Time Line of the Modern Middle East

1. **Palestine/Israel/Lebanon**

* France, 1911: Young Arab nationalists found "Al Fatah" in Paris
* Palestine, november 1917: the "Balfour Declaration" by the British government promises a Jewish homeland in Palestine
* Palestine, 1917: 93% of the population of larger Palestine is Arab
* Palestine, 1918: David Ben-Gurion returns to Palestine after being exiled by the Ottoman Empire
* Palestine, 1919: Feisal Hussein, King of Iraq and Syria (then the only recognized Arab leader in the world), agrees to the creation of a Jewish nation in Palestine and executes a treaty with Jewish leader Chaim Weizmann
* Palestine, 1919: an American delegation reports on the fast rise of "zionism" through dispossession of the "non-Jewish inhabitants of Palestine"
* Palestine, 1920: British Mandate in Palestine is established
* Palestine, 1921: Britain appoints Mohammed Amin al-Husseini head of the Supreme Muslim Council of Palestine, and Husseini begins a violent anti-Semitic campaign and a murder campaign of Arab moderates   
  Palestine, 1922: Britain receives a mandate from the League of Nations to create a homeland for the Jews in Palestine, which starts large-scale Jewish immigration from Europe
* Egypt, april 1923: a secular constitution is proclaimed in Egypt (previously a British colony) to create a parliamentary monarchy
* Egypt, 1928: Hassan Al-Banna creates "Al-Ikhwan Al-Moslemoon" (Muslim Brotherhood), a quasi-monastic movement that advocates for the entire Arab world a fundamentalist Islamic society like the one created by the Wahabites in Saudi Arabia and therefore advocates rebellion against the westernized King Faruk government (motto: "Quran is our law, jihad is our way, dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope")
* Palestine, 1929: hundreds of people die in clashes between Arabs and Jews in Palestine
* Palestine, 1931: Abraham Tehomi founds the terrorist organization Irgun Zvai Leumi (National Military Organization) to liberate Palestine from British occupation and Arabs residents
* Palestine, 1936: Arabs revolt against British rule in Palestine (first "intifada")
* Lebanon, 1936: Pierre Gemayel founds the Phalange party in Lebanon
* Egypt, 1936: Farouk becomes king of Egypt, succeeding his father Fuad, and installs a government friendly to the West
* Palestine, november 1940: Haganah terrorists bomb the boat "Patria" full of Jewish immigrants at the port of Haifa, killing more than 200 people
* Syria, 1941: the Ba' ath Party is founded in Damascus by Michel Aflaq and Salah al-Din Bitar with the mission to unify the whole Arab world in one Arab country
* Palestine, july 1946: Jewish terrorists, led by Menachem Begin, bomb and destroy the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, the British military and civilian headquarters, killing 91 people
* Palestine, novembre 1947: the United Nations orders a partition of Palestine in a Jewish state (Israel), an Arab state and an international zone around Jerusalem
* Palestine, november 1947: Jews set to create the state of Israel while Arabs condemn the United Nations decision and refuse to create an Arab state that does not include the whole of Palestine   
  Syria, 1947: the Baath Arab Socialist party is founded in Syria
* Palestine, december 1947: scores of Arabs are killed by Hagana in the village of Baldat al-Shaikh in retaliation for 41 killed in Haifa riots
* Palestine, april 1948: Israeli troops occupy Arab towns (Tiberias, Haifa, Jaffa, etc)
* Palestine, april 1948: Irgun terrorists led by Menachem Begin attack the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin near Jerusalem killing more than 100 people, and a few days later Arab retaliate by killing 70 Jews of the Hebrew University
* Palestine, may 1948: Palestinians in Jerusalem and Jaffa call a general strike against the partition
* Palestine, may 1948: on the same day that Israel declares its independence, the United States recognizes Israel while five Arab countries attack Israel from all sides (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq)
* Israel, july 1948: several massacres of Arabs carried out by Haganah (underground Jewish militia) in Palestine (Lydda, Ramle, Doueimah)
* Palestine, 1948: Palestinian exodus and David Ben-Gurion's ethnic cleansing cause a decrease in the population of Arabs within the borders of Israel and the creation of refugee camps outside its borders
* Palestine, july 1949: The war ends with Israel winning west Jerusalem and small pieces of land, occupying 78% of Palestine, and with 750,000 Palestinians displaced out of a pre-war population of 1.3 million
* Egypt, january 1949: members of the Muslim Brotherhood assassinate Egyptian prime minister Mahmud Fahmi al-Nuqrashi
* Egypt, february 1949: Hassan Al-Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, is assassinated in Cairo
* Egypt, july 1952: a military coup led by Gamal Abdel Nasser removes King Faruk and founds the republic of Egypt
* Jordan, 1952: members of the Muslim Brotherhood assassinate King Abdullah in Jerusalem and King Hussein becomes the new king
* Soviet Union, february 1953: Stalin breaks off relations with Israel
* Palestine, 1953: Hizb ut-Tahrir is founded by Taqiuddin al-Nabhani to create an Islamic state all over the world and its members spread around the world
* Egypt, 1954: president Gamal Abdel-Nasser bans the Muslim Brotherhood
* Egypt, 1955: the Soviet block begin to arm the Arab countries
* Israel, february 1955: Israel attacks the Egyptian military headquarters in Gaza killing 38 soldiers
* Egypt, april 1955: Nasser joins the policy of "non-alignment" at the Bandung Conference
* Palestine, 1955: Palestinian fedayeen ("those who sacrifice themselves") begin operating from across the border bringing terror into Israel
* Egypt, july 1956: president Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt nationalizes the Suez canal, thereby becoming the first Arab leader to confront the West and the father of Arab nationalism
* Palestine, october 1956: Israeli troops led by Ariel Sharon attack Qalqilya, killing almost 100 Palestinians (18 Israeli soldiers are also killed)
* Palestine, october 1956: in retaliation for guerrilla attacks sponsored by Egypt, Israel declares war to Egypt (second war) and invades the Sinai and the Gaza strip, while France and Britain seize the Suez canal
* Palestine, nov 1956: Israeli soldiers kill 275 Palestinian civilians in Khan Younis and 111 in Rafah
* Israel, 1956: Israel sets up a secret nuclear program headed by Shimon Peres, with help from France
* Palestine, march 1957: Israel withdraws from the Sinai and the Gaza strip
* Lebanon, july 1958: The USA sends 19,000 soldiers to protect the regime of Lebanon's Christian president Camille Chamoun
* Palestine, 1959: Yassir Arafat founds Al Fahta, the Palestinian liberation movement
* Israel, 1962: Israel's nuclear program directed by Shimon Peres produces the first weapon-grade plutonium
* Syria, 1963: in a military coup the Baath Party seizes power in Syria, outlaws all other parties and embarks in a Soviet-style program of nationalization.   
  Israel, 1963: Israeli prime minister Ben Gurion resigns
* Palestine, june 1964: Arab countries create the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Cairo with the mission to destroy the state of Israel and liberate Palestine
* Palestine, january 1965: Fatah, operating from neighboring Arab countries, launches guerrilla attacks against Israel
* Israel, 1966: Israel produces its first nuclear bomb
* Israel, november 1966: Israeli troops raid the Jordanian village of Samu, killing 14 Jordanian soldiers
* Egypt, 1967: Egypt expels UN peacekeepers from the Sinai and closes the Red Sea to Israeli ships
* Syria, april 1967: In retaliation for Syrian attacks, Israel downs six Syrian warplanes
* Palestine, june 1967: Arab countries ammass troops at the Israeli border and Israel launches a pre-emptive strike (third war) against its neighbors, and in seven days re-conquers the Sinai, the Gaza strip and even the Suez canal in Egypt, invades the Golan Heights in Syria, the West Bank and East Jerusalem in Jordan. The whole of Jerusalem is now under Israeli control. Thousands of Palestinians are displaced and absorbed into Jordan. 18,000 Arab soldiers are killed, 250 Egyptian planes and 50 Syrian planes are destroyed.
