

## 1900—Event & Trend Outline

We have yet to find the perfect book to teach 20th century world history. Each book has its own peculiar advantages and disadvantages.

The primary disadvantage to the *DK 20th Century Day by Day*? It gets you so entangled in the details that you may never get the “big picture”: what’s happening on the macro scale?

So once a decade, rather than hitting the daily events or even the events of that particular year, I want to outline the bigger events and trends you should be looking to see develop over the course of that decade and, potentially, into the decade(s) that follow.

Please note that, within the regular listings, we have placed boxes around those items that are especially significant. I have tried to avoid repeating those events—at least as events—within this broader “Event and Trend Outline.”

If you want to study this course primarily for an overview, I encourage you to concentrate on the events and trends listed here, and on the articles we have boxed in the main section.

I should note, too: as the book, so my notes: they tend to highlight items of interest to the United States and to Americans. Therefore, you will find few references, say, to the trends in other countries: Apartheid, say, in South Africa, or civil wars that kill large numbers of people in other countries but that go largely unnoticed in the United States.

I hope one day to overcome these deficiencies, but this is the best I can do at this time.

Thank you for your patience!

### ***Prime Events and Trends for the Century***

**The 20th Century is often called the American Century.** It is clearly the century in which the United States took center stage in the international theatre. Britain had enjoyed center stage for more than a hundred years prior; and it still held sway up to the First World War, but even at the start of the century, it was clear that the United States was “waiting in the wings.” . . .

### ***Prime Events and Trends for 1900-1909***

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of Hope.** The U.S. is beginning to flex its muscles on the international stage and its achievements in Panama (completion of the Canal), on land (Henry Ford’s automobile) and in the air (the Wright brothers’ airplane)—not to mention the rapid spread of “American” inventions like Edison’s light bulb and motion pictures—give it great influence worldwide.

**1898-July 1902: Spanish-American War leads to U.S.-Filipino War**—American soldiers, originally viewed as

saviors by the Filipinos are soon called upon to crush Filipino aspirations for independence. 4,200 U.S. soldiers, 20,000 Filipino soldiers and 200,000 Filipino civilians die before the Philippines is subjected to U.S. control.

**1899-1902: Boer War**—Establishes a new low standard for treatment of civilians in Western warfare.

**1900: Chinese “Boxer Rebellion”**—Chinese nationalists—called “boxers” because they used martial arts and calisthenics rituals—seek to destroy Western encroachment into their society; they especially attack Christian missionaries.

**1900-1960s: Huge advances in centralization of power in social structures—most especially in governments and businesses—around the world.** (See notes for June 30, 1906; May 8 and December 24, 1913; and August 3, 1929 for indications of this trend solely for the United States. You will see minor indications of it throughout the book if you keep your eyes open.)

**1900-1920s and beyond: Huge Advances in Travel**—First there is powered flight of a lighter-than-air vehicle (the Zeppelin dirigible; 1900), then of a heavier-than-air vehicle (the Wright brothers’ airplane; 1903). The automobile becomes a vehicle for “everyone” (Ford introduces the Model A in 1903 and the Model T in 1908); meanwhile, automobile speed records keep falling with 120 mph speeds reached in 1908. Railroads become faster with a 16-hour New York-to-Chicago run in 1902. The use of oil in shipping extends the speed and range of naval vessels and leads to ever-larger designs. . . .

**1900-1921: Irish Republicans seek independence from England**—and eventually acquire Free State status (minus the six Northern counties).

**1901: First experimental radio broadcast.**

**1903-1918: German and British maneuvering for control of Middle Eastern oil and supremacy on the seas leads to World War I.**

**1904-1905: Russia and Japan maneuvering for control of the Far East.** Japan keeps defeating Russian forces.

**1904-1914: Panama Canal is built.**

**1905-1918: Russian Czar loses power and Bolsheviks take over.**

**1907-1945: Eugenics movement gains acceptance, then the backing of the international scientific and legal communities . . . leading to forced sterilizations in the United States and, eventually, mass extermination (in Germany) of those considered “genetically unfit” or of the wrong class.** (See summary notes for July 26, 1933.) ■

## 1910—Event & Trend Outline

### *Prime Events and Trends for 1910-1919*

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of Triumph.** American inventions continue to gain worldwide attention and the late involvement of American forces in World War I clearly tips the balance to those who finally declare victory. American finances also help rebuild shattered Europe.

**1911: Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire** (among other horrors) leads to major labor law reforms in the United States.

**June 28, 1914–November 11, 1918: World War I** and the introduction (among others) of air warfare, submarine warfare, trench warfare, the use of poison gas in warfare, and the tank.

**1914–1922: Greek Holocaust at the hands of the Turks.**

**1914–1945: Japan seeks to control China.**

**1915: Armenian Holocaust at the hands of the Turks.** Hitler will use the Turks' crimes as a basis for his own. Shortly before he begins his destruction of the Jews he asks, "Who now remembers the Armenians?"

**1915: Einstein proposes the General Theory of Relativity** which leads, soon, to the broader *social* theory of *relativism*.

**1916–1920: Women's suffrage movement makes gains in the United States** as Jeanette Rankin becomes the first Congresswoman (1916; before women have the right to vote) and the 19th Amendment is finally passed (1920) granting women the right to vote in federal elections.

**1917: The United States enters the War in Europe** and a military draft is enacted.

**1917–1920: The Russian Revolution** ends the reign of the Czar and establishes the Communist Party—and, more specifically, the Bolsheviks—in sole, absolute power.

**1917–1948: The Zionist Movement gathers steam . . .** as British Foreign Minister Balfour issues the Balfour Declaration (1917) and Israel is eventually declared an independent nation (1948).

