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## CHRONOLOGY OF THE POLITICAL EVENTS IN CENTRAL, EAST AND SOUTH EUROPE, 1 AUGUST 1975–1 JULY 2013

### 1975

- August 1: At the **Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe**, leaders of 35 countries—all the European countries except for Albania, plus the United States and Canada—sign the **Helsinki Accords**, in which European frontiers are declared inviolable and key principles concerning human rights, security, and cooperation are agreed upon.
- October 1: **Treaty of Osimo** between Italy and Yugoslavia: final agreement on the issue of Trieste through the bilateral recognition of the previous zone boundaries as state boundaries (Zone A to Italy, Zone B to Yugoslavia); bilateral assurances of minority rights.

### 1976

- February 24: Under the leadership of General Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev, the **25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU)** takes place in Moscow; 103 delegations from 96 countries take part.
- May 24: The Archbishop of Esztergom, Hungary, László Lékai, is appointed cardinal.
- July 18: The “Kiev,” the first Soviet aircraft carrier, passes through the Turkish Straits and joins the Soviet Mediterranean fleet.
- September 23: After worker uprisings in Warsaw and Łódź, Jacek Kuroń founds the Workers’ Defense Committee (KOR).
- November 15–17: During an official visit to Belgrade, the general secretary of the CPSU Leonid I. Brezhnev and the Soviet foreign minister Andrei A. Gromyko again assure Tito of his right to follow his own path to socialism.
- December 29: In its new constitution, Albania declares itself a “Socialist People’s Republic.”

### 1977

- January 1: The **Charter 77 Declaration** is published in Czechoslovakia. Signed by over 200 citizens (among them Jan Patočka, Jiří Hájek and Václav Havel), it calls on the communist regime to honor its commitments to international human rights accords.
- January 6-7: Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and Romania regarding family reunion of Transylvanian Saxons and Banat Swabians; the FRG agrees to a payment per emigrant based on their education; beginning of 370,000 ethnic Germans emigrating from Romania.
- May 24: The Archbishop of Prague, František Tomášek, is appointed cardinal.  
After the opening of the *Đerdap* power plant I on the Danube at the Iron Gate between Yugoslavia and Romania in 1972, in 1977 the planning of *Đerdap* II started.

September 16: Hungarian and Slovakian prime ministers György Lázár and Lubomír Štrougal sign an agreement in Budapest to construct a hydroelectric power plant between Gabčíkovo and Nagymaros.  
 October 4–March 8, 1978: CSCE follow-up meeting in Belgrade.

## 1978

January 6: The Holy Crown of Hungary and other Hungarian coronation regalia, which had been put into American hands in Upper Austria in May 1945, are returned by the United States to Hungary; the Crown of Saint Stephen is later put on display in the Hungarian Parliament.  
 July 7: China discontinues economic and military aid to Albania.  
 October 16: The **Archbishop of Cracow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła**, the first non-Italian pope to be elected since 1522, assumes the papal throne as **John Paul II**.

## 1979

June 2–10: Pope John Paul II takes his first trip to Poland and is received enthusiastically by the population.  
 June 7–10: First direct elections of 410 members to the European Parliament.  
 June 18: US president Jimmy Carter and CPSU general secretary Brezhnev sign the **SALT II armament control agreement** in Vienna.  
 December 10: The native Albanian Mother Teresa of Calcutta is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.  
 December 12: The NATO Double-Track Decision calls on the USSR to remove its newly deployed SS-20 missiles.  
 December 24: **Soviet troops invade Afghanistan**; communist rule is restored under Babrak Karmal; President Carter announces sanctions.

## 1980

May 4: **Death of Marshal Tito** in Ljubljana; more than 100 heads of state and government from all over the world take part in the state funeral in Belgrade, at their head Brezhnev and US vice president Walter Mondale.  
 July 19: Start of the Summer Olympic Games in Moscow; the United States and 63 other countries boycott the games because of the war in Afghanistan.  
 August 14–31: Strikes in the Gdańsk shipyards in Poland lead to emergence of the independent Solidarity labor movement (**Solidarność**), under the leadership of the worker Lech Wałęsa; the movement demands reforms and soon has 10 million members.  
 November 8: Opening of the 300-kilometer long highway between Prague and Bratislava.

## 1981

January 1: Greece joins the European Economic Community (EEC); it is the first time that a larger Orthodox population is part of the hitherto largely Catholic-Protestant community.  
 January 20: **Ronald Reagan** is inaugurated president of the United States.  
 March 11: In the Autonomous Province of Kosovo, student protests begin at the University of Priština; the protests soon spread to the general Albanian population. Serbian police and army take action against striking Albanian miners.

- May 13: The Turkish extremist Ali Ağca—possibly supported by Eastern secret services—commits an assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square in Rome and wounds him critically.
- May 26: Death of the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński; Bishop Józef Glemp becomes his successor.
- December 13: Communist Party leader and Prime Minister of Poland **General Wojciech Jaruzelski imposes martial law** and has leading Solidarity activists arrested. In the 1990s, it is revealed that there had been a Warsaw Pact intervention plan, as is presented to a Polish-Russian commission.

## 1982

- January 4: The EEC foreign ministers condemn the imposition of martial law in Poland.
- October 1: Constructive vote of no confidence against FRG chancellor Helmut Schmidt (SPD); after the formation of the Christian-Liberal coalition, **CDU chairman Helmut Kohl** is elected by the Bundestag as his successor.
- November 10: **Death of Brezhnev**; his successor as general secretary of the CPSU is KGB chief Yuri V. Andropov, who promotes Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

## 1983

- January 20: In the Bonn Bundestag, President Mitterrand discusses the deployment of US medium-range missiles in Western Europe.
- February 4–16: In a letter to Chancellor Kohl, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) State Council president Erich Honecker proposes joint support of the Swedish prime minister Olof Palme's initiative to establish a nuclear-free zone in Europe; in the letter of response Kohl rejects the Swedish initiative.
- March 23: President Reagan denounces the USSR as an "evil empire" and announces the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), also called the "**star wars**" program, a space-based missile defense system.
- June 19: The European Council signs the "Solemn Declaration on European Union" in Stuttgart.
- June 16–23: Second visit of the Pope to Poland.
- June 29: On the initiative of the Bavarian minister president Franz Josef Strauss (CSU), the West German federal government guarantees a loan of one billion DM to the GDR.
- July 4–7: State visit of Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to Moscow.
- July 24–27: Private trip of Minister President Strauss to the GDR; meeting with Honecker.
- September 15: Honecker receives the governing mayor of West Berlin, Richard von Weizsäcker (CDU), in East Berlin.
- October 5: The Polish labor leader **Wałęsa receives the Nobel Peace Prize**.
- October 23: Large demonstrations in Western Europe against the deployment of cruise missiles.
- November 22: In accordance with the NATO Double-Track Decision of 1979, the German Bundestag approves the deployment of new US medium-range missiles, with 286 votes for and 226 against.

## 1984

- January 20–22: After negotiations with the GDR government agencies, six GDR citizens who had requested political asylum at the US embassy in East Berlin are allowed to leave for West Berlin.

- February 11: CPSU general secretary Andropov dies in Moscow; Konstantin U. Chernenko becomes his successor.
- February 13: Meeting **Kohl–Honecker** on the sidelines of the funeral of Andropov in Moscow.
- April 9: The “Luxembourg Declaration,” regarding the creation of a single European economic area, is concluded on the occasion of a joint EC and EFTA ministerial meeting.
- May 23: The German Federal Assembly elects Richard von Weizsäcker as president of the FRG by a large majority of votes.
- May 26: Opening in Romania of Danube–Black Sea Canal, under construction since 1949.
- July 25: The chief of the FRG Chancellery announces the approval of a loan of 950 million DM to the GDR.
- September 22: Mitterrand and Kohl shake hands at the Douaumont cemetery in Verdun.
- October 19: Kidnapping and murder of Polish priest Jerzy Popiełuszko by the Polish secret police.
- December 31: In 1984 the GDR issued an unusual number of exit permits: 40,900 (in comparison 1983: 11,300).

## 1985

- January 7: The French socialist **Jacques Delors becomes president of the EC Commission.**
- January 20: Reagan begins his second term as US president.
- March 11: **Mikhail S. Gorbachev is named general secretary of the CPSU** after the death of Konstantin U. Chernenko.
- March 18: On the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, the Evangelical Church in the FRG and the Federation of Evangelical Churches in the GDR publish a common “Word for Peace.”
- April 23: Convening of the Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the official launch of the policy of perestroika (“restructuring” of the economic and political system).
- April 11: Death of the Albanian state and party leader Enver Hoxha.
- May 8: On the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, the G-7 heads of state and government adopt a solemn declaration: “We deplore the division of Europe. With our commitment to the ideals of peace, freedom and democracy, we aim through peaceful means to break down the barriers that have emerged within Europe.”
- May 22: The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary summit of the Warsaw Pact Organization (WPO) in Warsaw renews the treaty for twenty years.
- June 16: At a meeting of the Landsmannschaft Schlesien in Hanover, Chancellor Kohl affirms the inviolability of frontiers.
- June 29: Eduard Shevardnadze is appointed Soviet foreign minister.
- Summer: Protests of Hungarian environmentalists begin against the construction of the Czechoslovak–Hungarian power plant Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros; after years of fierce debates—also between the Budapest and Prague governments—in the end only the Gabčíkovo side is built on Slovakian territory.
- July 7: Approximately 100,000 faithful commemorate the 1,100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Methodius in Moravian Velehrad.
- August 25: The state of war, which had existed since 1940 between Greece and Albania, is ended; Greece waives its claims to Northern Epirus.
- October 21–23: At a session of the WPO Political Consultative Committee (PCC) in Sofia, Gorbachev discusses the prospects for integration in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), as well as the state of affairs of the international communist movement.
- November 21–23: **The first Gorbachev–Reagan summit** is held in Geneva; they agree in principle to a 50% reduction in strategic offensive weapons. The most important result of the summit, however, is the two leaders establishing a personal relationship and discussing common interests with regard to abolishing nuclear weapons.

