

Chronology

Date	Detail
1945-1948	From 1945 to 1948 the Brihah (“escape”) organisation illegally moves over 100,000 Jews past British patrols into Palestine
1945 January 5	The Soviet Union recognizes the new pro-Soviet government of Poland
1945 January 9	US Forces invade the Philippines
1945 January 12	The Soviet Union begins the Vistula-Oder Offensive in Eastern Europe against the Nazis
1945 January 13	Battle of Konigsberg (Kaliningrad): Soviet forces encircle then bomb and shell city until German army surrenders on 9 April. Military and civilian dead estimated at 42,000 with Red Army claiming 90,000 PoWs. The Swede, Raoul Wallenberg, who saved many Hungarian Jews, is arrested by the Soviets in Hungary
1945 January 17	Soviet Army occupies Warsaw. Nazis begin to evacuate from Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland
1945 January 20	Hungary agrees to cease fire with the Allies.
1945 January 20	Franklin D. Roosevelt is inaugurated as president of the United States for a fourth time
1945 January 27	Soviet Forces liberate Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps in Poland. 3,000 inmates remain but over 1 million had been gassed. The Nazis had murdered an estimated 14 million Poles, Slavs, Jews and gypsies
1945 January 30	The Soviets sink the ship Wilhelm Gustloff carrying German civilians, drowning around 9,000 people
1945 February 3	US bombers target Berlin. Soviet Union agrees to enter the Pacific Theater conflict against Japan
1945 February 4	US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin begin the 8-day Yalta Conference on progress of the War, including reparations and compulsory repatriation of all Soviet and Yugoslavian refugees
1945 February 13	Soviet Union forces capture Budapest, Hungary from the Nazis. The Royal Air Force bombs Dresden, Germany, killing estimated 135,000 people
1945 February 14	Four more countries join the United Nations: Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru
1945 February 19	Battle of Iwo Jima between the US and Japanese armies
1945 February 23	Germans surrender at Poznan enabling the city to be liberated by the Soviet and Polish forces
1945 February 24	Egyptian Premier Ahmed Maher Pasha is assassinated
1945 March	During spring and summer of 1945, an estimated 500,000 Germans in Sudetenland undergo forced expulsion and resettlement, which results in an estimated 30,000 deaths

1945 March 3	Previously neutral Finland enters the War on the Allied side
1945 March 6	Communist-led government formed in Romania
1945 March 8	Josip Broz Tito forms a government in Yugoslavia
1945 March 9-10	American bombers raid Tokyo with incendiary bombs killing an estimated 124,000 people
1945 March 17	Japanese city of Kobe is fire-bombed by 331 bombers, killing over 8,000
1945 March 18	1,250 American bombers attack Berlin
1945 March 21	British troops liberate Mandalay, Burma
1945 March 22	The Arab League is founded in Cairo, Egypt, uniting Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen
1945 March 23	Jewish assassins in Palestine, who killed Lord Moyne on 6 November 1944, are hung
1945 March 30	Soviet forces capture Vienna
1945 April 1	United States troops land on Okinawa in the last campaign of the war
1945 April 4	American troops liberate Ohrdruf concentration camp in Germany
1945 April 5	Third US Army enters Nordhausen and liberates the concentration camp with 3,000 survivors
1945 April 7	In Yugoslavia, Visoko is liberated by the 7th, 9th and 17th Krajina brigades from the Tenth division of Yugoslav Partisan forces. Kantaro Suzuki becomes the Prime Minister of Japan
1945 April 9	Abwehr (German Intelligence) conspirators to assassinate Hitler, Wilhelm Canaris, Hans Oster, Hans Dohanyi and Dietrich Bonhoeffer are hanged at Flossenberg concentration camp
1945 April 11	The Allied Forces liberate Buchenwald concentration camp, Germany, where 60,000 had died. There were 20,000 survivors, 4,000 of them Jewish
1945 April 12	US President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945) dies suddenly aged 63. Vice President Harry S. Truman (1945-1953) becomes the 33rd President
1945 April 15	Bergen-Belsen concentration camp is liberated. It contained around 50,000 inmates and 10,000 unburied dead
1945 April 25	Founding negotiations of the United Nations in San Francisco
1945 April 28	Italian dictator Benito Mussolini is executed with former Cabinet members
1945 April 29	German army in Italy surrenders. British drop food into the Netherlands to prevent the starvation of the civilian population. US troops liberate 32,000 prisoners at Dachau concentration camp
1945 April 30	Adolf Hitler commits suicide in Berlin. Karl Dönitz succeeds Hitler as president of Germany
1945 May	Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation, led by the American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC) and the Jewish Agency, formed to prevent Germans from claiming heirless Jewish property in US Occupied Zone.

