks as a genocide.

August

Syria - UNSC approves a statement on Syria
On 17 August, the unanimously approved a statement backing intensive preparatory talks on key issues to restore peace to Syria on Monday, a sign of possible change in the U.N.’s most powerful body which has been deeply divided over how to end the war which has killed more than 250,000 people.