**[2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000" \o "2000):**

* [3rd millennium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_millennium) celebrations.
* End of Israeli occupation of [Lebanon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon).
* [Second Intifada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Intifada) begins.
* [George W. Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush) is elected [President of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States).
* [Vicente Fox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vicente_Fox) becomes the first opposition President of [Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico).
* [Vladimir Putin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Putin) becomes [President of Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Russia).
* British Army launch [Operation Palliser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Palliser) which effectively ends the [Sierra Leone Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone_Civil_War).
* [International Space Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Space_Station) begins operations.
* First [Inter-Korean Summit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Korean_Summit).
* [al-Qaeda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaeda) suicide bombs the [USS *Cole*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Cole_%28DDG-67%29).

[**2001**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001)**:**

* [September 11 attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks): Terrorists destroy the [World Trade Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center_%281973%E2%80%932001%29) in [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City), damage [The Pentagon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pentagon) in [Washington, DC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington,_DC).
* [Massive earthquakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001_Gujarat_earthquake) hit the western state of [Gujarat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat), India, leaving at least 30,000 dead.
* [War on Terror](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_on_Terror) declared.
* [Afghan War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_%282001%E2%80%93present%29) begins.
* [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia) founded.
* [African Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Union) founded.
* During [economic crisis in Argentina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argentine_economic_crisis_%281999%E2%80%932002%29) government effectively [froze all bank accounts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corralito) for twelve months which [led to riots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December_2001_riots_in_Argentina) and President [de la Rúa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernando_de_la_R%C3%BAa)'s resignation from office.
* President [Joseph Estrada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Estrada) of the [Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines) impeached.

[**2002**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002)**:**

* [2002 Bali bombings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_Bali_bombings).
* [Riots and mass killings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_Gujarat_riots) in the [Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) state of [Gujarat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat) leave 1044 dead.
* Chechen rebels [seize theatre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow_theater_hostage_crisis) in Moscow.
* America demands [Iraq allow unfettered access to weapons inspectors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_disarmament_crisis).
* [Guantanamo Bay detention camp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guantanamo_Bay_detention_camp) is established.
* [Algerian Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algerian_Civil_War) ends.
* [Beltway sniper attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beltway_sniper_attacks).
* [Rose Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose_Revolution) in [Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_%28country%29).
* Independence of [East Timor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Timor).

[**2003**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003)**:**

* [Iraq War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War) begins, triggering [worldwide protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protests_against_the_Iraq_War).
* [War in Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur) begins.
* The [Human Genome Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Genome_Project) is completed.
* [Second Congo War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Congo_War) ends with more than 5 million dead.
* [Second Liberian Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Liberian_Civil_War) ends.
* [Space Shuttle Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Columbia) is [destroyed on re-entry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Columbia_disaster).

[**2004**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004)**:**

* [Enlargement of NATO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enlargement_of_NATO) [and the European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_enlargement_of_the_European_Union) incorporates most of former Eastern Bloc.
* [Union of South American Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_of_South_American_Nations) formed.
* [Madrid train bombings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrid_train_bombings).
* [Orange Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_Revolution) in [Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine).
* [Beslan school hostage crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beslan_school_hostage_crisis).
* [Boxing Day Tsunami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boxing_Day_Tsunami) occurs in [Indian Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean), leading to the deaths of 230,000.
* [Death of Ronald Reagan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Ronald_Reagan) and [Yasser Arafat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat).

[**2005**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005)**:**

* [IRA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Republican_Army) end military campaign in Northern Ireland.
* [7/7 attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7/7_attacks) on [London Underground](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Underground).
* [Angela Merkel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Merkel) becomes Germany's first woman Chancellor.
* [Tulip Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulip_Revolution) in [Kyrgyzstan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyrgyzstan).
* [Second Intifada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Intifada) ends.
* Israel withdraws from Gaza.
* [Cedar Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedar_Revolution) in [Lebanon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon) triggered by the [Assassination of Rafic Hariri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Rafic_Hariri).
* [Second Sudanese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War) ends.
* [Hurricane Katrina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina) kills nearly 2000 people in the [Gulf of Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico).
* 80,000 are killed in [an earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005_Kashmir_earthquake) in [Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir).
* The [Kyoto Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol) comes into effect.
* [Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmoud_Ahmadinejad) becomes [President of Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Iran).
* Death of [Pope John Paul II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_II); [Benedict XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict_XVI) becomes Pope.
* [Mike Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Brown_%28astronomer%29) discovers [Eris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eris_%28dwarf_planet%29).