**1918–1919: Spanish Flu kills millions**—possibly more than any other pandemic in world history.

**1917–1929: Race relations in the United States are at all-time lows** as Ku Klux Klan membership proliferates, race riots explode, and black lynchings—which have been in the double digits since the turn of the century (and in the low triple digits for 9 of the 11 years from 1891–1901)—continue apace. Please note that most of the details of this tension are buried in your book in the

monthly sidebars or go completely unreported. Note, however, the suggestive *outlines* of the story found in the following articles: 7/2/17; July 30, 1919; 9/28/19; 2/9, 6/15, 20/20; 6/1, 9/11, 12/20/21; 3/15, 24, 5/18, 11/19/22; June 30, September 15, 10/24, October 25, and 11/19, 1923; 7/12/24; etc. Of particular interest: Note that House Democrats *blocked* a federal anti-lynching bill (12/20/21). And while occasional lynching stories are reported (9/28/19; 2/9, 6/15/20; 5/18/22) the actual numbers are far higher than the reports indicate. See, for example, the 12/28/28 article that says, "nine Negroes lynched in 1928 [is the] lowest figure in 40 years." For more on this aspect of American history, see [www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/shipp/lynchingyear.html](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/shipp/lynchingyear.html) (for raw statistics). Also [www.blackwallstreet.freesevers.com/](http://www.blackwallstreet.freesevers.com/).

**1918ff: The Russian Bolshevik Communists seek to spread their revolution worldwide**, creating terror and unrest wherever they go. The Bolsheviks found Comintern (the Communist International or "Third International") in March 1919. At its Second Congress, in the summer of 1920, they proudly declare: "The Communist International is the international party for insurrection and proletarian dictatorship." During the ensuing years, organized, armed (violent, terrifying) insurrections are organized in Germany (Berlin & Bavaria—1919; Hamburg—1921), Hungary (1919); Estonia (1924); Bulgaria (1924); France (1924ff); China (1925ff); and elsewhere. Less organized, but no less terrifying, Communist "actions" take place elsewhere around the world, including in the United States. (Meanwhile, many non-Communist parties and governments seek to benefit from the Communist terror by charging opponents Communists who are not truly Communists, thus raising the specter of violent conflict even higher.)

**1919ff: The British, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman empires collapse**, leading to major political upheaval across Europe. The Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires died directly in the immediate aftermath of the War, and these changes were recognized by and formalized in the various treaties signed upon conclusion of the fighting. The British Empire suffered a slower decline precipitated by its enormous war debts. "From being the World's largest overseas investor, it became one of its biggest debtors, with interest payments forming around 40% of all government spending. Inflation more than doubled between 1914 and its peak in 1920, while the value of the Pound Sterling fell by 61.2%. Reparations in the form of free German coal depressed the local industry, precipitating the 1926 General Strike."<sup>1</sup>

**1919–1943: Anti-Communist and totalitarian, Fascism comes to rule Italy (1922–1943). ■**

<sup>1</sup>From "Aftermath of World War I: British Empire" in *Wikipedia*, found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aftermath\\_of\\_World\\_War\\_I#British\\_Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aftermath_of_World_War_I#British_Empire) on 19 October 2004.

## 1920—Event & Trend Outline

### *Prime Events and Trends for 1920-1929*

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of Euphoria.** The “Roaring Twenties” don’t really start to roar until about 1922, but the general feeling is exuberant.

**1920-1933: Prohibition rules the United States**—and, rather than contributing to a more peaceful and civilized society, seems to contribute to more drunkenness and brazen disregard for the law than ever before; gangsters multiply, law enforcement is corrupted, and murder seems to become the order of the day; federal law enforcement is expanded at an unprecedented rate.

**1920: Urban population exceeds rural population for the first time in U.S. history.**

**1920-1927: Commercial radio comes into its own**—from the first commercial radio station (1920) to transatlantic broadcasting (1923) to network broadcasting over thousands of miles (1924). Federal Radio Commission established (1927).

**1921-1949: Nationalist and Communist Chinese troops battle among themselves for control of the mainland** until Communists take full control in late 1949 and nationalists flee to Formosa/Taiwan.

**1922-1923: Germany suffers the first and worst modern Western hyperinflation.**

**1922-1929: Flapper/Roaring 20s Era in the United States**—times seem good as employment is high, wages rise, everyone seems to be getting richer. Women wear shorter skirts, men, wider pants; women bob their hair (cut it short). Dancing, smoking, and drinking become the rage. . . .

**1922-1947: Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru’s leadership of a mostly non-violent resistance to British rule in India eventually leads to the creation of the independent Indian and Pakistani states (1947).**

**1925: Conservative Christians who oppose the teaching of evolution in the public school classrooms win a case but seem to lose the American culture in the Scopes “Monkey” Trial.**

**1925: The racist Ku Klux Klan movement hits its peak in the United States.**

**1926-1929: TV is developed**—first experimental “wireless motion pictures” or TV (1926; 25 years after the first experimental radio broadcast); first TV set is sold (1928); first experimental color TV is demonstrated (1929).

**1928: Modern antibiotics are first discovered.**

**October 24, 1929: “Black Thursday” sparks America’s “Great Depression.” ■**

## 1930—Event & Trend Outline

### Prime Events and Trends for 1930-1939

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of—yes, you guessed it!—Depression.** The Great Depression engulfs the entire decade with little relief.

**1929-1934: International trade declines by some 66%** as tensions rise within the international community (i.e., primarily European nations and the U.S.).

**1930-1945: The National Socialist (Nazi) Party rises to prominence and, eventually, absolute power, in Germany.**

**1930-1941: The “Great Depression” creates massive unemployment, poverty, and misery for millions . . .** not only in the United States, but around the world.

**The U.S. federal government grows rapidly**, almost tripling in size (measured by expenditures alone) between 1930 and 1940. The federal government takes on greater roles in the U.S. economy and provides, for the first time ever (and in opposition to the Constitution), direct welfare aid to individuals. Primary excuse for this unconstitutional usurpation: the needs created by the Great Depression.

**1933-present: The American dollar, removed from the gold standard, is slowly inflated into relative worthlessness.** (An American dollar today, in 2004, is worth less than 6.9 cents in 1933 dollars, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. —See its Consumer Price Index calculator at <http://minneapolisfed.org/Research/data/us/calc/index.cfm>.)

