Timeline #6
Diplomacy of the Cold War (1943-1991)¹

1943
April
USSR withdraws recognition from the Polish govt-in-exile (London)
Nov
Teheran Conference: Western allies agree to open 2nd front by 1 May 1944

1944
June
Allies open second front in northern France (D-Day)
July
Opening of Bretton Woods conference (leads to IMF & World Bank)
Oct
Churchill & Stalin make "percentages" agreement on Balkans (in Moscow)

1945
Feb
Yalta conference
May
Soviet forces enter Berlin, ending WWII in Europe
US cuts off lend-lease aid to USSR
June
Creation of United Nations (opens in October).²
July
Potsdam conference (places Germany & Austria under 4-power occupation)
Aug
Japan surrenders, ending war in Pacific

1946
Feb
Stalin's "Pre-election" speech
Feb
George Kennan's "Long Telegram" from Moscow
Mar
Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri
April
Soviets force union of German Social Democrats & Communists into SED.³

1947
Jan
US & Britain fuse their German occupation zones into one "Bizonia"
Feb
Formal peace treaties signed with Italy, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Finland
Britain withdraws from Greece, to be replaced by US
Mar
Declaration of "Truman Doctrine" in context of Greek civil war
May
Communists expelled from French and Italian governments
June
Announcement of Marshall Plan for Europe
July
Eastern European countries compelled by Soviets to reject Marshall aid
Sept
Creation of Cominform to replace disbanded Comintern

1948
Feb
Communists take power in Czechoslovakia
Mar
Rupture between Stalin and Tito (Yugoslavia)
June
New currency circulated in western German zones, blockade of Berlin by Soviets
Yugoslavia (under Tito) expelled from Cominform

1949
April
Creation of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
France, Britain, USA merge their German zones into a single entity
May
Soviets abandon blockade of Berlin after successful airlift
June
London Accords lead to creation of West Germany (FRG)
Aug
Explosion of first Soviet A-bomb
Oct
Creation of the German Democratic Republic (GDR)
Founding of People's Republic of China
Greek communists abandon armed struggle, ending Greek civil war
Nov
USSR in effect ends reparations (dismantling of German industrial plant)

¹ See also the separate timeline on decolonization (below) and on European integration (coming later).
² League of Nations meets for last time in April, 1945 and transfers its assets & powers to UN.
³ SED = Socialist Unity Party (this of course applied only to the eastern zone).
1950  Truman approves development of H-Bomb
1950-53  Korean War
1952  King Farouk of Egypt overthrown by Egyptian nationalists
1953  Eisenhower becomes US President
      Death of Stalin (struggle for power until 1956 or so)
      Workers' uprising in East Berlin
1954  Paris accords call for FRG's rearmament and entrance into NATO
      Gamal Abdel Nasser takes power in Egypt (become president in 1956)
      French defeat at Dien Bien Phu (Vietnam); Algerian war begins
1955  Nasser signs agreement with USSR & Czechoslovakia on arms
      USSR & west sign treaty creating unified, sovereign, neutral Austria
      Creation of Warsaw Pact
1956  Khrushchev, firmly in power in USSR, begins de-Stalinization
      Post-Stalinist unrest in Poland
      Hungarian Revolution (more serious anti-Soviet unrest)
      Nasser nationalizes the Suez Canal, precipitating Suez Canal Crisis
1957  Soviets launch first satellite (sputnik) into space, develop first ICBM
      Treaty of Rome calls for creation of European Economic Community (EEC)
1958  Khrushchev's Berlin ultimatum (attempt to solve the German problem)
1959  Continuing negotiations over Berlin end in deadlock
      Revolution in Cuba
1961  Kennedy becomes President after narrow election victory in 1960
      Soviets send first man (Yuri Gagarin) into space
      US begins deployment of intermediate-range missiles in Turkey
      Construction of Berlin Wall – problem solved!
1962  Cuban missile crisis
1964  Khrushchev replaced by Leonid Brezhnev as head of USSR
1963  New telephone "hot line" links White & Kremlin directly
      Treaty between USSR, Britain & US ends atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons
1964  China explodes its first atomic device
1965  Formal US decision to deploy large numbers of ground troops in Vietnam
1966  China breaks off formal relations with CPSU (Communist Party of Soviet Union)
      All French forces withdrawn from NATO; NATO forces ordered to leave France
      Charles de Gaulle (France) visits Moscow
1967  FRG establishes diplomatic relations w/ Rumania & Yugoslavia (1968)
1968  Suppression by Soviets of "Prague Spring"; articulation of "Brezhnev doctrine"
      China explodes its first hydrogen bomb
1969  Soviet-Chinese military skirmishes along Ussuri River
      US begins significant troop reductions in Vietnam
1970  FRG signs treaty with USSR & Poland
1971  Quadripartite Treaty on Berlin
      Signature between US & USSR of Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty
      Willy Brandt wins Nobel Peace Prize (for his Ostpolitik efforts)
      UN votes to replace Taiwan with People's Republic as representative for China
1972
Nixon visits China
Last US ground combat units leave Vietnam
Nixon signs arms control agreements with Brezhnev in Moscow (SALT I)
FRG & GDR sign "Basic Treaty" confirming their common frontier

