

Cold War Timeline

Jun 44 – D-Day, allied invasion at Normandy. Provisional French government headed by Gen Charles DeGaulle formed.

Jul 44 – Bretton Woods Conference

Aug 44 - Paris liberated, Soviet territory is liberated of all Axis troops

Sep 44 –

Oct 44 – Morgenthau Plan to pastoralize Germany. Churchill and FDR agree that post-war Germany should have no heavy industry.

Nov 44 –

Dec 44 –

Jan 45 – Soviets on the Oder River 28 miles from Berlin

Feb 45 – Yalta conference of allied leaders. New United Nations will replace failed League of Nations.

Mar 45 –

Apr 45 – Italy liberated. FDR dies, Truman becomes president

May 45 – Soviet ultimatum to Turks for Bosphorus/Dardenelles for unlimited naval access. German surrender

Jun 45 – Truman rejects Morgenthau Plan for Germany. Unity government established in Poland between London Poles (western-supported govt. in exile) and Lublin Poles (Soviet supported govt.). Mikoljczk is western allies' choice for president.

Jul 45 – Potsdam Conf., plans announced for 4-power occupation of Berlin. Truman tells Stalin about atomic bomb. Churchill replaced by Clement Atley halfway through conference. Konigsberg to remain with Soviet Union until final peace treaty (it is still with Russia today).

Aug 45 – Potsdam Conf, USSR enters war against Japan, New borders for Poland agreed upon. Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki

Sep 45 – Japan surrenders on USS Missouri, Council of Foreign Ministers meet (COFM-1) in London to draft peace treaties

Oct 45 –

Nov 45 – International Military Tribunal (IMT) begins in Nuremberg, Air corridor agreement for Berlin.

Dec 45 – COFM 2 Moscow, Soviet Marshall Zhukov rejects free interzonal trade

Jan 46 – Austria reconstituted. Soviets propose SPD/Communist party (SED) merger in Germany; SPD rejects, but forced to referendum. Chinese civil war resumes after defeat of Japanese. Degaulle resigns in France over perceived weakness of executive under new constitution.

Feb 46 – Stalin's "Drop the mask" speech, "It is about time we drop the mask of friendly cooperation with the West. They are our enemies now". George Kennan writes "Long Telegram" describing his interpretation of Soviet intentions and objective.

Mar 46 – Berlin elections for SPD (Socialist Party Deutschland) merger into SED (Communist Party), voters reject by 10-1 margin, Soviets close polls when defeat appears imminent. Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri. Greek civil war reignites. British troops withdraw from Iran, but Soviet troops remain. Soviets begin to pressure Iran to reunite a piece of Iran with USSR.

Apr 46 –

May 46 – COFM 3 Paris

Jun 46 –

Jul 46 – COFM 4 Paris, Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov calls for immediate German reunification.

Aug 46 -

Sep 46 – James Byrnes “Poor man of Europe” speech repudiates Morgenthau plan and calls for the reconstruction of Germany. He contends Soviets are not doing enough to help Germany. Bulgaria’s King Simeon II deposed by communist in “flawed election”.

Oct 46 – IMT ends, Berlin City Council elections – SPD 49/CDU 22

Nov 46 – COFM 5 New York

Dec 46 – French land troops to reestablish colonial control over Indochina

Jan 47 – American and British zones of control in Germany merged into Bizone, Polish elections

Feb 47 – 5 Peace treaties signed Paris (Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary & Finland). All five countries allowed to have armed forces.

Mar 47 – Truman Doctrine announced, US committed to contain communist expansion. Dunkirk Pact formed (France/UK against Germany).

Apr 47 –

May 47 – US announces \$400 million in aid to Turkey and Greece to contain communism

Jun 47 – Marshall announces Marshall Plan in speech at Harvard

Jul 47 –

Aug 47 – India and Pakistan granted independence by Britain

Sep 47 –

Oct 47 – SPD wins Berlin elections. Mikolajczyk flees Poland.

Nov 47 –

Dec 47 – COFM 6 London, Molotov demands immediate political solution for all of Germany

Jan 48 – Traffic curbs into Berlin. Sokolovsky demands dissolution of Bizone

Feb 48 – Czech coup, communist party takes control

Mar 48 – Brussels Pact formed (expansion of French/British Dunkirk Pact) in response to Czech coup. ACC ends in Berlin with Soviet walk-out (Sokolovsky).

