

2000:

- [3rd millennium](#) celebrations.
- End of Israeli occupation of [Lebanon](#).
- [Second Intifada](#) begins.
- [George W. Bush](#) is elected [President of the United States](#).
- [Vicente Fox](#) becomes the first opposition President of [Mexico](#).
- [Vladimir Putin](#) becomes [President of Russia](#).
- British Army launch [Operation Palliser](#) which effectively ends the [Sierra Leone Civil War](#).
- [International Space Station](#) begins operations.
- First [Inter-Korean Summit](#).
- [al-Qaeda](#) suicide bombs the [USS Cole](#).

2001:

- [September 11 attacks](#): Terrorists destroy the [World Trade Center](#) in [New York City](#), damage [The Pentagon](#) in [Washington, DC](#).
- [Massive earthquakes](#) hit the western state of [Gujarat](#), India, leaving at least 30,000 dead.
- [War on Terror](#) declared.
- [Afghan War](#) begins.
- [Wikipedia](#) founded.
- [African Union](#) founded.
- During [economic crisis in Argentina](#) government effectively [froze all bank accounts](#) for twelve months which [led to riots](#) and President [de la Rúa](#)'s resignation from office.
- President [Joseph Estrada](#) of the [Philippines](#) impeached.

2002:

- [2002 Bali bombings](#).
- [Riots and mass killings](#) in the [Indian](#) state of [Gujarat](#) leave 1044 dead.
- Chechen rebels [seize theatre](#) in Moscow.
- America demands [Iraq allow unfettered access to weapons inspectors](#).
- [Guantanamo Bay detention camp](#) is established.
- [Algerian Civil War](#) ends.

- [Beltway sniper attacks](#).
- [Rose Revolution](#) in [Georgia](#).
- Independence of [East Timor](#).

2003:

- [Iraq War](#) begins, triggering [worldwide protests](#).
- [War in Darfur](#) begins.
- The [Human Genome Project](#) is completed.
- [Second Congo War](#) ends with more than 5 million dead.
- [Second Liberian Civil War](#) ends.
- [Space Shuttle Columbia](#) is [destroyed on re-entry](#).

2004:

- [Enlargement of NATO and the European Union](#) incorporates most of former Eastern Bloc.
- [Union of South American Nations](#) formed.
- [Madrid train bombings](#).
- [Orange Revolution](#) in [Ukraine](#).
- [Beslan school hostage crisis](#).
- [Boxing Day Tsunami](#) occurs in [Indian Ocean](#), leading to the deaths of 230,000.
- [Death of Ronald Reagan](#) and [Yasser Arafat](#).

2005:

- [IRA](#) end military campaign in Northern Ireland.
- [7/7 attacks](#) on [London Underground](#).
- [Angela Merkel](#) becomes Germany's first woman Chancellor.
- [Tulip Revolution](#) in [Kyrgyzstan](#).
- [Second Intifada](#) ends.
- Israel withdraws from Gaza.
- [Cedar Revolution](#) in [Lebanon](#) triggered by the [Assassination of Rafic Hariri](#).
- [Second Sudanese Civil War](#) ends.
- [Hurricane Katrina](#) kills nearly 2000 people in the [Gulf of Mexico](#).
- 80,000 are killed in [an earthquake](#) in [Kashmir](#).
- The [Kyoto Protocol](#) comes into effect.
- [Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](#) becomes [President of Iran](#).
- Death of [Pope John Paul II](#); [Benedict XVI](#) becomes Pope.
- [Mike Brown](#) discovers [Eris](#).

2006:

- Independence of [Montenegro](#).
- [2006 Lebanon War](#).
- [Mumbai bombings](#).
- [Comprehensive Peace Accord](#) ends the [Nepalese Civil War](#).
- [Ellen Johnson Sirleaf](#) becomes President of [Liberia](#), and thus Africa's first elected female head of state.
- The [International Astronomical Union](#) creates [the first formal definition of a planet](#), and excludes [Pluto](#) from the list.
- [Execution of Saddam Hussein](#)

2007:

- [Anti-government protests](#) in [Myanmar](#) crushed by ruling junta.
- [Spike in food prices](#) and [subprime crisis](#) help trigger [global recession](#).
- [Assassination of Benazir Bhutto](#).