[**2006**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006)**:**

* Independence of [Montenegro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montenegro).
* [2006 Lebanon War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_Lebanon_War).
* [Mumbai bombings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mumbai_bombings).
* [Comprehensive Peace Accord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comprehensive_Peace_Accord) ends the [Nepalese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepalese_Civil_War).
* [Ellen Johnson Sirleaf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_Johnson_Sirleaf) becomes President of [Liberia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia), and thus Africa's first elected female head of state.
* The [International Astronomical Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Astronomical_Union) creates [the first formal definition of a planet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IAU_definition_of_planet), and excludes [Pluto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pluto) from the list.
* [Execution of Saddam Hussein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Execution_of_Saddam_Hussein)

[**2007**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007)**:**

* [Anti-government protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_Burmese_anti-government_protests) in [Myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar) crushed by ruling junta.
* [Spike in food prices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007%E2%80%932008_world_food_price_crisis) and [subprime crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_crisis) help trigger [global recession](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late-2000s_recession).
* [Assassination of Benazir Bhutto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Benazir_Bhutto).

[**2008**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008)**:**

* Stock markets [plunge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_2008_stock_market_volatility) around the world.
* End of Monarchy in [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal).
* [Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama) is elected [President of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States).
* [Cyclone Nargis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclone_Nargis) kills 133,000 in [Myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar).
* [Gaza War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_War_%282008%E2%80%9309%29) begins.
* [2008 South Ossetia war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_South_Ossetia_war).
* [Kosovo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo) [declares independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Kosovo_declaration_of_independence), to mixed reaction.
* [Battle of Basra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Basra_%282008%29) - Iraqi forces crack down on [Muqtada al Sadr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muqtada_al_Sadr)'s Mahdi forces in Basra and Sadr City.
* [2008 Mumbai attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Mumbai_attacks).
* The [Large Hadron Collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Large_Hadron_Collider) is completed as the world's largest and most powerful [particle collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Particle_collider).

[**2009**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009)**:**

* [Gaza War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_War_%282008%E2%80%9309%29) ends; [Gaza blockade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_blockade) continues.
* [Sri Lankan Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Civil_War) ends.
* [Election protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009%E2%80%932010_Iranian_election_protests) begin in Iran.
* [Second Chechen War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Chechen_War) ends.
* [Boko Haram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boko_Haram) rebellion begins in Nigeria.
* [Death of Michael Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Michael_Jackson).
* [Burj Khalifa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burj_Khalifa) in [Dubai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubai), the world's tallest [skyscraper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skyscraper), is completed.
* [Great Recession](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Recession) officially ends.
* Formation of [BRICS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BRICS) economic bloc.
* [Treaty of Lisbon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Lisbon) ratified.

[**2010**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010)**:**

* [David Cameron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Cameron) becomes [Prime Minister of the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_general_election_of_2010).
* [Benigno Aquino III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benigno_Aquino_III) is elected as the [15th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_the_Philippines) [President of the Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_Philippines).
* A [7.0 magnitude earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake) in [Haiti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiti) kills 230,000.
* The threat of [Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece) [defaulting on its debts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_government-debt_crisis) triggers the [European sovereign debt crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_European_sovereign_debt_crisis) and [Ireland's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland) [financial crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-2008_Irish_economic_downturn).
* The [largest oil spill in US history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill) occurs in the [Gulf of Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico).
* [North Korea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea) [shells](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombardment_of_Yeonpyeong) the island of [Yeonpyeong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yeonpyeong).
* [Aung San Suu Kyi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aung_San_Suu_Kyi) is released from house arrest.
* [2010 Moscow Metro bombings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Moscow_Metro_bombings).
* [Arab Spring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Spring) triggered by [self-immolation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-immolation) of [Mohamed Bouazizi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Bouazizi) on December 17, 2010 in [Tunisia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia).
* [2010 Kyrgyzstani revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Kyrgyzstani_revolution).
* [2010 Nigerien coup d'état](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Nigerien_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat).
* 10 April the President of Poland, [Lech Kaczyński](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lech_Kaczy%C5%84ski), is among 96 killed when their airplane [crashes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Polish_Air_Force_Tu-154_crash) in Smolensk.
* The [Burj Khalifa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burj_Khalifa) located in [Dubai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubai) opened to the public and stood as the [tallest structure in the world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tallest_structure_in_the_world), standing at 829.8 m (2,722 ft).

