

Timeline #6

Diplomacy of the Cold War (1943-1991)¹

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| 1943 | April | USSR withdraws recognition from the Polish govt-in-exile (London) |
| | Nov | Teheran Conference: Western allies agree to open 2nd front by 1 May 1944 |
| 1944 | June | Allies open second front in northern France (D-Day) |
| | July | Opening of Bretton Woods conference (leads to IMF & World Bank) |
| | Oct | Churchill & Stalin make "percentages" agreement on Balkans (in Moscow) |
| 1945 | Feb | Yalta conference |
| | May | Soviet forces enter Berlin, ending WWII in Europe |
| | | US cuts off lend-lease aid to USSR |
| | June | Creation of United Nations (opens in October). ² |
| | July | Potsdam conference (places Germany & Austria under 4-power occupation) |
| | Aug | Japan surrenders, ending war in Pacific |
| 1946 | Feb | Stalin's "Pre-election" speech |
| | Feb | George Kennan's "Long Telegram" from Moscow |
| | Mar | Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri |
| | April | Soviets force union of German Social Democrats & Communists into SED. ³ |
| 1947 | Jan | US & Britain fuse their German occupation zones into one "Bizonia" |
| | Feb | Formal peace treaties signed with Italy, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Finland |
| | | Britain withdraws from Greece, to be replaced by US |
| | Mar | Declaration of "Truman Doctrine" in context of Greek civil war |
| | May | Communists expelled from French and Italian governments |
| | June | Announcement of Marshall Plan for Europe |
| | July | Eastern European countries compelled by Soviets to reject Marshall aid |
| | Sept | Creation of Cominform to replace disbanded Comintern |
| 1948 | Feb | Communists take power in Czechoslovakia |
| | | Western allies agree to create separate constitution for western Germany |
| | Mar | Rupture between Stalin and Tito (Yugoslavia) |
| | June | New currency circulated in western German zones, blockade of Berlin by Soviets |
| | | Yugoslavia (under Tito) expelled from Cominform |
| 1949 | April | Creation of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) |
| | | France, Britain, USA merge their German zones into a single entity |
| | May | Soviets abandon blockade of Berlin after successful airlift |
| | June | London Accords lead to creation of West Germany (FRG) |
| | Aug | Explosion of first Soviet A-bomb |
| | Oct | Creation of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) |
| | | Founding of People's Republic of China |
| | | Greek communists abandon armed struggle, ending Greek civil war |
| | Nov | USSR in effect ends reparations (dismantling of German industrial plant) |

¹ See also the separate timeline on decolonization (below) and on European integration (coming later).

² League of Nations meets for last time in April, 1945 and transfers its assets & powers to UN.

³ SED = Socialist Unity Party (this of course applied only to the eastern zone).

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| 1950 | Truman approves development of H-Bomb |
| 1950-53 | Korean War |
| 1952 | King Farouk of Egypt overthrown by Egyptian nationalists |
| 1953 | Eisenhower becomes US President Death of Stalin (struggle for power until 1956 or so) Workers' uprising in East Berlin |
| 1954 | Paris accords call for FRG's rearmament and entrance into NATO Gamal Abdel Nasser takes power in Egypt (become president in 1956) French defeat at Dien Bien Phu (Vietnam); Algerian war begins |
| 1955 | Nasser signs agreement with USSR & Czechoslovakia on arms USSR & west sign treaty creating unified, sovereign, neutral Austria Creation of Warsaw Pact |
| 1956 | Khrushchev, firmly in power in USSR, begins de-Stalinization Post-Stalinist unrest in Poland Hungarian Revolution (more serious anti-Soviet unrest) Nasser nationalizes the Suez Canal, precipitating Suez Canal Crisis |
| 1957 | Soviets launch first satellite (sputnik) into space, develop first ICBM Treaty of Rome calls for creation of European Economic Community (EEC) |
| 1958 | Khrushchev's Berlin ultimatum (attempt to solve the German problem) |
| 1959 | Continuing negotiations over Berlin end in deadlock Revolution in Cuba |
| 1961 | Kennedy becomes President after narrow election victory in 1960 Soviets send first man (Yuri Gagarin) into space US begins deployment of intermediate-range missiles in Turkey Construction of Berlin Wall – problem solved! |
| 1962 | Cuban missile crisis |
| 1964 | Khrushchev replaced by Leonid Brezhnev as head of USSR |
| 1963 | New telephone "hot line" links White & Kremlin directly Treaty between USSR, Britain & US ends atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons |
| 1964 | China explodes its first atomic device |
| 1965 | Formal US decision to deploy large numbers of ground troops in Vietnam |
| 1966 | China breaks off formal relations with CPSU (Communist Party of Soviet Union) All French forces withdrawn from NATO; NATO forces ordered to leave France Charles de Gaulle (France) visits Moscow |
| 1967 | FRG establishes diplomatic relations w/ Rumania & Yugoslavia (1968) |
| 1968 | Suppression by Soviets of "Prague Spring"; articulation of "Brezhnev doctrine" China explodes its first hydrogen bomb |
| 1969 | Soviet-Chinese military skirmishes along Ussuri River US begins significant troop reductions in Vietnam |
| 1970 | FRG signs treaty with USSR & Poland |
| 1971 | Quadripartite Treaty on Berlin Signature between US & USSR of Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty Willy Brandt wins Nobel Peace Prize (for his <i>Ostpolitik</i> efforts) UN votes to replace Taiwan with People's Republic as representative for China |