1945 May	May to June: Allies round up thousands of Soviet and Yugoslav refugees in Austria and hand them over to the Soviet and Yugoslav authorities in Operation Keelhaul. Many of these refugees were immediately executed or deported to Soviet labour camps. Killings are carried out by Yugoslav forces -known as the Bleiburg massacre
1945 May 1	Joseph Goebbels commits suicide. Count Lutz Schwerin von Krosigk is appointed as the new Chancellor of Germany. Trieste is occupied by Yugoslav and Slovene troops
1945 May 2	Berlin surrenders to Allied forces. Troops of New Zealand Army 2nd Division enter Trieste a day after the Yugoslavs. The German Army in Trieste surrenders
1945 May 3	The RAF sink the ships Cap Arcona, Thielbek, Cap Athen and Deutschland in Lbeck Bay, killing thousands of PoWs evacuated from Neuengamme concentration camp (7,000 people are killed from Cap Arcona and Cap Thielbek alone)
1945 May 4	Reddition of the North Germany army by Marshal Bernard Montgomery. Holland is liberated by Canadian troops. German troops officially surrender one day later. Liberation of Neuengamme concentration camp near Hamburg by the British army. Buchenwald camp is handed over to the Russians; the remaining inhabitants were transferred to another camp in the US zone
1945 May 5	Prague uprising against the Nazis. United States Army liberates 17,000 prisoners of Mauthausen and 20,000 at Gusen concentration camps in Austria. Canadian soldiers liberate the city of Amsterdam. Admiral Karl Dönitz orders all U-boats to cease offensive operations and return to their bases
1945 May 7	General Alfred Jodl signs unconditional surrender terms at Rheims, France
1945 May 8	End of War in Europe: V-E Day (Victory in Europe)
1945 May 8-29	Massacre killing 45,000 Algerians of the Stif rebellion
1945 May 9	German Army in Prague and Slovenia surrenders. Hermann Göring is captured by the Allies. Quisling is arrested in Norway. Alderney, annex of the concentration camp Neuengamme, is liberated
1945 May 21	Final burning of remainder of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp
1945 May 23	Agreement between the Americans, British and Russians is signed at Halle, Germany, stating that "All former prisoners of war and citizens of the U.S.S.R. ... will be delivered." [ie repatriated]. President of Germany Karl Dönitz and Chancellor of Germany Count Lutz Schwerin von Krosigk are arrested by British forces at Flensburg
1945 May 30	Iranian government demands that Soviet and British troops leave the country
1945 June 1	Bolzano Conference seeks to co-ordinate repatriation and disposal of Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons between Mediterranean and European Theatres
1945 June 1	British take over Lebanon and Syria
1945 June 5	The Allied Control Council, military occupation governing body of Germany, formally takes power

