

World History 2000 - Current

Year 2000

1-Jan	Y2K Easter seaboard Blacked out, A terrorist plot although partially foiled was carried out against the US, no one has claimed responsibility. Anonymous sources point their finger at USSR.
10-Jan	<i>Elections in Chile saved by CIA! CIA suspected in Cop killing in Santiago, Chile.</i>
16-Jan	Socialist president, Ricardo Lagos, elected in Chile
17-Jan	<i>A cruise ship called the "Empress of the Sea" lost 2 life boats while underway. There is no explanation for the loss and no one was reported missing from the cruise ship when it docked.</i>
22-Jan	George W. Bush and Al Gore take Iowa caucuses in U.S. presidential race
3-Feb	Austria at center of European dispute after conservative People's Party forms coalition with the far-right Freedom Party, headed by xenophobe Jörg Haider
6-Feb	First Lady Hillary Clinton officially enters N.Y. Senate race
Feb 6-12	Hijackers seize Afghan plane; release hostages in Stansted, England
11-Feb	Britain ends self-rule in Northern Ireland after Irish Republican Army misses disarmament deadline. <i>The Mysterious Michael O'Shanesey has been called in to patch up the deal.</i>
14-Feb	NEAR spacecraft becomes first to orbit an asteroid
18-Feb	<i>Yesterday A small country off the West Coast of Africa reported an accident with one of their Helicopters. Reports say it crashed into a command center on their small naval base, killing a dozen men and women and wound 9 others. 1 casualty was a US consultant.</i>
25-Feb	Wary investors cause stock plunge; beginning of the end of the Internet stock boom
26-Feb	Reformists win control of Iranian parliament for first time since 1979 Islamic revolution
1-Mar	<i>Calish Lab in London was burnt to the ground yesterday arson is suspected. 3 Brave security officers died getting everyone out. Calish lab does research into the improvement of farm animal breeding.</i>
17-Mar	Gun maker Smith & Wesson limits the manufacture and distribution of handguns in light of lawsuits

17-Mar	<i>Major Train crash in Czech Republic, Investigators rule out terrorism even though our sources say the computer system controlling the train was tampered with just 5 minutes before the crash. No terrorist group has of yet claimed responsibility. 14 Dead and several more un-accounted for. Survivors say there was a disturbance at the station just before it left Austria. A crazy man ran through a crowd yelling terrorist just before the train boarded. Others thought they heard gun shots but now one was reported hurt.</i>
18-Mar	Mass murder or suicide of hundreds in Ugandan doomsday cult
19-Mar	<i>Dr. Jozef Krivosova a Czech Scientist was believed to be on that train and it is believed that he was captured and is being forced to work for a terrorist group headed by Rene Stojkovic of the Czech Republic has vowed to track down Dr. Krivosova and bring those responsible for his abduction to justice.</i>
25-Mar	Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin formally chosen for post
3-Apr	Microsoft loses antitrust suit; appeal expected
8-Apr	Controversial Osprey plane crash kills 19 marines
22-Apr	Cuban boy Elián González reunited with father after federal raid of Miami relatives' home
25-Apr	Vermont approves same-sex unions
4-May	"I love you" virus disrupts computers worldwide
18-May	South Carolina removes Confederate battle flag from capitol dome
24-May	<i>Chile ends Augusto Pinochet's immunity, clearing way for trial on murder and torture charges during years as dictator</i>
24-May	Israeli troops withdraw from Lebanese security zone after 22 years of occupation
29-May	Former Indonesian president Suharto under house arrest, charged with corruption and abuse of power
4-Jun	Britain restores parliamentary powers to Northern Ireland after Sinn Fein agrees to disarm
15-Jun	Presidents of North and South Korea peace accord, ending half-century of antagonism
20-Jun	British find 58 bodies of illegal Asian immigrants suffocated in Dutch truck that transported them
23-Jun	Elián González returns to Cuba with father
25-Jun	U.S. navy resumes shelling exercises of Puerto Rico's Vieques Island, used as a training site