## 1986

- January 1: Portugal and Spain join the EEC.
- January 15: Gorbachev announces the Program for Comprehensive Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by the Year 2000.
- February 25–March 6: The 27<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CPSU takes place.
- February 28: Swedish prime minister Olof Palme is murdered in Stockholm by a still unidentified assassin; Kohl and Honecker meet at the funeral.
- April 26: The **Chernobyl nuclear disaster** occurs, demonstrating the potential effects of a nuclear war to Kremlin leaders and their allies. The incident is made known only by Swedish control stations in the West; radioactive clouds drift across Belarus and the Baltic states, and—after a change of the wind—over Ukraine, the northern Balkans and as far as Austria.
- June 13: The Soviet Politburo discusses the economic crisis and the need of the communist countries to receive loans from the West.
- July 1: Gorbachev attends the 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of the PUWP in Warsaw and meets PUWP leader Wojciech Jaruzelski.
- August 19: The Central Committee passes a resolution allowing 20 ministries and the 70 largest enterprises of the USSR to establish direct contacts with foreign partners and to create joint ventures.
- September 11: Greece and Bulgaria conclude a non-aggression pact.
- September 24–25: **The Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts publishes a “Memorandum** on the current social issues in our country,” triggering sharp protests among Slovene and Croat intellectuals; the “Memorandum” is the ideological basis of Slobodan Milošević’s Greater Serbia plan.
- October 11–13: **The second Reagan–Gorbachev summit** in Reykjavik, at which they come close to an agreement on abolishing all strategic offensive weapons. However, they fall short of agreeing because of Reagan’s insistence on keeping the SDI and Gorbachev’s inability to compromise on SDI research and testing.
- November 4: Third CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna.
- November 10–11: At a meeting of the heads of CMEA countries in Moscow, a frank discussion takes place about the general economic crisis, failed efforts at integration within the CMEA, and the need for serious economic reform.
- December 23: Physicist Andrei Sakharov is allowed to return to Moscow from internal exile in Gorky.

## 1987

- January 6: According to statistics of the GDR Foreign Ministry, 573,000 GDR citizens were given permission to visit the FRG in 1986 “due to urgent family matters.”
- January 29: The Soviet Politburo discusses the results of a recent conference in Warsaw of Central Committee secretaries from communist countries. Members point to the **growing pro-Western orientation in Eastern Europe**.
- February 10: The USSR announces that 140 individuals convicted of subversive activities had been pardoned.
- February 19: Reagan lifts economic sanctions on Poland.
- March 5–6: Under the patronage of Minister of State Imre Pozsgay, an international conference of historians takes place in Budapest’s Parliament as well as an exhibition on the 300-year history of Germans in Hungary. For the first time, documents and photos of the 1945/46 expulsion and deportation of Germans from Hungary are shown in public.
- March 15: In Budapest, up to 2,000 demonstrators mark the anniversary of the 1848 uprising against Habsburg rule and call for more democracy in Hungary.

- March 28: Poland announces price increases of between 10% and 100% on basic foodstuffs, cigarettes, fuel, alcohol, transportation, and postal services.
- March 28–April 1: **British prime minister Margaret Thatcher visits Moscow.** Her critical views on Soviet human rights violations and continued military involvement in Afghanistan are given full coverage in the Soviet media.
- April 9: Gorbachev visits Prague to meet with CPC leader Gustáv Husák.
- April 13–16: US secretary of state George Shultz arrives in Moscow to negotiate on arms control. He meets Gorbachev, Shevardnadze and the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Nikolai I. Ryzhkov.
- April 14: Turkey applies for EU membership.
- April 24: At **Kosovo Polje, Slobodan Milošević** witnesses a staged fight between Serbian demonstrators and ethnic Albanian policemen which he then exploits to begin a wave of nationalist agitation on television.
- May 25: Gorbachev visits Romania and holds a speech explaining the reform process in the Soviet Union.
- May 28–30: Eluding vaunted Soviet air defenses, West German peace activist Matthias Rust lands a small private plane on Moscow's Red Square. USSR Defense Minister Sergei L. Sokolov is fired and replaced by Dmitrii T. Yazov. The chief of Soviet air defenses and other generals are also replaced, reportedly as a result of the Rust incident.
- June 8: **Pope John Paul II visits Poland.**
- June 12: On the occasion of the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Berlin, US president Reagan visits Berlin and appeals to Gorbachev: **“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.”**
- Early summer: Slovenian intellectuals present a national program in the Ljubljana newspaper *Nova revija* and declare sovereignty a necessary condition for a people to become a nation; the rock group *Laibach* provokes the national communists.
- June 25: Hungary announces the appointments of Károly Grósz as prime minister.
- June 26: The Central Committee of the Yugoslav League of Communists meets in Belgrade to discuss problems in Kosovo.
- July 28: In a speech to the Central Committee Plenum in Sofia, Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov calls for a reduction of the Communist Party's role in the government and the economy.
- September 1: **Official Visit of Erich Honecker to the FRG:** Signing of agreements on cooperation in the fields of science and technology, environmental protection and protection against radiation; Honecker visits his hometown Neunkirchen in Saarland.
- September 17: Shevardnadze and Shultz agree in principle on the elimination of INF missiles.
- October 5: A state of energy emergency is declared in Romania.
- October 23: Shultz meets with Gorbachev in Moscow to discuss INF issues.
- November 2: At a celebration of the **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution,** Gorbachev denounces Stalin's legacy, defends perestroika, and announces his intention to seek a strategic arms agreement with the United States.
- November 11: At Gorbachev's request, the Moscow Party Committee removes Boris Yeltsin as first secretary.
- November 15: Several thousand industrial workers riot in Braşov, Romania, over mandated pay cuts.
- November 15: A general wage freeze and price increases are implemented in Yugoslavia, setting off a buying panic that devalues the Yugoslav currency.
- December 7–10: At the **Washington summit,** Reagan and Gorbachev sign the INF treaty, mandating the removal of 2,611 intermediate-range missiles from Europe.
- December 17: Miloš Jakeš succeeds Husák as general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party (KSČ).

**1988**

- January 11: Kohl releases official figures provided by Honecker for travel in 1987, according to which there were 5,062,914 visits from the GDR to the FGR.
- January 11: Gorbachev agrees with Jakeš that there is no reason to reassess the events of 1968, including the Soviet-led intervention. He adds that the attempt by supporters of the “Prague Spring” to present themselves as the “legal heirs of Soviet perestroika is nothing other than an attack on our perestroika.”
- February 1: Prices on about half of Polish goods and services are raised by 27%; the price of gas and electricity increases by 100% and coal by 200%; thousands protest in Warsaw and Gdańsk. The foreign debt of Poland rises to \$38.5 billion (\$1,030 per capita), that of Hungary to \$18 billion (\$1,820 per capita).
- February 8: **Gorbachev announces** on national television a plan to **withdraw troops from Afghanistan** beginning 15 May 1988 and ending 15 February 1989.
- February 11–12: The European Council in Brussels adopts the “Delors Package” concerning reformations of the financing system, including the Common Agricultural Policy and the doubling of the structural funds of the EU.
- February 29: Bulgaria holds regional and municipal elections that allow more than one candidate per position for the first time.
- March 10: At a Politburo meeting, Gorbachev announces that the USSR will provide 41 billion rubles annual assistance to communist countries and trade partners around the world, including 27 billion rubles to Cuba.
- March 13: *Sovetskaya Rossiya* publishes the “Nina Andreyeva letter,” which attacks perestroika in language borrowed from the speeches of Andrei Zhdanov. The Politburo holds an intense discussion about the letter as well as about glasnost. A split forms between radical reformers and those who are more cautious.
- April 14: The Geneva Accords on Afghanistan are signed, calling on the USSR to remove half of its forces by 15 August 1988 and the rest by 15 February 1989.
- April 25–27: Thousands of Polish workers, including those in the shipyards in Gdańsk, strike with the demand for higher wages.
- May 20: At the conference of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, General-Secretary **János Kádár is removed** from office and replaced by Károly Grósz.
- May 26: The Evangelical Church of the FGR and the Federation of Evangelical Churches in the GDR release a “Joint Statement” on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the pogrom against German Jews on 9 November 1938.
- May 27–29: Private trip of Chancellor Kohl to the GDR, where he visits the cities of Erfurt, Gotha, Weimar, Dresden, Gera and Saalfeld.
- May 29–June 1: The **Gorbachev–Reagan summit** takes place **in Moscow**.
- May 31–July 18: Arrest of three Slovenian journalists from the magazine *Mladina* and a non-commissioned officer of the Yugoslav National Army for alleged theft of secret military documents; the process conducted in Serbo-Croatian by a **military court in Ljubljana** provokes fierce resistance in the Slovenian general public (“Committee for the Protection of Human Rights”); among the sentenced is the later Defense Minister and Prime Minister Janez Janša.
- June: Many official and private protests in Hungary as well as in Western Europe against Ceaușescu’s plan to destroy Transylvanian villages.
- June 16: A commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the execution of the former Hungarian prime minister Imre Nagy and his associates is forcibly broken up by the police.
- June 28: In his address to the **19<sup>th</sup> All-Union Conference** of the Communist Party, Gorbachev calls for a restructuring of the government and the creation of a strong president chosen by a more representative legislature that replaces the Supreme Soviet.

- July 11: Gorbachev visits Poland. At a dinner with the Polish party leadership, he gives a detailed description of his “**Common European Home**” idea.
- July 28: Millennial anniversary of the Baptism of Kievan Rus’, celebrations in Moscow, Kiev/Kyiv and other cities; many older churches and some monasteries are reopened.
- July 30: The Yugoslav government orders an end to the recent demonstrations by minority ethnic Serbs in Kosovo, who claim mistreatment by the region’s Albanian ethnic majority.
- From early July: Milošević supporters begin mass demonstrations in Novi Sad, using yogurt cups as weapons (“Yogurt Revolution”); on 5 October they force the political leadership of Vojvodina to resign; the former party leadership in Montenegro is also replaced by Milošević supporters.
- August 31: Solidarity leader Wałęsa meets Interior Minister General Czesław Kiszczak; after the meeting he urges to end nationwide strikes.
- September 11: In the Soviet Republic of Estonia, 300,000 people demonstrate for independence.
- September 14: West German Federal Chancellery chief Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU) and the Head of Commercial Coordination (CoCo), Alexander Schalk-Goldkowskí, agree on new rules for transit trade and an increase in the transit fees from 525 million DM a year to 860 million DM.
- September 30: The CC CPSU Plenum implements radical structural and personnel changes in the Central Committee: **Gorbachev replaces Gromyko as president**; Vadim A. Medvedev takes over responsibility for ideology and propaganda; Anatolii F. Dobrynin is retired as CC secretary in charge of foreign affairs and replaced by Aleksandr S. Yakovlev; Viktor M. Chebrikov is replaced by Vladimir A. Kryuchkov as head of the KGB.
- October 24–27: Kohl visits the Soviet Union with a large delegation of business representatives.
- In autumn: In Hungary, the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF) and the Alliance of Free Democrats (SZDSZ) are formed.
- November 8: **George H.W. Bush is elected president of the United States.**
- November: More than 100,000 Albanians in Priština protest against two party leaders being arrested.
- November 24: The Central Committee of the Socialist Worker’ Party in Hungary names Miklós Németh as head of government, replacing General Secretary Grósz.
- December 7: In a landmark speech at the United Nations in New York, **Gorbachev announces plans to reduce the Soviet military by 500,000 troops** and endorses the “common interests of mankind” as the basis for Soviet foreign policy. Afterwards, Gorbachev lunches with Reagan and president-elect Bush at Governors Island in New York Harbor.

