

1776 - Thirteen Colonies declared independence as the United States of America on July 2; Declaration of Independence adopted on July 4

1778 - Treaty of Alliance with France. Negotiated by Benjamin Franklin, the U.S. and France agreed to a military alliance; France sends naval and land forces, and much-needed munitions.

1781 - Robert R. Livingston named first United States Secretary of Foreign Affairs

1782 - The Dutch Republic recognizes American independence and signs treaty of commerce and friendship; Dutch bankers loan US\$2 million for war supplies

1783 - Treaty of Paris ends Revolutionary War; U.S. boundaries confirmed as British North America (Canada) on north, Mississippi River on west, Florida on south. Britain gives Florida to Spain.

1786

— July 27 Department of Foreign Affairs signed into law

— September, changed to Department of State; Jefferson appointed; John Jay continues to act as foreign affairs secretary until Jefferson's return from France; from 1789 to 1883. Much of the routine overseas business is the responsibility of navy officers

1793–1815 - Major worldwide war between Great Britain and France (and their allies); America neutral until 1812 and does business with both sides

1795 -

— June 24 Jay Treaty with Britain. Averts war, opens 10 years of peaceful trade with Britain, fails to settle neutrality issues; British eventually evacuate western forts; boundary lines and debts (in both directions) to be settled by arbitration. Barely approved by Senate (1795) after revision; intensely opposed, became major issue in formation of First Party System.

1798 - XYZ Affair; humiliation by French diplomats; threat of war with France

1803 - Louisiana Purchase from France for \$15,000,000; financed by sale of American bonds in London, and shipment of gold from London to Paris.

1807-09 - Embargo Act, against Great Britain and France during their wars

1807-12 - Impressment of 6,000 sailors from American ships with U.S. citizenship into the Royal Navy; Great Britain ignores vehement American protests

1812 - America declares war on Great Britain, beginning the War of 1812.

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1812 - US forces invade Canada to gain a bargaining chip; they are repeatedly repulsed; The U.S. Army at Detroit surrenders without a fight.

1813 - US wins control of Lake Erie and what is now western Ontario; British and Indians defeated and Tecumseh killed; end of Indian threats to American settlement

1814 - British raid and Burn Washington; are repulsed at Baltimore

1814 - British invasion of northern New York defeated

1814 - December 24: Treaty of Ghent signed; providing status quo ante bellum (no change in boundaries); Great Britain no longer needs impressment and stops.

1815 - British invasion army decisively defeated at the Battle of New Orleans

— Treaty of Ghent goes in effect in February; opens long era of friendly trade and peaceful settlement of boundary issues.

1819 - Adams-Onís Treaty: Spain cedes Florida to America for \$5,000,000; America agrees to assume claims against Spain, America gives up claims to Texas.

1823 - Monroe Doctrine. British propose America join in stating that European powers will not be permitted further American colonization. President James Monroe states it on December 2 as independent American policy.

1845 - Annexation of Republic of Texas; Mexico breaks relations in retaliation

1845 - Slidell Mission fails to avert war with Mexico

1846 - Mexican–American War begins; Oregon settlement with Britain.

1848 - Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo- settled Mexican–American War, Rio Grande as U.S. border; territory of New Mexico rest of west ceded to America, especially California. U.S. pays Mexico \$15,000,000 and assumes \$3,250,000 liability against Mexico.

1861-65 - Lincoln threatens war against any country that recognizes the Confederacy; no country does so

1864-65 - Maximilian Affair: In defiance of the Monroe Doctrine, French Emperor Napoleon III placed Archduke Maximilian on Mexican throne, America warns France against intervention, with 50,000 combat troops being sent to the Mexican border by President Andrew Johnson; Maximilian overthrown

1867 - Alaska Purchase: America purchases Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000.

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1868 - Burlingame Treaty established formal friendly relations with China and placed them on most favored nation status, Chinese immigration encouraged; reversed in 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

1893 - Hawaii; January 16 to April 1. Citizens outraged at Queen Liliuokalani attempt to set up absolute monarchy; overthrows her with no violence and proclaims provisional government; U.S. Marines landed to protect American lives; Hawaii and President Harrison agree to annexation but treaty withdrawn (1893) by President Grover Cleveland who rejects annexation

1895 - Venezuela Crisis of 1895 is a dispute with Britain over the boundary of Venezuela and a British colony; it is finally settled by arbitration.[15]

1897-98 - American public opinion is outraged by news of Spanish atrocities in Cuba. President McKinley demands reforms.