Apr 48 – Truman signs Marshall Plan

May 48 –

Jun 48 – Decision made to include Germany in Marshall Plan. French, British, US launch common Deutsche Mark in Western zones; Stalin orders the blockade of all land routes from West Germany to Berlin, three western powers launch Berlin airlift to resupply the city. Gen Clay wants to reopen land routes by force. Truman rejects Clay’s call for war. Communist insurgency begins in Malaya. Tito splits with Stalin, first visible break in communist camp. Vandenburg Resolution: “US should join in regional defense pacts and aid them whenever possible”.

Jul 48 –

Aug 48 –

Sep 48 – USSR declares independence of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and declares it to be the legitimate government of all Korea with Kim IL Sung as Premier

Oct 48 –

Nov 48 –
 Dec 48 –
 Jan 49 –
 Feb 49 –
 Mar 49 –
Apr 49 – NATO formed by twelve states to resist communist expansion
May 49 – Berlin blockade ends, Basic Law for Federal Republic of Germany, French zone joins with bizon to create the FRG.
 Jun 49 –
 Jul 49 –
Aug 49 – Soviets explode their own atomic bomb
Sep 49 – Mao declares victory in China, Chiang flees to Formosa. Adenauer becomes first Chancellor of FRG.
Oct 49 – Soviets declare their remaining zone of Germany to be the German Democratic Republic. Greek civil war ends with announcement by Greek communist party.
 Nov 49 –
Dec 49 – “Massive retaliation” endorsed
Jan 50 – Last Kuomintang soldier surrenders on Chinese mainland
 Feb 50 –
 Mar 50 –
Apr 50 – NSC 68 issued, containment strategy adopted
May 50 – Schuman declaration for a united Europe around the production of coal & steel, the founding of the future EU
Jun 50 – North Korea invades the South and the Korean War begins
 Jul 50 –
 Aug 50 –
Sep 50 – McArthur conducts the Inchon landing to relieve the Pusan perimeter in Korea. Controls placed on German steel production. NATO announces forward strategy to place twelve divisions in Germany.
Oct 50 – PRC sends 300k troops across Yalu to join in Korean War.
Nov 50 – Chinese force of now 500k troops force UN/US troops back towards S. Korea.
Dec 50 – Ike appointed SACEUR
Jan 51 – Chinese troops capture Seoul.
 Feb 51 –
Mar 51 – UN troops recapture Seoul, stalemate established along 38th parallel.
Apr 51 – President Truman fires Gen. McArthur. European Coal & Steel Community (ECSC) signed in Paris
 May 51 –
 Jun 51 –
 Jul 51 –
 Aug 51 –
Sep 51 – ANZUS treaty signed (Australia, New Zealand, US). Greece and Turkey join NATO
Oct 51 – Plevin plan calls for combined European army.
Nov 51 –
Dec 51 – Limits on West German industrial production lifted

Jan 52 –
 Feb 52 –
Mar 52 – Molotov note on German reunification
Apr 52 – Japan signs Treaty of San Francisco ending occupation and becoming independent.
May 52 – France proposes European Defense Community (EDC) based on Plevin Plan
Jun 52 – Marshall Plan ends. USS Nautilus launched, world's first nuclear-powered submarine.
Jul 52 – ECSC ratified
 Aug 52 –
 Sep 52 –
Oct 52 – UK tests atomic bomb
Nov 52 – US detonates first thermonuclear device, Ike Elected
 Dec 52 -
 Jan 53 –
 Feb 53 –
Mar 53 – Stalin Dies
 Apr 53 –
 May 53 –
Jun 53 – East German uprisings, Rosenberg executions
Jul 53 – Korean Armistice ends Korean War.
Aug 53 – CIA assists royalist coup that ousts Iranian PM Mohammad Mosaddegh.
Sep 53 – Nikita Khrushchev becomes First Secretary of CPSU
 Oct 53 –
 Nov 53 –
 Dec 53 -
 Jan 54 –
 Feb 54 –
Mar 54 – Army-McCarthy hearings begin, height of “Red Scare”.
 Apr 54 –
May 54 – French defeat at Dien Bien Phu, US refuses to supply air support.
Jun 54 – Elected leftist Guatemalan government overthrown by CIA backed coup.
Jul 54 – Vietnam split at 17th parallel. Geneva accords create four new states and calls for free elections to united Vietnam. Gen Nasser heads coup to supplant King Farouk in Egypt.
Aug 54 – France defeats EDC, PRC shells nationalist islands of Quemoy and Matsu leading to Taiwan straits crisis
Sep 54 – South East Asian Treaty organization (SEATO) formed
 Oct 54 –
 Nov 54 –
 Dec 54 -
 Jan 55 –
Feb 55 – Baghdad Pact (CENTO) formed
Mar 55 – Soviet aid to Syria begins
 Apr 55 –

