

ATE	EVENT
1945	At the Potsdam Conference from July 17-August 2, Allied commanders agree to divide Korea at the 38 th Parallel, with the Soviet Union accepting Japanese surrender in the North, and the United States the South.
1947	Jackie Robinson breaks the color barrier by playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15.
1947	In his commencement address at Harvard University on June 5, Secretary of State George Marshall presents his plan for economic recovery in war-torn Europe.
1947	George F. Kennan, writing as Mr. X, publishes "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," in the July 1 edition of <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , in which he lays out his policy of containment.
1947	On July 26, President Truman signs the National Security Act, which reorganized the federal military and intelligence agencies.
1948	On February 25, Czechoslovakia falls under communist rule.
1948	On March 2 Truman creates a Loyalty Program, which is used to catch spies during the Cold War.
1948	On March 17 the Brussels Pact is formed to protect Europe from communism.
1948	On June 24 the Berlin Blockade begins.
1948	President Truman issues Executive Order 9981, ordering the desegregation of the military.
1949	On April 4 NATO is ratified.
1949	On May 12 the Berlin Blockade ends.
1949	By June, Soviet and American forces had withdrawn from Korea.

1949	On August 29 the Soviet Union first tests its atomic bomb.
1949	On October 1 communist Mao Zedong takes over China.
1949	On December 1 Chang Kai-shek moves to Formosa and creates a nationalist government.
1950	On January 20 President Truman approves the development of the Hydrogen bomb.
1950	In February, Senator Joseph McCarthy begins his Communist witch hunt.
1950	The Korean War begins on June 24 as North Korea invades South Korea.
1950	President Truman orders air and naval support for South Korea on June 27.
1950	U.N. forces under Douglas MacArthur push North Korean forces back, capturing the capital city of Pyongyang on October 19.
1950	Chinese forces enter the war on the side of North Korea on November 1.
1951	On January 12 the Federal Civil Defense Administration is created.
1951	On April 11 Truman fires General Douglas MacArthur.
1951	MacArthur gives his famous "Old Soldiers" farewell speech before Congress on April 19.
1951	Korean War truce talks began on July 10.
1952	On November 4 Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected President of the United States.
1953	Soviet leader Joseph Stalin dies on March 5.
1953	During the nuclear arms race, from March 17-June 4, atomic tests are conducted in a series

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	of 11 explosions at the Nevada test site.
1953	On June 19 the Rosenbergs are executed.
1953	The Korean War ends on July 27.
1954	In March the KGB is established; the CIA helps overthrow regimes in Iran and Guatemala.
1954	In July, Vietnam is split in half at the 17 th parallel.
1954	On May 17, the Supreme Court strikes down segregation in public schools in the case <i>Brown vs. Board of Education</i> .
1954	On December 2, the Senate votes to censure Joseph McCarthy for actions unbecoming a Senator.
1955	The Warsaw Pact is formed on May 14.
1955	On December 1, Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott that lasts more than a year.
1956	On June 29 the Soviet Union sends tanks to Poznan, Poland to quell worker demonstrations.
1956	On September 4 the Soviet Union sends military aid to Afghanistan.
1956	From October to December a rebellion is stopped in Hungary; Egypt takes control of the Suez Canal and Britain and France send troops to take it back; The United States does not help Britain get it back and Egypt retains control after cease fire.
1957	On August 26 the Vostok rocket is launched.
1957	After the National Guard is used to prevent the Little Rock Nine from entering Little Rock High School on September 4, President Eisenhower sends in federal troops to enforce

	desegregation.
1957	On October 4 Sputnik enters orbit.
1957	On November 3 Sputnik II is launched.
1958	On January 1 Explorer I is launched.
1958	NASA begins operations on October 1.
1958	In November, Khrushchev wants the withdrawal of troops from Berlin.
1959	Fidel Castro takes over Cuba on January 1.
1959	In September, Khrushchev visits the United States.
1960	The Greensboro Sit-ins begin on February first as African American students protest for equal service.
1960	On May 1 the Soviet Union states that an American spy plane was shot down over its territory.
1960	On November 8 John F. Kennedy is elected President of the United States.
1960	On December 19 Cuba announces an alliance with the Soviet Union and their communist policies.
1961	The Soviet Union sends the first man, Yuri Gagarin, into space on April 12.
1961	On April 17 the Bay of Pigs invasion begins, but fails within two days.
1961	Freedom Riders take buses south on May 4 to protest segregation.