## 1989

- January 11: The Hungarian Parliament votes to allow freedom of association and assembly.
- January 15: A demonstration in Prague commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the student protest-suicides following the 1968 invasion. Police break up the protest and arrest demonstrators, among them Václav Havel.
- January 17: Delors proposes a **European Economic Area (EEA) between the EC and EFTA** to the European Parliament.
- January 22: Speaking on ABC television news, Bush’s security adviser Brent **Scowcroft states: “I think the Cold War is not over.”**
- January 24: At a Politburo meeting, Gorbachev instructs Yakovlev, the head of the Politburo’s International Commission, to conduct “a situational analysis” of Eastern Europe with think tank scholars.
- January 28: Imre Pozsgay, a member of the Hungarian Politburo, calls for the reappraisal of the 1956 revolt.
- Between January and March: Albanian miners strike in Trepča; after the introduction of martial law in Kosovo there are numerous deaths in armed clashes; the Albanian-dominated Communist Party leadership of Kosovo is removed from office.



- February 6: In an attempt to escape from East Berlin to the West, 20-year-old Chris Gueffroy is shot.
- February 6: **“Roundtable” talks** begin between the Polish government and representatives of Solidarity as well as the Catholic Church.
- February 10–11: The Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party agrees to a multi-party system.
- February 28: At the inaugural meeting of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) in Zagreb, the historian Franjo Tudman is elected chairman.
- March: The new Yugoslav prime minister Ante Markovic, a Croatian, attempts as the last reformer to hold together the Yugoslav state by means of a market economy and pluralist democracy; the foreign debt already amounts to \$22 billion (\$1,000 per capita).
- March 7: **Baker receives Shevardnadze** at the US ambassadorial residence in Vienna for their first private meeting. He tells the Soviet minister: “We really hope that you succeed.”
- March 26: Elections take place to the new Soviet Congress of People’s Deputies. Boris N. Yeltsin wins the Moscow at large seat with 89% of the vote.
- April 5: The Polish government and Solidarity reach an agreement on political and economic reforms, including the holding of elections in the summer and the restructuring of the Parliament. On 7 April, the **government and Solidarity sign roundtable accords**.
- April 6: In a private meeting in London with Thatcher, **Gorbachev denounces Bush’s “pause” as “intolerable.”** Thatcher urges patience but immediately sends a message to Bush describing how upset Gorbachev is.
- April 9: Soviet troops kill 20 Georgian demonstrators in the capital city of Tbilisi. In response to critics in the Politburo, Gorbachev claims he did not know about the decision to deploy troops, blaming it on the Georgian party leadership.
- April 12: Ceaușescu announces that his country’s foreign debt has been paid ahead of schedule.
- April 25: One thousand Soviet tanks leave Hungary.
- May 2: **Hungary begins to dismantle the “Iron Curtain”** at its border with Austria.
- May 8: **Milošević is elected by the Serbian Parliament as the new president of Serbia**; soon thereafter he abolishes the autonomy of Vojvodina and Kosovo, and begins to mobilize the Serbs in Kosovo, Croatia and Bosnia.
- May: Strikes and demonstrations begin in Bulgarian Turkish communities against the campaign of Bulgarianisation that had been underway since 1984.
- The “May Declaration” of opposition Slovenian politicians demands an independent Slovenian state.
- May 11: The CPSU Politburo discusses a proposal by the Politburo commission on the **situation in the Baltic republics**. Gorbachev emphasizes that “force does not help in this business.”
- May 15–18: **Gorbachev visits China** for the first Sino–Soviet summit in 30 years and announces the “normalization” of relations.
- May 20–21: Bulgarian authorities put an end to protests against the government’s policy of forced assimilation. Over 100 ethnic Turks are killed.
- May 25–June 9: The new **Soviet Congress of People’s Deputies** meets for the first time and elects Gorbachev as president.
- May 31: Bush appeals for “an undivided Europe” in a speech in Mainz.
- June 4: **Solidarity wins a decisive victory in partially free parliamentary elections**. The union wins 99 of 100 seats in the Senate and 160 of 161 available seats in the 460-seat Sejm.
- June 4: Chinese government troops crush pro-democracy demonstrations in **Tiananmen Square** in Beijing with armored vehicles, killing hundreds.
- June 13: **The Hungarian “Roundtable” talks begin**.
- June: At the request of the new Minister of Culture Ferenc Glatz, the government reinstates an eight-year high school curriculum. Russian is abolished as the first foreign language being taught; from the school year 1989/90, English, German, French, Italian and Spanish are also offered.

- June 12–15: **State visit of Gorbachev to Bonn.** In a joint statement, Kohl and Gorbachev call for “understanding, trust and partnership as the basis for neighborly relations and the reconciliation between peoples.” Also: “War must not be a political means.”
- June 16: Imre Nagy is ceremonially re-interred in Budapest. First public appearance of the student functionary Viktor Orbán, who later is to become Hungarian prime minister between 1998 and 2002, and from 2010.
- June 19: START negotiations resume in Geneva.
- June 22: The Hungarian CC reorganizes the leadership of the party, creating a four-member Presidium consisting of Grósz, Pozsgay, Németh and Nyers.
- June 27: The foreign ministers Gyula Horn and Alois Mock symbolically cut the last remnants of the “Iron Curtain” at the Hungarian-Austrian border.
- June: **Shevardnadze visits Budapest** and tells the Hungarian leaders: “Do what you think is best to preserve the position of the party.”
- June 28: **Mass rally of nearly one million Serbs in Kosovo Polje** on the occasion of the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle against the Ottomans in 1389; Milošević is the keynote speaker.
- July: Strikes in the Donbas region with political and financial demands.
- July 1: Speaking on Soviet television, Gorbachev warns of ethnic conflict breaking out in the USSR.
- July 6: Addressing the **Council of Europe in Strasbourg**, Gorbachev states that the USSR will not block reforms in Eastern Europe and will promote comprehensive European political and economic integration within the framework of a “common European home.”
- July 7: In Bucharest, **Gorbachev speaks to Warsaw Pact leaders** and seems to accept the changes in Poland and Hungary. Ceaușescu openly complains about “disunity” within the alliance. The member states of the Warsaw Pact revoke the 1968 Brezhnev Doctrine limiting the sovereignty of socialist states.
- July 9–13: **Bush is hailed by crowds in Poland and Hungary.** However, his cautious speeches, designed not to offend the Soviets, are later the subject of criticism. Speaking before the Polish Parliament, Bush pledges US\$100 million in aid to support the development of private enterprise. Bush also meets with Wałęsa in Gdańsk. Meeting privately with Grósz, Nyers and Németh in Budapest, Bush tells the party leaders that he does not want to force them to “choose between East and West.”
- July 19: Jaruzelski is elected president of Poland.
- July 22: **The Lithuanian Parliament declares the 1940 Soviet annexation of the Baltics illegal.**
- August 16: Yakovlev holds a press conference to denounce “unequivocally” the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact, which led to the annexation of the Baltics. However, he states that the Soviet government still considers the Baltics a part of the USSR and will resist any attempt to separate them from the Union.
- Summer: Due to further Bulgarian repression, over 300,000 Turks leave Bulgaria; Turkey closes its borders temporarily.
- July–August: More and more East German citizens traveling on holiday to Poland, the CSSR and Hungary flee in a roundabout way to the FRG. The chief of the German Federal Chancellery Rudolf Seiters (CDU) appeals to GDR citizens who wish to emigrate not to go through the diplomatic missions in Warsaw, Prague and Budapest.
- August 19: “Picnic” of the “Pan-European” movement (president: Otto von Habsburg) at the Hungarian-Austrian border near Sopron and the joint “border walk”; 661 GDR citizens use the opportunity to flee to Austria.
- August 21: The Catholic writer and journalist **Tadeusz Mazowiecki** becomes the first non-communist Polish prime minister since 1947.
- September 8–10: **Rukh—the Ukraine nationalist movement**—holds its constituent congress in Kiev and displays the banned blue-and-yellow flag of independent Ukraine.