[**2011**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011)**:**

* Independence of [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan).
* [Arab Spring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Spring): [revolutions in Tunisia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisian_revolution), [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Egyptian_revolution) [and Libya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Libyan_civil_war) follow, as well as [uprisings in Yemen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Yemeni_uprising) [and Bahrain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Bahraini_uprising), and protests in several other Arab countries.
* [Syrian civil war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian_civil_war) begins.
* [Occupy movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occupy_movement) inspires worldwide protests.
* [News International phone hacking scandal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/News_International_phone_hacking_scandal).
* A [9.0 earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_T%C5%8Dhoku_earthquake_and_tsunami) in Japan triggers a tsunami and the [meltdown of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fukushima_Daiichi_nuclear_disaster).
* [Second Ivorian Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Ivorian_Civil_War) ends with the arrest of former president [Laurent Gbagbo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurent_Gbagbo).
* Deaths of [Osama bin Laden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Osama_bin_Laden), [Muammar Gaddafi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Muammar_Gaddafi), and [Kim Jong-Il](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_and_state_funeral_of_Kim_Jong-il).
* [Iraq War ends](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Withdrawal_of_U.S._troops_from_Iraq).
* [Riots flare across England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_England_riots).
* Bombings occur [In Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Domodedovo_International_Airport_bombing) [and Somalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Mogadishu_bombing).
* [World population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population) reaches [7 billion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_7_Billion).
* [Floods in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Sindh_floods), [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Thailand_floods) [and the Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_Storm_Washi_%282011%29) kill roughly 2500 people.
* Death of [Steve Jobs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Jobs).

[**2012**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012)**:**

* [Northern Mali conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_Northern_Mali_conflict),
* the [MNLA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Movement_for_the_Liberation_of_Azawad) declares [Azawad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azawad) an independent state.
* [Yemeni](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemen) President [Ali Abdullah Saleh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_Abdullah_Saleh) steps down.
* [2012 Benghazi attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_Benghazi_attack) leads to the death of US ambassador [J. Christopher Stevens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Christopher_Stevens).
* The [Higgs boson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higgs_boson) is discovered.
* [Hurricane Sandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Sandy) kills 209 people in North America, while [Typhoon Bopha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoon_Bopha) kills over 1,600 in the [Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines).
* Skydiver [Felix Baumgartner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Baumgartner) becomes the first person to [break the sound barrier without a vehicle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sound_barrier#Breaking_the_sound_barrier_as_a_human_projectile).
* [Conflict begins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_African_Republic_conflict_%282012%E2%80%9313%29) in the [Central African Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_African_Republic).
* [UN Climate Change Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference) agrees to extend the [Kyoto Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol) until 2020.
* [Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) launches [Operation Pillar of Defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Pillar_of_Defense) against the [Palestinian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_people)-governed [Gaza Strip](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_Strip).
* [2012 Guinea-Bissau coup d'état](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_Guinea-Bissau_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat).

[**2013**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013)**:**

* The French military intervenes in the [Northern Mali conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Mali_conflict).
* [Chelyabinsk meteor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelyabinsk_meteor).
* [Pope Benedict XVI resigns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resignation_of_Pope_Benedict_XVI) and [Pope Francis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Francis) becomes Pope.
* Terrorist attacks occur [in Boston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombings) [and Nairobi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westgate_shopping_mall_attack).
* The [Rana Plaza collapses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Savar_building_collapse) in [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh).
* [Edward Snowden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Snowden) releases classified documents concerning [mass surveillance by the NSA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_surveillance_disclosure).
* [President of Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Egypt) [Mohamed Morsi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Morsi) [is deposed by the military in a coup d'état](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Egyptian_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat).
* [Croatia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia) becomes a member of the [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union).
* The [Euromaidan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euromaidan) protest begins in [Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine).
* [A chemical attack in Ghouta, Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghouta_chemical_attack) is blamed on President [Bashar al-Assad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashar_al-Assad).
* [Typhoon Haiyan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoon_Haiyan) kills nearly 6150 people in the [Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines) and [Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam).
* Deaths of [Hugo Chávez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_and_state_funeral_of_Hugo_Ch%C3%A1vez), [Nelson Mandela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson_Mandela) and [Margaret Thatcher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Thatcher).
* [Conflict begins in South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudanese_conflict_%282013%E2%80%93present%29).
* [Uruguay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uruguay) becomes [the first country to fully legalise cannabis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legality_of_cannabis_by_country).
* End of [2012–2013 Cypriot financial crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%932013_Cypriot_financial_crisis).