1898 - De Lôme Letter: Spanish minister to Washington writes disparagingly of President McKinley, casting doubt on Spain's promises to reform its role in Cuba

— Spanish–American War; "splendid little war" with American quick victory

— Treaty of Paris; U.S. gains Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico; pays Spain for claims; Cuba comes under temporary U.S. control

— Hawaii seeks to join US; with votes lacking for 2/3 approval of a treaty on July 7. The Newlands Resolution in Congress annexes the Republic of Hawaii, with full U.S. citizenship for Hawaiian citizens regardless of race

1899–1901 - Philippine–American War, commonly known as the "Philippine Insurrection".

1899 - Open Door Policy for equal trading rights inside China; accepted by Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Russia and Japan

1900 - U.S. forces participate in international rescue in Peking, in Boxer Rebellion

1901 - Platt Amendment, March 2. Rider attached to the Army Appropriations Bill of 1901 designed to protect Cuba's independence from foreign intervention. The amendment effectively makes Cuba a U.S. protectorate and allowed for American intervention in Cuban affairs in 1906, 1912, 1917, and 1920. It also permitted America to lease Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. Rising Cuban nationalism and widespread criticism led to its abrogation in 1934 by the Ramón Grau administration.[17]

1903 - Big Stick diplomacy: Theodore Roosevelt refers to U.S. policy as "speaking softly and carrying a big stick", applied the same year by assisting Panama's independence movement from Colombia. U.S. forces sought to protect American interests and lives during and following the

Panamanian revolution over construction of the Isthmian Canal. U.S. Marines were stationed on the isthmus (1903–1914)

1903 - Hay–Bunau-Varilla Treaty with Panama; leased strip of land increased to 10 miles (16 km) wide.

1912-25 - Nicaragua; America controls Nicaraguan affairs through control of tariff revenues under the Bryan–Chamorro Treaty.

1912-41 - China. U.S. forces sent to protect American interests in China during chaotic revolution. In 1927, America had 5,670 troops ashore in China (mostly Marines) and 44 naval vessels in its waters.

1913-15 - Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan negotiates 28 treaties that promised arbitration of disputes before war broke out between the signatory countries and the United States. He made several attempts to negotiate a treaty with Germany, but ultimately was never able to succeed. The agreements, known officially as "Treaties for the Advancement of Peace," set up procedures for conciliation rather than for arbitration.[18]

1915 - British passenger liner RMS Lusitania torpedoed off Irish coast by German submarine; 1,200 dead include 128 Americans; Theodore Roosevelt demands war; Woodrow Wilson issues strong protest

1915-34 - Haiti. U.S. forces maintained order and control customs revenue during a period of chronic political instability.

1916-24 - Dominican Republic; U.S. naval forces maintained order and control customs revenue during a period of chronic and threatened insurrection.

1916 - Pancho Villa raid into America; the Mexican Punitive Expedition under John J. Pershing chases Villa deep into Mexico; verge of war

1917 - Zimmermann Telegram. Germany proposes military alliance between Germany and Mexico against America. Publication outrages American opinion; Mexico rejects proposal.

1917 - April. America declares war on Germany and later on Austria (but not Turkey or Bulgaria); remains independent of Great Britain and France

1918 - Fourteen Points. Statement of American war aims by Wilson, served as basis for Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations.

1918–20 - Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War sees US troops sent to Siberia

1919 - Versailles Treaty - Wilson one of "The Big Four" negotiators; signed by Wilson but not ratified by Senate.

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1919 - League of Nations - part of Versailles Treaty; U.S. never joins.

1922 - Washington Naval Conference held in Washington, D.C. concluding in the Four-Power Treaty, Five-Power Treaty, and Nine-Power Treaty; major naval disarmament

1924 - American-led conference results in the Dawes Plan. Eased reparations for Germany and improvement of its economic situation.

1928 - Kellogg–Briand Pact, multilateral treaty outlawing War by moral force of 60 signatory nations.

1929 - Young Plan reduces amount of reparations due from Germany to \$8.0 billion over 58 years.

1930 - Smoot–Hawley Tariff Act raised American tariffs on imports; 1000 economists protest it will worsen depression; retaliation by Canada and others.

1931 - Stimson Doctrine America will not recognize Japanese takeover of parts of China; policy endorsed by the League of Nations.

1932 - Lausanne Conference cancels 90% of reparations owed by Germany; the remainder was quietly paid off in October 2010 with a final payment of \$94 million.

1933 - Montevideo Convention. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declares the "Good Neighbor policy", U.S. opposition to armed intervention in inter-American affairs.