* Palestine, june 1967: Israel attacks a USA warship, the USS Liberty, killing 34 sailors
* Palestine, december 1967: George Habash founds the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a terrorist organization inspired by marxism-leninism
* Palestine, october 1968: Ahmad Jibril splits from George Habash's PFLP and founds the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) with base in Syria
* Palestine, march 1968: Fatah guerrillas win the battle of Karameh against superior Israeli forces (30 Israeli soldiers are killed)
* USA, june 1968: Bob Kennedy is assassinated by Palestinian immigrant Sirhan Sirhan in retaliation for the USA's support of Israel
* Israel, july 1968: the PFLP hijacks an Israeli airplane to trade hostages for Palestinian prisoners
* Palestine, 1969: female Palestinian fighter Leila Khaled hijacks a TWA airplane
* Palestine, february 1969: Yassir Arafat becomes leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (Fatah takes over the PLO)
* Israel, march 1969: Golda Meir is elected prime minister of Israel
* Egypt, 1970: Israel carries out air raids along the Nile killing hundreds of Egyptian civilians hoping to incite anti-Nasser uprising, instead triggering a massive rearmament of Egypt by the Soviet Union
* Switzerland, february 1970: A bomb by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine kills all 47 people aboard a SwissAir flight
* Jordan, september 1970: PFLP terrorists hijack a TWA jet, a Swissair jet and a Pan Am jet and blow them up in Zarka
* Palestine, september 1970: Arafat is appointed supreme commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), the military arm of the PLO
* Jordan, september 1970: After a series of assassination attempts, King Hussein of Jordan, fearing for his own country's stability, orders a massive expulsion of Palestinians that results in ten days of civil war with 200 Syrian tanks invading Jordan and 5,000 deaths ("black september")
* Palestine, september 1970: the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yassir Arafat, settles in Beirut, Lebanon
* Egypt, september 1970: Nasser dies and is buried in one of the largest funerals ever, while his deputy Anwar Sadat becomes the new president of Egypt
* Jordan, september 1970: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine carries out simultaneous hijackings to Jordan (Dawson's Field) of TWA, Swissair and BOAC planes for a total of over 300 hostages ("Skyjack Sunday"), which are swapped with Leila Khaled, the leader of the PFLP cell captured in Britain
* Syria, november 1970: Hafez Assad, shiite leader of the military wing of the Baath Party, overthrows the president of Syria
* Jordan, july 1971: The Jordanian army attacks the Palestinian camps again and Fatah's Salah Khalaf founds Black September
* Jordan, november 1971: The Jordanian prime minister Wasfi Tal is killed by Palestinian Black September terrorists while in Cairo
* Europe, 1972: Black September attacks Jordanian embassies and airline offices in Europe
* Europe, May 1972: Black September hijacks a Belgian airplane and lands it in Israel demanding the release of prisoners, but Israel storms the plane
* Israel, May 1972: Japanese terrorists attack the Tel Aviv airport killing 26 people
* Israel, may 1972: A joint attack by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Japanese Red Army at Lod airport (Israel) kills 26 people
* Israel, may 1972: Black September terrorists hijack a Belgian airliner in Tel Aviv and Israeli commandos storm the plane
* Egypt, july 1972: Egypt expels the Soviet military advisers
* Germany, september 1972: Palestinian terrorists of the Black September faction kill 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, a drama that is televised live worldwide
* USA, 1972: The CIA hires Bashir Gemayel, the son of the Lebanese politician Pierre Gemayel who is working in Washington
* Sudan, march 1973: Black September kills three Western diplomats in Sudan, including the USA ambassador to Sudan
* London, 1973: Venezuelan-born terrorist Ilich Ramirez Sanchez ("Carlos the Jackal"), who studied in Russia and was trained by Haddad, performs spectacular terrorist actions on behalf of Palestinian terrorist groups
* Greece, august 1973: Black September terrorists attacks the Israeli airline counter at the Athens airport
* Palestine, october 1973: Egypt and Syria attack Israel (fourth war), but Israel invades again the Sinai
* Italy, december 1973: Palestinian terrorists attack a Pan Am flight in Rome and kill 30 passengers
* Israel, december 1973: The conservative Yitzhak Rabin is elected prime minister of Israel
* Palestine, 1974: Sabri al-Banna splits from the PLO and founds Abu Nidal
* Morocco, june 1974: the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in Rabat decides to abandon international terrorism
* Palestine, novembre 1974: the United Nations recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to sovereignity and invites Arafat's PLO as an "observer", thereby recognizing Arafat as the leader of the Palestinians
* New York, 1974: Arafat gives an emotional speech at the United Nations begging for Palestinian statehood
* Iraq, 1974: French premier Chirac visits Iraq to negotiate the sale of nuclear technology
* Lebanon, april 1975: Christian and Muslim sects engage in a civil war in Lebanon that will last 16 years
* France, june 1975: "Carlos" kills two police officers in Paris
* Austria, december 1975: Oil minister of the OPEC countries are kidnapped during a meeting by terrorists led by "Carlos" (Ilich Ramirez Sanchez)
* Saudi Arabia, january 1976: A bomb blows up a Lebanese flight over Saudi Arabia, killing all 82 passengers
* Lebanon, april 1976: Syria invades Lebanon to avoid an almost certain Palestinian victory
* Palestine, 1976: Wadi' Haddad split from George Habash's PFLP and founds the "15 May Faction", that quickly becomes the leading terrorist organization
* Palestine, 1976: Israeli commandos storm an Air France plane hijacked by Palestinian terrorists in Entebbe
* Israel, 1976: Israeli police kill six Israeli citizens of Palestinian descent who are demonstrating against seizure of Palestinian land ("Palestinian Land Day")
* Egypt, january 1977: People riot in Cairo to protest economic conditions and 160 demonstrators are killed by the army
* Israel, october 1977: A German airliner is hijacked by Palestinian terrorists and stormed by German paratroopers in Somalia
* Israel, 1977: Ariel Sharon, minister of agriculture, plans Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 war
* Palestine, april 1977: Abu Abbas splits from the PFLP-GC and founds the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF)
* Israel, may 1977: Former Irgun terrorist Menachem Begin and the right-wing Likud party win elections, defeating the Labor Party that had ruled Israel since its founding
* Egypt, november 1977: Sadat becomes the first Arab leader ever to visit Israel
* Israel, march 1978: Al Fatah terrorists led by an 18-year old woman and reporting to Khalil al-Wazir/ Abu Jihad hijack two buses in Israel killing 37 people
* Lebanon, june 1978: Israel invades the southern part
*  Lebanon, june 1978: Israel invades the southern part of Lebanon to uproot the PLO, killing more than 1,000 civilians, but then withdraws
*  Palestine, september 1978: The Camp David agreement brokered by president Jimmy Carter of the USA prescribes a timetable for solving the Palestinian issue, but Jordan refuses to negotiate on behalf of Arafat and Israel refuses to negotiate directly with a terrorist like Arafat
*  Palestine, 1978: Israel begins resettling Jews in the Arab areas of the West Bank
*  Israel, march 1979: Sadat of Egypt and of Israel sign a peace treaty, Israel returns the Sinai peninsula to Egypt and Egypt enters the orbit of the USA
*  Lebanon, 1979: the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran galvanizes Islamic extremists, especially shiite Arabs
*  Syria, 1980: galvanized by the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Muslims riot in Aleppo, Homs and Hama
*  Iraq, june 1981: Israel bombs the Iraqi nuclear reactor built by France, to prevent Iraq from building a nuclear weapon
*  Lebanon, july 1981: Israel bombs multi-story apartment buildings in Beirut to kill Arafat and the PLO leadership, killing 300 civilians
*  Lebanon, september 1981: The French ambassador is assassinated in Lebanon
*  Egypt, october 1981: Sadat is assassinated by soldiers led by Khalid al Islambouli, inspired by radical Muslim organization (the Egyptian Islamic Jihad) of Egyptian surgeon Ayman al-Zawahri, and is succeeded by vice-president Hosni Mubarak
*  Lebanon, december 1981: a member of Islamic Dawa Party blows himself up to attack the Iraqi embassy in Beirut, Lebanon (first suicide bomber)
*  Syria, february 1982: Assad orders the bombing of Hama, one of Syria's major cities, for 27 days, killing more than 20,000 people, to stem an uprising of the Muslim Brotherhood
*  Lebanon, june 1982: In retaliation for an assassination attempt by Abu Nidal and Iraqi agents on the Israeli ambassador in Britain, Israel invades Lebanon trapping the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its leader Yassir Arafat in Beirut (despite the fact that Abu Nidal is not part of the PLO)
*  Lebanon, 1982: Hezbollah (Party of God) is founded by a radical shiite group with the mission of creating an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon, supported by Iranian revolutionary guards
*  Lebanon, august 1982: Iran sends "volunteers" to fight Israel in Lebanon
*  Lebanon, august 1982: Arafat and his forces are allowed to leave Beirut, while the USA promises protection for the Palestinian civilians left in the refugee camps of Lebanon
*  Lebanon, august 1982: Bashir Gemayel, a moderate Christian, is elected president of Lebanon
*  Israel, 1982: [Youstol Dispage](http://www.scaruffi.com) joins the resistance
*  Lebanon, september 1982: Bashir Gemayel is assassinated by Syrian agents, and in retaliation Israeli-backed Christian militiamen of the Phalange under Elie Hobeika with the support of Israeli troops (under the command of Ariel Sharon) massacre 1,000 unarmed Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in west Beirut
*  Lebanon, september 1982: At the battle of Shouf a USA warship rescues Michel Aoun's Lebanese army that is being defeated by a coalition of Walid Jumblatt's Druze militia, Syrian troops, PLO guerrillas and Iranian Revolutionary Guards
*  Lebanon, september 1982: The USA sends marines to restore order in Lebanon, followed by French and Italian troops
*  Lebanon, november 1982: a suicide bomber blows up 72 Israeli soldiers in Tyre
*  Lebanon, april 1983: suicide commandos directed by Imad Mughniyeh (Mugniyah) blow up the US embassy, killing 63 people
*  Lebanon, may 1983: Syria directs a mutiny within Arafat's Fatah that will force Arafat to leave Lebanon
*  Palestine, july 1983: the Mufti of Jerusalem issues a fatwa to kill Assad in retaliation to his campaign against the Palestine Liberation Organization.