26-Jun	Human genome deciphered; expected to revolutionize the practice of medicine
30-Jun	Iraq to resume missile program
2-Jul	Vicente Fox Quesada elected president of Mexico
10-Jul	Bashar al-Assad succeeds late father, Hafez al-Assad, as Syrian president
25-Jul	Concorde crash kills 113 near Paris
2-Aug	Republican convention picks Texas governor George W. Bush as presidential candidate; Dick Cheney for vice presidential spot
14-Aug	Democratic convention selects Vice President Al Gore and Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman to head ticket
13-Sep	Los Alamos scientist Wen Ho Lee, accused of stealing sensitive nuclear weapons data, freed after serving nine months in prison
15-Sep	Olympic Games open in Australia
20-Sep	Six-year Whitewater investigation of the Clintons ends without indictments
25-Sep	Yugoslav opposition claims victory; incumbent Slobodan Milosevic denies results
26-Sep	Danish voters reject euro
28-Sep	Abortion pill, RU-486, wins U.S. approval
30-Sep	Palestinians and Israelis clash, spurred by visit of right-wing Israeli leader Ariel Sharon to a joint Jewish/Muslim holy site; "Al Aksa intifada" continues unabated
5-Oct	Nationwide uprising overthrows Yugoslavian president Milosevic
7-Oct	Vojislav Kostunica sworn in as Yugoslav president
12-Oct	17 U.S. sailors on navy destroyer <i>Cole</i> die in Yemen terrorist explosion, <i>UN and US vow to investigate</i>
Nov 7-8	U.S. presidential election closest in decades; Bush's slim lead in Florida leads to automatic recount in that state
11-Nov	Republicans file federal suit to block manual recount of Florida presidential election ballots sought by Democrats
13-Nov	Philippine president Joseph Estrada impeached after receiving gambling payoffs
21-Nov	Florida Supreme Court rules hand count of presidential ballots may continue
25-Nov	Global warming talks collapse at Hague conference
26-Nov	Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certifies Bush as winner by 537 votes
30-Nov	Mad Cow disease alarms Europe
9-Dec	Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak resigns

9-Dec	U.S. Supreme Court orders halt to manual recount of presidential votes in Florida
12-Dec	Supreme Court seals Bush victory by 5–4; rules there can be no further recounting
Year 2001	
16-Jan	Congo president Laurent Kabila assassinated by bodyguard
20-Jan	In final days of presidency, Bill Clinton issues controversial pardons, including one for Marc Rich, billionaire fugitive financier
20-Jan	George W. Bush is sworn in as 43rd president
26-Jan	Earthquake kills thousands in India
31-Jan	Libyan convicted in Flight 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland
6-Feb	Right-winger Ariel Sharon wins election in Israel
9-Feb	U.S. submarine Greeneville sinks Japanese fishing boat, killing 9
20-Feb	FBI agent Robert Hanssen is charged with spying for Russia for 15 years
15-Mar	The long-simmering resentment of Macedonia's ethnic Albanians erupts into violence
23-Mar	British livestock epidemic, foot-and-mouth disease, mysteriously cured
30-Mar	Bush abandons global-warming treaty (Kyoto Protocol), angering European leaders
2-Apr	U.S. spy plane and Chinese jet collide. The 24 crew members of the U.S. plane are detained for 11 days; U.S. issues a formal statement of regret
7-Apr	Race riots in Cincinnati continue for several days following a shooting of an unarmed black man by a white police officer
28-Apr	U.S. millionaire Dennis Tito becomes first space tourist, visiting the International Space Station aboard a Russian booster
1-May	Former Klansman Thomas E. Blanton convicted of 1963 murder of four black girls in Birmingham, Ala.
18-May	After a Palestinian suicide bomber kills 5 and wounds more than 100 in a Netanya shopping mall, Israeli warplanes retaliate by bombing West Bank and Gaza strip
29-May	Four are declared guilty in 1998 terrorist bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania
5-Jun	Balance of the Senate shifts after Jim Jeffords of Vermont changes his party affiliation from Republican to Independent. The move strips Republicans of control of the Senate and gives Democrats the narrowest of majorities (50–49–1)