1945 June 6	King Haakon VII of Norway returns to Norway
1945 June 11	William Lyon Mackenzie King is re-elected as Canadian prime minister. Franck Committee recommends against a surprise nuclear bombing of Japan
1945 June 21	The Battle of Okinawa ends with victory of US Forces. US lost nearly 50,000 men
1945 June 24	Soviet Army stages a victory parade in Red Square
1945 June 26	United Nations charter is signed
1945 June 29	Czechoslovakia cedes Ruthenia to Soviet Union
1945 July 1	Germany is divided between Allied occupation forces
1945 July 2	Western Allies report that 3.2 million refugees have been repatriated, mainly to Belgium, France, Netherlands and USSR
1945 July 5	Liberation of the Philippines by US Forces
1945 July 8	Japan says she will consider an end to the War if she can keep the Emperor
1945 July 16	A train collision near Munich, Germany, kills 102 war prisoners
1945 July 17	Potsdam Conference begins - the final meeting of the Allied leaders of WWII (17 July to August)
1945 July 21	US President approves order for atomic bombs to be used
1945 July 23	French Marshall Pétain, leader of the Vichy government, is charged with treason
1945 July 26	In Britain, the Labour party, under Clement Atlee, wins a General election forcing Winston Churchill to resign as Britain's prime minister. Potsdam Declaration demands Japan's unconditional surrender and removal of the Emperor
1945 July 31	Pierre Laval, former leader of Vichy France, surrenders to Allies in Austria
1945 August 2	The Potsdam conference of talks between Truman, Churchill, Atlee and Stalin ends with agreement to dismantle the military capability of Germany, close all Nazi institutions, and divide Germany into four Allied Occupied zones as well as to implement border changes that would lead to the expulsion of millions of Germans from Eastern Europe. All surviving leaders of the Axis powers were to be tried as 'war criminals'
1945 August 6	The Atomic bombing of Hiroshima destroying 4 square miles of the city and killing 200,000, half of them instantly
1945 August 8	Soviet Union declares war on Japan. London Charter of the International Military Tribunal sets down laws by which Nuremberg War Crime Trials were to be conducted
1945 August 9	The United States detonates a second atomic bomb over the city of Nagasaki, Japan killing 150,000. The Soviet Union begins its offensive against Japan in the then Japanese-controlled Chinese region of Manchuria
1945 August 10	Japan offers to surrender to the Allies, ""...provided this does not prejudice the sovereignty of the Emperor""
1945 August 13	Zionist World Congress approaches British government to talk about founding of Israel and demands entry for 1 million Jews into Palestine

1945 August 14	Emperor Hirohito accepts the terms of the Potsdam Declaration. End of war in the Pacific
1945 August 15	Marshal Pétain is sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment. Emperor Hirohito announces Japan's surrender on the radio. Korea gains independence following Japan's surrender
1945 August 17	Indonesian nationalists Sukarno and Mohammed Hatta declare the independence of Republic of Indonesia with Sukarno as a president. Dutch colonial authorities do not approve
1945 August 19	Ho Chi Minh takes power in Hanoi, Vietnam
1945 August 20	Anti-Jewish riots in Cracow
1945 August 28	US forces land in Japan
1945 September	General Dwight D. Eisenhower visits Feldafing Displaced Persons camp near Munich, housing mainly Jewish-Hungarian women. The camp will close in 1951
1945 September 2	The final official surrender of Japan is accepted by Supreme Allied Commander General of the US Army, Douglas MacArthur, and Fleet Admiral, Chester Nimitz, from a delegation led by Mamoru Shigemitsu. The Soviet Union gains Outer Mongolia, the Kuril Islands and part of Sakhalin. China gains Inner Mongolia, Manchuria, Taiwan and Hainan. Ho Chi Minh promulgates the Vietnamese Declaration of Independence, and unity from the North to the South
1945 September 4	Japanese forces surrender on Wake Island
1945 September 8	US troops occupy southern Korea; the Soviet Union occupies the North
1945 September 12	Japanese army formally surrenders in Singapore
1945 September 20	Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru call for British troops to leave India
1945 September 30	Earl G. Harrison's report on the Displaced Persons camps is published. The American Zone agrees to treat Jews as special a category but Britain disagrees with segregation
1945 October	1945 to 1946 David Ben-Gurion visits Displaced Persons camps in Germany, including Landsberg, Feldafing and Zeilsheimb
1945 October 1	Official responsibility for administering Displaced Persons (DP) camps in American Zone of Germany is handed over to UNRRA (United Nations Refugee and Rehabilitation Administration). There are still 1 million Poles, 170,000 Balts, over 100,000 Yugoslavs and 54,000 Soviets in Western Europe
1945 October 10	Russian intelligence officer, Igor Gouzenko, defects to Canada
1945 October 15	Pierre Laval, former leader of Vichy France, is executed for treason
1945 October 17	Demonstrations in Argentina for Juan Peron's release
1945 October 18	The first German war crimes trial begins in Nuremberg. The President of Venezuela, Isaas Medina Angaraita, is overthrown by a military coup
1945 October 24	United Nations founded. Norwegian Nazi leader, Vidkun Quisling, is executed for treason
1945 October 25	Anti-Jewish riots in Sosnowiec, Poland
1945 October 27	Indonesian separatists riot and fight Dutch and British security forces

