

# Timeline



<p><b>1972</b></p> <p><b>22 FEBRUARY</b> US President Richard Nixon visits China</p> <p><b>26 MAY</b> USA and USSR sign SALT I treaty in Moscow</p>	<p><b>1973</b></p> <p><b>27 JANUARY</b> USA signs Vietnam War truce in Paris</p>	<p><b>1974</b></p> <p><b>8 AUGUST</b> US President Nixon resigns; Gerald Ford takes over</p> 	<p><b>1975</b></p> <p><b>24 NOVEMBER</b> Vladivostok Accord agreed between President Ford and General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Leonid Brezhnev</p>	<p><b>1975</b></p> <p><b>1 AUGUST</b> Helsinki Final Act signed</p>	<p><b>1979</b></p> <p><b>18 JUNE</b> USA and USSR sign SALT II treaty in Vienna</p> <p><b>12 DECEMBER</b> NATO countries approve deployment of new cruise and Pershing II ballistic missiles in Europe.</p> <p><b>25 DECEMBER</b> Red Army invades Afghanistan</p>		
<p><b>1980</b></p> <p><b>23 JANUARY</b> US President Carter proclaims the Carter Doctrine in his State of the Union speech</p>	<p><b>1981</b></p> <p><b>17 SEPTEMBER</b> Solidarity (Solidarnosc) trade union founded in Poland</p>	<p><b>1981</b></p> <p><b>13 DECEMBER</b> Polish Prime Minister Jaruzelski declares martial law</p>	<p><b>1982</b></p> <p><b>12 NOVEMBER</b> Yuri Andropov becomes General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party following the death of Leonid Brezhnev</p>	<p><b>1983</b></p> <p><b>23 MARCH</b> President Reagan launches the Strategic Defense Initiative ('Star Wars')</p>	<p><b>1983</b></p> <p><b>23 NOVEMBER</b> Soviets walk out of the START and INF talks in Geneva</p>	<p><b>1984</b></p> <p><b>13 FEBRUARY</b> Konstantin Chernenko becomes General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party following death of Yuri Andropov</p>	<p><b>1985</b></p> <p><b>11 MARCH</b> Mikhail Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party following death of Konstantin Chernenko</p>
<p><b>19-21 NOVEMBER</b> First Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland</p>		<p><b>1986</b></p> <p><b>10-12 OCTOBER</b> Second Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland</p>	<p><b>1987</b></p> <p><b>7-10 DECEMBER</b> Third Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting held in Washington DC; INF treaty signed on second day</p>	<p><b>1988</b></p> <p><b>29 MAY-2 JUNE</b> Fourth and final Reagan-Gorbachev summit held in Moscow, USSR</p>	<p><b>7 DECEMBER</b> Gorbachev announces huge Soviet arms cuts and commitment to 'freedom of choice' in Eastern Europe</p>	<p><b>1989</b></p> <p><b>15 FEBRUARY</b> Last Soviet troops leave Afghanistan</p> <p><b>15-19 MAY</b> Gorbachev visits Beijing and normalizes relations between USSR and China; pro-democracy demonstration takes place in Tiananmen Square</p>	
<p><b>9 NOVEMBER</b> The Berlin Wall opens, allowing people to pass freely between the East and West of the city; much of the wall is pulled down</p>	<p><b>2-3 DECEMBER</b> First Bush-Gorbachev summit held off the coast of Malta</p>	<p><b>1990</b></p> <p><b>29 MAY</b> Boris Yeltsin appointed leader of the Russian Republic</p> <p><b>30 MAY - 2 JUNE</b> Second Bush-Gorbachev summit held</p>	<p>in Washington DC</p> <p><b>2 AUGUST</b> Iraq invades Kuwait</p> <p><b>3 OCTOBER</b> East and West Germany reunited</p>	<p><b>1991</b></p> <p><b>15 JANUARY</b> Operation Desert Storm against Iraq begins</p> <p><b>12 JUNE</b> Boris Yeltsin elected President of the Russian Republic</p>	<p><b>31 JULY</b> Bush and Gorbachev sign the START I treaty in Moscow</p> 	<p><b>19 AUGUST</b> Gorbachev is temporarily ousted by hard-line Communist rebels</p>	<p><b>8 DECEMBER</b> USSR is dissolved and CIS established</p> <p><b>25 DECEMBER</b> Gorbachev resigns as President of the USSR</p>