7-Jun	Bush signs new tax-cut law, cutting taxes by \$1.35 trillion over 11 years, the largest tax cut in 2 decades
9-Jun	Mohammad Khatami, Iran's moderate president, is reelected in a landslide
11-Jun	Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh executed
19-Jun	Syrian forces evacuate Beirut area after decades of occupation
29-Jun	Former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic is delivered to UN tribunal in The Hague to await war-crimes trial
23-Jul	Without U.S., 178 nations reach agreement on climate accord, which rescues, though dilutes, 1997 Kyoto Protocol
9-Aug	Bush allows stem cell research, approving federal funds for studies using existing strains of stem cells
13-Aug	After six months of fighting, a peace agreement is signed between rebels and the Macedonian government
22-Aug	Budget surplus dwindles; some blame the slowing economy and the Bush tax cut
11-Sep	Terrorists attack United States. Hijackers ram jetliners into twin towers of New York City's World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A fourth hijacked plane crashes 80 mi outside of Pittsburgh. Toll of dead is more than 3,000. Within days, Islamic militant Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaeda terrorist network are identified as the parties behind the attacks
5-Oct	Anthrax scare rivets nation, as anthrax-laced letters are sent to various media and government officials. Several die after handling the letters
7-Oct	In response to Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, U.S. and British forces launch bombing campaign against Taliban government and al-Qaeda terrorist camps in Afghanistan. Bombings continue on a daily basis
23-Oct	Irish Republican Army announces that it has begun to dismantle its weapons arsenal, marking a dramatic leap forward in Northern Ireland peace process
12-Nov	Plane crash kills 260 in Queens, N.Y.
27-Nov	Afghani factions create a post-Taliban government
2-Dec	Enron Corp., one of world's largest energy companies, files for bankruptcy
4-Dec	Israel condemns the Palestinian Authority as a "terror-supporting entity" and severs ties with leader Yasir Arafat following mounting violence against Israelis. The Israeli Army begins bombing Palestinian areas
9-Dec	Taliban regime in Afghanistan collapses after two months of bombing by American warplanes and fighting by Northern Alliance ground troops
22-Dec	Hamid Karzai, new interim Afghan leader, is sworn in

Year 2002

2-Jan	The euro currency debuts in 12 European countries
20-Jan	U.S. takes Taliban and al-Qaeda prisoners to Guantanamo Bay
18-Jan	Defrocked priest John Geoghan convicted of child molestation; church's role in cover-up sparks national outrage
23-Jan	U.S. reporter Daniel Pearl kidnapped in Pakistan
24-Jan	Kenneth L. Lay, chairman of bankrupt energy trader Enron, resigns; company under federal investigation for hiding debt and misrepresenting earnings
29-Jan	President Bush's first State of Union address labels Iran, Iraq, and North Korea "an axis of evil"
6-Feb	Queen Elizabeth II of England marks 50 years as monarch
12-Feb	The trial of Slobodan Milosevic on charges of crimes against humanity opens at The Hague
13-Feb	American Taliban soldier John Walker Lindh charged with supporting terrorism
21-Feb	Reporter Pearl confirmed dead in Pakistan
22-Feb	Angolan UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi killed in battle
2-Mar	Tamil Tigers and Sri Lankan government sign a cease-fire agreement (Feb. 22). Hundreds in India die in Hindu-Muslim clashes
2-Mar	U.S. and Afghan troops launch Operation Anaconda against remaining al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters in Afghanistan
28-Mar	Saudi peace proposal—offering Israel normal relations with all Arab nations in return for withdrawal from occupied territories—approved at Arab League summit
Mar 29- Apr 21	Israeli tanks and warplanes attack West Bank towns of Nablus, Jenin, Bethlehem, and others in response to string of Palestinian suicide attacks. In the first three months of 2002, 14 suicide bombers killed dozens of Israeli civilians and wounded hundreds
2-Apr	Israeli prime minister Sharon calls for exile of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat
4-Apr	UNITA Rebels and Angolan government sign a cease-fire ending 30 years of civil war
11-Apr	International Criminal Court wins UN ratification, but U.S. refuses to ratify
Apr 12,14	Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez ousted in coup, then reinstated
13-May	U.S. and Russia reach landmark arms agreement to cut both countries' nuclear arsenals by up to two-thirds over the next ten years
20-May	East Timor becomes a new nation

21-May	In letter to Director, FBI lawyer Coleen Rowley criticizes FBI for thwarting terrorist efforts
10-Jun	Dirty bomb plot foiled with arrest of Jose Padilla
13-Jun	U.S. abandons 31-year-old Antiballistic Missile treaty
14-Jun	At national conference, U.S. bishops recommend zero tolerance policy for priests who abuse children
15-Jun	Arthur Andersen firm convicted of destroying documents relating to former client Enron Corp.
24-Jun	Bush announces U.S. will not recognize an independent Palestinian state until Yasir Arafat is replaced
21-Jul	WorldCom, after admitting to misstating profits, files for bankruptcy—largest claim in U.S. history
28-Jul	Pennsylvania miners rescued after spending 77 hours in a dark, flooded mine shaft
30-Jul	Bush signs corporate reform bill in response to spate of corporate scandals
12-Sep	Bush addresses United Nations, calls for a “regime change” in Iraq
12-Sep	Tyco executives L. Dennis Kozlowski and Mark Swartz indicted in stock-fraud scheme
12-Oct	Terrorist bomb in Bali kills hundreds
14-Oct	Government suspended in Northern Ireland in protest of suspected IRA spy ring
15-Oct	Former ImClone Executive Sam Waksal pleads guilty to charges including fraud and perjury
16-Oct	North Korea admits to developing nuclear arms in defiance of treaty
18-Oct	Vatican calls for softening of U.S. bishops' abuse policy
Oct 23-26	Chechen rebels take 763 hostages in Moscow theater; Russian authorities release a gas into theater, killing 116 hostages and freeing remaining survivors
Oct 2-24	Snipers prey upon DC suburbs, killing ten and wounding others
24-Oct	Police arrest two sniper suspects, John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo
4-Nov	CIA kills six al-Qaeda members in Yemen
5-Nov	Republicans retake the Senate in midterm elections; gain additional House seats
8-Nov	UN Security Council passes unanimous resolution calling on Iraq to disarm or else face “serious consequences”

