

TURTON SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – LIFE AFTER WW2

Key events

24 October 1945: The United Nations officially comes into existence when the Charter is ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the US and by a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year.

15 August 1947: India was regarded as the most valuable British imperial possession. World War Two forced Britain to realise that it could not maintain a global empire and the British agreed to Indian self-government.

22 June 1948: The liner 'SS Empire Windrush' docked at Tilbury carrying nearly 500 Caribbean immigrants to Britain, many attracted by offers of work. This arrival represented the beginning of significant immigration to Britain from the Commonwealth, particularly the Caribbean

5 July 1948: The National Health Service, established by the post-war Labour government, represented a fundamental change in the provision of medical services.

25 July 1948: In June 1948, the Soviet Union began a blockade of Berlin, which had been divided into occupation zones by the victorious Allies at the end of the war. They hoped to drive the western Allies out of Berlin. The following month, British and American aircraft began to airlift supplies to West Berliners. In total, there were more than 277,000 flights to deliver food, fuel and medicine. In May 1949, the Soviets backed down and lifted their blockade.

6 February 1952: Elizabeth II succeeds her father, George VI. Princess Elizabeth was in Kenya when news of her father's death reached her. She immediately returned to Britain and was crowned on 2 June 1953. Elizabeth II proved an experienced and skilful adviser of successive prime ministers, but was careful to main constitutional conventions and not take a political stand publicly.

12 October 1960: At the height of the cold war, the two superpowers are set against each other at the UN. In a personal appearance before the General Assembly, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev rages against a comment by the head of the Philippine delegation about western imperialism, and bangs his shoe on the desk.

1961 The Berlin wall is built; physically separating Russian controlled East Berlin from the Allied controlled Western section. The Allies are, again, reliant on narrow air corridors and strictly controlled transport routes for access to their section.

22 November 1963: John F. Kennedy is assassinated while riding with his wife Jacqueline in a Presidential motorcade

21 July 1969: American astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to set foot on the moon

17 April 1975: The Cambodian genocide was carried out by the Khmer Rouge regime under the leadership of Pol Pot, killing approximately 1.5 to 3 million Cambodian people from 1975 to 1979. The Khmer Rouge wanted to turn the country into a socialist agrarian republic, founded on the policies of Maoism.

3 May 1979: Margaret Thatcher, party leader since 1975, became Britain's first female prime minister with a majority of 43 seats.

2 April 1982: Argentina invades the British territory of the Falkland Islands. Three days after the invasion, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent a naval task force to liberate the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic. The subsequent conflict cost the lives of 655 Argentine and 255 British servicemen, many of them sailors who died during attacks on Royal Navy warships. The conflict ended on 14 June when the commander of the Argentine garrison at Port Stanley surrendered to British troops.

April-July 1994: The Rwandan genocide, also known as the genocide against the Tutsi, was a mass slaughter of Tutsi in Rwanda during the Rwandan Civil War, which had started in 1990. It was directed by members of the Hutu majority government during the 100-day period from 7 April to mid-July 1994

July 1995: The term Bosnian genocide refers to either genocide at Srebrenica and Žepa committed by Bosnian Serb forces in 1995 or the wider ethnic cleansing campaign throughout areas controlled by the Army that took place during the 1992–1995 Bosnian War.

Key people

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, commonly referred to by his initials JFK, was an American politician who served as the 35th President of the United States from January 1961 until his assassination in November 1963.

Nikita Khrushchev was a Soviet statesman who led the Soviet Union during part of the Cold War as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1953 to 1964, and as Chairman of the Council of Ministers, or Premier, from 1958 to 1964.

Neil Alden Armstrong was an American astronaut and aeronautical engineer who was the first person to walk on the Moon. He was also a naval aviator, test pilot, and university professor.

Pol Pot was a Cambodian communist revolutionary and politician who served as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea from 1963 to 1981. Ideologically a Marxist–Leninist and Khmer nationalist, he led the Khmer Rouge group from 1963 until 1997.

Margaret Hilda Thatcher, was a British stateswoman who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990 and Leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990. She was the first female Prime Minister.

Ratko Mladic: Bosnian Serb military leader Mladic was charged over the Sarajevo siege and the Srebrenica massacre, the worst atrocity in Europe since World War II. After almost 16 years in hiding Mladic, known as "The Butcher of Bosnia", was arrested in Serbia.

Osama bin Laden is a terrorist extremist who planned the attacks on the World Trade Center and is intent on driving Western influence from the Muslim world.

Historical terms

Key questions to consider:
What was the Cold War? What happened in Berlin? Did man really land on the moon? What is the UN? What is the purpose of the UN? What is Genocide? What happened in Cambodia? What happened in Rwanda? What happened in Bosnia?

Capitalism: an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.

Communism: a theory or system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.

UN: An organization that includes virtually all countries in the world, with nearly 190 member nations. It's General Assembly, in which each member nation has one vote, guides policies and finances generally.

Cold War: a state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare, in particular.

Democracy: a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Dictatorship: a government or a social situation where one person makes all the rules and decisions without input from anyone else.

Terrorism: the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.