**1966: U.S. silver coinage is debased.** Dimes, quarters and half-dollars, which had been made of 90% silver, are now “clad,” with faces that are 75% copper/25% nickel, and a core of pure copper. **Note:** The last date on 90% silver coins is “1964,” but, “According to *Domestic and Foreign Coins Manufactured by Mints of the United States 1793-1980*, published by the Department of the Treasury/Bureau of the Mint: ‘Public Law 88-580, Sept. 3, 1964 authorized the Mint to inscribe the figure 1964 on all coins minted until adequate supplies were available. Public Law 89-81 repealed that legislation. Coins bearing the year 1964 were produced from Jan. 1964-Apr. 1966.’”<sup>2</sup>

**1968: U.S. government no longer willing to trade dollars for silver.**

**1973-1980: Price inflation in the U.S. hits 12 to 15 percent or more while unemployment rises to 11 percent** following the Arab oil embargo (October 1973-March 1974). The financial future of the United States appears bleak. Popular economists speak of a new phenomenon called “stagflation”—inflation during a

stagnant economic period. The U.S. government seeks to reduce inflation by command, placing wage and price controls on most goods and services.

**1982: U.S. pennies are debased** from 95% copper/5% zinc to copper-plated zinc.

**1931-1939: The “Dust Bowl”** devastates the mid-American plains states, destroying millions of acres of farmland and forcing hundreds of thousands of Americans from their homes. Go to [www.photolib.noaa.gov/search.html](http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/search.html) and search on *dust bowl* for dramatic photos; [www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/timeline/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/timeline/) includes a helpful and detailed/informative timeline. Further information and photos are available at [www.usd.edu/anth/epa/dust.html](http://www.usd.edu/anth/epa/dust.html). (Note that dust storms are still experienced today. As the caption under the ever-circulating photos at [www.usd.edu/anth/epa/future.html](http://www.usd.edu/anth/epa/future.html) says: “Winter 1995-1996, north of Vermillion, South Dakota. Soil from Fall plowing on the Vermillion River floodplain blows into drifts and fills the ditches. Drifts are often 2-3 feet deep. Sometimes in Eastern South Dakota on windy winter days, the sunny sky fills with blowing topsoil and the sky turns dark.”)

**1935-1939: Trans-oceanic commercial air travel begins**—across the Pacific in 1935, eventually followed by trans-Atlantic flights in 1939.

**Mid- to late 1930s: Plastics industry begins to take off** as chemists discover how to make plastics from petroleum and industrial engineers figure out how to improve and fully automate injection molding. The advent of nylon, in 1937, presents the first plastic with insatiable consumer demand.

**1936-1939: The Spanish Civil War** (preceded by some three years of violence) pits Communist-supported “Republicans” against conservative, Fascist-supported “Nationalists.” Half a million to a million Spaniards die. As *Wikipedia* describes it, “Republican sympathizers proclaimed it as a struggle between ‘tyranny and democracy,’ or ‘fascism and liberty.’ Franco’s supporters, on the other hand, viewed it as a battle between the ‘red hordes’ (of communism and anarchism) and ‘civilization.’”<sup>3</sup> The War presages much of what the world will witness in the international conflict of 1939-1945—what we know as World War II.

**1937-1945: The Second Sino-Japanese War** leads to the deaths of just over a million Japanese soldiers and some 20 million Chinese—3.2 million soldiers and over 17 million civilians. Japan invaded Manchuria, set up a puppet government there, and laid the groundwork for this war in 1932.

<sup>2</sup>Found at <http://conecaonline.org/content/1964CoinageStrkThru1966.htm> on 26 October 2004.

<sup>3</sup>From “Spanish Civil War” in *Wikipedia*, found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish\\_civil\\_war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_civil_war) on 16 October 2004.

**September 1, 1939-May 8, 1945 (V-E Day) and September 2, 1945 (V-J Day):** World War II leads to almost 55 million casualties, total—approximately 2 percent of the world’s population—including some 37.2 million civilians.

**1939: U.S. establishes a presence in the oil-rich Middle East** through the acquisition of a grant to all the oil in Saudi Arabia—thus setting the stage for major American conflicts in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. ■

## 1940—Event & Trend Outline

### *Prime Events and Trends for 1940-1949*

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective):** A decade of **Fear (1940-43)**, **Hope (1944-45)**, **Triumph and Bewilderment (1946-1949)**. Why have I broken it down this way? Because the first three years of the decade were truly fearsome as Hitler's army seemed unbeatable. Only late in the War did the Allies begin to make plans assuming they would win the war. And once the war was over, society "back home" was in turmoil. Women had now entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers and returning GIs wondered where they should go, what they should do. This, too, was the period in which the Baby Boom began and urbanites began moving to the suburbs. The American population was on the move.

**1942-1945: The U.S.' Manhattan Project** creates the world's first atomic bomb.

**1944-1964: The legal status of black Americans changes** as U.S. Supreme Court and federal legislators slowly move to enforce basic rights for blacks against protracted and violent opposition. (See, for example, April 3 and 4/13, 1944; May 12, 6/5, 12/4, 1950; March 3, 9/3, 11/10, 1952; 6/2/53; May 17, 6/10, 6/25, 12/21, 1954; 5/31, 11/25, 12/1, 12/5/55; 1/9<sup>4</sup>, 2/6, 2/21, 3/5, 4/23, 6/1, 11/13/56; 1/1, 2/14, 4/29, August 29, 9/2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 14, 23, 24, September 25, 1957; 6/21, 8/21, September 12, 9/29, 10/5/58; 6/18, August 12, 1959; 2/2, 5/6/60; 1/6, 7/11/61; 9/13, 17, 24, 25, 29, 11/20/62; April 25, May 18, 5/20, 21, 6/1, June 11, 9/2, 5, 10/63; 1/23, July 2, 1964. . . ) Notice that I have left out references to all manner of additional "stories" about significant and often violent agitation by both blacks and whites—blacks to highlight their plight and whites to prevent blacks from acquiring any rights or benefits that they had previously been denied.

