

**1945**

January	USSR requests American loan.
February	Yalta conference of Big Three leaders. Ceasefire in Greek Civil War.
March	British Foreign Office discusses value of a tougher stance against and showdown with the Soviets. 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. Soviets denounce Turkish treaty and refuse to sign another one unless Turkey returns provinces of Kars and Ardahan.
April	President Roosevelt dies. Truman confronts Molotov over Soviet failure to stick to all the Yalta agreements.
May	German surrender ends the war in Europe.
May–June	Hopkins mission to Moscow succeeds in securing agreement on Poland with Stalin broadening the Polish government.
June	Soviets inform Turkey of their desire for bases in the Straits of the Dardanelles. State Department report on international communism concludes it poses a serious challenge to the US. UN Charter agreed at San Francisco. Soviet request for say in the international administration of Tangier. James Byrnes becomes US Secretary of State. George Kennan reports that the end of the Comintern has not weakened Moscow's control over international communism.
July	Potsdam conference of Big Three leaders. 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.
6 August	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
8 August	USSR declares war on Japan.
9 August	Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.
14 August	Japanese cease fighting.
September	54 per cent of US public opinion trusts Soviets to cooperate.
September–October	London Council of Foreign Ministers (UK, US, China, France, and USSR attend).
November	Communists are defeated in Hungarian elections. Marshall leaves for China to mediate between communists and Nationalists. 44 per cent of US public opinion trusts Soviets to cooperate.
December	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.
16–26 December	Moscow Council of Foreign Ministers.

**1946**

January	UN meeting where Iran complains about alleged Soviet interference in its internal affairs. Truman tells Byrnes he is tired of babying the Soviets. Secret Yalta agreement on Soviet acquisition of South Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands made public in the United States.
February	US warship sent to Istanbul to signal support for Turkey.

9 February	Stalin speech calling for new 5-year plan to prepare for the inevitable conflict between communism and capitalism.
February	35 per cent of US public opinion trusts the Soviets to cooperate. 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. 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 <i>Foreign Affairs</i> .
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.
May	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. 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. Formosa Doctrine announced authorising US troops to defend Formosa.
February	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	Jawaharal 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	Taylor-Rostow mission to Vietnam starts a massive build up of American advisers in Vietnam.

### 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	Khrushchev replaced by Brezhnev and Kosygin.
16 October	First Chinese atom bomb exploded.
3 November	Johnson wins US election.

### 1965

24 February	US begins 'Rolling Thunder' bombing of North Vietnam.
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

23 January North Korea seizes USS *Pueblo*: not released until December.  
30 January Start of 'Tet' offensive in Vietnam.  
31 March Johnson starts partial 'bombing halt' in Vietnam and leaves US presidential race.  
April Czechoslovakian Communist Party, under Dubček, begins to liberalize.  
1 July Non-Proliferation Treaty signed.  
Late August USSR leads invasion of Czechoslovakia to end liberalization.  
5 November Nixon wins US Presidency.

### 1969

2 March Major Soviet–Chinese border clash on Damyansky island.  
25 July Nixon's 'Guam Doctrine' on Vietnam: will hand fighting over to South Vietnamese.  
17 November SALT talks open between US and USSR.

### 1970

January Nigerian forces overrun what remains of 'Biafra'; major international aid programme to relieve famine there.  
18 March Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia overthrown by Lon Nol.  
April–June US and South Vietnamese launch incursion into Cambodia.  
7 August Cease-fire agreed in Arab–Israeli 'war of attrition', which followed the 1967 war.  
12 August Soviet–West German Treaty signed.  
September Civil war in Jordan between royal government and Palestinians.

### 1971

February/March South Vietnamese incursion into Laos.  
15 July Forthcoming visit of Nixon to China announced.  
15 August US introduces trade restrictions and ends convertibility of dollars into gold.  
3 September Four-power agreement on Berlin signed.  
20 October Brandt of West Germany wins Nobel Peace Prize for Ostpolitik.  
25 October UN votes for Communist Chinese membership.  
November Rising Indo–Pakistani tension over East Pakistan.  
10 December NATO agrees to Warsaw Pact proposal for a European Security Conference.  
16 December Cease-fire in Indo–Pakistani War over 'Bangladeshi' independence.

### 1972

21–28 February	Nixon's visit to China includes meetings with Mao Zedong.
30 March	North Vietnam launches offensive in Vietnam.
15–16 April	Breakthrough on SALT in 'tundra talks' between US and Soviets in Finland.
17–19 May	West German Bundestag ratifies 'Ostpolitik' treaties with USSR and Poland (signed in 1970).
22–26 May	Nixon–Brezhnev summit in Moscow.
17 June	Watergate break-in: Democratic Party HQ in Washington entered by a group linked to Nixon.
18 July	President Sadat of Egypt expels thousands of Soviet advisers.
1 August	US–North Vietnamese peace talks reopen.
3 September	US–Soviet–British–French agreement on future of Berlin.
18 October	US–Soviet trade deal finalized.
7 November	Nixon defeats George McGovern in landslide election win.
18–30 December	'Christmas bombing' campaign by US against North Vietnam.
21 December	'Basic Treaty' on bilateral relations between East and West Germany.