1945 October 29	President Getúlio Vargas of Brazil resigns
1945 October 31	The ship SS Palmach sinks two British police boats in Haifa and one in Jaffa. Haganah bombs railroad tracks as part of Jewish resistance to British Mandate in Palestine
1945 November	1945 to 1947: UNRRA, subject to authority of SHAEF, assists in repatriation of over estimated 8 million refugees and the management of Displaced Persons camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. In late 1945, several voluntary organisations are effectively running the DP camps under UNRRA administration
1945 November 9	Paris Conference on Reparations to determine amount of reparation payable by Germany
1945 November 13	Charles De Gaulle is elected head of a French provisional government. US President Harry Truman appeals to British Prime Minister Clement Attlee for Britain to reconsider objections to resettlement of Jewish refugees in Palestine
1945 November 15	US President Harry S. Truman, British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, and Canadian Prime Minister, Mackenzie King, call for a United Nations Atomic Energy Commission. The UNAEC becomes a reality in January 1946
1945 November 16	General de Gaulle is elected president of the provisional government of France. The United States employs German scientists in military scientific research
1945 November 19	Anti-Jewish riots in Lublin, Poland
1945 November 20	International Military Tribunal (IMT) of judges from France, Soviet Union, Britain and United States is established at Nuremberg, Germany, to try 21 major Nazi leaders with war crimes
1945 November 29	The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is declared with Marshal Tito as president
1945 December 2	General Eurico Gaspar Dutra is elected president of Brazil
1945 December 3	Communist demonstrations in Athens
1945 December 21	American State War Coordinating Committee forbids repatriation of any Displaced Persons unless they were captured in German uniform, were members of the Soviet forces after 22 June 1941 and not discharged, or it could be proved they voluntarily aided the enemy
1945 December 27	Twenty-eight nations sign an agreement creating the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - the "World Bank" - with member nations contributing funds to supply loans for emergency projects. British military bases in Palestine are targeted by Jewish terrorist groups, Irgun and LEHI
1946 January 2	King Zog of Albania abdicates
1946 January 7	Allies recognize Austrian republic with 1937 borders, although divided into four occupation zones
1946 January 10	First meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in London with Paul Henri Spaak of Belgium as president
1946 January 11	Enver Hoxha, as Prime Minister, declares the People's Republic of Albania
1946 January 17	The United Nations Security Council holds its first meeting in London
1946 January 20	Charles De Gaulle resigns as president of France

1946 January 22	In Iran, Qazi Muhammad declares the Republic of Mahabad (Eastern Kurdistan). It is backed by the Soviet Union and survives a year
1946 January 31	Yugoslavia adopts a new constitution on the model of the Soviet Union with six constituent republics: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia
1946 February 1	Hungary proclaims herself a republic. Norwegian, Trygve Lie, is elected first Secretary-General of the United Nations
1946 February 24	Juan Peron elected president of Argentina
1946 March 2	British troops withdraw from Iran according to treaty. Ho Chi Minh elected the president of North Vietnam
1946 March 4	Carl Gustav Emil Mannerheim resigns as president of Finland
1946 March 5	President Edvard Benes retroactively ratifies Benes Decrees whereby 2.5 million Sudeten Germans and 40,000 Hungarians living in Czechoslovakia are deprived of rights, citizenship, and property, and many are expelled
1946 March 6	France recognizes Vietnam as an autonomous state in the Indochinese Federation and the French Union. A communist government takes power in Romania
1946 March 9	Juho Kusti Paasikivi becomes president of Finland
1946 March 10	British and French troops begin withdrawal from Lebanon
1946 March 14	University opens in Hamburg, founded by Baltic Displaced persons. It is later named the "DP University Study Centre". It will close on 30 September 1949
1946 March 19	French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Reunion become overseas départements of France
1946 March 22	Britain grants Transjordan, now Jordan, its independence
1946 March 29	Gold Coast has an African majority in the parliament
1946 April 1	Formation of the Malayan Union. Singapore becomes a Crown colony
1946 April 7	Syria's independence from France is officially recognised
1946 April 15	Unveiling of memorial at Bergen Belsen on the first anniversary of the liberation of the former concentration camp
1946 April 18	League of Nations is dissolved and is superseded by the United Nations
1946 April 20	Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry (20 April to May 1946), joint British and American attempt to resolve conflict between Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Americans recommend allowing 100,000 Jewish Displaced Persons to immigrate to Palestine and for creation of bi-national state; however the British Mandate rejects these proposals
1946 April 25	Moscow agrees to withdraw troops from Iran
1946 April 29	Tokyo War Crimes trials begin
1946 May 9	King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy abdicates, and is succeeded by his son, Umberto II
1946 May 10	Nehru is elected leader of the Congress Party in India
1946 May 17	Ion Antonescu, wartime premier of Romania, is sentenced to death
1946 May 25	The Parliament of Transjordan creates a Monarchy with emir Abdullah as king