**1944-present: National trade, monetary and economic policies worldwide are more and more regionalized and internationalized** as various international economic, monetary and trade organizations are developed (International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("World Bank"); 1944); the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT; 1947) which eventually becomes the World Trade Organization (WTO; 1994/95); the European Coal and Steel Community (1951) which becomes the European Economic Community (1957) which, in turn, becomes the European Union (1992); the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Area (AFTA; 1992); the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA; 1994); and others.

**1944: Rocket propulsion first used for practical (military, in this case!) purposes.**

**1945: United Nations comes into existence.**

**1945: World's first atom bomb is exploded by the United States** ushering in a period of global terror as, eventually, other nations acquire similar capabilities. An "arms race" between the Soviet Union and the United States claimants in a MAD policy—a policy of Mutual Assured Destruction. Both sides have enough nuclear weapons to destroy their enemies many times over.

**1945-1991: Soviet Union takes "legitimate" control (with the blessing of Britain and the United States) of many Eastern European nations**, thus creating "satellites" ("Soviet Bloc" countries). Many of these will become known (in 1955) as "Warsaw Pact" nations and all of them will soon be viewed by Westerners as existing "behind the Iron Curtain."

**1946-1991: Great pressure is placed on small nations around the world to "align" themselves either with "the West" (i.e., largely, the United States and Britain) or with the Soviet Union.** It becomes extremely difficult for small countries to remain "non-aligned" and, thus, truly independent of the super-powers. Both the United States and the Soviet Union tend to view countries that are unwilling to "align" their policies with one or the other as "clients" or "puppets" of the other side. An unwillingness to promise allegiance to one of the super-powers means that a country will receive little if any aid; or, if put "positively," a declaration of agreement with one side or the other usually resulted in significant "aid"—primarily military, though at least partially economic and/or technical as well. . . .

**1947: India and Pakistan acquire independence** from Britain.

**1947-1954: "Red Scare" in the United States peaks** as the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC; established in 1937) and Senator Joseph R. McCarthy pursue Communists in government, organized labor, and the entertainment industry ("Hollywood").

**1948ff: Electric household appliances become massively popular in the United States.**

**1948: Israel declares its independence.**

**1948-present: "The Sexual Revolution."**

**1948: The Kinsey Report's** false "science" lays the popular foundation for a transformation in American sexual mores.

**1955: Hugh Hefner begins publishing *Playboy***, a "men's" magazine which brings pornography into the mainstream.

**1961: "The Pill"** promises to remove procreation from sexual intercourse and, as a concomitant, sexual intercourse from marriage.

<sup>4</sup>Note that it is because of examples like this one of state funding for private schools in order to avoid providing "equal protection under the law" for all citizens, that the entire idea of any public funds going to private, religious, or homeschools is so abhorrent to many people.

**1965-present: Percentage of heterosexual couples cohabiting rather than marrying grows exponentially.** Different sources place the growth in the range of 10 to 15 times—1,000 to 1,500 percent. Domestic violence against women grows alongside this shift as cohabiting women are far more likely to be abused by their male companions than are wives by their husbands.

**1969-1980s: Advent of “No-Fault” Divorce laws** in many states reduces the perceived “value” of marriage for many Americans.

**June 1970: Modern “Gay Rights” movement** is born in the United States when homosexual activists stage a protest march.

**1970-1980s: Divorce rates soar** (from an average of 2.2 to 2.5 divorces per thousand population in the United States in the 1950s through 1965, to a rate of 5.0 to 5.3 divorces per thousand population each year between 1975 and 1985). By the late 1990s and early 2000s, the rate has settled back to between 4.0 and 4.3 divorces per thousand population each year.<sup>5</sup>

**January 21, 1973: Roe v. Wade legalizes abortion** in almost all circumstances in the United States, further removing procreation from sexual intercourse and sexual intercourse from marriage.

**December 15, 1973: The American Psychiatric Association declares homosexuality is not a disorder and homosexuals should be granted full civil rights.**

**March 1979: First “palimony” lawsuit** launched by a woman who specifically disavowed marriage but then wanted to enjoy the privileges of marriage when her male companion no longer wanted to cohabit with her.

**1980s-present: The number of STDs (sexually transmitted diseases—including AIDS) multiplies and the number of infections soars** leading to suffering, debility, sterility and death.

**1949: NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) creates a strong Western alliance to counter the perceived growing threat of the Soviet Union and its satellites/clients.**

**1949: China falls under control of the Communist Party. ■**

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<sup>5</sup>Found at [www.divorcereform.org/03statab.html](http://www.divorcereform.org/03statab.html) on 25 October 2004.

## 1950—Event & Trend Outline

### *Prime Events and Trends for 1950-1959*

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of Confusion.** This is the period in which the Cold War began, the UN began to flex its muscles, Americans want nothing more than to enjoy the good life . . . and yet their government is torn by charges of Communist infiltration . . . and the interstate highway system begins to be built. . .

**June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953: Korean War**, the first war in what will become known as the “Cold War” between the United States and the Soviet Union, establishes a new American warfare “policy” of “containment” rather than victory over its enemies, and a pattern of cooperation with (if not subordination to) the United Nations in its international military activities.

**1950-mid '70s and beyond: As European-Americans flee American cities, suburban populations explode.** Suburban population in the United States, for example, grows 46% between 1950 and 1956. Meanwhile major cities experience significant decay (Detroit and St. Louis, for example, in 2004 have half the populations they had in 1950) and significant demographic shifts (from significant majority white populations to significant majorities of non-whites).

**1950-present: Purchasing habits change.**

**1950: First “universal” credit card is introduced by Diner’s Club**, thus permitting a person to purchase “on credit” from more than one merchant. (Prior to that time, credit cards were offered only by individual merchants; that idea was introduced in the 1920s.) American Express and Bank of America will introduce their cards in 1958 and '59 (the BankAmericard is now known as VISA).