### 1973

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 intensify, with resignations of key White House staff.
18–24 June	Nixon–Brezhnev summit in Washington.
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.
7 November	US Congress passes War Powers Act.
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

14 January	US–Soviet trade deal collapses over Jackson–Vanik amendment.
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 <i>Mayaguez</i> .
15 May	US attacks on Cambodia; crew of <i>Mayaguez</i> 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.
2 November	Democrat Jimmy Carter wins US Presidential election.

## 1977

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

## 1978

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

25 December Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia.

### 1979

1 January Normalization of Sino–American relations.  
7 January Vietnam replaces Pol Pot's Cambodian government.  
16 January Shah of Iran goes into exile.  
28 January–5 February China's Deng Xiaoping visits USA.  
1 February Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran.  
17 February–15 March Chinese invasion of North Vietnam, followed by withdrawal.  
26 March Egyptian–Israeli peace treaty signed in Washington.  
15 April New round of oil price increases led by Iran.  
28 May Greece becomes tenth member of EEC.  
7 June Carter decides to build 'MX' missile.  
15–18 June Vienna Summit of Carter and Brezhnev; SALT II treaty signed.  
17 July President Somoza of Nicaragua overthrown by Sandinistas.  
31 August US complains over Soviet troop presence in Cuba.  
10 September Soviets say their troops have been in Cuba since 1962.  
16 September President Taraki of Afghanistan overthrown by Hafizullah Amin.  
22 October Shah of Iran arrives in US for medical treatment.  
4 November Occupation of American Embassy in Tehran.  
10 December NATO agrees to deploy intermediate range Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe.  
25 December Soviet troops invade Afghanistan; replace President Amin with Babrak Karmal.

### 1980

4 January Carter suspends ratification of SALT II.  
23 January 'Carter Doctrine' speech on defence of Persian Gulf.  
29 January Meeting of Islamic states condemns Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.  
4 March Robert Mugabe wins first free elections in Zimbabwe.  
25 April Failed US attempt to rescue the Tehran hostages.  
4 May Death of President Tito of Yugoslavia.  
14 August In Poland, Gdansk shipworkers demand right to form a free trades union.  
5 September Polish communist leader Edward Gierek resigns.  
22 September Launch of 'Solidarity' union by Gdansk shipworkers; legalized on 10 November.  
22 September Iraqis launch invasion of Iran.  
4 November Republican Ronald Reagan wins US Presidential election.

### 1981

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

## 1982

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

## 1983

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

## 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 'Irangate' 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.
7–10 December	Third Gorbachev–Reagan summit, in Washington. INF treaty signed on 8th.

### 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 rejoins the Arab League after ten years.
4 June	Chinese Red Army forcibly ends the occupation of Tienenmen 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 Chamorra, 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.
19 November	Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe signed in Paris.
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 Srebrenica 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–  
21 November Bosnian peace agreement brokered in Dayton, Ohio.

### 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 Taliban 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 Koreans 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.
10 June	NATO suspends its bombing campaign as Serb forces withdraw from Kosovo.
12 June	NATO ground forces begin deployment in Kosovo.
30 August	Referendum in Indonesian-controlled East Timor votes for independence, sparking weeks of violence.
4 September	Israel and Palestinian leaders sign the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement, supposedly paving the way for a 'final' settlement in a year.
30 September	Following a month of tension, Russian ground forces invade Chechnya.
19 December	Portuguese-ruled Macao is handed over to Chinese sovereignty, ending the last colonial possession in mainland Asia.
31 December	Panamanian sovereignty over Panama Canal takes effect. Sudden resignation of Yeltsin as President of Russia; Vladimir Putin becomes acting President.

## 2000

January	<p><i>Haiti - Withdrawal of US troops</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Bosnia-Herzegovina - War crimes tribunal judgement</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>United Nations - Treaty on child soldiers</i></p> <p>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.</p>
February	<p><i>Russia - The Fall of Grozny</i></p> <p>On 6 February, the acting Russian President, Vladimir Putin announces the fall of Grozny, the Chechen capital, to Russian troops.</p>
March	<p><i>Lebanon - Vote by Israeli Cabinet on pullout from Lebanon</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Spain - General Elections</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Russia - Presidential Elections</i></p>

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*  
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 Il 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 Nyrup Rasmussen, which had called the referendum in March.
- Ariel Sharon's visit to the Dome at the Rock*  
A visit by the right-wing Israel 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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 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-Herzegovina – 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 airborne 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 impending 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-Moustaquim (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 co-ordinating 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 toll 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 Ahmadi-Nejad, the ultra-conservative major of Teheran. Ahmadi-Nejad 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.