1946 May 31	Greek referendum decides in favour of monarchy
1946 June	Stuttgart West Displaced Persons camp closes. Palestinian Jewish Brigade (Jewish Brigade Group) is disbanded. It had been founded in 1941 of Jewish volunteer soldiers from Palestine who fought with the British Army under Zionist flag. After the war, the brigade helped to create Displaced Person camps and became involved in the clandestine flight of Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe and their entry into Palestine. Tripartite civil and military conference on control of the frontier between Levant States and Palestine as British attempt to block illegal Jewish immigrants entering Palestine via borders of Lebanon and Syria
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1946 June	Tripartite civil and military conference on control of the frontier between Levant States and Palestine as British attempt to block illegal Jewish immigrants entering Palestine via borders of Lebanon and Syria
1946 June 2	Italian referendum decides in favour of a republic. Umberto II is exiled
1946 June 29	Operation Agatha: The British launch raids against Jewish activists in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa and arrest over a thousand people, including members of the Jewish Agency, in an effort to dissuade Haganah and its operational arm, Palmach from attacking the British. More extreme Jewish groups, LEHI (Stern Gang) and Irgun continue with the attacks
1946 June 30	Cut-off date for qualification as a Displaced Person in the British zone
1946 July	The ship SS Hochelaga departs from Antwerp and arrives at Haifa port carrying 497 Jewish Displaced Persons
1946 July 4	Philippines gain independence from United States
1946 July 7	Mexico elects first civilian president, Miguel Alemn Valds
1946 July 14	42 Polish Jews are killed and 82 wounded at Kielce, Poland. The story of the Kielce boy which prompted the killings was later revealed to be a fabrication
1946 July 22	The Jewish terrorist group, Irgun Tzvai Leumi, led by Menachen Begin, bombs King David Hotel in Jerusalem, headquarters of the British civil and military administration killing 90 people
1946 July 23	Canadian Government passes an Order-in-Council permitting 4,000 Polish army veterans to enter the country as agricultural workers
1946 July 25	The first underwater test of the atomic bomb at Bikini Atoll
1946 August 1	International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg convicts 18 and acquits 3 former Nazi leaders
1946 Sept	The ship SS Palmach carrying 620 Jewish Displaced Persons is intercepted by the British en route to Haifa
1946 September 8	Bulgaria is declared a People's Republic after a referendum. King Simeon II leaves
1946 September	George II of Greece returns to Athens

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1946 September 30	Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal returns verdict with 12 leading Nazis sentenced to death
1946 October 2	Communists take over in Bulgaria
1946 October 13	France adopts the constitution of the Fourth Republic
1946 October 26	Census conducted in all four zones of occupation in Germany shows that over 156,000 Jews are resident in Germany -- 112,000 in camps and 45,000 in the community. Of the latter 63% in US, 14% in British, 7% in French zones and 17% in Berlin
1946 November	The ship Lohita, carrying 3,913 Jews illegally immigrating to Palestine, is intercepted by the British; all of the refugees are deported to Cyprus
1946 November 7	Canadian Government issues emergency orders to admit Displaced Persons from Europe into Canada
1946 November 12	Truce between Indonesian nationalist troops and Dutch army in Indonesia
1946 November 15	Netherlands recognizes Republic of Indonesia
1946 November 17	Jewish terrorists kill 8 British servicemen in Jerusalem
1946 November 19	Three further countries join the United Nations: Afghanistan, Iceland and Sweden. Communists win the general election in Romania
1946 November 27	Appeal by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the United States and the Soviet Union to end nuclear testing
1946 December 11	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) founded
1946 December 12	United Nations breaks relations with Spain. In France, Lon Blum founds a government of socialist parties
1946 December 24	Beginning of the Fourth Republic in France
1946 December 31	US President Harry Truman officially proclaims an end of hostilities in World War II. The human cost was high: the USSR lost 7.5 million military personnel; Germany 2.9 million, China 2.2 million, Japan 1.5 million, US 290,000, Britain 398,000, France 348,000, Italy 300,000, Canada 39,000, India 36,000, Australia 29,000, New Zealand 12,262, South Africa 8,600 (these figures exclude civilian deaths). Europe was also left with 10 million displaced persons.
1946 December 31	Franco-Lebanese Treaty is signed and final withdrawal is made of French troops from Lebanon
1947 January 1	Nigeria gains limited autonomy from Britain
1947 January 10	United Nations takes control of the free city of Trieste
1947 January 16	Vincent Auriol becomes president of France
1947 January 24	Demetrios Maximos founds monarchist government in Athens
1947 January 31	Communists take power in Poland
1947 February 10	Paris Peace Treaties are signed between the World War II Allies (France, Soviet Union, Britain, and United States), and Bulgaria, Finland, Italy, Hungary, and Romania. The treaties cover regain of sovereignty, war reparations and territorial adjustments
1947 February 25	State of Prussia ceases to exist