14-Nov	China's Jiang Zemin officially retires as general secretary; Hu Jintao named as his successor
22-Nov	UN arms inspectors return to Iraq (Nov. 18). EPA relaxes Clean Air Act
25-Nov	Bush signs legislation creating cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security
13-Dec	Boston archbishop Cardinal Bernard Law resigns over growing child sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church
20-Dec	Trent Lott steps down as Republican leader after furor over pro-segregationist remark
23-Dec	Sen. Bill Frist unanimously elected Republican leader of the Senate
Year 2003	
10-Jan	North Korea withdraws from treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons
11-Jan	Illinois governor George Ryan commutes 167 death row sentences, calling capital punishment flawed
15-Jan	White House announces huge deficits expected to top \$200 billion in 2003
27-Jan	The UN's report on Iraqi weapons inspections is highly critical, but not damning
28-Jan	In State of the Union address, Bush announces that he is ready to attack Iraq even without a UN mandate
29-Jan	Ariel Sharon elected Israeli prime minister
1-Feb	Space shuttle <i>Columbia</i> explodes, killing all seven astronauts
2-Feb	Nine-week general strike in Venezuela calling for President Chavez's resignation ends in defeat
5-Feb	U.S. Secretary of State Powell presents Iraq war rationale to UN, citing Iraqi weapons as imminent threat to world security
15-Feb	Massive peace demonstrations take place around the world, protesting potential invasion of Iraq
24-Feb	UN Security Council members France, Germany, and Russia insist that "the military option should only be a last resort" concerning Iraq
12-Mar	Serbian prime minister Zoran Djindjic assassinated
15-Mar	Hu Jintao succeeds Chinese president Jiang Zemin
19-Mar	The United States and Britain launch war against Iraq
9-Apr	Baghdad falls to U.S. troops
16-Apr	European Union expands by ten nations
29-Apr	First Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, sworn in

30-Apr	U.S.-backed “road map” for peace proposed for Middle East
1-May	The United States declares official end to combat operations in Iraq
12-May	U.S. diplomat Paul Bremer becomes civil administrator of occupied Iraq
12-May	Terrorists strike in Saudi Arabia, killing 34 at Western compound; al-Qaeda suspected
28-May	Bush signs ten-year, \$350-billion tax-cut package, the third-largest tax cut in U.S. history
30-May	Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi again placed under house arrest by military regime
31-May	Eric Rudolph, Olympic bombing suspect, arrested
18-Jun	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) discovers Iran's concealed nuclear activities and calls for intensified inspections
23-Jun	The U.S. Supreme Court decisively upholds the use of affirmative action in higher education
29-Jun	Palestinian militant groups announce cease-fire toward Israel
9-Jul	Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announces price of Iraq war is about \$3.9 billion a month, nearly double the April estimate
13-Jul	Iraq's interim governing council is inaugurated
22-Jul	Saddam Hussein's sons killed in fire
27-Jul	Mutinuous troops attempt unsuccessful coup in Philippines
6-Aug	Terrorist bombing at Indonesian hotel kills ten
11-Aug	Liberia's autocratic president Charles Taylor forced to leave civil war-ravaged country
11-Aug	NATO assumes control of peacekeeping force in Afghanistan
15-Aug	Libya accepts blame for 1988 bombing of flight over Lockerbie, Scotland; agrees to pay \$2.7 billion to the families of the 270 victims
19-Aug	Suicide bombing destroys UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 24, including top envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello
19-Aug	Palestinian suicide bombing in Jerusalem kills 20 Israelis, including 6 children
20-Aug	Venezuelan opposition files petition for referendum to recall President Hugo Chavez
24-Aug	After Israel retaliates for suicide bombing by killing top member of Hamas, militant Palestinian groups formally withdraw from cease-fire in effect since June 29
25-Aug	Investigation into the loss of space shuttle <i>Columbia</i> cites egregious organizational problems at NASA

