

# 1960 – 1969 World History

1960

American U-2 spy plane, piloted by Francis Gary Powers, shot down over Russia (**May 1**). Khrushchev kills Paris summit conference because of U-2 (**May 16**). Top Nazi murderer of Jews, Adolf Eichmann, captured by Israelis in Argentina (**May 23**)—executed in Israel in 1962. Powers sentenced to prison for 10 years (**Aug. 19**)—freed in **February 1962** in exchange for Soviet spy. Communist China and Soviet Union split in conflict over Communist ideology. Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Madagascar, and Zaire (Belgian Congo) gain independence. Cuba begins confiscation of \$770 million of U.S. property (**Aug. 7**). There are 900 U.S. military advisers in South Vietnam.

1961

U.S. breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba (**Jan. 3**). Robert Frost recites “The Gift Outright” at John F. Kennedy’s inauguration as president of U.S. (**Jan. 20**). Moscow announces putting first man in orbit around Earth, Maj. Yuri A. Gagarin (**April 12**). Cuba invaded at Bay of Pigs by an estimated 1,200 anti-Castro exiles aided by U.S.; invasion crushed (**April 17**). First U.S. spaceman, Navy Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard, Jr., rockets 116.5 miles up in 302-mile trip (**May 5**). Virgil Grissom becomes second American astronaut, making 118-mile-high, 303-mile-long rocket flight over Atlantic (**July 21**). Gherman Stepanovich Titov is launched in Soviet spaceship *Vostok II*: makes  $17\frac{1}{2}$  orbits in 25 hours, covering 434,960 miles before landing safely (**Aug. 6**). East Germans erect Berlin Wall between East and West Berlin to halt flood of refugees (**Aug. 13**). USSR fires 50-megaton hydrogen bomb, biggest explosion in history (**Oct. 29**). There are 2,000 U.S. military advisers in South Vietnam.

1962

Lt. Col. John H. Glenn, Jr., is first American to orbit Earth—three times in 4 hr 55 min (**Feb. 20**). France transfers sovereignty to new republic of Algeria (**July 3**). Cuban missile crisis > USSR to build missile bases in Cuba; Kennedy orders Cuban blockade, lifts blockade after Russians back down (**Aug.–Nov.**). James H. Meredith, escorted by federal marshals, registers at University of Mississippi (**Oct. 1**). Pope John XXIII opens Second Vatican Council (**Oct. 11**)—Council holds four sessions, finally closing **Dec. 8, 1965**. Cuba releases 1,113 prisoners of 1961 invasion attempt (**Dec. 24**). Burundi, Jamaica, Western Samoa, Uganda, and Trinidad and Tobago become independent. William Faulkner wins Pulitzer for *The Reivers*. Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*.

1963

France and West Germany sign treaty of cooperation ending four centuries of conflict (**Jan. 22**). Michael E. De Bakey implants artificial heart in human for first time at Houston hospital; plastic device functions and patient lives for four days (**April 21**). Pope John XXIII dies (**June 3**)—succeeded **June 21** by Cardinal Montini, who becomes Paul VI. U.S. Supreme Court rules no locality may require recitation of Lord’s Prayer or Bible verses in public schools (**June 17**). U.K.’s Profumo scandal (**June**). Civil rights rally held by 200,000 blacks and whites in Washington, D.C.; Martin Luther King delivers “I have a dream” speech (**Aug. 28**). Washington-to-Moscow “hot line” communications link opens, designed to reduce risk of accidental war (**Aug. 30**). President Kennedy shot and killed by sniper in Dallas, Tex. Lyndon B. Johnson becomes president same day (**Nov. 22**). Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, is shot and killed by Jack Ruby, Dallas nightclub owner (**Nov. 24**). Kenya achieves independence. Betty Friedan publishes *The Feminine Mystique*. There are 15,000 U.S. military advisers in South Vietnam.