1947 March 1	Commencement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
1947 March 29	Rebellion against French rule erupts in Madagascar
1947 April 1	King George II of Greece dies and is succeeded by his brother King Paul I. William C. Stratton introduces a bill to allow 400,000 Displaced Persons from Europe into the United States over a 4-year period. It doesn't succeed in full until 16 June 1950
1947 April 20	Christian X of Denmark dies and is succeeded by his son, Frederick IX
1947 April 21	Cut-off date for qualification as a 'Displaced Person' in the American zone. (Original date of 1 August 1945 was extended)
1947 May	United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) is formed in response to the handover of the British Mandate of Palestine to the United Nations
1947 May 3	New post-war Japanese constitution goes into effect
1947 May 22	The United States grants \$400 million in military and economic aid to Turkey and Greece
1947 May 30	Coup d'état in Hungary by Communist party.
1947 June 5	Secretary of State, General George Marshall, outlines the Marshall Plan which will provide aid to war-ravaged Europe
1947 June 21	The Canadian Parliament votes unanimously to pass several laws regarding displaced foreign refugees
1947 July	July to August: Operation Grand National: a system of quotas for certificates for Jewish Displaced Persons, mainly from Bergen-Belsen camp, to immigrate to Palestine
1947 July 1	The Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organisation (PCIRO) takes over from the United Nations Refugee and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) which had been founded in 1943. The PCIRO will give way to the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) in 1948. The UNRRA had between 1 November 1945 and 30 June 1947 repatriated 202,000 Displaced Persons from Austria; 742,000 from West Germany and 18,000 from Italy
1947 July 11	The ship, the Exodus, departs from France for Palestine with 4,500 Jewish refugees. The ship is later intercepted and the refugees returned to Hamburg, Germany
1947 July 24	20,000 people demonstrate in New York City in response Britain's return of Jewish refugees from the Exodus to Germany
1947 July 26	US President Truman signs the National Security Act into United States law creating the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Department of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the National Security Council
1947 July 27	In Britain, Clement Attlee succeeds Winston Churchill as Prime Minister, and Ernest Bevin succeeds Anthony Eden as Foreign Secretary
1947 August 14	Pakistan gains independence from Britain under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah
1947 August 15	India gains independence from Britain under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru. Pakistan splits from India
1947 August 23	Prime Minister of Greece Dimitrios Maximos resigns

