

TIMELINE

Year(s)	Event
1914	Assassination of Franz Ferdinand (June 28)
1914	Austria-Hungary issues ultimatum to Serbia (July 23)
1914	Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia (July 28)
1914	Russia begins mobilization (July 29)
1914	Germany declares war on Russia (August 1)
1914	Germany declares war on France (August 3)
1914	Germans defeat Russians at Tannenberg (August 26–30)
1914	First Battle of the Marne (September 5–10)
1914	Completion of the Panama Canal
1915	Gallipoli campaign begins (April 25)
1915	Sinking of the <i>Lusitania</i> (May 7)
1915	Germans begin attack on Verdun (February 21)
1916	British launch attack at the Somme (July 1)
1917	Zimmermann Telegram (January 19)
1917	Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare (February 1)
1917	Bolsheviks sign armistice with Germany (December 3)
1917	United States declares war on Germany (April 6)
1917	Provisional Government established in Russia (February)
1917	Bolshevik seizure of power (November)
1918	Worldwide influenza outbreak
1918	Female suffrage begins in Great Britain
1918	Germany Republic established after abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II (November 10)
1918	Armistice brings the war to a close

1919	Treaty of Versailles
1919	Mussolini organizes first Fascist party
1919	Weimar Constitution established
1920	Formation of Communist International
1922	Mussolini becomes Prime Minister of Italy
1923	German hyperinflation
1923	Beer Hall Putsch
1924	Death of Lenin
1924	Dawes Plan
1925	Treaty of Lucarno
1928	First Soviet Five-Year Plan
1929	Beginning of collectivized farms in Soviet Union
1929	Lateran Accord between Mussolini and the Catholic Church
1929	Young Plan
1929	Stock market crash
1930	Nazis make huge electoral gains
1931	Bank failures
1932	Hindenburg defeats Hitler for the German presidency
1932	Nazis become largest party in Reichstag
1933	Hitler becomes Chancellor
1933	Reichstag fire
1933	Enabling Act
1933	Germany withdraws from League of Nations
1933	German boycott of Jewish businesses
1934	Beginning of the Great Terror in the Soviet Union

1934	Night of the Long Knives
1934	Hitler becomes Führer after death of Hindenburg
1935	Germany openly begins rearmament
1935	Italian invasion of Ethiopia
1935	Nuremberg Laws directed against German Jews
1936	Berlin Olympics
1936	German remilitarization of the Rhineland
1936	Beginning of the Spanish Civil War
1938	Germany absorbs Austria in Anschluss
1938	Munich Agreement leads to dismemberment of Czechoslovakia
1938	Kristallnacht (November 9)
1939	Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact
1939	Invasion of Poland
1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany
1940	Fall of France
1940	Winston Churchill replaces Chamberlain as Prime Minister
1940	Battle of Britain (July–October)
1940	Germans begin Blitz on British cities (September to May 1941)
1941	Germany launches Operation Barbarossa
1941	Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
1941	30,000 Jews killed at Babi Yar over two days
1941	Atlantic Charter
1942	German advance stopped at Stalingrad
1942	Battle of Midway (June)
1942	Wansee Conference organizes the Final Solution

1943	Battle of Kursk
1943	Allies land in Italy
1943	Mussolini's government fails
1943	Warsaw ghetto uprising
1944	Percentages Agreement between Churchill and Stalin
1944	D-Day
1944	Germans launch Battle of the Bulge (December 16)
1945	Yalta Conference (February 4–11)
1945	Hitler commits suicide (April 30)
1945	V-E Day (May 8)
1945	Victory of British Labour Party over Conservatives (July)
1945	Potsdam Conference (July 17–August 2)
1945	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima (August 6)
1945	V-J Day (August 14)
1945	United Nations' charter is ratified (October)
1945	Nuremberg Trials for crimes against humanity begin (November)
1946	Establishment of French Fourth Republic
1946	Referendum establishes the Italian Republic
1946	Churchill delivers Iron Curtain speech at Westminster College
1947	George Kennan writes the "Long Telegram"
1947	Truman Doctrine
1947	Introduction of the Marshall Plan
1947	India and Pakistan become independent states
1948	Break between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia
1948	Establishment of the State of Israel

1948	National Health Service established in Great Britain
1948	Soviet dominance in Eastern Europe solidified
1949	Formation of NATO
1949	Berlin Airlift leads to ending blockade after 11 months
1949	Establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany
1949	Establishment of Democratic Republic of Germany
1951	Establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community
1953	Death of Stalin
1954	French suffer defeat in Indochina
1954	Algerian revolt begins
1955	Establishment of the Warsaw Pact
1956	Soviets send in troops to put down Hungarian uprising
1957	Ghana declares its independence from Great Britain
1957	Signing of the Treaty of Rome establishing the EEC
1958	French plebiscite leads to creation of the Fifth Republic
1961	East Germany begins construction of the wall dividing Berlin
1962	France vetoes Britain's attempt to join the European Community
1962	Cuban missile crisis
1968	Wave of student protests in Europe and the United States
1968	Prague Spring
1969	Willy Brandt becomes German Chancellor
1972	Irish Troubles begin with the shooting of 13 Catholic peace marchers on "Bloody Sunday"
1973	Oil crisis
1978	Red Brigades kidnap and murder former Prime Minister Aldo Moro

1978	Papal election of John Paul II
1979	Margaret Thatcher becomes prime minister
1981	Francois Mitterand elected president of France
1985	Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union
1989	End of Communist rule in Eastern Europe
1990	Reunification of Germany
1991	End of Soviet Union Boris Yeltsin elected president of newly created Russian Federation
1992	Maastricht Treaty
1992	Beginning of a series of violent conflicts in the former Yugoslavia
1997	Tony Blair becomes prime minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
1999	Vladimir Putin becomes president of Russian Federation
2002	Introduction of the euro
2004	Entry into NATO of former Warsaw Pact nations
2008	Dmitry Medvedev becomes president of Russian Federation (Putin becomes prime minister)
2010	David Cameron becomes prime minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
2012	Medvedev and Putin switch positions; Medvedev becomes prime minister and Putin becomes president