- September 10: After ten thousands of East Germans have gathered in Hungarian refugee camps at the end of August/beginning of September, the Hungarian government—after negotiating with Bonn and Moscow—announces that they will no longer prevent **East German citizens from crossing Hungary's border into Austria**, a move that eventually makes it possible for 50,000 East Germans to reach the FRG.
- September 22–23: **Shevardnadze and Baker** meet at the latter's ranch in Wyoming. They discuss START, chemical weapons, regional conflicts, and independence movements in the USSR.
- September 23: The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet makes Azeri the official language of the Republic, reasserts sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh, and reaffirms Azerbaijan's right to secession from the USSR.
- September 30: After negotiations between Bonn and East Berlin, approximately 7,000 GDR citizens who had taken refuge in FRG embassies—more than 6,000 in Prague and more than 800 in Warsaw—obtain permission to emigrate by train through the GDR to the FRG.
- October 4: The GDR halts free entry into Czechoslovakia.
- October 6–7: **Honecker's speech celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GDR**: The GDR was to pass into the new millenium with confidence because "socialism" belongs to "the future." **Gorbachev** points out that the profound changes to come would spare no country: "Those who come late are punished by life." Gorbachev later tells aides that Honecker "can't stay in control" and must go.
- October 6–9: The Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party is dissolved and it is decided to establish the Hungarian Socialist Party. In the previous weeks the communist workers' militia and the party cells had already been dissolved in the defense and interior ministries.
- October 9: Over 70,000 East Germans demonstrate against their government in Leipzig. Local communist leaders refuse to disperse the marchers.
- October 12: The Polish government announces new anti-inflation measures and promises the "full introduction of market mechanisms and institutions" in 1990–91.
- October 17: **Honecker is forced to resign** both as general secretary and head of state. He is replaced by Egon Krenz, the former security chief and the youngest member of the Politburo.
- October 21: Between 200,000 and 300,000 East Germans demonstrate against the government in Leipzig.
- October 23: Hungary adopts a new constitution permitting a multiparty system, scheduling elections for 1990 and changing the country's name to the **Republic of Hungary**.
- October 28: About 10,000 protesters gather in Wenceslas Square in Prague to mark the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the formation of Czechoslovakia. Riot police storm the crowd and arrest 355 demonstrators.
- October 30: Founding of the "Democratic Awakening" party by Rainer Eppelmann and Angela Merkel.
- October 31: Faced with growing economic problems, Krenz authorizes secret meetings with the FRG to obtain emergency loans in exchange for specific liberalization of travel between the two Germans.
- November 1: Gorbachev meets Krenz at the Kremlin and calls on him to speed up reforms and to open borders in order to "avoid an explosion."
- November 4: A crowd of **500,000 East Germans demonstrates** for democracy in East Berlin.
- November 6–7: The draft of a new DDR Travel Act as announced by the government is rejected by the responsible People's Chamber Committee; the GDR government under Prime Minister Willy Stoph resigns.
- November 8: Resignation of the SED Politburo. Hans Modrow, the SED leader in Dresden, is named the new premier of the GDR. An overwhelming majority of the German Bundestag speaks out in favor of guaranteeing the Oder-Neisse border.
- November 9: Following discussions in the new SED Politburo, Günter Schabowski announces at a press conference the immediate opening of the East German border: **the unexpected fall of the**

- Berlin Wall.** Berliners from both sides cross through the eight check points, and begin to chip away at the concrete and steel barrier.
- November 10: **Todor Zhivkov**, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party from 1954 and president from 1971, is deposed and replaced by Petar Mladenov.
- November 11–12: Meeting of the foreign ministers of Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria and Hungary to form a “**Quadrangonale**” to enhance economic and political cooperation in the Danube-Adriatic region; in May 1990, this group expands into a “**Pentagonale**” with Czechoslovakia.
- November 17: **Protests in Prague and Bratislava** to commemorate the closing of Czech universities and colleges by Hitler in November 1939; in Prague demonstrators are beaten by security forces; the rumor about the death of a protester triggers further demonstrations, which in the next days are joined by many workers and other citizens.
- November 19–21: The **Civic Forum is formed in Prague** as an umbrella opposition organization. In Bratislava, the Public Against Violence movement is formed (VPN). Mass demonstrations take place in Prague’s Wenceslas Square. A closed-door meeting is held between Czechoslovak Premier Adamec and the leaders of the Civic Forum. **Václav Havel** later announces that Adamec promised not to impose martial law and to investigate charges of brutality by the security forces.
- November 21: Prime Minister Németh has to announce to the Hungarian Parliament that Hungary’s foreign debt would amount to 20 billion US\$ by the end of the year.
- November 24: Jakeš and the rest of the Czechoslovak Politburo and Secretariat resign their party posts.
- November 27: General strike throughout Czechoslovakia against the power monopoly of the Communist Party.
- November 28: In the Bundestag **Federal Chancellor Kohl unveils his “10-point plan to overcome the division of Germany and Europe”**: By means of a contractual community between East and West Germany and the establishment of confederal structures, the unification of the two German states is to be achieved.
- November 30: At a speech in Rome, Gorbachev calls for a “common European home.”
- December 1: Serbia imposes a trade embargo on Slovenia.
- December 1: Pope John Paul II receives Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his wife Raisa at the Vatican.
- December 2–3: **The Malta summit takes place.** Gorbachev attempts to convince Bush to accept his idea of the gradual transformation of Eastern Europe with the close cooperation of the superpowers in order to prevent instability. The US president states that he will not “jump on the wall,” but puts pressure on the Soviet leader not to apply force with regard to regional conflicts. In the final communiqué, Gorbachev suggests recognizing the importance of common democratic values rather than Western ideals.
- December 3: The East German Politburo resigns, including Krenz.
- December 4: **Gorbachev meets leaders of the Warsaw Pact countries in Moscow.** Bulgaria is represented by Mladenov; Czechoslovakia by Urbánek; East Germany by Krenz and Modrow; Hungary by Nyers; Poland by Mazowiecki; Romania by Ceaușescu. They issue a condemnation of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, although Ceaușescu refuses to sign.
- December 4: **NATO Summit in Brussels.** Bush outlines four principles for German unity: 1. The Germans’ right to self-determination; 2. the existence of obligations of the FRG to NATO; 3. the peaceful and gradual development of the association; 4. the validity of the Helsinki Final Act in the question of the German border.
- December 5: Visit of West German Foreign Minister Genscher to Moscow: Gorbachev and Shevardnadze strictly reject Kohl’s 10-point plan.
- December 6: Gorbachev receives Mitterrand in Kiev where they discuss the changes in Central and Eastern Europe.
- December 7: At a “round table” in East Berlin, with the participation of the five governing parties and several new groups, 6 May 1990 is agreed upon as the date for free elections in the GDR.

- December 9: Gregor Gysi replaces Krenz as the GDR's communist leader.
- December 8–9: **European Council in Strasbourg**: Thatcher and Mitterrand are against German unification; only the Spanish socialist prime minister Felipe González supports Kohl. Nonetheless, it is decided to convene an intergovernmental conference on the creation of an economic and monetary union, and to establish a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London.
- December 10: Husák, leader of the Czechoslovak Communist Party from 1968 to December 1987 and president from May 1975, resigns the presidency.
- December 11: When at the request of the USSR a meeting between the ambassadors of the four former occupying powers takes place for the first time in 18 years in the Allied Control Council building in West Berlin, both German governments protest.
- December 13: Twenty-four Western nations announce a 1 billion US\$ emergency fund to support Poland's economy.
- December 15–17: Special Congress of the East CDU, which argues against socialism and for German unity; Lothar de Maizière is chairman.
- December 15–17: In Timișoara, Hungarians and Romanians defend Pastor László Tőkés against the Romanian police. Romanian security forces fire on demonstrators.
- December 18: The European Community and the Soviet Union sign a ten-year trade agreement.
- December 19: In a speech to the Policy Committee of the European Parliament, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze clarifies Soviet thoughts on German reunification in seven points.
- December 19–20: **Modrow and Kohl** meet in Dresden and argue for a “**contractual arrangement**”; demonstrations are held in Dresden for German unity and in East Berlin for the preservation of the GDR.
- December 20–22: State visit by Mitterrand to East Berlin: He urges the GDR to respect the existing realities and borders, especially those with Poland.
- December 21–25: After a speech in Bucharest's main square, a pro-Ceaușescu demonstration in Bucharest turns into an anti-Ceaușescu demonstration. The Romanian dictator flees in a helicopter. The National Salvation Front declares itself the new government. The Soviets hail the **overthrow of Ceaușescu** as reflecting “the will of the Romanian people.” Provisional Romanian leader Ion Iliescu declares himself in favor of reformed socialism. Ceaușescu and his wife Elena are executed after a hasty trial before a military tribunal.
- December 28: The Czechoslovak Parliament elects Alexander Dubček, the CPC leader since 1968, as speaker of the Federal Assembly.
- December 29: The Czechoslovak Parliament elects **Havel as Czechoslovakia's new president**.
- December 29: The new Bulgarian government under Peter Mladenov recognizes equal rights for all Muslims and Turks.
- December 1989–January 1990: Anti-government unrest in Shkodra in Northern Albania.
- December 31: New Year's speech by Kohl: Europe should not “end at the Elbe”; “Germany is our fatherland—Europe our future!”

## 1990

- January 4: Meeting Kohl–Mitterrand: attempt to win the support of France for German unification by connecting such support to the European integration process.
- January 17: In front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, EC Commission president Jacques Delors states that East Germany is a special case; if East Germany desires, it should have a place in the EC.
- January 22: “Human Chain” across Ukraine.
- January 23: After all of their reform proposals are voted down by the Serbian leadership majority, **Slovenian and Croatian delegates quit the last Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia** in Belgrade; the united Party is thereby dissolved.

- January: After the dissolution of the Polish Workers' Party, Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz begins a drastic economic reform program.
- January 28: Due to **increased waves of emigration to the FRG**, the election date for the GDR People's Chamber is advanced to 18 March.
- January 29: US secretary of state James Baker and UK foreign secretary Douglas Hurd agree on a six-party mechanism ("Two-plus-Four") to resolve the external aspects of German unification, whereby the two German states and the Four Powers are to have equal rights in their negotiations with each other.
- January 31: In his Tutzing speech Genscher calls for "no expansion of NATO's military structures into the territory of the GDR."
- February 1: Modrow presents his concept, "For Germany, united fatherland": Contract Community–Confederacy–Unification.
- February 5–8: In Bonn, Polish foreign minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski stresses the need for Poland's western border to be guaranteed.
- February 6: On a flight to Moscow, Baker lands in Shannon, Ireland, where he seeks the approval of French foreign minister Roland Dumas for the six-party mechanism.
- February 7–9: Baker lobbies for the six-party mechanism in Moscow.
- February 10: **Gorbachev receives Kohl in Moscow** and states: "It is for the Germans to determine the timing and the path of their unification."
- February 12–14: "**Open Sky**" conference in Ottawa: On the sidelines of the conference of 23 NATO and WPO states, the Two-plus-Four mechanism is decided upon as a framework for German unification.
- February 15: During a visit to Bonn, Modrow—supported by the GDR "round table"—calls for a "solidarity contribution" of 15 billion DM for the GDR; this is rejected by Kohl.
- February 24–25: **Bush receives Kohl at Camp David**: Both agree that Soviet agreement to an all-German NATO membership would ultimately be a question of the price.
- February 27: The Polish prime minister Mazowiecki demands the initialling of a German–Polish border treaty before German unification.
- March 2: Kohl links a German–Polish border treaty with the relinquishing of Poland's demands for reparations from Germany, as well as regulations on the rights of the German minority in Poland.
- March 5–6: Gorbachev receives Modrow in Moscow and requests support in the question of property; Gorbachev rejects the NATO membership of a united Germany.
- March 8: **Resolution of the Bundestag on the western frontier of Poland**: "As soon as possible after the elections in the GDR, the two freely elected German parliaments and governments [should] make a similar declaration" that would uphold the renunciation of German territorial claims.
- March 9: During a state visit to Paris, Mazowiecki demands a partial inclusion of Poland into the "Two-plus-Four" process; Mitterrand expresses his support in view of Polish security interests.
- March 10: Hungarian–Soviet agreement on the removal of Soviet troops stationed in Hungary by the end of June 1991.
- March 14: **Two-plus-Four Officials Meeting in Bonn**: agreement on limiting the topics to be dealt with. The Soviet Union calls for a peace treaty for Germany, which is, however, rejected by the other delegations.
- March 15: Gorbachev is elected president of the USSR.
- March 18: **First free elections for the People's Chamber of the GDR**: The Alliance for Germany (CDU, DSU, DA) receives 48.1%, SPD 21.8%, the PDS only 16.3%; on 12 April, Lothar de Maizière (CDU) is elected prime minister of the GDR.
- March 19: Bloody clashes in Tirgu Mureş (Marosvásárhely, Neumarkt) in Transylvania between supporters of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania and the *Vatra Românească*, an ultra-nationalist Romanian grouping.