2008:

- Stock markets [plunge](#) around the world.
- End of Monarchy in [Nepal](#).
- [Barack Obama](#) is elected [President of the United States](#).
- [Cyclone Nargis](#) kills 133,000 in [Myanmar](#).
- [Gaza War](#) begins.
- [2008 South Ossetia war](#).
- [Kosovo declares independence](#), to mixed reaction.
- [Battle of Basra](#) - Iraqi forces crack down on [Muqtada al Sadr](#)'s Mahdi forces in Basra and Sadr City.
- [2008 Mumbai attacks](#).
- The [Large Hadron Collider](#) is completed as the world's largest and most powerful [particle collider](#).

2009:

- [Gaza War](#) ends; [Gaza blockade](#) continues.
- [Sri Lankan Civil War](#) ends.
- [Election protests](#) begin in Iran.
- [Second Chechen War](#) ends.

- [Boko Haram](#) rebellion begins in Nigeria.
- [Death of Michael Jackson](#).
- [Burj Khalifa](#) in [Dubai](#), the world's tallest [skyscraper](#), is completed.
- [Great Recession](#) officially ends.
- Formation of [BRICS](#) economic bloc.
- [Treaty of Lisbon](#) ratified.

2010:

- [David Cameron](#) becomes [Prime Minister of the United Kingdom](#).
- [Benigno Aquino III](#) is elected as the [15th President of the Philippines](#).
- A [7.0 magnitude earthquake](#) in [Haiti](#) kills 230,000.
- The threat of [Greece defaulting on its debts](#) triggers the [European sovereign debt crisis](#) and [Ireland's financial crisis](#).
- The [largest oil spill in US history](#) occurs in the [Gulf of Mexico](#).
- [North Korea shells](#) the island of [Yeonpyeong](#).
- [Aung San Suu Kyi](#) is released from house arrest.
- [2010 Moscow Metro bombings](#).
- [Arab Spring](#) triggered by [self-immolation](#) of [Mohamed Bouazizi](#) on December 17, 2010 in [Tunisia](#).
- [2010 Kyrgyzstani revolution](#).
- [2010 Nigerien coup d'état](#).
- 10 April the President of Poland, [Lech Kaczyński](#), is among 96 killed when their airplane [crashes](#) in Smolensk.
- The [Burj Khalifa](#) located in [Dubai](#) opened to the public and stood as the [tallest structure in the world](#), standing at 829.8 m (2,722 ft).

2011:

- Independence of [South Sudan](#).
- [Arab Spring: revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya](#) follow, as well as [uprisings in Yemen and Bahrain](#), and protests in several other Arab countries.
- [Syrian civil war](#) begins.
- [Occupy movement](#) inspires worldwide protests.
- [News International phone hacking scandal](#).
- A [9.0 earthquake](#) in Japan triggers a tsunami and the [meltdown of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant](#).

- [Second Ivorian Civil War](#) ends with the arrest of former president [Laurent Gbagbo](#).
- Deaths of [Osama bin Laden](#), [Muammar Gaddafi](#), and [Kim Jong-Il](#).
- [Iraq War ends](#).
- [Riots flare across England](#).
- Bombings occur [In Russia and Somalia](#).
- [World population](#) reaches [7 billion](#).
- [Floods in Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines](#) kill roughly 2500 people.
- Death of [Steve Jobs](#).

2012:

- [Northern Mali conflict](#),
- the [MNLA](#) declares [Azawad](#) an independent state.
- [Yemeni](#) President [Ali Abdullah Saleh](#) steps down.
- [2012 Benghazi attack](#) leads to the death of US ambassador [J. Christopher Stevens](#).
- The [Higgs boson](#) is discovered.
- [Hurricane Sandy](#) kills 209 people in North America, while [Typhoon Bopha](#) kills over 1,600 in the [Philippines](#).
- Skydiver [Felix Baumgartner](#) becomes the first person to [break the sound barrier without a vehicle](#).
- [Conflict begins](#) in the [Central African Republic](#).
- [UN Climate Change Conference](#) agrees to extend the [Kyoto Protocol](#) until 2020.
- [Israel](#) launches [Operation Pillar of Defense](#) against the [Palestinian](#)-governed [Gaza Strip](#).
- [2012 Guinea-Bissau coup d'état](#).