*  Germany, august 1983: "Carlos" carries out an attack on the Maison de France in Berlin that kills two people
*  Israel, september 1983: Begin resigns, but neither Likud nor Labor wins the elections, and Yitzah Shamir and Shimon Peres accept a power-sharing agreement to alternate as prime ministers of Israel
*  Lebanon, october 1983: Hezbollah suicide commandos organized by Iran and masterminded by Imad Mughniyeh (Mugniyah) blow up the US and French barracks killing 241 marines and 58 French soldiers
*  Lebanon, november 1983: a second suicide bomber in Tyre kills 28 Israelis and 32 Lebanese prisoners
*  Kuwait, december 1983: Shiite terrorists funded by Iran (including three Lebanese of Hezbollah) blow up the USA and French embassies in Kuwait, killing six people
*  Lebanon, january 1984: The president of the American University of Beirul is assassinated in Lebanon
*  Lebanon, february 1984: USA, French and Italian soldiers withdraw from Lebanon
*  Lebanon, february 1984: Militias fight for control of Beirut, which has become the most dangerous city in the world (car bombs, kidnaps, assassinations)
*  Lebanon, march 1984: the second highest-ranking USA official in Lebanon is kidnapped by Hezbollah
*  Lebanon, 1985: Syria and Iran sponsor Hezbollah guerrilla against Israeli troops stationed in Lebanon
*  Lebanon, march 1985: A car bomb planted by CIA-funded Christian militia fail to assassinate Hezbollah's spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadballah, but instead kill 80 civilians
*  Tunisia, 1985: Israel raids the PLO headquarters in Tunis, killing 60 people
*  Syria, 1985: Syria directs a world-wide terrorist campaign aimed at sabotaging the agreement between Jordan's King Hussein and Yassir Arafat
*  Palestine, 1985: the "15 May Faction" is dissolved and its leader and notorious bombmaker Muhammad Al-Amri joins the PFLP-GC
*  Israel, may 1985: 1.260 Palestinian prisoners (among them Sheikh Ahmed Yassin) are released from Israeli jails in a prisoner exchange between Israel and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC that has hijacked an American passenger plane
*  Lebanon, june 1985: Terrorists hijack a TWA flight, kill one USA passenger and release the others after Israel accept to release 700 Shiite prisoners
*  Lebanon, june 1985: Israel withdraws to the southern part of Lebanon, which officially cedes to friendly Christian militias
*  Lebanon, june 1985: Hezbollah terrorists hijack a TWA flight and exchange the hostages for 435 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners detained by Israel
*  Palestine, october 1985: Palestinian terrorists led by Abu Abbas hijack the Achille Lauro cruise ship, kill one USA passenger, escape via Egypt, are tracked down by USA warplanes, and are finally helped to escape by the Italian government
*  Palestine, december 1985: Abu Nidal terrorists kill 13 people during an attack on El Al's offices in Rome and 3 people in a similar attack in Vienna
*  Israel, 1986: Mordechai Vanunu is jailed for revealing the secret Israeli atomic weapons program
*  Palestine, september 1986: Abu Nidal terrorists hijack a Pan Am in Karachi   
  France, september 1986: Syria sponsors a string of bombs in Paris
*  Israel, 1986: Mordechai Vanunu, a former Israeli nuclear technician, reveals the Israeli nuclear program
*  Lebanon, february 1987: Syria invades Beirut to restore order
*  Palestine, july 1988: Abu Nidal terrorists hijack a cruise ship in Greece
*  Palestine, december 1987: Emanating from the Jabaliya refugee camp, Palestinians in the occupied territories begin an uprising against Israeli occupation forces using mainly rocks (the first "intifada") mainly protesting continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian areas of the West Bank
*  Palestine, december 1987: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, backed by donors in the Gulf states, creates the civilian and military organization Hamas in Gaza as the Palestinian wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, with the goal to drive Israel out of the Middle East and establish an Islamic state
*  Tunisia, january 1988: Arafat from Tunisia establishes a line of command to the intifada via Khalil al-Wazir/ Abu Jihad
*  Lebanon, february 1988: Hezbollah kidnaps a USA diplomat, William Higgins
*  Tunisia, 1987: Khalil al-Wazir/ Abu Jihad unifies under Arafat the seven factions that had split the PLO since the exodus from Lebanon in 1982
*  Israel, march 1988: Palestinians of Abu Jihad's organization kill three Israeli workers of the Dimona nuclear facility
*  Tunisia, april 1988: An Israeli commando assassinates Abu Jihad
*  Jordan, july 1988: King Hussein of Jordan declares that Jordan will stop administering the West Bank
*  Algeria, nov ember 1988: Arafat declares the independece of Palestine, and the state is recognized by Turkey, Greece, India, China, the Soviet Union, Pakistan and Austria
*  USA, december 1988: Following Arafat's speech in which he renounced terrorism and recognized Israel's right to exist, the USA recognizes the PLO and begins direct talks
*  Palestine, may 1989: Ahmed Yassin, leader of Hamas, is arrested and condemned to life in prison, and his successor Musa Abu Marzook separates the civilian and military wings of Hamas (Salah Shihada establishes Hamas' military apparatus)
*  Niger, september 1989: the PFLP-GC blows up a French UTA airliner over Niger, probably on behalf of Libya
*  Iraq, may 1990: Saddam Hussein convenes an Arab summit in Baghdad during which he declares "Greater Israel" to be the common enemy and promises money to the family of every Palestinian suicide bomber
*  Israel, may 1990: With funding from Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Abu Abbas' PLF (now based in Baghdad) attempts to land six boats on Israel's Nizanim beach
*  Lebanon, july 1988: Hezbollah executes USA diplomat William Higgins after two years of captivity
*  Lebanon, october 1990: the last Christian leader to fight Syria and the Muslims in Lebanon, general Michel Aoun, surrenders to Syria (after a battle that killed 700 Christians), and the civil war ends (40,000 people have died in 16 years)
*  Jordan, 1991: Mohammed Nazzal, a Jordan-based leader of Hamas, with the help of Osama bin Laden terrorists, unleashes a campaign of terrorist bombings and assassinations aimed at toppling the regime of King Hussein
*  Lebanon, december 1991: the last American hostage is freed from Lebanon
*  Jordan, 1991: One of the founders of Hamas, Khaled Mashal, settles in Jordan
*  Egypt, 1992: extremists launch a campaign aimed at ousting president Hosni Mubarak, that will kill 1,100 people in five years
*  Lebanon, february 1992: Israeli agents kill Hezbollah's leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi
*  Argentina, march 1992: A bomb (sponsored by Iran and Hezbollah) against the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires kills 85 people
*  Lebaonon, 1992: Israel assassinated the leader of Hezbollah, Abbas al-Musawi, and Hassan Nasrallah becomes the new leader of Hezbollah
*  Egypt, 1993: scores of Islamic militants are hanged by Mubarak's regime
*  Egypt, august 1993: Islamic terrorists try to assassinate two ministers in three months
*  Palestine, september 1993: following secret negotiations in Oslo, the Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Arafat sign an agreement to start a peace process (Israel recognizes the PLO and the PLO recognizes Israel)
*  Palestine, february 1994: A jewish extremist kills 29 Muslims in a Hebron mosque
*  Israel, april 1994: first Palestinian suicide bomber in Israel
*  Palestine, may 1994: The West Bank and the Gaza Strip are turned over by Israel to the Palestinian Authority under the command of Yassir Arafat, who is, de facto, recognized as the leader of the future Palestinian state
*  Israel, october 1994: Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movement begin a series of suicide terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians, including 22 people in october 1994, 19 people in january 1995, 58 people in 1996, 24 people in 1997 (mostly suicide bombings)