- March 29–30: Thatcher receives Kohl for talks in Cambridge.
- March/June: Lithuania declares its independence; economic blockade by the USSR; Lithuania suspends its declaration of independence and the USSR lifts the blockade.
- April: The USSR admits responsibility for the 1940 Katyń massacre against Polish officers.
- April 6: Meeting Baker–Shevardnadze; the latter explains that the USSR is still against NATO membership for a unified Germany, but that he could imagine solutions other than a neutral Germany.
- March 25–April 8: The Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF) wins the **first free parliamentary elections in Hungary since 1947**, gaining more votes than the Free Democrats (SZDSZ), the Smallholders' Party, the Socialist Party and the Young Democrats (FIDESZ); on 23 May, the historian József Antall (MDF) becomes the new prime minister of a coalition government with the Smallholders and the Christian Democrats.
- April 13: Bush and Thatcher meet each other in the Bermudas.
- April 20: The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is renamed the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.
- April 21: EC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Dublin: Adoption of a policy for the integration of East Germany into the EC.
- April 8–22: In the **first free elections in Slovenia since 1927**, the non-communist coalition DEMOS (Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, Peasant Party) wins, ahead of the League of Communists–Party of Democratic Renewal (ZKS-SDP), the League of Socialist Youth–Liberal Party (ZSMS-LS) and the Socialist Federation of the Working People (SZDL); the historian Lojze Peterle (Christian Democrat) becomes the new prime minister; the former Communist Party leader Milan Kučan is elected the new president of Slovenia.
- April 24: Kohl and de Maizière meet each other in Bonn and agree on an economic, monetary and social union beginning on 1 July 1990.
- April 28: De Maizière and Foreign Minister Markus Meckel (SPD) travel to Moscow. Gorbachev: "A united Germany may not be a member of NATO."
- April 28: **Summit of the European Council** in Dublin: The EC members make a clear commitment to German unity.
- April 30: **Two-plus-Four Officials Meeting in Berlin**: the USSR and the GDR are not willing to forego discussing military-political issues.
- April 22–23/May 6–7: In the **first free parliamentary elections in Croatia since 1927**, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) wins, ahead of the League of Communists of Croatia–Party of Democratic Changes (SKH-SDP), as well as several small parties; the historian Franjo Tuđman (HDZ) becomes the new prime minister; by the end of May 1990 he is already president of Croatia.
- May 5: **Two-plus-Four Meeting of Foreign Ministers in Bonn**; it is agreed to discuss the following topics: 1. the border issue, 2. political-military issues, 3. Berlin, 4. a final settlement under international law. A consensus is reached that a peace treaty will not be concluded and that Poland will be invited to the third meeting of foreign ministers.
- May 8: Estonia declares its independence.
- May 16: The Yugoslav National Army begins disarming the territorial defense forces in Croatia and Slovenia; in Slovenia, this is only partially successful.
- May 18: Baker presents a plan in Moscow to ease the USSR's acceptance of German unification.
- May 20: In the **parliamentary elections in Romania** the National Salvation Front (FSN), a successor organization of the Communist Party, wins two-thirds of the votes and mandates, ahead of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) and the National Liberal Party (PNL).
- May 23: At a meeting in Geneva of Genscher–Shevardnadze, the basis for the USSR consenting to the Germans' free alliance choice is addressed.
- May 25: Gorbachev receives Mitterrand in Moscow and suggests a special role of Germany in a completely reformed NATO (similar to the status of France).

- May 30–June 3: **Bush receives Gorbachev** for consultations at Camp David: A consensus is reached on the basic elements of START 1 Treaty; there is no consensus on the issue of the alliance membership of a united Germany.
- June 5–8: **Bush receives Kohl**: Both explain that a united Germany in NATO does not constitute a threat to the USSR.
- June 6–8: WPO Conference: Antall proposes that the Warsaw Pact be dissolved. The Political Consultative Committee declares that “the ideological enemy has been overcome.”
- June 7–8: NATO foreign ministers meeting in Turnberry: Bush’s “nine-point offer” to the USSR; NATO extends the WPO “the hand of friendship.”
- June 8: Gorbachev receives Thatcher in Moscow.
- June 8–9: **Parliamentary elections in the Czechoslovak Federal Republic**: In the Czech part of the country, the Citizens’ Forum wins 53.2% of the vote, the KSČ 13.5%, the Christian and Democratic Union 8.7%, and the Movement for Self-governing Democracy 7.9%; in the Slovak part of the country, Public Against Violence wins 32.5% of the vote, the Christian Democratic Movement 19%, the KSČ 13.8%, the Slovak National Party 11%, and the Magyar Christian Democratic Movement 8.6%; Marian Čalfa, who had left the KSČ, is appointed by Havel as prime minister.
- June 10–17: The Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), the successor to the Communist Party, wins the parliamentary elections, the absolute majority of seats, ahead of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), the Bulgarian National Farmers’ Federation (BZNS) and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS).
- June 21: Both German parliaments adopt a joint resolution on **Poland’s western border**, which is notified the next day by the two German governments. Poland retreats from their demand for initialling a border treaty before unification.
- June 22: **Second Two-plus-Four Meeting of Foreign Ministers** in Berlin: The Soviet Union presents an overall design for a peace treaty that provides for a transitional period of five years, the double membership of Germany in NATO and the WPO, and an overall military strength of 250,000 soldiers. When the other foreign ministers reject these proposals, Shevardnadze states that Germany should receive full sovereignty at the CSCE Summit Meeting in November 1990.
- June 25–26: The EC Summit of Heads of State or Government in Dublin schedules a governmental conference for December 1990 to discuss how to achieve an economic and monetary union as well as the political union of the EC.
- July 1: **The state treaty between the FRG and the GDR on the economic, monetary and social union** comes into force. The Deutsche Mark becomes the official currency in the GDR.
- July 5–6: NATO Summit of Heads of State or Government in London: Willingness of NATO to cooperate with the WPO; idea of a “declaration of ending the enemy relationship” between the alliances.
- July 6: After a video reveals that Bulgarian prime minister Mladenov still wanted to use tanks against demonstrators in December 1989, he is replaced by Zhelev.
- Early July: Riots in Tirana; 5,000 Albanians seek refuge in foreign embassies.
- July 9–11: **World Economic Summit of the G-7 states** in Houston, Texas. Financial assistance proposed to the USSR is refused.
- July 1–13: 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CPSU: Despite sharp criticism Gorbachev is upheld as General Secretary on 10 July.
- July 15–16: **Gorbachev and Shevardnadze receive Kohl and Genscher** in Moscow and in Zheleznovodsk in the Caucasus. In an “**eight-point statement**” the main questions with regard to the Two-plus-Four process are clarified: 1. United Germany is to include the FRG, the GDR and Berlin; 2. When unified, Germany is to receive full sovereignty; 3. Germany will be allowed to freely choose membership in either alliance; 4. Germany will conclude an agreement with the USSR concerning troops staying and leaving which provides for the withdrawal of Soviet troops within 3 to 4 years; 5. There will be no expansion of the NATO military structures onto



- GDR territory; 6. The troops of the three Western powers are to remain in Berlin as long as Soviet troops remain on GDR territory; 7. At the Vienna negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the German Federal Republic is to commit itself to reducing its armed forces to 370,000 troops; 8. United Germany is to waive manufacturing, possessing or being able to obtain weapons of mass destruction.
- July 16: Verkhovna Rada adopts a resolution proclaiming Ukraine's sovereignty.
- July 17: **Third Two-plus-Four Meeting of Foreign Ministers** in Paris: Skubiszewski agrees to a German–Polish Border Treaty after unification has been completed.
- August 2: The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq causes new tensions between the United States and the USSR.
- August 3: The poet Árpád Göncz is elected president of the Hungarian Republic.
- August 16–17: In Moscow, Genscher demands that Shevardnadze suspend the four-power rights before the ratification of the Two-plus-Four documents.
- August 17: The “Log Revolution” starts in the Krajina—a Serb majority area along the Croatian-Bosnian border between Petrinja and Knin; Serb militia raids the weapon depots of the Croatian police.
- August 23: The People's Chamber of the GDR decides to complete the accession of the GDR to the Federal Republic on 3 October 1990.
- September 8: Meeting Bush–Gorbachev in Helsinki. They discuss the Two-plus-Four negotiations, the CSCE conference in Paris, and the annexation of Kuwait.
- September 12: **Fourth Two-plus-Four Meeting of Foreign Ministers in Moscow**: 45 years after the “London Protocol,” the quadripartite rights and responsibilities are replaced by the “Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany.”
- September 13: Signing of an agreement on good neighborliness, partnership and cooperation between the German Federal Republic and the USSR.
- September 27–28: The Treaty between FRG and GDR is suspended through an exchange of notes and is to be annulled after the Two-plus-Four Treaty comes into force on 15 March 1991.
- October 1–2: At the sidelines of the CSCE Foreign Ministers' Conference in New York, the rights and responsibilities of the quadripartite are suspended.
- October 3: **“Day of German Unity”**: in accordance with Article 23 of the Basic Law, the five states of the GDR and East Berlin join the Federal Republic of Germany; as part of the FRG, they also become members of the EC and NATO.
- October 5: Ratification of the Two-plus-Four Treaty in the Bundestag.
- October 10: Ratification of the Two-plus-Four Treaty in the US Senate.
- November 11: In the cathedral of Shkodër (Shkodra), Albania, thousands of faithful take part in the first public Catholic mass since 1967.
- November 14: Initialling of the German–Polish Border Treaty in Warsaw: **Germany and Poland recognize the Oder–Neisse line as their common border.**
- November 16: In the **parliamentary elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the majority of Muslims (SDA, 31.5%), Serbs (SDS, 26.1%) and Croats (HDZ, 16.0%) vote for their respective national party, while the Communist Party receives only 12.3% of the vote; the chairman of the SDA, Alija Izetbegovic becomes the president of the Republic.
- November 19–21: CSCE Summit of Heads of State or Government in Paris: The 34 states of the CSCE initial the CSCE Treaty; the institutionalization of the CSCE is anchored in the **“Charter of Paris”**; the final communiqué declares that the division of Europe is ended.
- November 27/ December 7: Wałęsa wins the presidential elections against Mazowiecki and the unknown candidate Stanisław Tyminski.
- December 7: In the **parliamentary elections in Serbia**, the Socialist Party of Milošević wins 193 of 250 seats, followed by the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), the Democratic Party and the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Vojvodina.