6-Sep	Palestinian prime minister Mahmoud Abbas resigns; “road map” to peace effectively collapses
7-Oct	California governor Gray Davis ousted in recall vote; actor Arnold Schwarzenegger elected in his place
24-Oct	UN votes in favor of a resolution ordering Israel to end construction of security barrier dividing Israeli and Palestinian areas
5-Nov	Bush signs bill banning so-called partial-birth abortion procedure
5-Nov	President Bush signs \$87.5 billion emergency package for post-war Iraq reconstruction; this supplements \$79 billion approved in April
12-Nov	New Palestinian prime minister Ahmed Qurei takes office
13-Nov	Alabama chief justice Roy S. Moore forced from office after his refusal to remove monument of the Ten Commandments
14-Nov	The Bush administration reverses policy, agrees to transfer power to an interim Iraqi government sooner than originally planned
15-Nov	Suicide bombers attack two synagogues in Istanbul, Turkey, killing 25
18-Nov	Massachusetts Supreme Court rules in favor of gay marriage
20-Nov	Another terrorist attack in Istanbul kills 26; al-Qaeda suspected in both
23-Nov	Georgian president Eduard Shevardnadze resigns after weeks of protests
24-Nov	John A. Muhammad, convicted in the 2002 Washington, DC, area shootings, receives death sentence
4-Dec	President Bush eliminates steel tariffs after WTO says U.S. violated trade laws
12-Dec	Paul Martin succeeds Jean Chretien as Canadian prime minister
13-Dec	Saddam Hussein is captured by American troops
19-Dec	Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi announces he will give up weapons program
Year 2004	
13-Jan	Former Enron CFO Andrew Fastow pleads guilty to defrauding Enron
14-Jan	Bush proposes ambitious space program that includes flights to the Moon, Mars, and beyond
23-Jan	Iraq weapons investigator David Kay resigns, says there’s no evidence of weapons of mass destruction, one of the Bush administration’s chief reasons for launching war in Iraq
1-Feb	About one third of Iran's Parliament steps down to protest hard-line Guardian Council’s banning of more than 2,000 reformists from running in parliamentary elections

4-Feb	A.Q. Khan, founder of Pakistan's nuclear program, admits he sold nuclear-weapons designs to other countries, including North Korea, Iran, and Libya
Feb-29	Armed rebels in Haiti force President Aristide to resign and flee the country
2-Mar	John Kerry secures Democratic nomination after winning nine out of ten primaries and caucuses
11-Mar	Spain is rocked by terrorist attacks, killing more than 200. Al-Qaeda takes responsibility
14-Mar	Spain's governing Popular Party loses election to opposition Socialists. Outcome seen as a reaction to terrorist attacks days before and Popular Party's support of the U.S.-led war in Iraq
29-Mar	North Atlantic Treaty Organization formally admits seven new countries: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia
Apr 5 - May 1	U.S. troops launch offensive in Falluja in response to killing and mutilation on March 31 of four U.S. civilian contractors
12-Apr	Israeli prime minister Sharon announces plan to unilaterally withdraw from Gaza Strip
24-Apr	Greek Cypriots reject UN reunification plan with Turkish Cypriots
Apr 30	U.S. media release graphic photos of American soldiers abusing and sexually humiliating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison. Images spark outrage around the world
17-May	Gay marriages begin in Massachusetts, the first state in the country to legalize such unions
26-May	Sudan rebels (SPLA) and government reach accord to end 21-year civil war. However, separate war in western Darfur region between Arab militias and black Africans continues unabated
28-Jun	U.S. hands over power to Iraqi interim government; Iyad Allawi becomes prime minister
28-Jun	In <i>Rasul v. Bush</i> , Supreme Court rules that "enemy combatants" held at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, are legally entitled to file petitions for writs of habeas corpus; and in <i>Hamdi v. Rumsfeld</i> , court rules that the detention of a U.S. citizen held as an enemy combatant is invalid, rejecting government's claim that the executive branch has unreviewable authority in time of war
30-Jun	Israeli Supreme Court orders removal of part of security barrier dividing Israeli and Palestinian lands
5-Jul	Senate Intelligence Committee reports that intelligence on Iraq's weapons programs was "overstated" and flawed Sept. 11
22-Jul	commission harshly criticizes government's handling of terrorist attacks