May 55 – West Germany (FRG) becomes independent, rearmed FRG into NATO, Warsaw Pact formed. Austrian State treaty, allied occupation ends.

Jun 55 –

Jul 55 – Geneva summit between Ike & Khrushchev. Soviets under Khrushchev appeared willing to give more as they had on a neutral Austria (opportunity missed?).

Aug 55 –

Sep 55 –

Oct 55 –

Nov 55 –

Dec 55 -

Jan 56 –

Feb 56 – Khrushchev’s secret speech to Communist Party Congress, beginning de-Stalinization campaign

Mar 56 –

Apr 56 –

May 56 –

Jun 56 –

Jul 56 – Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal

Aug 56 –

Sep 56 –

Oct 56 – Hungarian Revolt, Suez crisis: France, Israel and UK attack Egypt to remove Nasser. US & Soviet pressure force withdrawal, this was last gasp of European control of the Middle East. First UN Peacekeeping force sent to Sinai.

Nov 56 – Hungarian Premier, Imre Nage announces intention to take Hungary out of Warsaw Pact. Soviets invade Hungary, crush revolt

Dec 56 -

Jan 57 – Eisenhower doctrine commits US to defend Pakistan and Afghanistan from communist influence.

Feb 57 –

Mar 57 – EEC treaty signed in Rome

Apr 57 –

May 57 –

Jun 57 –

Jul 57 –

Aug 57 –

Sep 57 –

Oct 57 – Sputnik I launched, Americans overreact with fear of Soviet missile attack. SAC begins 24/7 nuclear airborne alert (ends in 1991)

Nov 57 –

Dec 57 – Bulganin makes “peaceful coexistence” speech.

Jan 58 – EEC goes into effect. Mrs. Hamlet incident: wife of American major general detained while shopping in Berlin. Soviet wanted US recognition of E. Germany She is ultimately released.

Feb 58 –

Mar 58 –

Apr 58 –

May 58 – 4th French Republic Falls over Algerian civil war, DeGaulle back in power.
 Jun 58 –
Jul 58 – Coup in Iraq removes pro-British monarch. New government begins receiving Soviet aid
Aug 58 – Second Taiwan straits crisis, THOR IRBM deployed to Britain within striking distance of USSR.
 Sep 58 –
 Oct 58 –
Nov 58 – Khrushchev’s ultimatum, “Potsdam is outdated”, he demands withdrawal of all troops from Berlin
Dec 58 – Berlin elections 93% vote anti-communist.
Jan 59 – Castro victory in Cuban Revolution. Cuban inspired guerilla movements spring up all over Latin America.
 Feb 59 –
Mar 59 – Khrushchev visits E. Berlin, Iraq withdraws from CENTO
 Apr 59 –
May 59 – Senators Fulbright and Mansfield call for US withdrawal from Berlin. Contend it is “unnatural” to be occupying the capital of E. Germany.
 Jun 59 –
Jul 59 – VP Nixon/Khrushchev “kitchen” debate at American exhibit in Vienna
 Aug 59 –
Sep 59 – Khrushchev visits US for 13 days, meets with IKE at Camp David, denied access to Disneyland due to train passage by Vandenburg AFB ICBM site. K withdraws Berlin ultimatum.
 Oct 59 –
 Nov 59 –
Dec 59 – Formation of National Liberation Front (NLF) in South Vietnam. Vows to overthrow the anti-communist government.
 Jan 60 –
 Feb 60 –
 Mar 60 –
Apr 60 – Jupiter IRBM deployment to Italy, also within range of Moscow.
May 60 – American Gary Powers and his U2 spy plane shot down over USSR. Ike had denied over flights.
Jun 60 – Sino-Soviet split, not believed in some US circles
Jul 60 – Communist insurgents defeated by the British in Malaya.
 Aug 60 –
 Sep 60 –
 Oct 60 –
Nov 60 – JFK elected, runs on “Missile Gap” platform. Appoints “the Best and the Brightest” to his cabinet.
 Dec 60 -
 Jan 61 –
 Feb 61 –
 Mar 61 –
Apr 61 – Failed Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba

May 61 –JFK announces intention to put a man on the moon.
Jun 61 – Vienna summit, most feel that JFK is humiliated by Khrushchev. He is brow beaten about Berlin. Jupiter IRBM deployment to Turkey begins.
Jul 61 –
Aug 61 – GDR troops begin to occupy and close crossing points to the western sectors in Berlin. Berlin Wall erected, to quell flow of people attempting to escape to the West
Sep 61 – JFK to Berlin, “Ich bin ein Berliner”
Oct 61 – Soviets detonate 50 megaton thermonuclear “TsarBomba”, most powerful explosion ever.
Nov 61 –
Dec 61 -
Jan 62 –
Feb 62 –
Mar 62 –
Apr 62 –
May 62 –
Jun 62 –
Jul 62 – International agreement for neutralization of Laos ignored by North Vietnam whose troops remain.
Aug 62 –
Sep 62 – De Gaulle to Germany, Sino-Indian border skirmish.
Oct 62 – Cuban Missile Crisis
Nov 62 –
Dec 62 -
Jan 63 –
Feb 63 –
Mar 63 –
Apr 63 –
May 63 –
Jun 63 – US/USSR Hotline agreement
Jul 63 – Atmospheric Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ratified
Aug 63 –
Sep 63 –
Oct 63 –
Nov 63 – JFK assassination in Dallas, LBJ becomes president
Dec 63 -
Jan 64 –
Feb 64 –
Mar 64 –
Apr 64 –
May 64 –
Jun 64 –
Jul 64 –
Aug 64 – Gulf of Tonkin incident. LBJ claims N. Viet naval vessels had fired on two American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. This leads to justification for open-ended funding of US involvement in Vietnam with the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

Sep 64 –
Oct 64 – Leonid Brezhnev replaces the ousted Khrushchev as General Secretary of the CPSU. China tests their first atomic bomb.
Nov 64 – LBJ reelected by landslide over Senator Barry Goldwater
Dec 64 -
Jan 65 –
Feb 65 –
Mar 65 –
Apr 65 – US marines invade Dominican Republic to prevent communist takeover
May 65 –
Jun 65 –
Jul 65 – First 150,000 U.S. combat troops to deploy to Vietnam
Aug 65 –
Sep 65 –
Oct 65 –
Nov 65 – Battle of the Ia Drang valley, the first major engagement between US troops and regular NVA.
Dec 65 -
Jan 66 –
Feb 66 –
Mar 66 – France withdraws from NATO command structure. American forces must leave France immediately.
Apr 66 –
May 66 –
Jun 66 –
Jul 66 –
Aug 66 –
Sep 66 –
Oct 66 –
Nov 66 –
Dec 66 -
Jan 67 –
Feb 67 –
Mar 67 –
Apr 67 –
May 67 – Egypt expels UN peacekeepers from the Sinai and moves its army into the peninsula.
Jun 67 – Israel in a lightning strike eliminates the air forces of Egypt, Syria and Jordan marking the beginning of the Six-Day war.
Jul 67 –
Aug 67 –
Sep 67 –
Oct 67 –
Nov 67 –
Dec 67 -

Jan 68 – North Korea captures intelligence collection ship, USS Pueblo; Tet offensive begins in South Vietnam

Feb 68 –

Mar 68 – LBJ announces he will not seek reelection

Apr 68 –

May 68 –

Jun 68 – Tet offensive ends with military defeat in the South for the NVA, but clearly a psychological victory

Jul 68 – Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT) opened for signature.