December 23: In a **referendum in Slovenia** (election turnout: 94%), 88% of the electorate vote for independence.

## 1991

January 11-13: Soviet forces kill 19 civilians in a crackdown at Vilnius.

February 15: In Visegrád in Hungary, presidents Havel and Wałęsa and the Hungarian prime minister Antall sign a declaration on cooperation between the three states; with the dissolution of Czechoslovakia on 1 January 1993, the troika expands to a quadruple alliance.

February 22: The Warsaw Pact member states decide to dissolve the military structure on 1 April 1991 and thus, the obligation of mutual assistance.

March 4: Ratification of the Two-plus-Four Treaty in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

March 9: President Milošević orders the Yugoslav National Army break up demonstrations in Belgrade of the Serbian opposition.

March 12–15: The Yugoslav state presidency rejects the Serbian request to impose martial law in Yugoslavia.

March 15: The **Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany** comes into force.

End of March: Presidents Milošević and Tuđman hold secret negotiations in Karadjordjevo (Vojvodina) about a possible division of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

April 1: Annullment of the Warsaw Pact.

Beginning of April: A **rebellion of Serbian militias** begins in the Plitvice Lakes district of Western Croatia; the Croatian government responds with the establishment of a “National Guard.”

April 29: Albania removes the term “socialist” from its national name.

Beginning of May: Croatian policemen stumble upon a Serbian ambush in Borovo Selo near Vukovar and are shot.

May 17–18: The foreign ministers of the “pentagonal” states and Poland meet in Bologna and declare that the peoples of Yugoslavia have the right to decide on their future.

May 19: In a **referendum in Croatia**, 94% of the electorate vote for independence.

May 29: Pope John Paul II appoints the Bishop of Nitra, Ján Chryzostom Korec, cardinal.

June 12: Boris Yeltsin becomes the president of Russia.

June 17: Initialling of the Polish–German **Treaty of Good Neighborhood and Friendly Cooperation**: recognition of the Oder–Neisse border; acknowledgment of minority rights of Polish Germans (Upper Silesia).

June 19: **The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary is completed.**

June 21: US secretary of state Baker visits Belgrade and speaks in favor of Yugoslav unity; however, its preservation should not be imposed by force of arms. Colleagues of Tuđman learn of Yugoslav National Army plans to attack and inform Tuđman and Kučan.

June 25: As had been agreed, **Slovenia and Croatia declare their independence simultaneously.**

June 27: Without the unanimous decision of the Yugoslav state presidency, the Yugoslav National Army begins a **military deployment against Slovenia** and tries to close the borders to Italy and Austria as well as the airport in Ljubljana; the Yugoslav National Army is surprised by the armed resistance of the Slovene territorial defense, which leads the latter to a partial success; 67 fatalities.

July 8: A troika of three EC foreign ministers on the island of Brioni mediates a cease-fire based on a three-month suspension of Slovenian and Croatian declarations of independence.

July 18: The Yugoslav state presidency decides to withdraw the Yugoslav National Army from Slovenia; the troops are moved to Croatia and Bosnia.

August 26: The Croatian village of Kijevo in the Krajina is destroyed by the Yugoslav National Army.

August 18–27: After an unsuccessful coup attempt against Gorbachev by the Soviet vice-president and the KGB chief, in succession the republics of **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Be-**

- larus and Moldova declare independence**, as do the three Transcaucasian and the five Central Asian republics.
- September 14: The Croatian National Guard begins to besiege all Yugoslav National Army barracks in Croatia and to interrupt their electricity, water and food supplies, as well as the telephone lines; a number of garrisons surrender and hand over their weapons.
- September 19: Supported by Serbian militias, the Yugoslav National Army moves from Srem and attacks Vukovar; after extensive destruction of the city, the siege ends on 18 November with the surrender of the Croatian forces.
- September 25: The UN imposes an arms embargo on Yugoslavia, which is aimed at preventing a civil war, but gives an advantage to the Yugoslav National Army.
- September 26–30: In a referendum in Kosovo, in which the Serbian and Montenegrin population do not vote, the vast majority of Albanians are for secession from Yugoslavia.
- October 1: Supported by Montenegrin militia and with Montenegrin warships, the Yugoslav National Army begins an **attack on Dubrovnik**, which leads to the destruction of many hotels and yachts; the historic old town survives the bombing without major damage.
- October 15: With the votes of Muslim and Croat deputies, the parliament in Sarajevo declares the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the session is boycotted by Serbian representatives.
- October 21: Completion of the political negotiations on an EEA Agreement between the twelve EC and the seven EFTA countries.
- October: After **parliamentary elections in Bulgaria**, for the first time since September 1944, a government is formed in which no communists participate.
- November 7–9: The **Hague Peace Conference on Yugoslavia** fails because Lord Carrington's "Arrangements for a General Settlement" (union of sovereign republics, no unilateral changes of borders; wide range of minority rights) is rejected, above all by Milošević; an EC summit in Rome imposes an oil and trade embargo on all Yugoslav republics.
- November 20: **Macedonian declaration of independence**; recognized by the UN on 4 August 1993.
- November 22: Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia conclude association contracts with the EC.
- December 1: Ukraine becomes an independent state; Leonid M. Kravchuk is elected president.
- December 7-8: Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Treaty signed by Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus; Ukraine's Parliament never ratifies the treaty.
- December 9–11: The EU Heads of State and Government agree at a summit in Maastricht on the **Treaty on European Union (EU)**, which establishes Economic and Monetary Union, Political Union, Common Security and Foreign Policy.
- December 16: The EC decides to recognize those Yugoslav republics that meet the criteria of the **Badinter Commission**; Genscher demands the recognition of Croatia and Slovenia on 15 January 1992.
- December 21: In Almaty, 11 of the 15 Soviet republics decide on the **dissolution of the Soviet Union** and the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
- December 23: The FRG unilaterally recognizes the former Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

## 1992

- January 3: UN Special Envoy Cyrus Vance mediates a cease-fire in Croatia.
- January 15: **The European Union, the United States, and another 20 countries (including Austria) recognize the independence of Croatia and Slovenia.**
- February 7: Signing of the **Treaty on European Union in Maastricht.**

- February 21: The UN approves the deployment of 14,000 UN troops to Croatia; the first UN soldiers arrive on 1 April and over the course of April the Yugoslav National Army gives up those parts of Croatia they occupy; Serb artillery attacks on Dubrovnik, Zadar, Karlovac and Osijek also begin to ease off.
- February 29–March 3: After a referendum boycotted by Bosnian-Herzegovinian Serbs, President Izetbegovic proclaims the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina; first serious unrest in Sarajevo.
- April 6–7: **The EU and the United States recognize the independent state of Bosnia and Herzegovina.** The Serbian community calls for a “Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.”
- April 27: The Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro establish the new **Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**, which consists of Serbia (including Vojvodina and Kosovo) and Montenegro.
- Spring and summer: supported by the now split Yugoslav National Army and the Serbian government, Serbian troops conquer about 70% of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, drive out the majority of the more than two million Muslims and hundreds of thousands of Croats from their homes (“**ethnic cleansing**”), murder tens of thousands, also in concentration camps, and destroy historic buildings in many cities, especially Catholic churches and mosques.
- May 31: The UN Security Council imposes a **full trade embargo against Serbia and Montenegro** and stops all flights; due to numerous violations of the embargo—especially via the Danube and the Adriatic—Western warships start to control vessel traffic; however, fuel and weapons smuggling across the land routes from Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Macedonia continues largely unhindered.
- May: The UN peacekeeping force (UNPROFOR) established.
- June 5–6: **Parliamentary elections in the Czechoslovak Federal Republic:** In Bohemia and Moravia, the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) wins, in Slovakia, the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS). Already on 8 June, the two party leaders Václav Klaus and Vladimír Mečiar begin negotiations in **Villa Tugendhat** in Brno. After several weeks of negotiations, both sides agree on the federation being dissolved on 1 January 1993.
- July 21: In Moscow, the presidents of Russia and Moldova sign a peace agreement on the Dniester region; the region remains part of Moldova, but the rights of Russian and Ukrainian minorities are guaranteed.
- August 25–28: The **London Peace Conference on the former Yugoslavia**, in which 40 states participate following the invitation of the UN and the EU, agrees on humanitarian aid for prisoners and displaced and trapped civilians (for instance, in Sarajevo), but fails in terms of a future solution for Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- September 17: After stock market speculation (also by George Soros), the British pound and the Italian lira are eliminated from the European monetary system.
- September 22: After the disclosure of war crimes in Serbian detention camps and mass systematic rape of Muslim women and girls by Serbian soldiers (cf. **Mazowiecki report**), the UN repeals the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
- October 25: First fighting between Croat and Muslim units in Prozor in Central Bosnia.
- November 3: **Bill Clinton is elected president of the United States.**
- December 11–12: Denmark, which on 2 June had voted by a narrow margin against the Treaty of Maastricht, is granted exemption from the EU Treaty by the heads of state and government of the European Community.
- December 20: Milošević wins the presidential election in Serbia against the “Yugoslav” prime minister Milan Panić; in the parliamentary elections, the Milošević Socialists remain ahead of the nationalists of Vojislav Šešelj and opposition groups.

