

The World's Most Important Event Every Year Since 1952

YEAR	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
1952	First Hydrogen Bomb Test	U.S. detonated 67 tests in Marshall Islands
1953	The Dawn of DNA	Double helix
1954	Brown vs. Board of Education	Segregated schools unconstitutional
1955	Parks Starts a Movement	Rosa Parks; Montgomery, AL
1956	Hungary Suppressed	Russia invades
1957	The Little Rock Nine	Federal troops Central High
1958	U.S. Launches First Satellite	Explorer I three months after Sputnik
1959	Castro Takes Over Cuba	
1960	Lunch Counter Sit-in	Greensboro, NC; 6-month protest
1961	Berlin Wall Built	
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis	
1963	JFK Assassinated	Oswald in Dallas, TX
1964	LBJ's "War on Poverty"	Start of Medicare
1965	Civil Rights Turns Violent	Edmond Pettis Bridge in Selma, AL
1966	Mao Purges Rivals	Cultural Revolution
1967	Six-Day War	Israel takes Gaza, West Bank and Golan Heights
1968	King Assassinated	James Earl Ray in Memphis, TN
1969	Landing on the Moon	Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins
1970	War in Asia Widens	U.S. invades Cambodia
1971	Pentagon Papers	Published by NY Times
1972	Nixon Goes to China	
1973	Roe v. Wade	
1974	Nixon Resigns Out	Watergate
1975	Saigon Falls	U.S. dead from war - 58,202
1976	The Concorde Changes Air Travel	First time faster than speed of sound
1977	Rise of the PC	Apple II and Radio Shack TRS-80
1978	Cult's Mass Suicide	Jim Jones; More than 900 die
1979	Islamic Republic Born in Iran	Ayatollah Khomeini
1980	Reagan Elected	Was oldest President at age 69
1981	AIDS Impacts America	Estimated 35 million have died worldwide
1982	Mexico Triggers Regional Debt Crisis	
1983	The Internet is Born	
1984	Chemicals Kill Thousands in India	Bhopal
1985	Reagan, Gorbachev Meet	Geneva
1986	Shuttle Tragedy	Challenger and Christa McAuliffe
1987	Stock Market Tanks	Dow falls 22% in one day

1988	When the U.S. Armed Iran	Oliver North
1989	The Berlin Wall Falls	
1990	Democracy in Poland	Lech Walesa
1991	America Goes to War in Middle East	Operation Desert Storm
1992	Cold War Ends	George H. W. Bush and Yeltsin
1993	The EU Becomes Reality	
1994	Amazon.com is Born	
1995	Domestic Terror Strikes Oklahoma	Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols
1996	The Dawn of Cloning	Dolly the Sheep
1997	Machine Tops Chess Champ	Deep Blue defeats Kasparov
1998	The Age of Google Begins	
1999	NATO's First Independent Strike	Kosovo
2000	International Space Station Opens	
2001	9/11	Nearly 3000 killed
2002	Homeland Security	
2003	U.S. Crushes Iraq	Shock and Awe
2004	Facebook Founded	By 23-year-old student
2005	Katrina Overwhelms New Orleans	
2006	Hussein Executed	3 years after pulled from hole
2007	The iPhone	2.3 billion sold
2008	Dow Plunges	Subprime mortgage crisis
2009	America's First African American President	
2010	Catastrophic Oil Spill	Gulf of Mexico; 3 million barrels of crude
2011	Bin Laden Killed	
2012	The "God Particle" is (Probably) Discovered	Higgs Boson
2013	Snowden Reveals Secrets	Now resides in Russia
2014	Russian Bear Bites Ukraine	Crimea
2015	NASA Flies by Pluto	New Horizons spacecraft
2016	Trump Elected	
2017	Hurricane Triple Whammy	Harvey, Irma, Maria
2018	Wildfires	California; 18,500 homes destroyed
2019	Hong Kong Protests	
2020	COVID-19	

Source: USA Today