**1954: Southdale Shopping Center opens in Edina, Minnesota:** the first enclosed shopping mall, heated in winter and cooled in the summer. Southdale features 72 stores with two department store anchors . . . and 10,000 parking spaces.

**1962-present: Discount retailers appear.** Wal-Mart (single store) and K-Mart (18 large stores formerly known as Kresge’s) make their appearance. Today, Wal-Mart is the world’s largest employer.

**1962: First Wal-Mart opens.**

**1983: First Sam’s Club opens in Midwest City, Oklahoma.**

**1988: First Supercenter opens in Washington, Missouri.**

**1990: Wal-Mart becomes nation’s No. 1 retailer.**

**1991: First Wal-Mart outside of the U.S. opens in Mexico City.**

**1993: First billion-dollar sales week, in December.**

**1997: Wal-Mart becomes the No. 1 employer in the United States, with 680,000 employees worldwide.**

**1997: Wal-Mart has its first \$100 billion sales year.**

**1999: Wal-Mart has 1,140,000 employees worldwide, making it the largest private employer in the world.**

**2001: Wal-Mart has its biggest single day sales in history: US\$1.25 billion on the day after Thanksgiving.**

**1967: Automated Inbound Collect Call system is introduced** by AT&T. —We know this service today as toll-free or “800-number” service. By 1992, toll-free calls made up 40% of all the long-distance service provided by AT&T.<sup>6</sup>

**1971: Federal Express—“When you absolutely, positively must have it there overnight”—is founded**, thus creating a new demand for fast delivery.

**1995: Amazon.com is founded and proves the broad commercial viability of the Internet.**

**1954: Frozen foods become mainstream.** First ever sold in 1930 and first distributed nationwide in 1944, frozen fresh foods are now carried in almost two-thirds of all retail grocery stores. See [www.birdseyefoods.com/corp/about/clarenceBirdseye.asp](http://www.birdseyefoods.com/corp/about/clarenceBirdseye.asp) and [www.affi.com/factstat-history.asp](http://www.affi.com/factstat-history.asp) for more of the story.

**1956-1980: African De-Colonialization.** African nations gain independence from European colonial powers. Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia lead the way in 1956. The Gold Coast (Côte d’Ivoire)/Ghana follows in '57. South Africa and Guinea gain their independence in 1958. The tidal wave of change comes in 1960 as seventeen nations stand on their own after a century or more of European domination. Only two countries become independent in 1961; four in '62; two in '63; two more in '64; one in '65; two in '66; three in '68. Five nations gain their independence in 1975, two in '76, one in '77. Rhodesia/Zimbabwe is last to gain full independence in 1980. Note: Several other African countries have been formed since 1980, but they have come about as breakaways from already independent African nations.

**1956-1980: Interstate Highway system is built**, leading to a transportation revolution in the United States. (Over-the-road trucking, for example, far outstrips rail carriage.) Having originally (in 1956) authorized 41,000 miles of controlled-access, grade-separated, divided highway, the U.S. Congress soon expanded its plan to cover 42,500 miles. The system was to be completed by 1975. Though not completed by 1975, 10,000 miles of highway were in operation by 1960; 20,000 miles by 1965; 30,000 by 1970; and 40,000 by 1980. As of 1996, there are 42,700 miles in operation but still a few areas that have not been completed. (See [www.publicpurpose.com/freeway1.htm](http://www.publicpurpose.com/freeway1.htm) for further details.)

<sup>6</sup>From [www.800voicemailstore.com/toll-free-history.htm](http://www.800voicemailstore.com/toll-free-history.htm). Found on 29 October 2004.



**October 1957-July 1969: Soviet-American “Space Race”** is eventually “won” by the United States when two American astronauts land on the Moon.

**1958-1961: Jet aircraft quickly become popular in long-haul commercial travel in the West** (i.e., between and in the United States, Britain, and destinations frequented by their citizens). Note that BOAC, the British Overseas Aircraft Corporation had initiated commercial jet travel in 1952 to great acclaim. The new De Havilland Comet had a

top cruising speed of about 480 miles an hour compared to the then standard top cruising speed for a piston engine of about 180 miles an hour. After several spectacular crashes within two years, however, BOAC abandoned the jets. They didn’t re-start such service until October 4, 1958, three weeks before Pan American Airways did the same. (Meanwhile, the Soviet Union established regular jet service inside the country in 1955.) ■

## 1960—Event & Trend Outline

### *Prime Events and Trends for 1960-1969*

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of Anger.** Civil rights marches and racial animosity consume headlines. Warfare and violent antiwar demonstrations vie for people's attention. Society seems to be melting down as "hippies" "tune in, turn on, and drop out" of the mainstream culture.

**1960-1963: Civil rights activists seek to prick the conscience of the American nation and illustrate the plight of black people** by engaging in lunch counter sit-in protests, "Freedom Rides," and other forms of so-called "civil disobedience."

**1961: "The Pill"—contraceptive, birth control—gains quick acceptance in the United States** and contributes to what many call a "sexual revolution" in which sexual activity among unmarried people has exploded . . . and, concomitantly, deadly sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have become common.

**1962-1963: Satellites are first used for communication.** They will transform the communications industries—telephone, television, and radio.

**1962-1965: Vatican II Council transforms the Roman Catholic Church.**

**October 22-28, 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis.**

**1963 & 1966: Supreme Court decisions with respect to Clarence Earl Gideon and Ernest Miranda transform the law enforcement and criminal justice systems in the United States.** I am *slightly* oversimplifying the case, but: The decision with respect to *Gideon* forces states to provide legal counsel to poor and indigent persons who face criminal prosecution. Put another way: Mr. Gideon's case established the office of Public Defender in every jurisdiction of the United States. The balance of power in criminal cases shifted dramatically *away* from the state as a result of this decision. The *Miranda* decision created the situation that we have today in which police officers regularly, though perhaps perfunctorily, recite what are now known as the "Miranda Warnings"—a list of the suspect's constitutional rights—as they take a suspect into custody. No more can police officers expect to use in a court of law any statements a prisoner makes prior to reading him his rights. (See [www.tourolaw.edu/patch/Miranda/](http://www.tourolaw.edu/patch/Miranda/) for a copy of the decision itself. It is fascinating to read the legal arguments.)