### 1993

- January 1: The **Maastricht Treaty comes into effect**: All 12 members of the EU agree to introduce a common currency, drop all trade barriers, and accept a common defence and foreign policy.
- January 1: **Czechoslovakia splits into the Czech Republic and Slovakia**. Therewith the Czechoslovak Republic, which was established on 28 October 1918, ceases to exist.
- January: The UN and EU mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen present a peace plan that provides for the division of Bosnia and Herzegovina into cantons based on ethnic majorities.
- February 1: **Beginning of EC accession negotiations with Austria, Sweden and Finland**.
- February 15: Michal Kováč is elected the first president of the Slovak Republic.
- April 5: Beginning of EC accession negotiations with Norway.
- April: President Yeltsin survives a referendum on his government and crushes a rebellion in the Supreme Soviet.
- May 25: UN Security Council establishes the **International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTFY) in The Hague**.
- May: While the Vance-Owen plan is signed in Athens by the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadžić, it is, however, rejected by the parliament of the Bosnian Serbs.
- June 21–22: **In Copenhagen, the European Council** decides on principles and criteria for including the Central and Eastern European countries.
- November 1: Following a decision by the German Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe on the compatibility of the Treaty on European Union with the Basic Law, the Maastricht Treaty enters into force.
- November 9: In a bitter battle for Mostar, Bosnian Croat units destroy the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Ottoman bridge over the Neretva; only ten years later it is rebuilt by a Turkish company with EU funds.
- December: A new constitution is adopted in Russia and a new Duma elected.

### 1994

- January 1: **The EEA enters into force**: free movement of people, goods, capital and services becomes available for 372 million Europeans.
- January 10-11: **NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP)** program with neutral and former Warsaw-Pact member states is launched. Subsequently, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia join the PfP and, later, NATO. Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan join the PfP.
- February 5: A grenade fired by Serb besiegers on the Sarajevo marketplace kills 69 people and wounds over 200; a few days later, NATO places an ultimatum on Bosnian Serbs, threatening to bomb if they do not withdraw their heavy weapons around Sarajevo; after the mediation of Russia, the Bosnian Serbs accept.
- March 2: Through the mediation of the United States, Croatia and Bosnian Muslims sign an agreement on a Croatian-Muslim Federation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- March 30: Sweden, Finland, Norway and Austria sign the negotiation packets for accession treaties.
- April 1: Hungary applies for EC membership.
- April 8: Poland applies for EC membership.
- May 4: The **European Parliament** approves the **accession of the "neutrals"** (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Austria) with 374 "yes", 24 "no" votes and 61 abstentions.

- June 12: In a referendum held in Austria, 66.6% vote in favor of joining the EU.
- July 15: After parliamentary elections in Hungary, Gyula Horn from the Socialist Party forms a coalition government with the Liberals.
- Summer: The “**contact group**” (the United States, Russia, France, Britain, Germany) designs a new partition plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to which the Bosnian Serbs would have to return about 20% of the occupied territory; they refuse.
- October 16: In a referendum held in Finland, 57% vote in favor of joining the EU.
- November 13: In a referendum held in Sweden, 52.2% vote in favor of joining the EU.
- November 27–28: In a referendum in Norway, 52.2% vote against joining the EU.
- November: The attempt of the Bosnian army to break through the blockade of Bihać fails; the United States calls for bombing against the Bosnian Serbs; France and the UK are against it.
- 22 December: The Executive Committee of the **Schengen States** in Bonn decides to put the agreement on the abolition of border controls into force on 26 March 1995.
- December: Russian forces invade the breakaway republic of Chechnya.

## 1995

- January 1: Austria, Finland and Sweden become members of the European Union.
- March 26: With the Schengen Agreement coming into force, personal checks are no longer carried out between Germany, France, the Benelux countries, Spain and Portugal.
- Beginning of May: Croatian forces reconquer Serbian-occupied Western Slavonia (“Operation Blijesak”) and force the Serbian forces to withdraw to Bosnia.
- June 12: Signing of EU Association Agreements with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- Between June and December: Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Bulgaria apply for EU membership.
- Beginning of July: The far superior Bosnian Serb forces, under the command of General Ratko Mladić, occupy the Muslim enclave and UN safe area of **Srebrenica**, which is protected only by a small Dutch detachment; after the evacuation of the women and children, on 11–12 July **some 7,500 Muslim men are shot** in the surrounding woods. Despite being intensively sought and accused of genocide, Mladić is not arrested until 2011, when he is extradited to The Hague.
- Early August: Croatian troops begin a concentric attack on the “Independent Republic of Krajina” (Operation “Oluja”) and force the vast majority of the approximately 200,000 Serbs to flee to northern Bosnia; Milošević takes no countermeasures.
- August 28: Another artillery attack by Bosnian Serb forces on the Sarajevo marketplace kills or wounds about 100 civilians. In the next days, at the request of UNPROFOR, **NATO begins targeted air strikes against Bosnian Serb military bases and artillery positions.**
- September 20: The NATO air strikes force the Bosnian Serbs to the negotiating table.
- November 21: After lengthy negotiations between Izetbegović, Milošević and Tuđman at the **US air force base in Dayton, Ohio**, the United States—with the support of Russia, Britain, France and Germany—force a **preliminary peace** which is then formally signed in Paris on 14 December 1995.
- November: NATO-led forces, including US troops, are created to oversee the implementation of the settlement; the UN War Crimes Tribunal indicts Bosnian Serb leaders, including President Radovan Karadžić, for genocide and crimes against humanity.
- November 28: The Hungarian Parliament allows the temporary stationing of US troops in Southern Hungary so they can intervene in the former Yugoslavia; the first units land in Taszár already on 9 December.
- December 15–16: At a meeting in Madrid, the European Council chooses the name “EURO” for the future European currency and decides on its introduction in 2002.

## 1996

From January: IFOR troops are stationed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

January 17: The Czech Republic applies for EU membership.

February 28: Despite the war in Chechnya, Russia becomes member of the Council of Europe.

June 10: Slovenia applies for EU membership.

September 16: Hungarian–Romanian Basic Treaty.

December 6: In Geneva, the South-East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) is formed between Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey and Hungary. Its director is former Austrian vice chancellor Erhard Busek.

December 19: Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Iceland join the Schengen Agreement.

December 20: **Beginning of the SFOR mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina** (which continues until 20 June 1998), in which 31,000 soldiers from 33 countries participate: 8,000 from the United States, 5,000 from the UK, 3,000 from Germany, 2,500 from France, 1,900 from Italy, 1,400 from Spain, 1,350 from the Netherlands, and 1,200 from Canada.

## 1997

June 16–17: The EU Heads of State and Government adopt the **Treaty of Amsterdam**, which is to enter into force on 1 May 1999.

July 8–9: In Madrid, the NATO heads of state and government decide to invite Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary for membership negotiations.

July 9: Nationalist riots in the Macedonian cities of Gostivar and Tetovo.

October 5/19: Milo Đukanović wins the presidential elections in Montenegro.

December 12–13: In Luxembourg, the European Council decides to start accession negotiations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus.

December 16: In Brussels, the foreign ministers of **Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary** sign the Act of Accession of their countries to NATO; the ratification process is then completed on 2 December 1998.

## 1998

From the end of February: Human rights violations in Kosovo increase, as do armed conflicts, acts of retaliation and expulsions.

May 2–3: At a special meeting the European Council, the countries participating in the **Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)** are decided upon: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain (the UK, Greece, Sweden and Denmark are not included) are to become part of the EMU on 1 January 1999; the EU Commission and the European Monetary Institute determine the conditions for fixing binding conversion rates for the euro; the European Central Bank (ECB) is founded and the Dutchman Wim Duisenberg is elected its first president.

July 8: Following parliamentary elections in Hungary, Viktor Orbán forms a moderate-right coalition government (with the FIDESZ-MPP, MDF, Smallholders).

October 27: **Gerhard Schröder** becomes the German chancellor.

October 30: After parliamentary elections in Slovakia, Mikuláš Dzurinda forms a broad coalition government.

## 1999

- January 1: Start of the Economic and Monetary Union; the euro is officially introduced as the unit of account.
- February 6–23: Representatives of Serbia and of Kosovo Albanians are invited by the Contact Group (the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, Germany, Italy) to the castle of **Rambouillet** near Paris for negotiations; Milošević refuses to sign the contract, but it is signed by Hashim Thaci, the political leader of the UÇK.
- February 22: Bulgaria recognizes the autonomy of the Macedonian language.
- March 12: **Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary become full NATO members.**
- March 24–26: The European Council adopts the “Agenda 2000” at a special summit in Berlin; Romano Prodi is appointed the new Commission president.
- March 24: After increases from the beginning of March Kosovo Albanians being expelled, **NATO begins—without a mandate from the UN Security Council—“air strikes” against military and civilian targets throughout Serbia**; not only are barracks and oil storage tanks destroyed, but also several bridges across the Danube as well as the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade; at the beginning of June, Milošević gives in and withdraws the Serbian forces from Kosovo; after the cessation of hostilities on 10 June, most of the nearly 800,000 Albanians who had been expelled or fled to Albania and Macedonia return back to their towns and villages in Kosovo.
- May 29: The mayor of Košice, Rudolf Schuster, a native Carpathian German, is elected president of Slovakia.
- June 3–4: In Cologne, the European Council adopts a common strategy regarding Russia, and declarations on Kosovo. The former NATO secretary general Javier Solana is appointed the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; in addition, the European Employment Pact is adopted.
- June 12–13: NATO troops (KFOR) enter Kosovo, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1244.
- July 30: In Sarajevo, 27 heads of state and government decide on the “**Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe**”; the German Bodo Hombach is appointed special coordinator; the Austrian Erhard Busek becomes his successor in 2002.
- October 15–16: At a special meeting of the European Council in Tampere, the creation of an EU-wide area of justice for fundamental rights is adopted.
- December 10–11: In Helsinki, the European Council decides to begin accession negotiations with Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia in the spring of 2000; Turkey receives candidate status. The EU also decides to establish rapid reaction forces by 2003.
- December 11: Death of Croatian president Tuđman in Zagreb.
- December 31: **Boris Yeltsin steps down** as president of the Russian Federation.