*  Sudan, october 1994: Ilich Ramirez Sanchez ("Carlos the Jackal") is arrested in Sudan by French agents and jailed in France
*  Palestine, november 1994: Arafat's police clashes with Hamas rioters
*  Jordan, december 1994: Hamas terrorists that plotted to overthrow King Hussein are executed
*  Malta, october 1995: Fathi Shqaqi, founder of the Islamic Jihad, is assassinated by Israeli agents, possibly with the collaboration of the PLO, and is replaced by Ramadan Shalah whose base is in Syria
*  Israel, november 1995: Rabin is assassinated by a Jewish fundamentalist
*  Palestine, january 1996: Hamas' engineer of suiciPalestine, january 1996: Hamas' engineer of suicide bombing vests Yehiya Ayyash is assassinated by Israel
* Israel, february 1996: Four suicide bombings in nine days from Hamas kill kill 59 Israelis
* Palestine, march 1996: Arafat cracks down on Hamas, whose terrorists are trying to derail the peace process
* Israel, april 1996: Israel launches Operation Grapes of Wrath in Lebanon that displaces 400,000 Lebanese and kills more than 100 civilians, including 102 women and children killed in the bombing of the Kana refugee center run by the United Nations
* Israel, may 1996: Benjamin Netanyahu of the Likud party defeats Shimon Peres in the national elections
* Israel, august 1996: Israel lifts all restrictions on settlement building in the West Bank
* Jordan, march 1997: A Jordanian soldier kills seven Israeli schoolgirls
* Israel, march 1997: Benjamin Netanyahu authorizes a Jewish settlement at Har Homa, that cuts off Palestinians of Jerusalem from Betlehem, and a few days later a suicide bomber kills three people in a Tel Aviv cafe
* Israel, july 1997: Two suicide bombers kill 16 people at the Mahane Yehuda market
* Israel, september 1996: 80 Palestinian protesters die in clashes with Israeli police on a tunnel opened by Israel under the mosque of Jerusalem
* Jordan, september 1997: An Israeli team fails to assassinate one of the founders of Hamas, Khaled Mashal, and has to release Hamas' spiritual leader Sheikh Yassin in exchange for Jordan to release its secret agents
* Palestine, october 1997: upset by a failed assassination attempt by Israeli secret agents against Hamas' leader in Jordan (Khaled Mishal), that threatens the peace treaty between the two countries, Jordan's King Hussein demands and obtains the release of Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin
* Palestine, december 1998: USA president Clinton lands at Gaza's new internatinal airport, the first USA president to visit Palestine
* Jordan, february 1999: King Hussein of Jordan dies and is succeeded by his son Abdullah
* Israel, may 1999: Ehud Barak campaigns on a peace platform and is elected prime minister of Israel
* Jordan, august 1999: Jordan expels Khaled Mashal/ Meshaal, one of the foundes of Hamas
* Lebanon, june 2000: Israel withdraws from Lebanon
* Palestine, 2000: 70% of Palestinian children interviewed by the Arab psychologist Fadal Abu-Hin want to become martyrs
* Syria, june 2000: Assad of Syria dies and is succeeded by his son Bashir
* Palestine, july 2000: Arafat and prime minister Ehud Barak of Israel fail to reach a peace accord at Camp David mainly on the status of Jerusalem
* Palestine, september 2000: As peace talks break down, a visit of Ariel Sharon to a holy Muslim site near Jerusalem causes widespread riots among Palestinians
* Palestine, september 2000: the new "intifada" rapidly escalates and gets out of control (319 Israelis will be killed by suicide bombers by april 2002)
* Israel, february 2001: Ariel Sharon wins the elections and becomes prime minister of Israel
* Palestine, june 2001: suicide bombings in several Israeli cities are carried out by Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) and the Syria-based Islamic Jihad (the deadliest suicide bombings kill 20 people in june 2001, 15 people in august 2001, over 20 in november)
* Israel, 2001: Sharon retaliates against the new Palestinian intifada and growing numbers of suicide bombings and thousands of Palestinians are killed (including assassinations of influential Palestinians) in the worst fighting since the first intifada
* Palestine, november 2001: Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, leader of the Hamas military wing in the West Bank, is killed by an Israeli missile
* Palestine, 2001: Khaled Meshaal, a member of Hamas, moves to Damascus to avoid assassination by Israel
* Lebanon, january 2002: former militia leader Elie Hobeika is killed in Beirut
* Israel, march 2002: Israel is hit by 16 suicide bombings that kill 80 people ("Passover massacres") carried out by suicide bombers of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (possibly under the control of Marwan Barghouti)
* Lebanon, march 2002: the League of Arab States approves a proposal by Saudi Arabia to recognize Israel and make peace in return for all the occupied lands
* Israel, april 2002: Israel invades Palestinian territory and arrests thousands of suspected terrorists, including Marwan Barghouti, members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), now led by Ahmad Jibril, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), now led by Ahmed Sa'adat
* Palestine, july 2002: Sheik Salah Shehada, founder of the military wing of Hamas (Izzedine al Qassam), is killed by an Israeli missile
* Iraq, august 2002: Abu Nidal is assassinated in Baghdad, amid rumours that he was plotting a coup against Saddam Hussein
* Palestine, september 2002: in retaliation for suicide bombings in Israel, Israeli troops demolish Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah
* Israel, 2002: the population of Israel is 6 million, of which 1 million are Arabs; the population of the West Bank and Gaza is 3 million; and Palestinian birthrates are much higher than Jewish ones
* Palestine, april 2005: Palestinians claim that Israel killed hundreds of civilians in the Jenin refugee camp, but it turns out to be a lie (the death were 23 Israeli soldiers, 22 Palestinian civilians and 30 Palestinian fighters)
* Israel, 2002: Israel begins construction of a 360-km border fence ("security barrier") that annexes Palestinian land
* Palestine, february 2003: Israel increases its raids in Gaza and the West Bank to quell the two-year-old intifada that has already cost the lives of 1,800 Palestinians and 700 Israelis
* Palestine, march 2003: Ibrahim al-Maqadma, a senior leader of Hamas, is killed by an Israeli missile
* Palestine, march 2003: Mahmoud Abbas, a critic of the Palestinian intifada, is appointed prime minister of the Palestinian Authority
* Israel, april 2003: Israel tries Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti in an Israeli court
* Iraq, april 2003: Abu Abbas is captured by the USA in Baghdad
* Israel, may 2003: Hamas and Al-Aqka Brigades unleash five suicide attacks within 48 hours in Israel the day after the first meeting between Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian prime minister Mahmoud Abbas
* Israel, august 2003: Israeli air strikes kill members of Hamas' military wing
* Israel, february 2004: Sharon announces Israeli's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza
* Iraq, march 2004: Abu Abbas dies in USA custody
* Palestine, march 2004: Israel kills Hamas' spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who is replaced by Khaled Meshaal
* Palestine, april 2004: Israel kills Hamas' leader Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi
* Palestine, august 2004: two bus bombs kill 15 people in Israel
* Palestine, november 2004: Arafat dies and is replaced by Muhammad Abbas as chairman of the PLO, who wins the first multi-party elections in Palestine
* Palestine, january 2005: Muhammad Abbas wins the first democratic elections in Palestine and restarts peace negotiations with Israel
* Lebanon, february 2005: a car bomb kills former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, who opposed Syrian occupation of the country and street demonstrations force the resignation of the Syria-installed government