Jul 26-29	Democratic National Convention in Boston nominates John Kerry for president
30-Jul	Security Council demands Sudanese government disarm militias in Darfur that are massacring civilians
12-Aug	Florida hit by hurricanes Bonnie
13-Aug	and Charley
Aug 13-29	Summer Olympics take place in Athens, Greece
16-Aug	Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez survives recall referendum
24-Aug	Pentagon-sponsored Schlesinger report rejects idea that Abu Ghraib prison abuse was work of a few aberrant soldiers, and asserts there were “fundamental failures throughout all levels of command”
Aug 30 Sep 02	Republican Convention in New York renominates President Bush
Sep 1-3	Chechen terrorists take about 1,200 schoolchildren and others hostage in Beslan, Russia; 340 people die when militants detonate explosives
15-Sep	Hurricane Ivan ravages U.S. south
Spe 16	U.S.’s final report on Iraq’s weapons finds no WMDs
18-Sep	UN Atomic Energy Agency tells Iran to stop enriching uranium; a nascent nuclear weapons program suspected
Spe 20	Bush eases trade restrictions on Libya
23-Sep	Congress extends tax cuts due to expire at the end of 2005
26-Sep	Hurricane Jeanne hits Florida
25-Oct	380 tons of explosives reported missing in Iraq
8-Nov	Bush reelected president (Nov. 2). U.S. troops launch attack on Falluja, stronghold of the Iraqi insurgency
11-Nov	Yasir Arafat dies in Paris
21-Nov	Ukraine presidential election declared fraudulent
30-Nov	Red Cross alleges abuse at U.S.-run Guantánamo prison
7-Dec	Hamid Karzai inaugurated as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president
15-Dec	Missile test fails; setback for Bush administration's missile defense system
26-Dec	Massive protests by supporters of opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko's lead to a new Ukrainian election; Yushchenko eventually declared prime minister
26-Dec	Enormous tsunami devastates Asia; at least 225,000 killed
Year 2005	

January	Worldwide aid pours in to help the 11 Asian countries devastated by the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami
9-Jan	Mahmoud Abbas wins presidency of the Palestinian Authority in a landslide
9-Jan	The Sudanese government and rebels from southern Sudan sign a peace agreement to end a 20-year conflict that has claimed about 2 million people
20-Jan	George W. Bush is officially sworn in for his second term as president
30-Jan	Iraqi elections to select a 275-seat National Assembly take place despite threats of violence. A total of 8.5 million people voted, representing about 58% of those Iraqis eligible to vote
2-Feb	In State of the Union address, President Bush announces his plan to reform Social Security; despite months of campaigning, his plan receives only a lukewarm reception
10-Feb	Saudis (men only) are allowed to vote for the first time in municipal elections
14-Feb	Former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri > a nationalist who had called for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon—is assassinated
20-Mar	The Terry Schiavo case becomes the focus of an emotionally charged battle in Congress
31-Mar	Schiavo dies 13 days after a federal judge refuses to order the reinsertion of her feeding tube
2-Apr	Pope John Paul II dies
4-Apr	Violent protests follow March elections in Kyrgyzstan, which international monitors deem severely flawed. President Askar Akayev flees the country and then resigns
24-Apr	Benedict XVI becomes the next pope
26-Apr	The Syrian military, stationed in Lebanon for 29 years, withdraws
5-May	Tony Blair becomes first Labour Party prime minister to win three successive terms, but his party loses a large number of seats in the elections
20-May	South Korean scientist Hwang Woo-suk announces that he has devised a new procedure to successfully produce human stem cell lines from a cloned human embryo
16-Jun	but claim is discredited in Dec. 2005. The European Union abandons plans to ratify the proposed European constitution by 2006 after both France and the Netherlands vote against it
24-Jun	Former Tehran mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a hard-line conservative, wins Iran's presidential election with 62% of the vote. He defiantly pursues Iran's nuclear ambitions over the course of his first year
1-Jul	Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announces her retirement