[**2014**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014)**:**

* [The worst Ebola virus epidemic in recorded history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebola_virus_epidemic_in_West_Africa) begins in West Africa, to date infecting more than 20,000 people and killing more than 7,000.
* [Euromaidan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euromaidan) protest in Ukraine sparks a [revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Ukrainian_Revolution) and the overthrow of [Viktor Yanukovych](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych), leading to Russia's [annexation of Crimea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Federation) and the [War in Donbass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Donbass).
* [Malaysia Airlines Flight 370](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia_Airlines_Flight_370) and [Indonesia AirAsia Flight 8501](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia_AirAsia_Flight_8501) disappear mid-flight, while [Malaysia Airlines Flight 17](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia_Airlines_Flight_17) is shot down over Ukraine
* [Air Algérie Flight 5017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Alg%C3%A9rie_Flight_5017) crashes in [Mali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mali).
* A [coup d'état](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Thai_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat) in Thailand overthrows the caretaker government
* King [Juan Carlos I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Carlos_I) of Spain abdicates; his son becomes [King Felipe VI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Felipe_VI).
* [Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tehrik-i-Taliban_Pakistan) [kill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Peshawar_school_massacre) over 130 students in [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan).
* [Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) launches [an assault](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Protective_Edge) on the [Gaza Strip](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_Strip) in response to [tit-for-tat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_kidnapping_and_murder_of_Israeli_teenagers) [murder-kidnappings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidnapping_and_murder_of_Mohammed_Abu_Khdeir),leading to the deaths of 71 Israelis and 2100 Palestinians.
* [ISIS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_State_in_Iraq_and_the_Levant) begins [its offensive in northern Iraq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Iraq_offensive_%28June_2014%29), leading to [intervention in Iraq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_American-led_intervention_in_Iraq) [and Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American-led_intervention_in_Syria) by a US-led coalition.
* [Second Libyan Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Libyan_Civil_War) begins.
* The [Rosetta spacecraft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosetta_spacecraft)'s [*Philae*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philae_%28spacecraft%29) probe becomes the first to successfully land on [a comet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko).

[**2015**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015)**:**

* Five [former Soviet countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Former_Soviet_Union) form the [Eurasian Economic Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_Economic_Union).
* [*Charlie Hebdo* shooting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_Hebdo_shooting) in [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris).
* [Boko Haram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boko_Haram) perpetrates [a massacre of over 2000 people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Baga_massacre) in [Baga, Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baga,_Nigeria), and allies itself with [ISIS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_State_in_Iraq_and_the_Levant).
* [Al-Shabaab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Shabaab_%28militant_group%29) perpetrates a [a mass shooting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garissa_University_College_attack) in [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya), killing 148.
* [Houthis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houthis) [overthrow the government in Yemen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houthi_takeover_in_Yemen), triggering [a military response](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabian-led_intervention_in_Yemen) by [Saudi Arabia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia).
* [A series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_2015_Nepal_earthquake) [of earthquakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_2015_Nepal_earthquake) [in the Himalayas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake) kills over 10,000 people.
* ISIS claims responsibility for the [Kobanî massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koban%C3%AE_massacre) in [Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria), the [Sousse attacks in Tunisia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Sousse_attacks), [a mosque bombing in Kuwait](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Kuwait_mosque_bombing), the [Suruç bombing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Suru%C3%A7_bombing) in [Turkey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey), multiple bombings in [both Beirut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Beirut_bombings) [and Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November_2015_Paris_attacks), and inspires a [shooting in San Bernardino, California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_San_Bernardino_attack).
* [Turkey and](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_involvement_in_the_Syrian_Civil_War) [Russia intervene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_military_intervention_in_the_Syrian_Civil_War) in the [Syrian Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian_Civil_War). The heads of [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) and [Taiwan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan) [meet for the first time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Ma%E2%80%93Xi_meeting)
* [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) and [Cuba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba) resume diplomatic relations.
* [195 nations agree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference) to lower [carbon emissions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_emissions).
* [Liquid water](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_on_Mars) is found on [Mars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mars).
* First close-up images of [Ceres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceres_%28dwarf_planet%29) and [Pluto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pluto).