**1964-1973: "Rock" music seems both to create and define a "youth [-oriented] culture" in the United States and western Europe.**

**1964-1968: LBJ's "Great Society" and "War on Poverty" initiatives** create, beyond numerous federally-funded jobs training and educational initiatives, expansion of the Social Security Administration to include Medicare and Medicaid, creation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and development of massive government-funded housing "projects" that have become centers of poverty, vice, and hopelessness.

**December 1964: The Berkeley (California) "Free Speech" Movement** foreshadows student radicalism on American college campuses over the next 10 years.

**1965-1975: U.S. military personnel are actively involved in the ongoing civil war in Vietnam.**

**1965: Lady Bird Johnson (wife of the American president) joins the "Keep America Beautiful—Don't Be a Litterbug!" campaign** to promote highway beautification. Anti-littering becomes a major theme in the United States.

**1965-1970: California Grape Workers' Strike** (and occasional boycott and hunger strike) arranged by Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers seeks to transform the living conditions of (primarily Mexican) migrant farm workers in the United States. This first strike and boycott was followed by others against grape and lettuce growers.

**1966: Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed* contributes to passage of the federal Highway Safety Act** which leads to a transformation in automobile and highway engineering . . . and a dramatic decrease in traffic injuries and deaths. Among the changes: by mandate, cars began to be built with (among other things) head rests, energy-absorbing steering wheels, shatter-resistant windshields, safety belts, recessed door handles, break-away rear-view mirrors, etc. Laws were written to require the use of safety belts, child seats, air bags, etc. Roads built with federal funds had to meet higher standards, including better delineation of curves (through edge and center striping and reflectors), use of breakaway sign and utility poles, improved lighting, barriers separating oncoming traffic lanes, guardrails, "wrong way" signs, and so forth. Deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled declined by over two thirds in the 30 years after passage of the Highway Safety Act and by 40 percent per 100,000 population.

**1966-1969 (1976)—Chinese "Cultural Revolution"** leads to massive suffering—including mass murders and torture—throughout China at the hands of the "Red Guards." Though Mao officially ended the "Revolution" in 1969, he and his "Gang of Four" cronies remained in power until 1976. Deng Xiaoping and others among those who replaced the "Gang of Four" have been relatively successful in declaring the entire period of 1966-1976 (when Mao died and his cronies were removed from power) as the period of the "Cultural Revolution."

**1967-1970: Radical “Black Power” demands and the Black Panther Party gain national attention in the United States** as Dr. Martin Luther King’s non-violent methods of civil protest come under heavy attack from younger members of the black community.

**1967-approximately 1971: The “hippie” movement** (which began in 1967, and “officially”—according to members of that community—ended in 1967) flourishes in the United States, and particularly in the San Francisco Bay area.

**1967-1970: Eastern Nigeria (“Biafra”) seeks independence from Nigeria.** Some 400,000 to a million people die—most from starvation—during the 30-month war.

**June 1967: The “Six-Days War”** pits Israel against the combined might of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Though the Arab states attacked in complete surprise, Israel not only defends itself, but acquires over four times the landmass it had prior to the battle.

**1967-1972: Anti-[Vietnam] war protests grow in strength and number in the United States.**

**1967-1980: Energy Shortage/Energy Crisis.**

**1965-1976: Environmental regulations contribute to coal productivity declines and rising prices.** On average, a single coal miner produced 14 tons of coal per day in 1965; by 1976, production has fallen to 8.5 tons per worker day.

**1967-1969: Electricity demand growth outpaces production capacity causing “brownouts” in many urban areas of the eastern United States.**

**1970: Clean Air Act makes American-produced oil less attractive and Middle Eastern oil more attractive for power production,** thus shifting more and more American oil purchases offshore and increasing the likelihood of major oceanic oil spills.

**1970-2003: U.S. oil production falls 40% (from its all-time peak in 1970) while consumption rises 37%.<sup>7</sup>**

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<sup>7</sup>I have just (in October 2004) been made aware of the concept of “peak oil”: the place in time when a well, a region, a nation, or the world produces the most oil. When an oil well is half emptied, the cost to extract the remaining oil begins to rise exponentially: the oil present underground is no longer under pressure, so the surface pump(s) must work harder and harder—i.e., use more energy—to extract the oil. Engineers and economists, therefore, are beginning to worry about “peak oil.” According to the Uppsala Hydrocarbon Depletion Study Group ([www.peakoil.net/uhdsg/Default.htm](http://www.peakoil.net/uhdsg/Default.htm)), we should hit the world peak in about 2008, “with terminal decline setting in and becoming self-evident by about 2010.” And what does that mean? One commentator, who seems to prefer the scarier scenarios, says, “According to some estimates, the price of a barrel of oil will increase, don’t look now, **five- to six-fold** in only a few years time, to prices up to 200 dollars per barrel! This will unleash a worldwide economic crisis beyond imagination, making the Great Depression of the 1930s look like a fun time.” (From “Crash! The Great Depression was fun, here’s . . . Peak Oil!” found at [www.xs4all.nl/~mke/oilcrash.htm](http://www.xs4all.nl/~mke/oilcrash.htm) on 26 October 2004.) For more on this subject, please see the Association for Peak Oil & Gas ([www.peakoil.net/](http://www.peakoil.net/)), Hubbert Peak of Oil Production ([www.hubbertpeak.com/](http://www.hubbertpeak.com/)), and—most highly readable—the Grandfather Economic Energy Report (<http://mwhodges.home.att.net/energy/energy.htm>).

**1970s & ’80s: Coal-fired electric generation plants take 8 years to build; nuclear power plants take 12.** Since interest payments have to be maintained during building, and since most states do not allow utilities to recover the cost of plants until they are up and running, the additional four years mean huge additional costs to power companies before they can earn any return on their investments . . . and thus make nuclear power a very unattractive option.