1964

U.S. Supreme Court rules that congressional districts should be roughly equal in population (**Feb. 17**). Jack Ruby convicted of murder in slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald; sentenced to death by Dallas jury (**March 14**)—conviction reversed **Oct. 5, 1966**; Ruby dies **Jan. 3, 1967**, before second trial can be held. Three civil rights workers—Schwerner, Goodman, and Cheney—murdered in Mississippi (**June**). Twenty-one arrests result in trial and conviction of seven by federal jury. Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment (**June 11**). Congress approves Gulf of Tonkin resolution (**Aug. 7**). President’s Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy issues Warren Report concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. The Beatles appear on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

1965

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and more than 2,600 other blacks arrested in Selma, Ala., during three-day demonstrations against voter-registration rules (**Feb. 1**). Malcolm X, black-nationalist leader, shot to death at Harlem rally in New York City (**Feb. 21**). U.S. Marines land in Dominican Republic as fighting persists between rebels and Dominican army (**April 28**). Medicare, senior citizens’ government medical

assistance program, begins **(July 1)**. Blacks riot for six days in Watts section of Los Angeles: 34 dead, over 1,000 injured, nearly 4,000 arrested, fire damage put at \$175 million **(Aug. 11–16)**. Power failure in Ontario plant blacks out parts of eight states of northeast U.S. and two provinces of southeast Canada **(Nov. 9)**. Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed*.

**1966**

Black teenagers riot in Watts, Los Angeles; two men killed and at least 25 injured **(March 15)**. Supreme Court decides *Miranda v. Arizona*.

**1967**

Three Apollo astronauts—Col. Virgil I. Grissom, Col. Edward White II, and Lt. Cmdr. Roger B. Chaffee—killed in spacecraft fire during simulated launch **(Jan. 27)**. Biafra secedes from Nigeria **(May 30)**. Israeli and Arab forces battle; six-day war ends with Israel occupying Sinai Peninsula, Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, and east bank of Suez Canal **(June 5)**. Red China announces explosion of its first hydrogen bomb **(June 17)**. Racial violence in Detroit; 7,000 National Guardsmen aid police after night of rioting. Similar outbreaks occur in New York City's Spanish Harlem, Rochester, N.Y., Birmingham, Ala., and New Britain, Conn. **(July 23)**. Thurgood Marshall sworn in as first black U.S. Supreme Court justice **(Oct. 2)**. Dr. Christiaan N. Barnard and team of South African surgeons perform world's first successful human heart transplant **(Dec. 3)**—patient dies 18 days later.

**1968**

North Korea seizes U.S. Navy ship *Pueblo*; holds 83 on board as spies **(Jan. 23)**. Tet offensive, turning point in Vietnam war **(Jan.–Feb.)**. My Lai massacre **(March 16)**. President Johnson announces he will not seek or accept presidential renomination **(March 31)**. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader, is slain in Memphis **(April 4)**—James Earl Ray, indicted in murder, captured in London on **June 8**. In 1969 Ray pleads guilty and is sentenced to 99 years. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is shot and critically wounded in Los Angeles hotel after winning California primary **(June 5)**—dies **June 6**. Sirhan B. Sirhan convicted 1969. Czechoslovakia is invaded by Russians and Warsaw Pact forces to crush liberal regime **(Aug. 20)**.

**1969**

Richard M. Nixon is inaugurated 37th president of the U.S. **(Jan. 20)**. Stonewall riot in New York City marks beginning of gay rights movement **(June 28)**. *Apollo 11* astronauts—Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., and Michael Collins—take man's first walk on moon **(July 20)**. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy pleads guilty to leaving scene of fatal accident at Chappaquiddick, Mass. **(July 18)**, in which Mary Jo Kopechne was drowned—gets two-month suspended sentence **(July 25)**. Woodstock Festival **(Aug. 15–17)**. *Sesame Street* debuts. Internet (ARPA) goes online.