1933 - London Economic Conference, to deal with Great Depression, collapses after U.S. withdraws.

1933 - U.S. extends diplomatic recognition of the Soviet Union.

1935 - Neutrality Act of 1935; when war breaks out prohibits all arms shipments (allowing shipment of oil, steel, chemicals); U.S. citizens can travel on belligerent ships only at their own risk

1936 - Neutrality Act of 1936; no loans to belligerents

1937 - Neutrality Act of 1937; 1935 laws apply to civil wars

1937 - Japan invades China, with full-scale war and many atrocities against Chinese; Japan conquers major cities and seacoast; Americans strongly sympathetic to China; Roosevelt does not invoke neutrality laws

1938 - Munich Pact sacrifices Czechoslovakia in the name of appeasement; U.S. not involved but does not object

1939 - World War II begins, America initially neutral.

1941 -

— July 29 Japan occupies the southern half of French Indochina, seen as a threatening move.

— July 30 U.S together with Britain and the Dutch government in exile imposes trade embargo against Japan, most crucially in oil.

— August 13 Atlantic Charter. Anglo-American summit off the coast of Newfoundland. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill agree (1) no territorial gains sought by America or Great Britain, (2) territorial adjustments must conform to people involved, (3) people have right to choose their own govt. (4) trade barriers lowered, (5) there must be disarmament, (6) there must be freedom from want and fear ("Four Freedoms" of FDR), (7) there must be freedom of the seas, (8) there must be an association of nations. Charter is accepted by Allies, who call themselves "the United Nations".

— October 31 American destroyer USS Reuben James sunk by a U-boat. Rise in German-American tensions.

— December 7 Attack on Pearl Harbor. United States is attacked by Japanese forces during World War II, bringing America into the conflict.

— December 8 Adolf Hitler grants the Kriegsmarine the right to sink on sight American warships.

— December 11 Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.

1942 - :— August 8 Riegner Telegram received in Washington. Gerhart M. Riegner of the World Jewish Congress sends message from Geneva reporting that he has received reliable information that the German government is engaged in a campaign of extermination against the Jewish population of Europe.

1943 -

— January Casablanca Conference. Roosevelt and Churchill meet to plan European strategy. Unconditional surrender of Axis countries demanded, Soviet aid and participation, invasion of Sicily and Italy planned

— October 30 Moscow Declaration. Joint statement by the United States, United Kingdom and the Soviet Union promises that German leaders will be tried for war crimes after the Allied victory.

— November Cairo Conference. Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek meet to make decisions about postwar Asia: Japan returns all territory, independent Korea.

— November Tehran Conference. Roosevelt and Churchill meet with Stalin.

1944 - Monetary and Financial Conference held in July in **Bretton Woods**, New Hampshire; International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) created to aid nations devastated by the war and to stabilize the international monetary system.

1944 - Dumbarton Oaks Conference held in August in Washington; formulation of the United Nations

1945 - February 4–11 Yalta Conference with Joseph Stalin and Churchill; agreement on division of Eastern Europe

1945 - Surrender of Germany (V-E Day)

1945 - July 17 - August 2 Potsdam Conference; President Harry S. Truman meets with Stalin and British Prime Minister Clement Attlee; tells Stalin of atomic bomb; gives Japan last warning to surrender; Germany (and Austria) divided into 4 zones of occupation

1945 - U.S. eager to help establish United Nations at San Francisco Conference on International Organization.

1945 - June 26 - United Nations Charter signed in San Francisco. America becomes a founding member and has veto power on the Security Council along with Great Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union.

1945 - August—Nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; surrender of Japan (V-J Day); beginning of the nuclear age.

1947 - Truman Doctrine gives military and economic aid to Greece and Turkey to halt spread of Communism

1947-89 - Cold War, an era of high tension and hostility—but no major "hot" war—between the U.S. and its allies (Western Europe, Canada, Japan, etc.) and the Soviet Union and its satellite states.

1947 - General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) includes US and 22 nations who agree to eliminate trade barriers of all kinds on industrial and agricultural goods. Replaced in 1995 by World Trade Organization

1948-51 - Marshall Plan (formally, "European Recovery Plan"); U.S. gives out \$11 billion to rebuild and modernize Western European economies. Increased trade between Europe and the America; no repayment asked for.[24]

1948

— June 24 Berlin Blockade imposed by the Soviet Union, blocking traffic into western sectors of Berlin, followed by Operation Vittles, America airlifted massive amounts of food, fuel and supplies into city. Soviet blockade lifted on May 12, 1949.[25]

1949

— April 4 America and eleven other nations sign the North Atlantic Treaty, creating NATO, a military alliance with the purpose of countering the Soviet Union and its allies.