Aug 68 – “Prague Spring” reforms in Alexander Dubcek bring Soviet/Warsaw Pact intervention to crush Czech revolt

Sep 68 –

Oct 68 –

Nov 68 – Richard Nixon elected president

Dec 68 -

Jan 69 –

Feb 69 –

Mar 69 – US begins bombing communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. Border clashes between USSR and PRC along Ussuri River

Apr 69 –

May 69 –

Jun 69 –

Jul 69 – Apollo 11 (Armstrong, Aldrin & Collins) lands on the moon. Nixon announces plan to begin “Vietnamization” of the war with withdrawal of US combat forces.

Aug 69 –

Sep 69 – Colonel Khaddafi leads coup to overthrow pro-Western Libyan monarchy and aligns himself with the USSR.

Oct 69 –

Nov 69 –

Dec 69 -

Jan 70 –

Feb 70 –

Mar 70 – NNPT goes into force when ratified by US, USSR and UK. Lon Nol takes power in Cambodia; Khmer Rouge communists begin attacking new regime.

Apr 70 – Nixon order military ground incursion into Cambodia.

May 70 – Kent State shootings, 4 students are killed and 9 are wounded by National Guardsman sent in to quell four days of anti-war protests at the school.

Jun 70 –

Jul 70 –

Aug 70 –

Sep 70 –

Oct 70 –

Nov 70 – US aid to Lon Nol in Cambodia begins

Dec 70 -

Jan 71 –

Feb 71 –

Mar 71 – Third Indo-Pakistani War results in Bangladeshi independence.

Apr 71 –

May 71 –

Jun 71 –

Jul 71 –

Aug 71 –

Sep 71 – Four Power agreement on Berlin signed

Oct 71 – UN Res2758 recognizes PRC as sole legitimate government of China.

Nov 71 –

Dec 71 -

Jan 72 –

Feb 72 – Nixon visit to China, first visit by US president to PRC.

Mar 72 – N. Vietnamese “Easter Offensive” invades South Vietnam in another Tet-like coup de main but is repulsed by S. Viet forces with major US air support

Apr 72 –

May 72 – SALT I signed, signals beginning of Détente between US and USSR.

Jun 72 –

Jul 72 –

Aug 72 –

Sep 72 – American Bobby Fischer defeats Russian Boris Spassky in the World Championship chess match of the century in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Oct 72 –

Nov 72 –

Dec 72 -

Jan 73 – Cease-fire between US and North Vietnam signed with Paris Peace Accords. Congress cuts off funds for continued military support of South Vietnam.

Feb 73 –

Mar 73 –

Apr 73 –

May 73 –

Jun 73 –

Jul 73 –

Aug 73 –

Sep 73 – Democratically elected Marxist President of Chile, Salvador Allende deposed in US supported coup led by General Augusto Pinochet.

Oct 73 – Yom Kippur War: Combined forces of Egypt & Syria attack Israel. Brezhnev threatens unilateral Soviet intervention if US does not stop Israeli advance. Egypt defects from Soviet camp by accepting US proposed cease-fire.

Nov 73 –

Dec 73 -

Jan 74 – SEATO formally disbanded

Feb 74 –

Mar 74 –

Apr 74 –

May 74 –

Jun 74 –

Jul 74 – Greek Junta-inspired coup ousts Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios, prompting Turkish invasion which divides the island. Greece and Turkey threaten to both withdraw from NATO

Aug 74 – Nixon resigns over Watergate scandal, Gerald Ford becomes president.

Sep 74 –

Oct 74 –

Nov 74 –

Dec 74 -

Jan 75 –

Feb 75 –

Mar 75 –

Apr 75 – Khmer Rouge takes power in Cambodia and initiates a brutal genocide later referred to as the “killing fields”. North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam; the two countries are united.

May 75 – Khmer Rouge forces seize US merchant ship Mayaguez. American marine intervention on an offshore island may or may not have forced the crew’s release.

Jun 75 – Portuguese retreat from colonies in Angola and Mozambique lead to Marxist governments moving in to the resulting vacuum with the backing from Cuban troops.

Jul 75 – Joint US/Soviet Apollo/Soyuz space mission

Aug 75 – Helsinki Accords signed. Promises basic human rights within Soviet Union.

Sep 75 –

Oct 75 –

Nov 75 – Communist Pathet Lao take power in Laos, for many, showing the verity for the “domino theory”.