1961	On May 5, Alan Shepard becomes the first American to go into space.
1961	In an address to Congress on May 25, President Kennedy challenges the United States to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade.
1961	In July President Kennedy proposes a 25% spending increase for the military.
1961	On August 13 the Berlin border is closed.
1961	On August 17 construction on the Berlin Wall begins.
1962	In January United States increases its involvement in Vietnam.
1962	On February 20, John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the earth.
1962	In September, President Kennedy sends in federal troops to allow James Meredith to enroll at the University of Mississippi.
1962	On October 22 the Cuban Missile Crisis occurs.
1963	Betty Friedan's <i>The Feminine Mystique</i> is published on February 19.
1963	Despite attacks against them, Martin Luther King Jr. leads activists in protesting segregation laws in Birmingham, Alabama throughout April.
1963	On April 12, Martin Luther King Jr. is arrested and sent to prison, where he writes his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."
1963	Facing federal troops sent by President Kennedy, Governor George Wallace is forced to desegregate the University of Alabama on June 11.
1963	On June 11, the same night that President Kennedy gives a speech on civil rights, Mississippi NAACP leader Medgar Evers is killed.

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1963	On August 5 the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is ratified.
1963	On August 28 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech to a crowd of more than 200,000 people.
1963	Four African American girls are killed when KKK members bomb the 16 th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.
1963	On November 22 President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Lyndon B. Johnson takes over as United States President.
1964	The 24 th Amendment is ratified on January 23, prohibiting the use of poll taxes.
1964	Freedom Summer takes place in Mississippi, as civil rights workers help register African Americans to vote.
1964	President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act on July 2, which prohibits discrimination in areas such as public places, schools, and employment.
1964	On August 2 a United States destroyer is engaged by three Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin; On August 4 the United States Navy believes they are attacked by Vietnamese torpedo boats but eventually proved to be false radar images. This is known as the Gulf of Tonkin Incident.
1964	On August 7, Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Johnson the power to take whatever actions he sees necessary to defend southeast Asia.
1964	On November 3 Lyndon Baines Johnson is elected President of the United States.
1965	Malcolm X is assassinated by Black Muslim opponents on February 21.
1965	Marching against attacks, Martin Luther King Jr. leads a group from Selma to Montgomery to support African American voter registration in March.

1965	On April 28 United States Marines are sent to the Dominican Republic to fight Communism.
1965	In July, 150,000 United States troops are sent to Vietnam.
1965	President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act on August 6, which prohibits discriminating voting policies used in southern states.
1965	In August, the Watts riots erupt in Los Angeles, resulting in violence, burning, looting, and 34 deaths.
1966	On June 13 the Supreme Court guarantees the rights of suspected criminals in the case <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> .
1966	B-52 bombers target North Vietnam.
1967	On August 26, the United States Defense Secretary Robert McNamara declares that the American bombing raids had failed.
1967	On April 28 Boxer Muhammad Ali refuses to be inducted into the army and is stripped of his title.
1967	Race riots in the summer in Detroit and Newark require federal troops to restore order. 43 are killed in Detroit, 26 in Newark.
1968	In January, North Korea captures the U.S.S. <i>Pueblo</i> .
1968	The Tet Offensive begins on January 30, as Viet Cong forces assault U.S. positions.
1968	The controversial My Lai Massacre takes place on March 16.
1968	On March 31 President Johnson announces he would not seek re-election after losing control of the Democratic Party.
1968	On April 4 Dr. Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

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1968	On June 5 Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated after winning the California primary election. He dies the following morning.
1968	In August, Soviet troops successfully block a Czechoslovakian revolt known as the Prague Spring.
1968	On November 5 Richard M. Nixon is elected President of the United States.
1969	On July 20 the United States' Apollo 11 lands on the moon. Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first men to walk on the moon.
1970	On March 5 the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is ratified by Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States.
1970	In April, President Nixon extends the Vietnam War into Cambodia.
1970	On May 4 at Kent State, unrest leads to National Guard troops shooting into a crowd of student protesters, leaving four dead and others wounded.
1970	Congress repeals the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on June 24.
1971	The <i>New York Times</i> begins publishing the Pentagon Papers in June.
1972	From February 21 to February 28 President Nixon visits China.
1972	On May 26 SALT I is signed.
1972	On November 7 Richard Nixon is re-elected as President of the United States.
1973	On January 27 a cease fire is agreed upon between North Vietnam and the United States, known as the Paris Peace Accords.
1973	On September 11 the United States helps overthrow the government of Chile.

1973	On October 6 Egypt and Syria attack Israel during the Yom Kippur War; Egypt turns to the Soviets for help.
1973	President Richard Nixon is investigated in what became known as the Watergate Scandal.
1974	On August 8, President Richard Nixon announces his resignation from office, which becomes effective noon the following day.

Timeline of the Cold War and Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1974