1950-53

— June 25 Korean War begins. U.S. sends in troops to stop North Korean invasion; U.N. votes support; (Soviet Union boycotted U.N. and did not veto.) U.S. forces deployed in Korea exceeded 300,000 during the last year of the conflict.

1953 -

— May Eisenhower threatens use of nuclear weapons in Korean War; China agrees to negotiate.

— July 27 armistice signed ending the Korean War (it is still in effect).

1953 - Iran. U.S., and U.K. governments support shah's coup against Iran's Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh

1954

— March 13 The Battle of Dien Bien Phu begins.

As the French are faced with defeat in Vietnam, Eisenhower considers intervention with tactical nuclear weapons to break the siege of Dien Bien Phu, and orders the Joint Chiefs of Staff to start work on Operation Vulture, the plan to intervene in Vietnam. Operation Vulture is ultimately rejected as a policy option.

— June 18 Guatemala. Dwight D. Eisenhower authorizes Operation PBSUCCESS, a program of "psychological warfare and political action" against anti-U.S. regime; Guatemalan military overthrows the left-wing government of Jacobo Árbenz and installs Carlos Castillo Armas.

— July 20 The Geneva conference closes with an agreement on the partition of Vietnam into two states with a promise to hold a general election in both by June 1956. Dulles does not sign the Geneva accords, but promises that the US will abide by them.

1957 - Eisenhower Doctrine gives the president authority to determine the necessity to assist any nation requesting assistance against armed aggression from any country controlled by international communism, applied in Lebanon the following year.

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1957 - Americans embarrassed when Soviets launch Sputnik, the first space satellite and leapfrog America in high technology.

1959 - Cuba. Fidel Castro comes to power. The first of 1 million Cuban exiles go to U.S., concentrating in Miami

1960 - Nikita Khrushchev cancels summit conference with Eisenhower after U.S. U-2 spy plane shot down over the Soviet Union

1961 - President John F. Kennedy launches Space Race, promising Americans on the Moon; they landed July 20, 1969

1961 - Cuba. America breaks diplomatic relations as Castro aligns with Soviet Union.

1961 - Alliance for Progress. inter-regional agreement funded by America to counter the growing regional appeal of the Cuban Revolution.

1961 - Bay of Pigs Invasion in April; CIA-trained Cuban exiles invaded Cuba and were defeated at the Bay of Pigs; captured and ransomed by President Kennedy

1961 - Berlin Crisis. Soviets give East Germany control over East Berlin; in August the Berlin Wall is built to stem wave of refugees escaping to the Western side. Kennedy proclaims "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a citizen of Berlin") to cheering West Berliners.

1962 - Cuban missile crisis. John F. Kennedy on October 22 announces that there exist Soviet missiles in Cuba and demanded their removal while imposing an air sea blockade. Soviet missiles are withdrawn on condition that America will not invade Cuba.

1963 - Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed not to conduct nuclear tests in space, in the atmosphere or underwater. Underground tests permitted; signed by 100 nations, excluding France and the People's Republic of China.

1964 - Gulf of Tonkin Resolution gives President Lyndon B. Johnson Congressional approval to act in Vietnam; repealed in 1970.

1965 - Intervention in Dominican Republic.

1968 - Tet Offensive in Vietnam causes political crisis at home.

— November 1 The first "accelerated pacification" of launching land reforms in South Vietnam intended to persuade South Vietnamese peasants not to support the Viet Cong is launched; a success.

1969 - Richard Nixon as president and Henry Kissinger as his National Security Advisor; Kissinger serves as Secretary of State 1973-77.

— January 28 Nixon launches policy of Vietnamization, in which American ground troops in Vietnam were to be steadily reduced and the American role was to provide military training, equipment, and air support for the South Vietnamese.

— July 25 Nixon announces the Nixon Doctrine in which Nixon warns that the United States will not to any lengths to defend its allies, especially in Asia, and henceforth American allies must do more for their own defense. The doctrine is especially aimed at South Vietnam and is intended to pressure the South Vietnamese government to do a more effective job of fighting the Communists.

1970

— April 29 Nixon orders the Cambodian Incursion. American and South Vietnamese force invade eastern provinces of Cambodia with the aim of clearing out the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese forces based there. Sparks much protest in the United States.

1972 -

— February 21 Nixon visits China. Nixon in Beijing opens era of détente with China.

— May 22 Moscow summit. Nixon in Moscow opens era of détente with Soviet Union; SALT I.