**October 1973-March 1974: When Arab forces attack Israel, OPEC shuts off oil to Western nations that support Israel.**

**March 1974: OPEC permits sale of oil, but at \$12/barrel as compared to \$2/barrel before the embargo.**

**1975, 1979: Significant accidents at the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Brown’s Ferry nuclear plant and the Three Mile Island nuclear unit** make many leery of nuclear power.

**December 1977-March 1978: United Mine Workers of America strike against coal companies** bringing power plant coal reserves close to zero—and thus threatening nationwide electrical supplies.

**1979: Energy crisis and lines of cars waiting to be filled with gasoline return to the United States as the Iranian Revolution cuts oil supplies.** President Carter makes symbolic efforts to encourage energy conservation, such as wearing a sweater, and installing solar power panels on the roof of the White House and a woodstove in the living quarters. Various tax policies encourage Americans to invest in alternative—and, most particularly, solar—energy sources.

**1968-1976: Airplane hijackings—soon to be called skyjackings—become popular. Airline security becomes an issue.**

**1968-1979: “End of the World as we know it” mentality seems to rule in the United States.**

**1968: Stanford University Professor Paul Ehrlich publishes *The Population Bomb*** which predicts unavoidable ecological catastrophes and mass starvations in the 1970s and ’80s due to human “overpopulation.”

**1970: Christian prophecy specialist Hal Lindsey publishes *The Late Great Planet Earth*** which predicts Christ’s return and major tribulation sometime in the near future. Over 15 million copies of the book sell in the next 10 years.

**1969-1979: Environmental movement at its peak.**

**1969: National Environmental Policy Act is passed and Environmental Protection Agency is created.**

**1970: First “Earth Day.”**

**1972: Water Pollution Control Act is passed.**

**1973: Endangered Species Act is passed.**

**June 15, 1977: Endangered Species Act is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court** in *Tennessee Valley Authority v. Hill et al.* A previously unknown species of tiny fish, called the snail darter, was discovered downstream from a dam that was almost finished being built by the TVA at a cost of over \$80 million. Chief Justice Warren Burger says, "It is clear that Congress intended to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction whatever the cost." And thus is established in the United States the principle that it doesn't matter if people love the animal in question or

even know of its existence, extinction of species is bad and should be avoided at all costs.

**August 1978:** President Carter declares an emergency at Love Canal. The Love Canal scandal alerts the nation to the long-term, hidden dangers of pollution of soil and groundwater.

**March 1979:** Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident gives the American nuclear power industry a black eye. ■

## 1970—Event & Trend Outline

### *Prime Events and Trends for 1970-1979*

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of Cold and Dark.** The terms are literal, but they have emotional equivalents. The United States was shaken by fiscal crises, energy shortages, commercial attacks from overseas (especially Japan), concerns about the environment, and more. Truly, one wondered if we were coming to the end of the world as we know it. . . .

**1971-1979: Idi Amin rules—and devastates—Uganda.**

**1973-1979: Price inflation in the U.S. hits 12 to 15 percent or more while unemployment rises to 11 percent** following the Arab oil embargo (October 1973-March 1974). Popular economists speak of a new phenomenon called “stagflation”—inflation during a stagnant economic period. The U.S. government seeks to reduce inflation by command, placing wage and price controls on most goods and services.

**1973-1979: “Gas shortages” and “energy shortages” of other varieties become common.**

**February 27-May 7, 1973: The American Indian Movement gains national attention as members take over a trading post and church at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.**

**June 26, 1974: Barcodes are born.** A jumbo pack of Wrigley’s Spearmint gum made history when a cashier slid the pack of gum in front of the scanner. Instantly, the cash register knew which product it was and how much to charge the customer. Today, over 10 billion barcodes are scanned every day. They track everything from donated blood, supermarket discounts, dry-cleaning, overnight deliveries, college students, endangered wildlife, DVD rentals, gym memberships, even prescriptions.

**1974-1989: Foreign-made cars, led by Japanese automakers, gobble market share.** By 1974, foreign cars make up 20 percent of the U.S. market—a giant increase from 1958, when fewer than 1 percent of all cars sold in America came from overseas, and 1960, when 10 percent of all car sales were from foreign manufacturers (the largest of which was Volkswagen). In 1989, foreign imports made up 33.9 percent of all car sales in the United States.

**April 1975-January 1979: Pol Pot’s Khmers Rouges [kuh-MARE roozh] rule Cambodia and murder close to a third of the population.**

**1975-2002: Timor-Leste (commonly known as East Timor but officially titled Timor-Leste) gains independence at great cost.** The country declares independence from Portugal in November 1975 but is soon invaded by Indonesia. For the next 27 years, the guerrilla war will leave somewhere between 100,000 and 250,000 people dead. Timor-Leste is finally recognized as an independent nation in May 2002.

**1979-present: Rise of radical (conservative) Islam.**

**1979: Iranian Revolution replaces secular government with conservative Muslim government.**

**1989: The Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran issues a *fatwa* (death sentence) against Salman Rushdie, a Pakistani-born British author who has written a book that offends Khomeini’s Islamic sensibilities.**

**1991: Sudan adopts *Sharia* as the law of the land for both religious and secular purposes** and begins to hand down judicial sentences that shock Western observers. (Punishments include amputation of one/both hand(s) for theft and stoning for adultery.)

**1992: Saudi Arabia adopts *Sharia*.**

**1993: New York City’s World Trade Center is attacked by Muslims under the direction of an Egyptian sheikh.**

**1996-2001: Religiously conservative Taliban rule Afghanistan and support Al Qaeda.**

**1998: Pakistan adopts *Sharia*.**

**2000-2002: Twelve northern states in Nigeria adopt *Sharia*.**

**September 11, 2001: Al Qaeda operatives hijack four commercial jets and use them as “smart weapons” to destroy the New York World Trade Center.**

**1979-1990: Margaret Thatcher (1979-1990) and Ronald Reagan (1981-1989) lead a British-U.S. conservative political revival. ■**

## 1980—Event & Trend Outline

### *Prime Events and Trends for 1980-1989*

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of Great Expectations.**

Somehow, inflation disappeared, the energy crisis abated, the Soviet Union no longer seemed so scary, and new entertainment technologies promise lots of pleasure.