* Israel, february 2005: Israel and Palestinians declare a truce
* Lebanon, april 2005: Syrian troops leave Lebanon
* Israel, april 2005: Vladimir Putin is the first Russian president to visit Israel
* Lebanon, june 2005: The opposition wins the first free elections in Lebanon since the civil war
* Israel, september 2005: Israel withdraws from the Gaza strip
* Palestine, september 2005: a Palestinian terrorist accidentally sets off a bomb in a crowded Palestinian area, killing 22 people
* Syria, october 2005: Ghazi Kenaan, Syria's interior minister, who effectively controlled Lebanon for two decades, "commits suicide"
* Israel, november 2005: Sharon founds a new centrist party in Israel
* Lebanon, december 2005: Lebanese anti-Syrian politician Gibran Tueni is killed by a car bomb
* Israel, january 2006: Israel's prime minister Sharon suffers a stroke
* Palestine, january 2006: terrorist group Hamas wins the first multi-party elections in Palestine and its leader Ismail Haniya becomes the new prime minister
* Israel, march 2006: in the first Israeli elections after prime minister Sharon suffered a stroke, his new party Kadima becomes the biggest party and Ehud Olmert the new prime minister
* Lebanon, april 2006: Lebanon arrests people who were plotting to assassinate the leader of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah
* Israel, april 2006: a suicide bomber by Islamic Jihad kills nine people in Israel, the first major terrorist attack since Hamas won the elections
* Israel, june 2006: Israeli artillery is blamed by Palestinians for the massacre of a family on a beach near Beit Lahiya
* Palestine, july 2006: in response to an incursion by Palestinian militants, Israel invades Gaza killing 220 Palestinians
* Lebanon, july 2006: in response to an incursion by Hezbollah militants, Israel invades southern Lebanon killing more than 1,000 Lebanese civilians while Hezbollah kills 116 Israeli soldiers and 43 Israeli civilians
* Lebanon, august 2006: Israeli forces withdraw after expelling Hezbollah from southern Lebanon and the Lebanese army takes control for the first time of the region
* Palestine, august 2006: Palestinian militants declare a unilateral end to attacks against Israel
* Lebanon, november 2006: Lebanese Christian politician Pierre Gemayel is assassinated
* Palestine, 2006: more than 350 Palestinians are killed in internal fighting in Gaza after Israel withdraws
* Palestine, april 2007: Hamas and the al-Qassam Brigades break a truce with Israel with a sustained barrage of rockets and mortars from Gaza into Israel
* Palestine, june 2007: dozens of militants are killed as Hamas defeats Fatah and takes control of Gaza
* Israel, may 2007: Hamas militants shoot rockets at Israel
* Lebanon, may 2007: Lebanon's militant group Fatah Islam kills 23 soldiers in clashes in Tripoli's Palestinian refugee camp, but the army eventually regains control of the camp killing 400 people
* Lebanon, june 2007: a car bomb kills five United Nations peacekeepers
* Britain, june 2007: former British prime minister Tony Blair is appointed Middle Eastern envoy on behalf of the USA, Russia, the UN and the EU
* Syria, september 2007: Israel strikes targets inside Syria for the first time since 2003
* Lebanon, september 2007: a car bomb kills the third anti-Syrian politician in a year, leaving Lebanon's government with only a slim majority over the pro-Syrian opposition
* USA, december 2007: USA president Bush convenes a conference at Annapolis to start talks about an independent Palestinian state
* Lebanon, december 2007: Lebanon's general Francois al-Hajj who had led the attack against the group Fatah Islam is killed by a car bomb while the parties cannot agree on a new president
* France, december 2007: 68 countries in Paris pledge billions of dollars of aid to the Palestinians
* Palestine, february 2008: responding to mortar attacks, Israel attacks Gaza killing more than 100 Palestinians in a few days
* Syria, february 2008: Hezbollah military commander Imad Mughniyeh is killed by a car bomb while in Syria
* Lebanon, may 2008: Lebanon's opposition led by Shia group Hezbollah seizes of most of western Beirut over a power struggle with the Sunni and Christian members of the government
* Palestine, july 2008: Violence resumes between Fatah and Hamas
* Lebanon, august 2008: A roadside bomb by Fatah Islam kills 18 people in Tripoli, Lebanon
* Israel, sep 2008: Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert, facing a corruption scandal, is forced to resign, and is replaced by Tzipi Livni
* Syria, sep 2008: A car bomb kills 17 people in Syria
* Syria, oct 2008: The USA carries out a raid into Syria to fight Al Qaeda
* Palestine, dec 2008: An Israeli invasion of Hamas-controlled Gaza kills more than 1,300 Palestinians
* Palestine, aug 2009: Hamas attacks radical cleric Abdul-Latif Moussa's al-Qaeda-linked group Jund Ansar Allah, killing 13 people
* Palestine, jan 2010: Hamas's co-founder Mahmoud Al Mabhouh is assassinated in Dubai
* Israel, aug 2010: Hamas gunmen kill four Israeli settlers in their car outside the West Bank city of Hebron
* USA, sep 2010: The USA convenes a peace conference between Israel and Fatah (West Bank)

1. **The Gulf**

* Saudi Arabia, 1902: Abdul al-Aziz, at the head of a bedouin army, conquers Riyad and begins to unite the kingdom of Arabia (both through military action and marriage with 20 women) under the puritanical Wahhabi Islamic order
* Iran, 1909: British companies begin extracting oil in Iran
* Iran, 1911: British forces occupy southern Iran to protect the oil fields
* Saudi Arabia, 1916: Sharif Husayn leads a revolt against the Ottoman Empire
* Iraq, 1921: emir Faisal ibn Hussain, brother of King Abdallah of Jordan, is proclaimed King of Iraq, but still under British protectorate
* Saudi Arabia, 1926: Abdul al-Aziz becomes king of Saudi Arabia
* Iraq, 1927: huge oil fields are discovered near Karkuk and oil rights are granted to a British oil company
* Iraq, 1932: Iraq becomes independent under the rule of King Faisal
* Iraq, 1933: King Faisal dies and his son, King Ghazi I, ascends to the throne
* Saudi Arabia, 1932: Saudi Arabia becomes independent under the rule of King Abdul al-Aziz
* Saudi Arabia, 1938: oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia by an American company
* Iraq, 1939: King Ghazi dies in a car accident while he is preparing an invasion of Kuwait, and is succeeded by the regent Abd al Ilah
* Palestine, 1939: Ariel Sharon joins an underground Jewish terrorist organization
* Iraq, april 1941: prime minister Rashid Ali Al-Gaylani stages a pro-nazi military coup
* Iran, 1941: Reza Shah Pahlevi ascends to the throne of Iran when his father is deposed by British and Soviet troops for collaborating with the nazis
* Iran, 1946: Mustafa Barzani founds the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq
* Iraq, may 1950: the Israeli government airlifts approximately 110,000 Jews to Israel (operations Ezra and Nehemiah, completed in august 1951)
* Iran, 1951: prime minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalizes the oil industry
* Saudi Arabia, 1953: King Abdul al-Aziz dies and is succeeded by Saud bin Abdul Aziz
* Iraq, july 1958: inspired by Gamal Abdel Nasser, officers led by brigadier Abdul-Karim Qassem overthrow the Hashimite monarchy and proclaim a republic
* Saudi Arabia, 1960: oil developing countries found the OPEC
* Kuwait, june 1961: Kuwait becomes an independent, with the protection of Britain against the claims of Iraq's leader Abdul-Karim Qassem
* Iraq, september 1961: a Kurdish rebellion under the leadership of Mustafa al-Barzani is brutally repressed
* Iraq, february 1963: in a military coup the Ba'ath Party seizes power in Iraq
* Saudi Arabia, 1964: Faisal bin Abdul Aziz becomes the third King of Saudi Arabia
* Iraq, july 1968: the pro-Soviet faction of the Ba'ath Party seizes power and appoints Ahmed Hasan al-Bakr president and Saddam Hussein is appointed in charge of internal security
* Iraq, 1971: Saddam Hussein inaugurates the Iraqi program to build a nuclear weapon
* Iraq, 1972: the oil industry is nationalized