2013:

- The French military intervenes in the [Northern Mali conflict](#).
- [Chelyabinsk meteor](#).
- [Pope Benedict XVI resigns](#) and [Pope Francis](#) becomes Pope.
- Terrorist attacks occur [in Boston and Nairobi](#).
- The [Rana Plaza collapses](#) in [Bangladesh](#).
- [Edward Snowden](#) releases classified documents concerning [mass surveillance by the NSA](#).
- [President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi is deposed by the military in a coup d'état](#).
- [Croatia](#) becomes a member of the [European Union](#).
- The [Euromaidan](#) protest begins in [Ukraine](#).
- [A chemical attack in Ghouta, Syria](#) is blamed on President [Bashar al-Assad](#).
- [Typhoon Haiyan](#) kills nearly 6150 people in the [Philippines](#) and [Vietnam](#).

- Deaths of [Hugo Chávez](#), [Nelson Mandela](#) and [Margaret Thatcher](#).
- [Conflict begins in South Sudan](#).
- [Uruguay](#) becomes [the first country to fully legalise cannabis](#).
- End of [2012–2013 Cypriot financial crisis](#).

2014:

- [The worst Ebola virus epidemic in recorded history](#) begins in West Africa, to date infecting more than 20,000 people and killing more than 7,000.
- [Euromaidan](#) protest in Ukraine sparks a [revolution](#) and the overthrow of [Viktor Yanukovich](#), leading to Russia's [annexation of Crimea](#) and the [War in Donbass](#).
- [Malaysia Airlines Flight 370](#) and [Indonesia AirAsia Flight 8501](#) disappear mid-flight, while [Malaysia Airlines Flight 17](#) is shot down over Ukraine
- [Air Algérie Flight 5017](#) crashes in [Mali](#).
- A [coup d'état](#) in Thailand overthrows the caretaker government
- King [Juan Carlos I](#) of Spain abdicates; his son becomes [King Felipe VI](#).
- [Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan](#) [kill](#) over 130 students in [Pakistan](#).
- [Israel](#) launches [an assault](#) on the [Gaza Strip](#) in response to [tit-for-tat murder-kidnappings](#), leading to the deaths of 71 Israelis and 2100 Palestinians.
- [ISIS](#) begins [its offensive in northern Iraq](#), leading to [intervention in Iraq and Syria](#) by a US-led coalition.
- [Second Libyan Civil War](#) begins.
- The [Rosetta spacecraft's](#) [Philae](#) probe becomes the first to successfully land on [a comet](#).

2015:

- Five [former Soviet countries](#) form the [Eurasian Economic Union](#).
- [Charlie Hebdo shooting](#) in [Paris](#).
- [Boko Haram](#) perpetrates [a massacre of over 2000 people](#) in [Baga, Nigeria](#), and allies itself with [ISIS](#).
- [Al-Shabaab](#) perpetrates a [a mass shooting](#) in [Kenya](#), killing 148.
- [Houthi](#)s [overthrow the government in Yemen](#), triggering [a military response](#) by [Saudi Arabia](#).
- [A series of earthquakes in the Himalayas](#) kills over 10,000 people.
- ISIS claims responsibility for the [Kobani massacre](#) in [Syria](#), the [Sousse attacks in Tunisia](#), a [mosque bombing in Kuwait](#), the [Suruç bombing in Turkey](#), multiple bombings in [both Beirut and Paris](#), and inspires a [shooting in San Bernardino, California](#).
- [Turkey and Russia intervene](#) in the [Syrian Civil War](#). The heads of [China](#) and [Taiwan](#) [meet for the first time](#)

- [United States](#) and [Cuba](#) resume diplomatic relations.
- [195 nations agree](#) to lower [carbon emissions](#).
- [Liquid water](#) is found on [Mars](#).
- First close-up images of [Ceres](#) and [Pluto](#).