1973
Yom Kippur War: Israel vs. Arab states
Jackson-Vanik amendment compromises prospects of US-Soviet trade

1974
(Re?)-integration of all French and NATO forces in central Europe
Summit between President Ford & Brezhnev in Vladivostok

1975
Appolo-Soyuz space mission.
Helsinki Accords & Final Act (signed by 35 Euro-states plus Canada & US)

1978
Karol Wytola (a Pole) elected Pope John Paul II

1979
Leftist Sadinistas oust Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua
Carter & Brezhnev sign SALT II in Vienna.4

1980
US boycotts summer Olympic Games in Moscow.5
Creation of Solidarity union in Poland

1981
Declaration of martial law in Poland; Solidarity outlawed

1982
Martial law ended in Poland

1983
Solidarity's Lech Walesa receives Nobel Peace Prize
Reagan announces plans to develop Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)

1984
Jaruzelski proclaims general amnesty to those imprisoned under martial law
USSR & most Warsaw Pact countries boycott 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.6

1985
Mikhail Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of CPSU
Eduard Shevardnadze replaces Andrei Gromyko as USSR foreign minister

1986
Nuclear disaster in Chernobyl
Reagan & Gorbachev meet in Reykjavik, but without concluding an agreement
Dr Werth visits East & West Berlin as an impressionable young 18-year old

1987
Gorbachev embarks on full-scale reform program "Perestroika"
Washington summit leads to Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty

1988
Gorbachev meets FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, begins process of reunification
Reagan visits Moscow, disavows reference to "evil empire" (1983)
Dr Werth visits the USSR for the first time

1989
The fall of most one-party communist regimes in East-Central Europe

1990
Reunification of Germany (within NATO)
Collapse of the USSR into 15 successor states
Start of War(s) of Yugoslav Succession

---

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

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

6 Although Romania conspicuously attended. Hooray for Ceausescu!!
### Special Decolonization Time-line (since WWI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Britain &amp; France take over former Ottoman Arab lands as mandates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Egypt gains formal independence from Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Iraq gains formal independence from British mandate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Italy invades Ethiopia; last overt European conquest of overseas territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Japan takes over many European colonies in East Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Formal &amp; complete independence for Iceland from Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>End of WWII; Japan deprived of all colonial holdings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>France relinquishes control over mandates in Syria &amp; Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Beginning of revolt in Indochina against French rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Independence for Philippines from the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Independence for India from Britain and partition into India &amp; Pakistan*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Indonesia gains independence after bitter fighting with the Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Independence for Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and Myanmar (Burma) from Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Successful communist revolution in China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Chinese invasion and incorporation of Tibet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Full independence of Egypt (removal of British forces)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>French defeat at Dien Bien Phu ends French presence in Indochina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Beginning of Algerian revolt against French rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Suez Canal crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Independence for Ghana begins process of African decolonization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Fall of French Fourth Republic over Algeria (return of Charles de Gaulle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Independence for Belgian Congo (Zaire) &amp; Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>France grants independence to all its black (sub-Saharan) African colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Independence for Republic of South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Independence for Algeria after protracted war with France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>&quot;Carnation Revolution&quot; in Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Independence for Angola, Mozambique from Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Home rule (independence) for Greenland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Islamic Revolution in Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Beginning of conflict between Armenia &amp; Azerbaijan over Nogorno-Karabakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Independence for Namibia (South West Africa), in effect from South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Break-up of the Soviet Union; independence for its fifteen union republics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Russian invasion of Chechnya (ends in indecisive peace in 1996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Beginning of second Chechen War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Russo-Georgian War over South Ossetia (and by extension Abkhazia)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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