* Saudi Arabia, october 1973: OPEC countries impose an oil embargo on the western world that causes an economic crises
* Saudi Arabia, 1975: Khalid bin Abdul Aziz King Khalid becomes the fourth King of Saudi Arabia
* Iraq, 1975: when Iran, the United States and Israel withdraw support to the Kurdish revolt led by Mustafa Barzani, Iraqi troops massacre thousands of Kurdish civilians and rebels after collecting them in "dar al-fana" ("houses of annihilation")
* Iraq, 1975: French prime minister Chirac sells a nuclear reactor and jet fighters to Iraq
* Iraq, 1976: Jalal Talabani founds the Kurdish Patriotic Union in northern Iraq to fight for Kurdish independence
* Iran, january 1978: Religious students in Qom stage mass demonstrations against the shah of Iran
* Iran, february 1978: Riots erupt in Tabriz, Iran
* Iran, august 1978: A fire kills 477 people in a movie theater in Abadan, Iran, causing mass demonstrations against the regime
* Iran, january 1979: a popular revolution deposes the shah Reza Pahlevi
* Iran, february 1979: Islamic clerics (ayatollahs) seize the power and appoint Ruhollah Khomeini supreme leader of Iran, just returned from exile
* France, april 1979: Israeli agents blow up a factory in France that builds components for Iraq's nuclear facility at Osirak
* Iraq, june 1979: Saddam Hussein inherits power in Iraq and begins a ruthless dictatorship
* Iraq, 1979: Massoud Barzani succeeds his father Mustafa Barzani as the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party
* Iran, november 1979: Iranian students take 52 Americans hostage at the American embassy
* Saudi Arabia, november 1979: Dozens of Islamic fanatics seize the Grand Mosque in Mecca taking hundred of pilgrims hostage
* Iran, april 1980: American troops fail to liberate the American hostages
* France, june 1980: Israeli agents assassinate in France an Egyptian engineer working for Iraq's Osirak nuclear facility
* Syria, june 1980: The Muslim Brotherhood tries to assassinate Assad of Syria
* Iraq, september 1980: Iraq (Saddam Hussein) attacks Iran
* Iran, january 1981: by trading weapons for hostages, the new American president, Ronald Reagan, obtains the release of the Americans held in Iran for 444 days
* Lebanon, april 1981: Syria defeats Bashir Gemayel's Phalange at Zahle, but Israel helps defeat the Syrian troops
* Iraq, june 1981: Israel bombs Iraq's Osirak reactor, manned by French, Italian and Brazilian engineers, that is producing enriched uranium fuel and plutonium that can be used for nuclear weapons
* Saudi Arabia, june 1982: Fahd bin 'Abdulaziz (11th son of the founder of the Saudi kingdom) ascends to the throne
* Iraq, 1982: Iran provides help to kurds fighting against Saddam Hussein in the north of Iraq and massive repression by Iraqi forces follows
* United Arab Emirates, Sep 1983: A bomb blows up a Gulf Air flight over the United Arab Emirates killing all 112 passengers
* USA, october 1983: Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud is appointed ambassador to the USA with the goal to create a military alliance
* Iraq, 1983: Iraq uses chemical weapons against Iranian troops
* Iraq, december 1983: The USA government sends Donald Rumsfeld to Iraq to negotiate with Saddam Hussein
* Iraq, 1984: Iraq uses chemical weapons against kurds
* Saudi Arabia, 1984: Saudi Arabia becomes the financial arm of the CIA to bypass the USA parliament, selling arms to Nicaragua's rebels, to Angola's rebels and to Afghanistan's rebels fighting communist regimes in three continents
* USA, february 1985: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia meets with USA president Ronald Reagan in the USA, carrying a "gift" of $2 million in diamonds
* Saudi Arabia, 1985: Britain sells weapons to Saudi Arabia, the largest arms sale in its history yet
* Israel, august 1985: Israel sells 500 antitank missiles to Iran under a covert plan by the USA to win the release of USA hostages in Lebanon
* Iran, may 1986: The USA directly delivers weapons to Iran to win the release of USA citizens held hostages in Lebanon by Hezbollah
* Iraq, 1987: An Iraqi Mirage warplane mistakenly attacks a USA warship in the Persian Gulf, killing 37 USA sailors
* Iraq, 1988: Thanks to intelligence provided by the USA, Iraq bombs strategic targets inside Iran
* Iraq, march 1988: Iraqi troops kill 5,000 Kurds with poison gas in Halabja, north Iraq
* Iran, april 1988: A USA warship is damaged by an Iranian mine in the Persian Gulf, and in retaliation the USA starts its largest naval battle since Vietnam, destroying two Iranian oil platforms and attacking Iranian warships
* Iran, july 1988: a missile fired by an American warship downs an Iranian civilian plane and kills all 290 passengers aboard
* Libya, december 1988: terrorists of the PFLP-GC backed by Libya blow up a Pan Am plane over Scotland (Lockerbie) killing 270 people probably on behalf of Iran
* Iran, august 1988: end of the war between Iraq and Iran that has cost about one million lives (600,000 Iranians and 400,000 Iraqis)
* Iraq, september 1988: Iraqi forces attack kurdish forces with chemical weapons, destroying nearly 4,000 of the 5,000 Kurdish villages and killing tens of thousands of civilians
* Iran, 1989: Khomeini dies and is buried with one of the largest funerals ever
* Iran, june 1989: Ali Khameini is appointed supreme leader of iran
* Iraq, 1989: German scientist Karl-Heinz Schaab sells German uranium-enrichment technology to Iraq
* Iraq, may 1990: Saddam Hussein convenes an Arab summit in Baghdad during which he declares "Greater Israel" to be the common enemy and promises money to the family of every Palestinian suicide bomber
* Egypt, july 1990: Saddam Hussein's Iraq accuses Kuwait of stealing its oil and waging a financial war
* Iraq, august 1990: Iraqi troops invade Kuwait
* Saudi Arabia, august 1990: King Fahd calls for US protection against Saddam Hussein
* Iraq, january 1991: George Bush, president of the USA, leads an international coalition that attacks Iraq from all sides and liberates Kuwait
* Britain, 1991: Ayad Allawi founds the Iraqi National Accord with defectors of the Iraqi army
* Iraq, february 1991: The US-led coalition stops short of reaching Bagdad and leaves Saddam Hussein in power but controlling only the central part of Iraq (the southern and northern part are off-limits to Iraqi planes in order to protect the shiite and kurdish minorities)
* Iraq, may 1991: USA president George Bush authorizes plans to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq
* Iraq, may 1992: Fouad Masoum is elected leader of the regional Kurdish government, which controls northern Iraq and is de facto independent from Saddam Hussein
* Austria, june 1992: Iraqi exile Ahmad Chalabi organizes the Iraqi National Congress in Vienna to overthrow Saddam Hussein
* Kuwait, Apr 1993: Iraqi agents attempt to assassinate former president George Bush during a visit to Kuwait
* Iran, march 1995: A USA-founded coalition of Chalabi's militia, Iraqi general Wafiq al-Samarrai and Talabani's Kurdish militia start a rebellion in northern Iraq but are stopped by Barzani's Kurdish militia and Turkish troops
* Iran, may 1997: Mohammad Khatami, a moderate, is elected president with 67% of the popular vote
* Iraq, february 1998: military confrontation between Saddam Hussein and the United States after Iraq halts all work by United Nations arms inspectors
* Yemen, mid 1994: during the civil war between communists and democratic forces, president Ali Saleh enjoys the support of Islah (Islamic Reform Party), an offshoot of the Hashed tribes in northern Yemen headed by radical Sheikh Abdul Mejid Az Zindani
* Jordan, 1995: The CIA sets up operations in Jordan to overthrow Saddam Hussein with the complicity of Jordan, and infiltrates dozens of spies inside Iraq
* Iraq, 1995: A bomb kills 28 people at the headquarters of the Iraqi National Congress in the northern Iraqi region under USA protection
* Iraq, june 1996: Saddam Hussein orders the arrest, torture and execution of more than 100 secret agents of the Iraqi National Accord in Iraq who are preparing to overthrow him