Dec 75 -

Jan 76 –

Feb 76 –

Mar 76 –

Apr 76 –

May 76 –

Jun 76 –

Jul 76 – US military withdraws from Thailand.

Aug 76 –

Sep 76 – Death of Mao Ze Dong

Oct 76 –

Nov 76 – Jimmy Carter elected US president

Dec 76 -

Jan 77 – Charter 77 signed by Czech dissidents including Vaclav Havel.

Feb 77 –

Mar 77 –

Apr 77 –

May 77 –

Jun 77 – Somali-Ethiopian war begins in the Ogaden region. Both are Soviet clients; Soviets abandon Somalia leading to Somali defeat. US steps in to prop up Somali dictator Siad Barre.

Jul 77 –

Aug 77 –

Sep 77 –

Oct 77 –

Nov 77 –

Dec 77 –

Jan 78 –

Feb 78 –

Mar 78 –

Apr 78 –

May 78 –

Jun 78 –

Jul 78 –

Aug 78 –

Sep 78 –

Oct 78 –

Nov 78 –

Dec 78 – Communist regime installed in Afghanistan

Jan 79 – Vietnam invades Cambodia and deposes Khmer regime. Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, flees the country opening the door for the theocracy under the Ayatollah Khomeini. CENTO dissolves as a result.

Feb 79 – China launches punitive attack on Vietnam for the invasion of Cambodia but ultimately is forced to retreat.

Mar 79 –

Apr 79 –

May 79 – War breaks out in El Salvador between the US backed government and Marxist insurgents.

Jun 79 – SALT II signed by Carter and Brezhnev. Pope John Paul II makes first historic visit to his Polish homeland

Jul 79 – Marxist Sandinista insurgents overthrow the US backed Somoza regime in Nicaragua. Carter signs first directive for secret aid for opponents to the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

Aug 79 –

Sep 79 – Nur Mohammed Taraki, Pro-Soviet Marxist president of Afghanistan is overthrown and murdered. He is replaced by anti-Soviet PM Hafizullah Amin.

Oct 79 –

Nov 79 – Iranian students seize US embassy in Tehran, Iranian hostage crisis goes on until Jan 81.

Dec 79 – The Soviets invade Afghanistan to save the crumbling Marxist regime. This results in an end to détente.

Jan 80 – US defeats USSR for the Winter Olympics hockey Gold medal, the “miracle on ice”

Feb 80 –

Mar 80 – Jimmy Carter announces US boycott of Moscow Summer Olympics.

Apr 80 –

May 80 –

Jun 80 –

Jul 80 –

Aug 80 – In Gdansk Poland, agreement signed to end a wave of strikes that began at the Lenin Shipyards there. The agreement grants greater civil rights and the right to form trade unions independent of communist party control.

Sep 80 –

Oct 80 –

Nov 80 – Ronald Reagan elected US president

Dec 80 -

Jan 81 –

Feb 81 –

Mar 81 –

Apr 81 –

May 81 –

Jun 81 –

Jul 81 –

Aug 81 – Gulf of Sidra incident: Libyan planes attack US carrier-based aircraft in the Gulf of Sidra, which Libya has illegally annexed

Sep 81 – Solidarity uprising in Poland

Oct 81 – Soviet “Whiskey” class submarine, U137 runs aground near the Swedish Naval Base at Karlskrona.

Nov 81 – CIA support for Nicaraguan Contras begins

Dec 81 -

Jan 82 –

Feb 82 –

Mar 82 –

Apr 82 – Argentina invades the Falkland Islands, starting the Falklands war, resulting in defeat for Argentina and the fall of the military Junta.

May 82 – Democratic Spain joins NATO

Jun 82 – Israel invades Lebanon and clashes with Syrian troops there.

Jul 82 –

Aug 82 –

Sep 82 –

Oct 82 –

Nov 82 –

Dec 82 -

Jan 83 –

Feb 83 –

Mar 83 – Reagan proposes SDI in speech to the nation

Apr 83 –

May 83 –

Jun 83 –

Jul 83 –

Aug 83 –

Sep 83 – After accidentally over flying the Sakhalin Peninsula, Korean Air Flt 007 shot down by Soviet interceptor.