## 2000

- January 3: In Croatian parliamentary elections, the Social Democrats and Social Liberals obtain the absolute majority; the 1989 party leader of the Croatian communists, Ivica Račan, becomes the new prime minister.
- January 31: **Joint declaration of the 14 EU member states to impose sanctions** if a government with the participation of the FPÖ (chairman Jörg Haider) is established in Austria.
- February 4: In Austria, after the failure of SPÖ–ÖVP coalition negotiations, President Thomas Klestil is forced to swear in an ÖVP–FPÖ government led by Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel; massive national and international political protests; the 14 EU countries, under the leadership of Germany,



- France, Portugal and Belgium, put sanctions into force; the United States, Russia, Switzerland and Hungary hold back.
- February 7: Stjepan (Stipe) Mesić, the last chairman of the Yugoslav state presidency in 1991 and until 1994 a close associate of Tuđman, wins the Croatian presidential election.
- February 14: Opening of the **EU Intergovernmental Conference in Lisbon**, which by December 2000 is to provide a basis for institutional reforms.
- February 26: **Vladimir V. Putin** is elected president of the Russian Federation.
- March 12: Pope John Paul II prays for forgiveness at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.
- September 13: After a report by a Finnish-German-British panel, the **bilateral EU 14 sanctions against Austria are revoked**.
- September 28: The majority of the Danish population decides against joining the euro zone.
- October 7: The opposition candidate and lawyer **Vojislav Koštunica** wins the **Serbian presidential elections**; when Milošević again refuses to recognize the election results, mass protests start in Belgrade; Koštunica also receives foreign support; the Milošević era ends and Koštunica becomes president.
- October 28: In municipal elections in Kosovo, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) under **Ibrahim Rugova** is the strongest political force; the demand for independence from Serbia is raised by all Kosovo Albanian parties, but is rejected internationally.
- November 7: **George W. Bush is elected president of the United States**.
- December 6–11: The **EU summit in Nice** foresees comprehensive changes in institutional rules (ballot evaluation, majority decisions), as well as a future EU with 27 member states. A draft of the Charter of Fundamental Rights is solemnly proclaimed.

## 2001

- January 1: On the recommendation of the EU Commission, Greece becomes the 12<sup>th</sup> member of the euro zone.
- January 25: The leading candidate of the Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS), German-educated philosopher **Zoran Đinđić**, becomes the prime minister of the first non-socialist Serbian government.
- March 23–24: In Stockholm, the European Council makes concrete decisions on the implementation of economic reforms, employment and education policies, as well as E-commerce.
- May 4–9: In Athens, Pope John Paul II apologizes for the crimes committed by the crusaders on Orthodox Christians.
- June 15–16: Mass protests by opponents of the EU and globalization accompany the European Council meetings in Gothenburg. Nonetheless, the EU heads of state and government state that the enlargement process is “irreversible” and for the first time declare 2004 as the year of accession.
- June 28: **Milošević is extradited to the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague**.
- September 11: **Terrorist attacks** by hijacked airliners on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington by Islamic fundamentalists of the **Al Qaeda** terrorist group, headed by Osama bin Laden, cause more than 3,000 deaths, resulting in horror around the world and solidarity with the United States.
- December 15: The EU summit in Laeken, Belgium, issues an official order to form a “Convention on the Future of Europe.”

## 2002

- January 1: First introduction of **euro banknotes**; the single European currency becomes legal tender in 12 EU countries.

- May 27: Following parliamentary elections in Hungary, Péter Medgyessy forms a Socialist–Liberal coalition government.
- September 17: US president George W. Bush describes the American claim to a conventional or nuclear first strike (“preemptive strike”) against “rogue states” and the “axis of evil” in the world.
- October 10: The Hungarian poet Imre Kertész receives the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- October 28: The President of the Constitutional Convention, Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, presents the draft of a future Constitution for Europe to the European Parliament.
- December 13: The **EU summit in Copenhagen** decides on EU enlargement with ten new members; their accession is to take place on 1 May 2004. Despite criticism and warnings, priority is given to politics rather than economic and institutional problems.

## 2003

- January 18: Serbian prime minister Đindić calls for a soon start of negotiations on the final status of Kosovo; he initially encounters rebuffs not only from Belgrade and Priština, but also from Washington and Brussels.
- February 4: The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is renamed Serbia and Montenegro.
- March 8: Positive referendum (about 53%) in Malta for accession to the EU.
- March 12: Prime Minister Đindić **is shot** in the courtyard of his official residence in Belgrade by a hired killer.
- March 20: Without a mandate by the UN Security Council, **the United States and Great Britain begin a war against Iraq**; France and Germany hold back.
- March 23: Referendum on Slovenia’s future membership in the EU, about 90% of the voters are for the EU.
- April 12: Referendum on Hungary’s future membership in the EU, about 84% of the voters are for the EU.
- May 10–11: Positive Referendum on Lithuania’s future membership in the EU.
- May 16–17: Positive Referendum on Slovakia’s future membership in the EU.
- June 7–8: Positive Referendum on Poland’s future membership in the EU.
- June 15–16: Positive Referendum on the future membership of the Czech Republic in the EU.
- June 20–22: At the **EU summit in Thessaloniki** the possibility of EU accession for the Balkans is endorsed, although only after they meet a number of specific conditions; accessions can take place according to the “regatta” principle, i.e. each country individually, if it has fulfilled these conditions. In addition, convention president Giscard d’Estaing presents the draft of a European constitution.
- September 10–14: Visit of the Pope John Paul II to Slovakia, his 102<sup>nd</sup> and final trip abroad; large mass in Petržalka (Engerau) at the Slovak–Austrian border.
- September 14: Positive referendum on Estonia’s future membership in the EU.
- September 20: Positive referendum on Latvia’s future membership in the EU.
- December 12–13: The **summit of EU leaders in Brussels** fails to adopt the draft of the EU Constitutional Treaty; outwardly this seems to have to do with the weight of votes in the Council of 27, the background reasons are more complex.

## 2004

- March 29: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia become full members of NATO.
- May 1: (Greek-)Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia become full members of the EU. Apart from the special cases of Swit-

zerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland—this leaves only the Eastern European countries (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova) and the Balkans (Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Macedonia) outside the EU; Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Turkey—in the majority a non-European country—have submitted applications for membership.

June 18–19: After months of discussion, the EU leaders in Brussels under the Irish council presidency reach an agreement on a **new EU constitution**.

December: In the so-called “**Orange Revolution**,” Ukrainians protest against fraud in the presidential elections in favor of Viktor Yanukovich. In a re-vote, pro-Western Viktor Yushchenko, who had been poisoned a few months earlier, is elected. He chooses Yulya Tymoshenko as prime minister.

## 2005

January 24: US president Bush and Russian president Vladimir V. Putin meet in Bratislava Castle.

April 19: **Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger**, a native Bavarian, is elected the new pope and takes the name **Benedict XVI**.

October 3: After difficult discussions concerning various terms and conditions for accession negotiations—in which Britain campaigned in particular for Turkey, Austria for Croatia—the European Union decides to **begin accession negotiations with Turkey and Croatia**.

November 22: **Angela Merkel** (CDU), who grew up in the GDR as a pastor’s daughter, is elected chancellor of the FRG.

## 2006

March 11: Milošević is found dead in his UN war crimes tribunal prison cell in The Hague.

June 3: **Montenegro declares its independence**.

July 4: After parliamentary elections in Slovakia, Róbert Fico (Direction Social Democracy, SMER) forms a new government.

September 10: The Socialist Party of Prime Minister Milo Đukanović wins the parliamentary elections in Montenegro.

## 2007

January 1: Bulgaria and Romania become members of the European Union.

May 6: **Nicolas Sarkozy becomes president of France**.

December 13: Treaty of Lisbon amends the Maastricht Treaty.

December 21: Slovenia and Hungary become members of the Schengen Area.

## 2008

February 18: **Declaration of independence** of the former Autonomous Republic of **Kosovo/Kosova**.

April 3: NATO invites Albania and Croatia to join the organization.

August 8–15: War between Georgia and Russia.

October 7: The EU ministers of finance conclude guarantees for savings accounts.

## 2009

April 1: Albania and Croatia become full members of NATO.

September 1: **Commemoration on Westerplatte next to Gdańsk** to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War II in the presence of Polish president Lech Kaczyński, the Polish prime minister Donald Tusk, German chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian prime minister Vladimir V. Putin.

## 2010

April 7: **Meeting Putin–Tusk in Katyń** to commemorate the murder in the spring of 1940 of some 26,000 Polish officers, officials, police officers, landowners, etc.

April 10: The plane carrying Polish President Kaczyński, who was also travelling to Katyń for the commemoration, crashes with 96 passengers—among them Polish members of parliament, bishops, generals and relatives of the victims.

May 9: **Military parade on Red Square** in Moscow to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, with the participation of US, British, French and Polish soldiers and in the presence of Russian President Medvedev, German Chancellor Merkel, Polish President Komorowski and Czech President Klaus.

## 2011

December 9: “Fiscal pact” of the Euro members.

## 2013

July 1: Croatia becomes the 28<sup>th</sup> member of the European Union.

November: EU association agreements with Georgia and Moldova are signed.

November 21: Demonstrations on Kyiv’s Maidan against President Viktor Yanukovych’s hesitation towards signing a similar agreement with the EU begin.

## 2014

February 21-22: After violent clashes on the so-called “**Euro-Maidan**”, Yanukovych and opposition leaders agree on new elections and a return to the 2004 Constitution. Yanukovych flees to Russia; the Ukrainian Parliament votes him out of office.

February-March: Russian special troops without insignia take control of the **Crimea**. After a quick referendum regarding the Ukrainian peninsula, which is later declared invalid by the UN General Assembly, the Crimea is incorporated into the Russian Federation.

April-July: Russian-speaking separatists and Russian citizens seize control of **Eastern Ukraine** and declare the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics. Battles between separatist and Ukrainian forces start. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights accuses pro-Russian forces of having subjected the eastern Ukrainian population to “a reign of intimidation and terror,” resulting in “hundreds of abductions with many victims tortured” and killed. The destruction of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 near Donetsk kills 298 people, with evidence indicating that pro-Russian separatists fired a surface-to-air missile at what they probably thought was a Ukrainian military aircraft. The EU and the United States accuse Russia of supporting the separatists and impose economic sanctions.

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