— October 8 Kissinger meets with the North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho in Paris for peace talks to end the Vietnam War, and initially the talks go well.

— October 18 President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam rejects the proposed Paris peace agreement, complaining that Kissinger had not consulted him.

— December 17 Paris peace talks break down.

— December 18 Nixon orders "Christmas Bombings" against North Vietnam following the breakdown in the Paris peace talks.

1973 -

— 27 January Paris Peace Accords ends the American war in Vietnam; POW's returned in March.

— October 20 Arab oil embargo led by King Faisal of Saudi Arabia against the U.S and other Western nations begins as punishment for support of Israel. The oil embargo sparks major inflation in the United States.

1974-

— March 17 Arab oil embargo against the West ends.

1975 - North Vietnam invades and conquers South Vietnam; over 1 million refugees eventually come to America.

1978 - Camp David Accords, brokered by President Jimmy Carter, saw Egypt's president Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin come to terms, leading to their historic peace treaty in 1979[

1979 - The U.S. switches diplomatic recognition from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China and passes the Taiwan Relations Act.

1979-89 - The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan; America works with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in funding, training, and arming Muslim mujahideen insurgency against Soviet occupation.

1979 - After Afghanistan, President Carter agrees détente has failed; leads worldwide boycott of Moscow 1980 Summer Olympics

1979-90 - Nicaragua; America supports the Contras fighting against the pro-Communist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

1979-81 - Iran becomes an Islamic republic after the overthrow of American-backed shah; militants seize 63 American diplomats for 444 days during the Iran hostage crisis; America seizes \$12 billion in Iranian assets; American rescue effort fails; hostages and assets are freed on January 20, 1981.

1980-88 - Iran–Iraq War. America officially neutral in war between Iraq and Iran; America flags oil tankers to protect flow of oil in Persian Gulf, and sells arms and weaponry to both sides of the conflict.

1981 - President Ronald Reagan escalates Cold War with heavy new military spending and research in new weapons; forward strategy for Navy.

1983 -

— October 23 A suicide attack by Hezbollah kills 241 American servicemen, mostly Marines in Beirut.

— October 25 U.S. invades Grenada in response to a coup d'état by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard on the Caribbean island.

1984

— February 26 Reagan orders the Marines in Lebanon to be "redeployed to the fleet" as the withdraw from Lebanon is euphemistically known.

1986

— November The news of the Iran–Contra affair breaks: White House officials sell weapons to Iran and give the profits to Contras; President Reagan embarrassed.

1987

— June 12 President Reagan gives the "Tear down this wall!" speech in Berlin, saying "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!". Reagan argues that tearing the Berlin Wall would be a symbol of Soviet good faith to prove Gorbachev was sincere in seeking better relations with the West.

1989 - End of Eastern Bloc; fall of Berlin Wall; all East European satellites break away from Moscow

1990 - Panama; America invades to oust Manuel Noriega.

— September 12 Four plus two treaty signed by U.S. Britain, France, the Soviet Union, West Germany and East Germany formally ends World War II in Europe, grants the two German states the right to unify and ends all of the sovereign rights held by the Allies in Germany since 1945.

1991 - Gulf War; America leads a U.N.-authorized coalition to repel an Iraqi invasion out of neighboring Kuwait.

1991–2003 - Iraq sanctions; America and Great Britain maintain no-fly-zones in the north and south of Iraq with periodic bombings.

1991-93 - START II accords held by America and Russia to limit nuclear weapons

1991 - The Soviet Union is dissolved; Mikhail Gorbachev resigns

1999 - The US and NATO bomb the FR Yugoslavia, which brings an end to the Kosovo War.

2001 - September 11 terrorist attacks, orchestrated by Al-Qaeda terrorist network, occur on American soil.

2001 - U.S. and NATO forces invade Afghanistan and overthrow the Taliban.

2003 - U.S.-led coalition invades Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein; troops remain to fight insurgency against the U.N.-approved elected government.

2004 to present - Drone attacks in Pakistan CIA maintains drone surveillance and launches hundreds of attacks on pro-Taliban targets

2011 - U.S. removes all military forces from Iraq

2011 - New START treaty with Russia goes into effect.

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2011 - CIA uses Navy Seals to raid Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan, killing Bin Laden; seize computers. Pakistan was not informed

2013 - U.S. threatens an air attack on Syria after it uses chemical weapons; resolved by agreement to destroy all the chemical weapons under international auspices

2014 - U.S. implements economic sanctions against the Russian Federation after its illegal occupation of Crimea during the 2014 Ukraine conflict.