Oct 83 – US invades Grenada to overthrow the Marxist military government and expel Cuban military.

Nov 83 –

Dec 83 -

Jan 84 –

Feb 84 –

Mar 84 –

Apr 84 –

May 84 –

Jun 84 –

Jul 84 –

Aug 84 –

Sep 84 –

Oct 84 –

Nov 84 –

Dec 84 -

Jan 85 –

Feb 85 –

Mar 85 – Mikhail Gorbachev elected General Secretary of the CPSU

Apr 85 –

May 85 –

Jun 85 –

Jul 85 –

Aug 85 –

Sep 85 –

Oct 85 –

Nov 85 – Reagan and Gorbachev meet for the first time in Geneva.

Dec 85 -

Jan 86 –

Feb 86 – France joins with Chad to repulse Libyan invasion

Mar 86 –

Apr 86 – Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine, worst nuclear accident in history. US planes bomb Libya, including targets in Khaddafi's palace.

May 86 –

Jun 86 –

Jul 86 –

Aug 86 – Gorbachev announces unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing on 40th anniversary of Hiroshima Bomb.

Sep 86 –

Oct 86 – Reagan and Gorbachev meet again in Reykjavik and nearly achieve breakthrough on nuclear arms control.

Nov 86 – Administration announces that it has been selling arms to Iran in an effort to free hostages in Lebanon and illegally transferring the profits to arm the Contras in Nicaragua, despite a Congressional ban (Boland Amendment). This becomes the Iran-Contra scandal.

Dec 86 -

Jan 87 –

Feb 87 –

Mar 87 –

Apr 87 –

May 87 –

Jun 87 – Gorbachev announces *Glasnost* and *Perestroika*. Reagan, on visit to Berlin, implores Gorbachev to “tear down that wall”.

Jul 87 –

Aug 87 –

Sep 87 –

Oct 87 –

Nov 87 –

Dec 87 – INF treaty to eliminate intermediate range ballistic missiles from Europe signed in Washington by Reagan and Gorbachev. Gorbachev agrees to START I treaty. Scholars now point to this as the beginning of the end of the Cold War.

Jan 88 –

Feb 88 – Two US naval vessels, USS Yorktown & USS Caron are rammed by Soviet naval units off the Crimean coast in disputed territorial waters.

Mar 88 –

Apr 88 –

May 88 – Soviets begin to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Jun 88 –

Jul 88 –

Aug 88 –

Sep 88 –

Oct 88 –

Nov 88 – George H.W. Bush elected president.

Dec 88 –

Jan 89 –

Feb 89 – All Soviet troops withdrawn from Afghanistan

Mar 89 –

Apr 89 –

May 89 –

Jun 89 – China puts down pro-democracy protestors in Tiananmen Square

Jul 89 –

Aug 89 – Solidarity movement elects new government in Poland

Sep 89 –

Oct 89 –

Nov 89 – November 9th, Berlin Wall falls

Dec 89 – Communist governments fall in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria & Rumania (the only violent revolt). Bush and Gorbachev meet in Malta, declare a long-lasting era of peace has begun. Democracy restored in Chile.

Jan 90 –

Feb 90 – The Marxist Sandinista regime is rejected by Nicaraguan voters.

Mar 90 –

Apr 90 –

May 90 – Yeltsin elected to Russian SSR presidency

Jun 90 –

Jul 90 –

Aug 90 –

Sep 90 –

Oct 90 – Germany is reunited

Nov 90 – Conventional Forces Europe Treaty (CFE) signed by 16 NATO and 6 Warsaw pact adversaries, significantly reducing conventional arms for both sides in Europe.

Dec 90 -

Jan 91 –

Feb 91 –

Mar 91 –

Apr 91 –

May 91 –

Jun 91 –

Jul 91 – Formal dissolution of the Warsaw Pact

Aug 91 – Failed right-wing coup in USSR. Gorbachev is held hostage. Boris Yeltsin stands on tanks in Moscow urging Soviet troops not to fire at the Russian White House.

Sep 91 –

Oct 91 –

Nov 91 –

Dec 91 – Gorbachev resigns as president of the USSR. The Council of the Republics of the Supreme Soviet recognizes the dissolution of the USSR. President Bush announces end of the Cold War in Christmas day address.