

Landmarks in World History (ca. 1900–present)

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

THE WESTERN/DEVELOPED WORLD

1914–1918
World War I

1929
Great Depression begins

1933
Nazis come to power in Germany

1937
Japan invades China; start of World War II in Asia

1945
U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

1939–1945
World War II; Holocaust in Europe

1957
European Economic Community established

1962
Rachel Carson *Silent Spring* launches environmental movement

THE COMMUNIST WORLD

1917
Russian Revolution

1921
Founding of Chinese Communist Party

1945–1950
Communist takeover in Eastern Europe

1929–1953
Stalin era in Soviet Union

1949
Communist triumph in Chinese revolution

1950–1953
Korean War

1959–1962
Cuban Revolution, Cuban missile crisis

THE GLOBAL SOUTH / DEVELOPING WORLD

1910–1920
Mexican Revolution

1923–1938
Turkey's secular modernization; Kemal Atatürk

1928
Muslim Brotherhood established in Egypt

1947–1949
Independence of India, Pakistan, Israel, Indonesia

1957–1975
African independence achieved

THE WHOLE WORLD (MARKERS OF GLOBALIZATION)

1920–1946
League of Nations

1945
Founding of United Nations, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund

1946–1991
Cold war

1960
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries established

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

1960s

Civil rights and anti-Vietnam War protests in U.S.

2001

Attacks on World Trade Center; "war on terror"

2002

Introduction of the euro

2009

Greek financial crisis begins

1960s

Emergence of Soviet/Chinese hostility

1989

Collapse of communism in Eastern Europe

1965-1973

Vietnam War

1991

Collapse of Soviet Union

1968

Prague Spring; Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia

1978-1992

Deng Xiaoping; liberalizing reforms in China

2014-present

Russia seizes Crimea and intervenes in Ukraine

1967

Six-Day War between Israel and Arab states

1979

Islamic revolution in Iran

1994

End of apartheid in South Africa

2011

Syrian civil war begins

1979-1989

Soviet war in Afghanistan

2001

U.S. military action begins in Afghanistan and Iraq

2014

Rise of Islamic State

1960s-1970s

Many military coups in Africa and Latin America

1970s-present

Assertion of Islamic renewal; fundamentalist movements

1970

Greenpeace established

1989

Montreal protocol on ozone depletion adopted

2008

Global recession begins

1976-1985

UN Decade for Women

1995

World Trade Organization established

2014

UN Climate Summit

1997

Kyoto protocol on global warming adopted

2015

Pope Francis issues encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home"