4-Jul	NASA's Deep Impact spacecraft hits comet Tempel 1 in effort to research primordial remnants of our solar system
7-Jul	London hit by Islamic terrorist bombings, killing 52 and wounding about 700. It is Britain's worst attack since World War II
8-Jul	Group of Eight industrial nations pledge to double aid to Africa to \$50 billion a year by 2010, cancel the debt of many poor countries, and open trade
8-Jul	Federal appeals court upholds lower court decision that so-called Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is unlawful because it fails to make an exception to the law for women whose health would be in jeopardy without the late-term procedure
20-Jul	Pentagon assessment finds Iraq's police force is, at best, "partially capable" of fighting the country's insurgency. The U.S.'s eventual withdrawal plan hinges upon Iraqi security forces replacing U.S. soldiers: "As Iraqis stand up, Americans will stand down," President Bush had stated
27-Jul	The Irish Republican Army announces it is officially ending its violent campaign for a united Ireland and will instead pursue its goals politically
2-Aug	President Bush signs the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), which will remove trade barriers between the U.S. and Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua
15-Aug	The Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) sign a peace accord to end their nearly 30-year-long civil war
15-Aug	Israel begins evacuating about 8,000 Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip, which has been occupied by Israel for the last 38 years
Aug 25-30	Hurricane Katrina wreaks catastrophic damage on the Gulf Coast; more than 1,000 die and millions are left homeless. Americans are shaken not simply by the magnitude of the disaster but by how ill-prepared all levels of government were in its aftermath.
3-Sep	Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who served on the U.S. Supreme Court for 33 years, dies
22-Sep	John Roberts, Jr., becomes 17th chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
23-Sep	Another major hurricane, Rita, ravages the Gulf Coast
28-Sep	House majority leader Tom DeLay is accused of conspiring to violate Texas's election laws. He steps aside from his House leadership position
2-Oct	A 7.6 earthquake centered in the Pakistani-controlled part of the Kashmir region kills more than 80,000 and leaves an estimated 4 million homeless (
3-Oct	President Bush selects Harriet Miers, White House counsel, to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

10-Oct	Angela Merkel, leader of the Christian Democratic Union, which narrowly prevailed over Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democratic Party in September elections, becomes the country's first female chancellor
15-Oct	Millions of Iraqi voters ratify a new constitution
19-Oct	Former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein goes on trial for the killing of 143 people in the town of Dujail, Iraq, in 1982
25-Oct	Number of deaths of U.S. soldiers in Iraq reaches 2,000
27-Oct	Harriet Miers withdraws her Supreme Court nomination after strong criticism from the president's conservative base
27-Oct	Several weeks of violent rioting begins in the impoverished French-Arab and French-African suburbs of Paris after two boys are accidentally killed while hiding from police
28-Oct	A federal grand jury indicts I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Cheney's chief of staff, with obstruction of justice and perjury in connection with a White House investigation
11-Nov	Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf defeats soccer star George Weah in Liberia's presidential election. She becomes Africa's first woman head of state
21-Nov	Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon quits as head of the Likud Party, which he founded, to start a new, more centrist organization, called Kadima
28-Nov	California Republican congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham resigns after pleading guilty to taking at least \$2.4 million in bribes
5-Dec	The Sept. 11 Public Discourse Project reports that the country is "alarmingly vulnerable to terrorist strikes"
D	The <i>New York Times</i> reports that in 2002, Bush signed a presidential order to allow the National Security Agency to spy on Americans suspected of being connected to terrorist activity without warrants
15-Dec	About 11 million Iraqis (70% of the country's registered voters) turn out to select their first permanent Parliament since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein
20-Dec	Pennsylvania judge rules teaching of intelligent design in biology class is unconstitutional
Year 2006	
5-Jan	Coalition forces battle insurgents on the streets of Iraq, as sectarian violence intensifies; see Iraq Timeline 2006 for details (all year long). Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon suffers a massive stroke; Ehud Olmert is named acting prime minister

10-Jan	Iran breaks the seals on three of its nuclear facilities, after stating that it plans to restart work on its “peaceful nuclear energy program.” The U.S. and several European nations condemn the move
19-Jan	After a year of silence, Osama bin Laden says al-Qaeda is planning to attack the United States.
20-Jan	The Iraqi election results are released: a coalition of Shiites and Kurds wins 181 out of 275 seats in parliament, just shy of the two-thirds majority required to form their own government. Sunnis take 58 seats
25-Jan	Militant Palestinian group Hamas wins 74 of 132 seats in legislative elections. Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei of the Fatah party resigns
31-Jan	The U.S. Senate confirms Samuel Alito as a Supreme Court justice, and Ben Bernanke as chief of the Federal Reserve
31-Jan	In his fifth State of the Union speech, President Bush denounces Iran, calling it a country “held hostage by a small clerical elite that is isolating and repressing its people”
2-Feb	Republican John Boehner is elected House Majority Leader
4-Feb	After a Danish newspaper prints cartoons depicting Muhammad in a negative light (later reprinted in several European countries), angry demonstrators throughout the Muslim world smash windows, set fires, and burn flags
6-Feb	Steven Harper becomes Canada's first Conservative prime minister in over a dozen years
9-Feb	President Bush signs a law renewing the Patriot Act, including a signing statement stating that he does not consider himself bound by its requirement to tell Congress how the law is being used
10-Feb	The Olympic winter games open in Turin, Italy
15-Feb	House releases a report on the response to Hurricane Katrina, assigning blame on all levels of government
19-Feb	The day after the Hamas-led Palestinian parliament opens, Israeli leaders vote to withhold \$50 million per month
11-Mar	Former Yugoslavian president Slobadan Milosevic dies of a heart attack in his cell in the Hague. His four-year war-crimes trial had been nearing its end
29-Mar	The U.N. Security Council calls on Iran to suspend its enrichment of uranium
29-Mar	Jack Abramoff, a lobbyist with ties to several members of Congress, is sentenced to six years in prison by a Florida judge on fraud charges
4-Apr	Saddam Hussein is charged with genocide by an Iraqi court for a campaign against Iraq's Kurdish population in 1988
4-Apr	Representative Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) announces he will leave Congress