**1980-1990: Paul Ehrlich (of *The Population Bomb* fame) and Julian Simon (a libertarian economist) enter into a wager concerning future scarcity of resources.** Ehrlich predicts the prices of copper, chrome, nickel, tin, and tungsten will go up (due to greater scarcity); Simon bets their prices will go down. Simon wins and Ehrlich loses, thus proving, in libertarians' minds, that Simon's fundamental beliefs are correct: instead of being an ecologically destructive "bomb" (as Ehrlich claims), human beings—and, most especially, our imagination and spirit—are *The Ultimate Resource* (Princeton University Press, 1998). You can find an electronic version of the book online at [www.africa2000.com/RNDX/simon.html](http://www.africa2000.com/RNDX/simon.html).

**1980-present: Deregulation and privatization of formerly publicly-owned utilities, services and corporations becomes increasingly popular around the world.** See [www.ncpa.org/pd/private/priv.html](http://www.ncpa.org/pd/private/priv.html) and [www.privatization.org/](http://www.privatization.org/) for information about this movement.

**1981-present: U.S. federal debt spins out of control** and, by the late 1990s and early 2000s, it doesn't matter whether liberals or conservatives are in charge, no one seems concerned truly to address the problem.

**1981: First affordable IBM Personal Computer goes on sale** and opens the way for the modern personal computer revolution.

**1982-1984: AT&T antitrust lawsuit leads to breakup of the telephone monopoly** and subsequent proliferation of telephone options and unbelievably lower long-distance prices.

**1982-1984: CD is introduced and begins to take off.**

**1985: Cable television comes into its own.**

**1985-1991: Public disaffection with the Soviet government becomes so great in Russia and the Soviet states that the Soviet Union falls apart** after "**glasnost**" ("openness"/"publicity"; introduced in 1985) permits discussion of public attitudes and "**perestroika**" (economic restructuring, introduced in 1987) lead to massive inflation (140 percent increase in retail prices between 1990 and '91 alone) while food, clothes, and other basic necessities are in short supply. Notice that under perestroika the Soviet government said it would no longer rescue unprofitable enterprises, but price controls, inconvertibility of the ruble, exclusion of private property ownership, and the government monopoly over most means of production remained in place.

**1986-1995: U.S. Savings and Loan Crisis** leads to the closure of half of all "Thrifts" and a bill to U.S. taxpayers in excess of \$125 billion—but by the time the bill comes due, no one seems to be noticing: "We'll grow ourselves out of this one, too!"

**1986: Chernobyl nuclear disaster.**

**1987-1994: Chunnel is built beneath the English Channel. ■**

## 1990—Event & Trend Outline

### *Prime Events and Trends for 1990-1999*

**Emotional Description for the Decade (from a U.S. perspective): A decade of Exuberance.** As you will see in every one of the “Trends” I list below, there was plenty to worry about elsewhere in the world, but, life seemed good, generally, here in the United States. Especially after the advent of the Internet. Why, the Internet, people were saying, was going to so revolutionize our lives for the good, no one would recognize the world in another 10 years. . . .

#### **1991-1999: Yugoslav Wars.**

**1991: Slovenia.** Slovenia declares independence from Yugoslavia on June 25th and acquires independence after a 10-day battle.

**1991-1995: Croatia.** Croatia declares independence from Yugoslavia on June 25th but is forcefully attacked by the Serbian-controlled Yugoslav army. By January 1992, most fighting ceases and armies are entrenched. Hundreds of thousands of Croats and Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) flow into the now internationally-recognized “country.” Intermittent fighting continues until 1995.

**1992-1995: Bosnia.** Bosnia, with nearly equal representation of Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks, sees the Bosniaks and Croats declaring independence from Yugoslavia (April 5, 1992) and Bosnian Serbs declaring their own Republika Srpska at midnight, April 6. Internal battles followed, leading to some 275,000 dead and missing, and 1.3 million refugees.

**1996-1999: Kosovo.** Beginning in 1996, Kosovo is engulfed in ethnic strife between Serbs and Albanians who, heretofore, had lived in tense peace one with

another. My general sense: Albanians had long been oppressed by Serbs in Kosovo and in 1996, certain radical Albanian groups decided to make the Serbs pay a price. For the next two and a half years, both sides keep attacking one another. In 1999, NATO forces determine to end the strife by destroying the Serbian and Yugoslav army presence in Kosovo. The result, when NATO bombing ended in June (besides elimination of the Serbian/Yugoslav forces in Kosovo): some 12,000 total dead, 850,000 Albanian refugees, major environmental damage, and a destroyed economy. In half a year following the war, some 800,000 refugees had returned, but some 250,000 non-Albanian Kosovars had been forced to flee. Meanwhile, NATO bombing of oil refineries and chemical plants during the war has caused such pollution that some have charged NATO of “environmental warfare.” Allegedly, many deformed babies were born after the war, and the BBC has estimated that around 100,000 cancer deaths will result from this pollution.

**1991-2000: Sierra Leone civil war leaves well over two million people displaced, half a million dead, and 100,000 horribly mutilated.**

**1991-present: Chechen War with Russia.** Chechnya declares independence from the Russian Federation in 1991. Russian President Boris Yeltsin orders 40,000 troops to prevent the separation of Chechnya from Russia in 1994. Russian and Chechen leaders agree to a cease-fire in 1997. Fighting resumes in 1999 and has not yet ceased. Over 38,000 people are dead as of 2002.

**1994: Worldwide web shows first glimmer of commercial and private (non-governmental, non-academic) use.**

**1995-2001: Taliban rules Afghanistan. ■**