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| **Date** | **Event** | **Done?** |
| 1917 | Russia leaves WWI.The Russian Revolution. Communists depose the Tsar and fight a bloody civil war over the next four years. Britain and the US try to help the Tsar’s forces but fail. The USSR is formed. They and the US are very suspicious of each other. |  |
| 1922 | Josef Stalin becomes General Secretary of the Communist Party in the USSR – communist/left-wing.Benito Mussolini becomes *Il Duce* of Italy – fascist/right-wing. |  |
| 1934 | Adolf Hitler becomes *Führer* of Germany – fascist/right-wing. |  |
| 1939 | Generalissimo Francisco Franco becomes Caudillo of Spain – fascist/right-wing.WW2 begins in Europe – Allies (Britain, France, USSR) v. Axis (Germany, Italy). Spain neutral. |  |
| 1941 | Pearl Harbour – USA join the war on side of Allies against Japan on side of Axis. |  |
| 1943, July1943, Sept.1943, Nov. | Mussolini arrested by King Victor Emmanuel III. Mussolini rescued by German Special Forces – Italian Social Republic formed in northern Italy.Tehran Conference, Iran, between USA (Roosevelt), Britain (Churchill) and USSR (Stalin) – The Big ThreeYugoslavia becomes communist – Marshal Josip Tito becomes PM. |  |
| 1944 | D-Day – USA, Canada and Britain invade France. |  |
| 1945, Feb | Yalta Conference, USSR – The Big Three |  |
| 1945, April1945, May1945, July1945, Aug.1945, Nov. | Mussolini captured and murdered – body hung in Milan.Hitler commits suicide.Germany surrenders.USA tests the first atomic bomb.Potsdam Conference, Germany – USA (Truman), Britain (Atlee) and USSR (Stalin)Germany and Berlin divided into four zones: French, American, British and Soviet.USA drop two atomic bombs on Japan – Japan surrenders.Bulgaria becomes communist. |  |
| 1946 | Romania becomes communist.Britain stations 40,000 troops in Greece to fight communist rebels.Churchill’s ‘Iron Curtain’ speech. |  |
| 1947, Jan.1947,March1947, June1947, Aug.1947, Sept. | Poland becomes communist.Truman Doctrine.Marshall Plan.Hungary becomes communist.Cominform. |  |
| 19481948, May1948, June | Czechoslovakia becomes communist – Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.State of Israel founded.First Arab-Israeli War.Berlin Blockade.Operation Plainfire. |  |
| 19491949, May1949, April1949, Oct. | China becomes communist – Mao Zedong becomes Chairman.USSR tests its first atomic bomb.Stalin calls off the Berlin Blockade.Federal Republic of Germany (democratic, West) officially formed.NATO formed.German Democratic Republic (communist, East) officially formed. |  |
| 1950 | Korean War begins. North supported by China and USSR, South supported by USA and the UN. |  |
| 1952, Nov. | USA tests the first hydrogen bomb.Mátyás Rákosi becomes PM of Hungary. |  |
| 1953 | USSR tests its first hydrogen bomb.Death of Stalin.Imre Nagy becomes PM of Hungary.Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes US President. |  |
| 1954 | French defeated in Vietnam at Dien Bien Phu by communist sponsored guerillas.Truman’s ‘Domino Theory’.Geneva Convention – Vietnam split into communist North and democratic South. |  |
| 1955, April1955, May | Mátyás Rákosi becomes PM of Hungary – again.Warsaw Pact |  |
| 1956, Feb.1956, July1956, Oct.1956, Nov. | Nikita Khrushchev, new leader of USSR, gives his ‘secret speech’.Rákosi forced from office again. Erno Gero replaces him as PM.Demonstrations in Budapest against Soviet power. Khrushchev sends in tanks and troops – 12 dead.János Kádár becomes PM of Hungary. |  |
| 1957 | USSR launches Sputnik, first man-made satellite.Antonín Novotný becomes President of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. |  |
| 1958 | Imre Nagy arrested and shot in Romania. |  |
| 1959 | Khrushchev and Eisenhower meet in US.Cuban Revolution – Fidel Castro becomes communist leader. |  |
| 1960, May | US spy plane shot down over USSR. |  |
| 1961, Jan.1961, April.1961, Aug. | John F. Kennedy becomes US President – reasserts Truman Doctrine.Bay of Pigs.Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space.East/West Berlin border closed. Berlin Wall built over night – actual ‘Iron Curtain’. |  |
| 1962, Oct. | US spy plane spots Soviet missiles in Cuba – Cuban Missile Crisis. |  |
| 1963, June1963, Aug.1963, Nov. | Kennedy visits Berlin – ‘Ich bin Berliner’ speech.Partial Test Ban Treaty.Kennedy assassinated. Lyndon B. Johnson becomes US President. |  |
| 1964, Aug.1964, Oct. | USS Maddox supposedly attacked at Gulf of Tonkin by communist North Vietnamese – resolution passed.Leonid Brezhnev becomes leader of USSR.China successfully tests its first atomic bomb. |  |
| 1965 | US begins Operation Rolling Thunder in Vietnam. |  |
| 1967 | Six Day War – Arab states vs. Israel (supported by the US). |  |