10-Apr	After weeks of crippling student-led protests, French president Jacques Chirac repeals a new labor law that would have made it easier for employers to fire workers under the age of 26
28-Apr	Nepal's King Gyanendra reinstates Parliament after more than two weeks of demonstrations involving over 100,000 people. It meets for the first time in four years
28-Apr	The International Atomic Energy Agency confirms that Iran has enriched uranium
3-May	A federal jury in Virginia sentences Zacarias Moussaoui to life in prison without the chance of parole for his role in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks (
15-May	Bush administration announces plans to normalize relations with Libya
21-May	55.4% of Montenegrins vote for independence from Serbia
25-May	George Bush and Tony Blair express regret for the abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison, for removing all Baathists from positions of power in Iraq, and for other missteps
7-Jun	The U.S. Senate rejects a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage
10-Jun	In response to an Israeli shelling of a Gaza beach that killed eight civilians, Hamas fires Qassam rockets into Israeli territory, ending a 16-month truce with Israel
18-Jun	Katharine Jefferts Schori chosen to be the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church; she will be the first woman to lead a church in the Anglican Communion
24-Jun	Warren Buffett announces that he will donate 85% of his \$44 billion fortune to five philanthropic organizations, with about \$31 billion going to the Gates Foundation
Jun 25-29	Palestinian militants tunnel out of Gaza and into Israel, killing two Israeli soldiers and kidnapping a third. Israeli troops move into Gaza, disabling its only power plant, destroying three bridges, and seizing Hamas political leaders
29-Jun	The Supreme Court rules that military tribunals cannot be set up to try prisoners in the absence of Congressional authorization and that prisoners are entitled to fair trials under the Geneva Conventions
9-Jul	India test-launches a missile with a range of 1,800 miles

11-Jul	More than 200 people die and hundreds more are wounded when a series of bombs explode on commuter trains in Mumbai, India during the evening rush hour
11-Jul	Bush administration concedes that terror suspects are entitled to basic human rights and legal rights under the Geneva Convention
Jul 13 - Aug 15	Hezbollah, a Lebanese militant group, fires rockets into Israel. In response, Israel launches a major military attack, sending thousands of troops into Lebanon
19-Jul	President Bush uses his veto power for the first time, striking down legislation that would have expanded the number of stem cell lines available for embryonic research using federal financing.
4-Aug	Former president Viktor Yanukovich is named prime minister of Ukraine
24-Aug	The International Astronomical Union reclassifies Pluto as a dwarf planet
7-Sep	Under pressure from members of his Labor Party, British prime minister Tony Blair says he will resign within a year
20-Sep	Thai Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin stages a bloodless coup and declares martial law
29-Sep	U.S. Representative Mark Foley (R-Fla.) steps down from the House of Representatives after reports emerge that he had sent sexually explicit messages to teenage male Congressional pages. He had been the head of House Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children
9-Oct	International outrage and condemnation follows the test of a nuclear missile in the mountains of North Korea
14-Oct	U.N. Security Council unanimously passes a resolution banning the sale of materials to North Korea that could be used to produce weapons and allowing authorities of other countries to inspect cargo entering and leaving the country
17-Oct	The U.S. population officially reaches 300 million
30-Oct	Pakistan military fires missiles at an Islamic school on the Afghanistan border, killing about 80 people who government officials say were militants. Officials also claim the school harbored members of al-Qaeda
5-Nov	An Iraqi court convicts Saddam Hussein of crimes against humanity and sentences him to death by hanging
7-Nov	Democrats gain control of both houses of Congress in the midterm elections
14-Nov	South African parliament votes to legalize same-sex marriage
21-Nov	Lebanese cabinet minister Pierre Gemayel, a critic of Syria, is assassinated. His father, Amin Gemayel, is a former president of Lebanon