* Iraq, august 1996: Saddam Hussein launches an attack on Kurdistans' capital Erbil requested by Kurdish leader Barzani and his rival Talabani has to abandon the city
* Iraq, december 1998: the U.S. and the U.K. bomb Iraq because Iraq is not allowing United Nations inspectors to resume their job, and Clinton authorizes a program to overthrow Saddam Hussein ("As long as Saddam remains in power, he will remain a threat to his people, his region and the world")
* Iran, august 1999: pro-democracy riots in Iran, following the arrest of pro-democracy intellectuals and the closure of newspapers by ultraconservative ayatollah Khameini
* Yemen, february 2002: dozens of foreign Islamic scholars are expelled as part of a crackdown on suspected al-Qaeda members
* Iraq, march 2003: the USA and the UK invade Iraq and remove Saddam Hussein from power
* Iraq, march 2003: terrorists blow up the United Nations building in Baghdad, killing 23 people
* Iraq, march 2003: over 85 people are killed by a car bomb in the holy city of Najaf
* Iraq, august 2003: Abu Musab Al Zarqawi begins a terrorist campaign against the USA occupation of Iraq and their Shiite and Kurdish allies   
  Iraq, november 2003: terrorists attack an Italian peacekeepers' base in Nasiriya, Iraq   
  Iraq, december 2003: Saddam Hussein is arrested by the USA while he was hiding in a hole   
  Iraq, february 2004: 181 Shia Muslims die in terrorist attacks in Karbala and Baghdad during the yearly holy festival, and the civil war escalates   
  Yemen, 2004: a Shiite Muslim rebellion led by Abdel-Malek al-Hawthi erupts in Yemen, that will kill thousands over the next four years   
  Iraq, january 2005: the first democratic elections in Iraq are won by an alliance of Shiite parties (48%), followed by an alliance of Kurdish parties (26%) and by the party of prime minister Allawi (14%)   
  Iran, 2005: Anti-USA conservative cleric Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wins presidential elections in Iran and calls for the destruction of Israel
* Iraq, march 2006: in march alone, 1313 Iraqi civilians are victims of sectarian violence
* Iraq, 2006: 34,452 Iraq civilians are killed in 2006
* Iraq, december 2006: Saddam Hussein is executed in Iraq for the crimes committed by his regime
* Iraq, july 2007: the USA accuses Iran of helping insurgents kill USA soldiers in Iraq
* Iraq, december 2007: Iraqis have suffered from 667 suicide attacks since may 2005
* Iraq, dec 2007: Almost 8,000 people are killed in terrorist attacks in one year in Iraq (peak of the Iraqi civil war)
* Yemen, may 2008: Shiite Muslim rebels led by Abdel-Malek al-Hawthi attack a Sunni mosque and kill 18 people
* Iran, dec 2008: A suicide bomber of the anti-Iranian group Jundaliah kills four people in Iran
* Iraq, jun 2009: As the deadline approaches for the USA to withdraw troops from Iraqi cities, a spate of terrorist attacks kills hundreds of Iraqis
* Iran, oct 2009: 42 people including several members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards are killed in a suicide bombing in the Baluchi region by Sunni group Jundallah
* Iraq, dec 2009: 103,000 civilians have been killed in Iraq since the 2003 invasions by the USA, Britain and Australia
* Iraq, dec 2009: The number of people killed in terrorist attacks in Iraq has decreased from the 2007 peak of almost 8,000 to about 1,400

1. **Afghanistan**

* Pakistan, 1950: Deobandis Muslims create their own political party, the Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI)
* Afghanistan, 1973: in a military coup Zahir Shah (who has been ruling for 40 years) is deposed by former prime minister Mohammed Daud, friendly to the Soviet Union
* Pakistan, 1977: following unrest fed by the Islamic parties, a military coup replaces Zulfikar Ali Bhutto with Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq
* Afghanistan, 1978: general Daud is overthrown and killed in a coup by leftists and Hafizullah Amin seizes the power, causing a civil war between "mujaheddin" and communist forces and eventually the collapse of the army
* Pakistan, 1979: Bhutto executed by dictator Zia
* Afghanistan, december 1979: 130,000 Soviet troops invade Afghanistan, execute Amin and establish a communist government led by Babrak Karmal
* Afghanistan, 1980: American-financed "mujaheddin" and volunteers from the Arab world (including wealthy Saudi scion Osama bin Laden) organize in Pakistan to hamper the Soviet Union's campaign in Afghanistan
* Saudi Arabia, 1984: Osama bin Laden meets Palestinian cleric Abdullah Azzam in Jeddah
* Pakistan, 1984: in Peshawar (Pakistan) Osama bin Laden co-founds the Maktab al-Khidamat (Service Office) with the Palestinian leader Abdallah Azzam with the goal to recruit fighters and raise money for the Afghan resistance
* Pakistan, october 1984: Osama bin Laden's Maktab al-Khidamat begins publishing the "Jihad" magazine to spread the word about the Afghan war
* Egypt & Saudi Arabia, 1985: the Maktab al-Khidamat (MAK) opens branches in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, helping recruit and transport thousands of volunteers from over 50 countries (mainly Saudi Arabia, but also Algeria, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon) to fight the Soviet Union in Afghanistan (the Egyptian contingent, Jamaat al Islamiya, which includes cleric Omar Abdel Rahman's two sons, is particularly respected for its bold behavior)
* Afghanistan, 1986: the MAK sets up paramilitary training camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan and builds roads, hospitals and bunkers in Afghanistan
* USA, 1985: in New York the Egyptian politician Mustafa Rahman and Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, spiritual leader of Jamaat al Islamiya, establish Al Kifah (The Struggle), a refugee center, for the purpose of recruiting and funding for mujahedin to fight in to Afghanistan, de facto a branch of the MAK
* Afghanistan, 1985: Osama bin Laden, the highest-ranking Saudi to participate in the Afghan struggle against the Soviet Union, is patronized by Pakistani and Saudi intelligence and, with American approval, proceeds to create an international brigade of Islamic fighters
* Afghanistan, 1986: the US supplies the mujahedin with Stinger missiles that shoot down Soviet helicopters in an effort to turn Afghanistan into the Soviet "Vietnam"
* Afghanistan, april 1987: Osama bin Laden leads a small army of Arab volunteers to fight the Soviet army in Jaji
* Afghanistan, april 1988: the Soviet Union withdraws from Afghanistan after losing 40,000 soldiers and causing the death of about one million Afghans
* USA, may 1988: Salem bin Laden, Osama's elder brother and the head of the family, dies in a plane accident in Texas
* Afghanistan, august 1988: Osama bin Laden splits from Azzam and creates Al Qaeda ("The Base"), meant to become a worldwide alliance of fundamentalist militants, but also based on the teachings of Mohammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab (the 19th century founder of the conservative Islamic theology "wahhabism" that is still prevalent in Saudi Arabia) and Sayyid Qutb (an Egyptian philosopher that viewed western civilization as the main enemy of Islam)
* Pakistan, 1988: Zia dies in a plane crash and is succeeded by Benazir Bhutto
* Pakistan, november 1989: Azzam is assassinated in Peshawar, probably by Egyptian radicals and by Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar
* Afghanistan, november 1989: while different factions bicker about the future of Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden leaves Afghanistan for Saudi Arabia but continues to organize his international coalition of terrorists
* Afghanistan, december 1989: Azzam is killed by a car bomb, and most of the MAK flows into Al Qaeda
* Pakistan, 1990: Pakistani mullahs (clerics) preach Deobandism (a 19th century branch of Sunni Islam) among the Afghans living as refugees in Pakistan. Scores of them become "taliban" (literally "students") of Islamic seminaries in the Islamic schools of Pakistan (the "madrasah"). One such talib is Mulla Umar, enrolled at a Karachi seminary run by the JUI party.