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| 1972 | Nixon visits China Last US ground combat units leave Vietnam Nixon signs arms control agreements with Brezhnev in Moscow (SALT I) FRG & GDR sign "Basic Treaty" confirming their common frontier |
| 1973 | Yom Kippur War: Israel vs. Arab states Jackson-Vanik amendment compromises prospects of US-Soviet trade |
| 1974 | (Re?)-integration of all French and NATO forces in central Europe Summit between President Ford & Brezhnev in Vladivostok |
| 1975 | Appolo-Soyuz space mission. Helsinki Accords & Final Act (signed by 35 Euro-states plus Canada & US) |
| 1978 | Karol Wytola (a Pole) elected Pope John Paul II |
| 1979 | Leftist Sadinistas oust Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua Carter & Brezhnev sign SALT II in Vienna. ⁴ Islamic Revolution in Iran (leads to America hostage crisis) NATO takes decision to modernize its medium-range nuclear capability Soviet invasion of Afghanistan |
| 1980 | US boycotts summer Olympic Games in Moscow. ⁵ Creation of Solidarity union in Poland |
| 1981 | Declaration of martial law in Poland; Solidarity outlawed |
| 1982 | Martial law ended in Poland |
| 1983 | Solidarity's Lech Walesa receives Nobel Peace Prize Reagan announces plans to develop Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) Korean Air Lines flight shot down over Soviet air space |
| 1984 | Jaruzelski proclaims general amnesty to those imprisoned under martial law USSR & most Warsaw Pact countries boycott 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. ⁶ |
| 1985 | Mikhail Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of CPSU Eduard Shevardnadze replaces Andrei Gromyko as USSR foreign minister |
| 1986 | Nuclear disaster in Chernobyl Reagan & Gorbachev meet in Reykjavik, but without concluding an agreement Dr Werth visits East & West Berlin as an impressionable young 18-year old |
| 1987 | Gorbachev embarks on full-scale reform program "Petestroika" Washington summit leads to Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty |
| 1988 | Gorbachev meets FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, begins process of reunification Reagan visits Moscow, disavows reference to "evil empire" (1983) Dr Werth visits the USSR for the first time |
| 1989 | The fall of most one-party communist regimes in East-Central Europe |
| 1990 | Reunification of Germany (within NATO) |
| 1991 | Collapse of the USSR into 15 successor states Start of War(s) of Yugoslav Succession |

⁴ This treaty did not go into effect, since Carter withdrew it from the US Senate (1980) when he realized that it did not have the votes for ratification.

⁵ US boycott was joined by Canada, Norway, Turkey, and West Germany.

⁶ Although Romania conspicuously attended. Hooray for Ceausescu!!

Special Decolonization Time-line (since WWI)

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| 1919 | Britain & France take over former Ottoman Arab lands as mandates |
| 1922 | Egypt gains formal independence from Britain |
| 1932 | Iraq gains formal independence from British mandate |
| 1935 | Italy invades Ethiopia; last overt European conquest of overseas territory |
| 1942 | Japan takes over many European colonies in East Asia |
| 1944 | Formal & complete independence for Iceland from Denmark |
| 1945 | End of WWII; Japan deprived of all colonial holdings |
| 1946 | France relinquishes control over mandates in Syria & Lebanon Beginning of revolt in Indochina against French rule Independence for Philippines from the US |
| 1947 | Independence for India from Britain and partition into India & Pakistan* |
| 1948 | Indonesia gains independence after bitter fighting with the Netherlands Independence for Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and Myanmar (Burma) from Britain |
| 1949 | Successful communist revolution in China |
| 1950 | Chinese invasion and incorporation of Tibet |
| 1954 | Full independence of Egypt (removal of British forces) French defeat at Dien Bien Phu ends French presence in Indochina Beginning of Algerian revolt against French rule |
| 1956 | Suez Canal crisis |
| 1957 | Independence for Ghana begins process of African decolonization |
| 1958 | Fall of French Fourth Republic over Algeria (return of Charles de Gaulle) |
| 1960 | Independence for Belgian Congo (Zaire) & Nigeria France grants independence to all its black (sub-Saharan) African colonies |
| 1961 | Independence for Republic of South Africa |
| 1962 | Independence for Algeria after protracted war with France |
| 1974 | "Carnation Revolution" in Portugal |
| 1975 | Independence for Angola, Mozambique from Portugal |
| 1979 | Home rule (independence) for Greenland Islamic Revolution in Iran |
| 1988 | Beginning of conflict between Armenia & Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh |
| 1990 | Independence for Namibia (South West Africa), in effect from South Africa |
| 1991 | Break-up of the Soviet Union; independence for its fifteen union republics |
| 1994 | Russian invasion of Chechnya (ends in indecisive peace in 1996) |
| 1999 | Beginning of second Chechen War |
| 2008 | Russo-Georgian War over South Ossetia (and by extension Abkhazia) |

* Pakistan was itself composed of two geographically separate entities known as West Pakistan and East Pakistan. The latter became independent as Bangladesh in 1971.