| 19681968, Jan.1968, Feb.1968, Mar.1968, June1968, July1968, Aug. | Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.Brezhnev Doctrine.Alexander Dubček replaces Novotný as First Secretary of the Czech Communist Party.Communist Tet Offensive in South Vietnam.My Lai massacre in Vietnam.Ludvík Svoboda replaces Novotný as President of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.Czech ‘Prague Spring’ – ‘socialism with a human face’.Kennedy’s brother, Robert, assassinated.Dubček tells Brezhnev that the Czechs will remain in the Warsaw Pact.Dubček signs the Bratislava Treaty which reaffirms his commitment to communism.Marshal Tito, distrusted by the USSR, visits Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.USSR invades Czechoslovak Socialist Republic – no armed resistance.Romania protests and refuses to send troops.Albania protests and refuses to send troops – withdraws from the Warsaw Pact. |  |
| 19691969, Jan.1969, April1969, July | My Lai massacre reported – massive anti-war protests.Richard Nixon becomes US President.Dubček resigns - Gustáv Husák, a hard-line communist, replaces him.SALT talks begin – Helsinki and Vienna.US land on the Moon. |  |
| 1971 | Pentagon Papers published.Détente. |  |
| 19721972, May | Watergate scandal.Nixon visits Moscow.SALT 1 signed. |  |
| 1973, Oct. | Yom Kippur/Arab-Israeli War – Syria and Egypt (Soviet supported) vs. Israel (US supported).Ends in a ceasefire. |  |
| 19741974, Aug. | SALT 2 talks begin.Nixon resigns. Gerald Ford becomes US President. |  |
| 19751975, July1975, Aug.1975, Nov. | Ford announces that Vietnam War is finished – North Vietnam enters south and claim victory.Apollo-Soyuz space link-up.Helsinki Agreements 1.Franco dies. Kingdom of Spain is restored. |  |
| 1977 | Jimmy Carter becomes US President. |  |
| 1978 | Treaty of Friendship, Co-Operation and Good Neighbourliness signed by Brezhnev and President Nur Muhammad Taraki of Afghanistan.Taraki’s communist-style PDPA imprisons and murders Muslim élite. |  |
| 1979, Jan.1979, April.1979, June1979, Sept.1979, Nov.1979, Dec. | Iranian Revolution begins – US supported Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi exiled.Kingdom of Iran becomes Islamic Republic of Iran. SALT 2 signed.Hafizullah Amin seizes power from Taraki in Afghanistan.Mujahideen declare jihad on Amin and communist supporters.US embassy hostages held in Iran.USSR invades Afghanistan.Amin shot and replaced by Babrak Kamal. Afghan govt. depends entirely upon Soviet support.US Senate refuses to ratify SALT 2 in response.Ayatollah Khomeini becomes Supreme Leader of Iran.Détente ends. |  |
| 1980, July | US boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow. |  |
| 19811981, June1981, Nov. | Ronald Reagan becomes US President.START talks begin.Reagan’s ‘zero option’. |  |
| 1982, June1982, Nov. | Reagan’s ‘evil empire’ speech in House of Commons.Yuri Andropov becomes leader of the USSR. |  |
| 1983, Mar. | Reagan’s SDI, or ‘Star Wars’, policy announced. |  |
| 1984, Feb.1984, July. | Andropov dies. Konstantin Chernenko becomes leader of the USSR.USSR boycott Olympic Games in Los Angeles. |  |
| 1985, Mar.1985, Nov. | Chernenko dies. Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the USSR.Gorbachev and Reagan meet in Geneva – Reagan refuses to give up SDI. |  |
| 1986, April1986, Oct. | Chernobyl disaster, Ukraine.Gorbachev and Reagan meet in Reykjavik – Reagan refuses to give up SDI. |  |
| 19871987, Dec. | Gorbachev introduces perestroika.INF Treaty signed. |  |
| 1988 | Gorbachev introduces glasnost. |  |
| 19891989, Nov.1989, Dec. | George W. Bush becomes US President.Bush and Gorbachev announce that the Cold War is over.Sinatra Doctrine.Solidarity wins elections in Poland. Mazowiecki becomes first non-communist eastern European PM.Communist govt. resigns in Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.Berlin Wall comes down.Václav Havel becomes first non-communist President of Czechoslovakia since 1948.Romanian army rebels and fights with civilians against secret police.Romanian PM Nicolae Ceauşescu is shot on live TV along with his wife.  |  |
| 19901990, Oct1990, Nov. | Democratic elections in Hungary won by an alliance of anti-communist groups.Democratic elections in Bulgaria won by a renamed Communist Party.Democratic elections in Romania won by National Salvation Front.Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania announce their independence from the USSR.East and West Germany officially reunited.Saddam Hussein’s Iraq invades Kuwait.CFE Treaty signed by NATO and Warsaw Pact. |  |
| 19911991, Dec. | START 1 signed, over ten years after talks first began.Attempted coup in USSR defeated by Boris Yeltsin.Gorbachev resigns.USSR dissolved into 15 independent states.Boris Yeltsin becomes President of the democratic Russian Federation. |  |