* Saudi Arabia, 1991: Osama bin Laden protests the use of Saudi Arabia by American troops and denounces the royal Saudi family as traitors of Islam
* Saudi Arabia, 1991: Saudi Arabia expels Osama bin Laden for his anti-government stance
* Sudan, 1991: Osama bin Laden finds shelter in Sudan, under the protection of the Islamic government of Hassan al Tourabi, sets up headquarters for Al Qaeda in Khartoum and contributes to construction and agricultural projects
* Afghanistan, april 1992: mujahidin guerrillas led by general Ahmad Shah Masood/Masoud dislodge the communist regime from Kabul, but civil war erupts between his "Northern Alliance" and other warlords such as Gulbuddin Hekmatyar
* Pakistan, 1992: emergence of the JUI under the leadership of Maulana Fazalur Rehman, son of Maulana Mufti Mahmud, the original leader of the JUI, with strong ties to the Taliban and a strong anti-American stance
* Afghanistan, 1993: mujahedin factions form a coalition and create a multi-ethnic government led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, but almost immediately internal fighting erupts among the various militias
* Pakistan, 1993: the JUI party joins briefly the government with new prime minister Benazir Bhutto
* Pakistan, october 1993: Islamic fundamentalists form Harakat al-Ansar, a militant group based in Pakistan whose mission is to liberate Kashmir from Indian occupation
* Britain, 1994: Osama bin Laden travels to London under a Saudi passport and establishes London as the political and financial headquarter of al-Quaeda organization (his international coalition of terrorists, the Jihad Committee, runs the Islamic Information Observatory Center and the Advisory and Reformation Body, both based in London), while his financial resources are administered by lawyers in Switzerland
* Afghanistan, late 1994: funded by wealthy Saudi families close to ultraconservative Wahhabism, the Taliban emerge as a Messianic movement with the mission to restore peace in Afghanistan, establish law and order, disarm the population, and impose sharia (Islamic law)
* Pakistan, 1994: The JUI party becomes a recruiter of Pakistani and foreign students to fight for the Taliban (an estimated 100,000 Pakistanis will fight in Afghanistan in the next six years)
* Pakistan, february 1995: Pakistan arrests the terrorist responsible for the World Trade Center bomb (Ramzi Yousef), who was living in a house owned by Osama bin Laden
* Sudan, may 1996: under pressure from the US and Saudi Arabia, Sudan expels Osama bin Laden
* Afghanistan, september 1996: the Taliban militia (mainly ethnic Pushtun) dislodges the mujahedin government from Kabul and installs one of the most fundamentalistic Muslim governments in the world, while the remaining troops of Shah Masood retreat to the north and form the Northern Alliance
* Afghanistan, february 1997: the Taliban reject an American request to deliver Osama bin Laden to American authorities in exchange for international recognition
* Afghanistan, 1997: as they establish control over most of the country, the Taliban, led by the one-eyed cleric Mullah Omar, create a regime characterized by the massacre of ethnic minorities, by collaboration with drug traffickers (that turn Afghanistan into the largest market for heroin), public executions and amputations, a ban on women and girls going to school or having a job, restrictions on the access of women to health care, and the outlawing of television, film and popular music
* Afghanistan, 1997: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia recognize the Taleban government, but the rest of the world including the United Nations continues to recognize the government in exile of Rabbani that supports the multi-ethnic Northern Alliance in the north of the country led by Shah Masood
* Afghanistan, 1997: Taliban-inspired groups carry out sabotage inside Iran
* Afghanistan, 1997: Iran and Uzbekistan lend military support to the Northern Alliance, largely drawn from Afghanistan's ethnic Tajiks and Hazaras
* Afghanistan, 1998: Osama bin Laden helps the Taliban capture the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif from the Northern Alliance
* Afghanistan, february 1998: Osama bin Laden announces the creation of the "International Islamic Front for Jihad Against the Jews and Crusaders", an international alliance of terrorist organizations, including Al Qaeda, the Egyptian Islamic Jihadand the Pakistan-based Harakat al-Ansar, and Muhammad Atif (aka Subhi Abu Sitta, aka Abu Hafs Al Masri) is named commander of their military operations
* Afghanistan, 1998: the Taliban overrun much of northern Afghanistan, pushing the Northern Alliance into the northeast
* Afghanistan, 1998: the Taliban execute nine Iranian diplomats in Mazar and Iran threatens to invade Afghanistan
* Afghanistan, 1999: the United Nations impose sanctions against the Taliban to force them to hand over Osama bin Laden for trial
* Aghanistan, 1999: the population of Afghanistan is estimated at 18 million, down from 1990's 24 million, while millions live in exile in Pakistan and Iran
* Afghanistan, 1999: Afghanistan's production of opium doubles in 1999 (three times more opium than the rest of the world put together), making the Taliban the largest heroin producer in the world
* Afghanistan, march 2001: the Taliban destroy two giant Buddhas, one of the greatest monuments in the world, despite an international outcry
* Afghanistan, may 2001: Taleban order religious minorities to wear tags identifying themselves as non-Muslims
* Afghanistan, september 2001: tensions between the Taliban and foreign aid workers lead the Taliban to arrest eight foreigners with the accusation of promoting Christianity
* Afghanistan, september 2001: the military leader of the Northern Alliance, Ahmed Shah Masood/Mas'ud/ Massoud, is killed by Algerian suicide bombers
* Afghanistan, october 2001: in retaliation for Osama bin Laden's terrorism, the USA conducts a bombing campaign against the Taliban of Afghanistan, removes them from power, and hunts Al Qaeda fighters
* Afghanistan, november 2001: The Northern Alliance enters Kabul and installs a new provisional government (led by Hamid Karzai)
* Afghanistan, september 2002: Harim Karzai narrowly escapes an assassination attempt and a bomb kills 25 people in Kabul
* Afghanistan, august 2003: a videotape by Ayman al-Zawahri calls for Pakistani to rise up against president Musharraf
* Afghanistan, 2005: More than 1,400 people are killed in Afghanistan, the worst toll since the USA ousted the Taliban
* Afghanistan, 2006: Iraq-style suicide bombers kill hundreds of people in the Afghanistan
* Afghanistan, 2007: after Italy negotiates the release of a kidnapped Italian, abductions of foreigners by Taleban multiply leading to ransom payments and prisoner releases
* Afghanistan, december 2007: a Taliban suicide bomber kills 70 people in north Afghanistan including six members of Parliament
* Afghanistan, april 2008: Pakistan's secret services try to assassinate Afghanistan's president Hamid Karzai at a parade in Kabul
* Afghanistan, april 2008: Pakistan's secret services try to assassinate Afghanistan's president Hamid Karzai at a parade in Kabul
* Afghanistan, august 2008: more then 3,700 people are killed in fighting in Afghanistan in the first eight months of 2008
* Afghanistan, december 2008: a Taliban suicide bomber kills 16 people including 13 schoolchildren in a town at the border with Pakistan
* Afghanistan, 2008: about 2,200 civilians are killed in 2008, of which about 800 killed by NATO
* Afghanistan, 2009: About 400 civilians have been killed between january and october by NATO operations in Afghanistan
* Afghanistan, 2009: 2412 civilians are killed in Afghanistan during 2009
* Pakistan, Feb 2010: Pakistani and USA agents arrest the military commander of the Aghani Taliban, Mullah Abdul Ghani