1947 August 27	Riots in France over lowering of bread ration
1947 August 31	Communists take power in Hungary
1947 September 13	Nehru suggests transfer of 4 million Hindus and Muslims between India and Pakistan
1947 October 20	The Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 begins
1947 October 30	The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is founded
1947 November 16	Demonstrations in Brussels against light sentences given to convicted Nazis. British withdrawal from Palestine begins
1947 November 20	Paul Ramadier resigns as Prime Minister of France and is succeeded by Robert Schuman
1947 November 25	New Zealand becomes independent of legislative control by Britain
1947 November 27	Australia receives its first boatload of Displaced Persons from Europe. Over 180,000 would eventually enter Australia
1947 November 29	The United Nations General Assembly votes to partition Palestine between Arabs and Jews with Jerusalem under a United Nations trusteeship. Muslim countries oppose plan
1947 December 22	The Italian Constituent Assembly votes to accept the new constitution
1947 December 30	King Michael of Romania abdicates
1948 January 4	Burma gains its independence from Britain
1948 January 17	Truce between nationalist Indonesian and Dutch troops in Java
1948 January 30	Indian pacifist and leader Mahatma Gandhi is murdered by Nathuram Godse
1948 February 4	Ceylon (later renamed Sri Lanka) becomes independent within the British Commonwealth
1948 February 18	Change of power in Eire as Eamon de Valera, head of government since 1932, loses power to an opposition coalition. John A. Costello is appointed Taoiseach
1948 February 24	The Communist Party seizes control of Czechoslovakia in a coup d'état
1948 March 10	Czech foreign minister, Jan Masaryk, is killed in fall from a window of his apartment in Prague
1948 April 3	US President Harry Truman signs the Marshall Plan which authorizes \$5 billion in aid for 16 countries
1948 April 7	The World Health Organization is established by the United Nations
1948 April 9	Over 100 Arab civilians are killed by Jewish irregular military outside Jerusalem: The Deir Yassin
1948 May 1	Over 200 communists are executed in Greece
1948 May 11	Luigi Einaudi becomes second president of the Italian Republic
1948 May 14	Declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel. 69,000 European Jews had already entered Palestine. A further 330,000 would immigrate by 1951
1948 May 15	1948 Arab-Israeli War: Egypt, Transjordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia attack Israel
1948 May 16	Chaim Weizmann is elected as the first president of Israel
1948 May 26	Pro-apartheid Nationalist Afrikaner bloc wins elections in South Africa
1948 June 18	State of Emergency declared in Malaysia for communist insurgency

1948 June 21	The Deutsche Mark (DEM, DM) becomes official currency of West Germany
1948 June 22	The ship SS Empire Windrush brings the first group of 500 black immigrants from the Caribbean to Tilbury docks, London
1948 June 24	The Berlin Blockade by the Soviet Union begins cutting off Berlin's 2 million people
1948 June 28	Yugoslavia is expelled from the Communist Information Bureau (Cominform Resolution). Yugoslavia splits with the Soviet Union
1948 July	The US Displaced Persons Act authorises 200,000 DPs to enter the United States of America, which was initially unfavourable to immigration of Jewish DPs. Act amended June 16, 1950. By 1952, 80,000 Jewish DPs immigrate to United States
1948 July 25	Berlin airlift begins as US and Britain aircraft fly in food and supplies
1948 August 15	Republic of Korea is proclaimed at Seoul with Syngman Rhee as president
1948 August 23	World Council of Churches established (deferred from 1937 by the WWII)
1948 September 4	Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands abdicates for health reasons
1948 September 5	Robert Schuman becomes Prime Minister of France
1948 September 6	Juliana becomes Queen of the Netherlands
1948 September 9	Korean People's Democratic Republic is proclaimed, challenging Rhee regime
1948 September 11	Death of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, founder and first Governor General of Pakistan. The following day the Indian army invades Hyderabad. An estimated tens of thousands of civilians are killed
1948 September 17	Stern Gang assassinates the United Nations mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, in Jerusalem
1948 October 30	The General Black, the first ship of Displaced Persons arrives in New York. It brings 338 Poles, 168 Lithuanians, 53 Czechs, 32 Latvians, 17 Ukrainians, 6 Hungarians and 83 "Stateless" to the United States, and who are hailed as the "Pilgrims of 1948".
1948 Nov	Lindelfels Displaced Persons camp, Frankfurt, closes
1948 November 2	US President, Harry S. Truman wins presidential election
1948 November 12	Tokyo War Crimes tribunal sentences seven Japanese military and government officials to death
1948 November 15	Louis Stephen St. Laurent becomes Canada's prime minister
1948 November 16	Operation Magic Carpet transports 45,000 Jews from Yemen to Israel
1948 November 24	In Venezuela, a military coup ousts president Rmulo Betancourt
1948 December 12	United Nations General Assembly adopts Universal Declaration of Human Rights
1948 December 23	Japan's former Prime Minister, Hedeki Tojo and six others are convicted of war crimes and hanged by the Americans
1948 December 28	Egyptian Prime Minister Mahmud Fahmi Nokrashi is assassinated
1949 January 2	Puerto Rico gets first democratically-elected governor, Luis Muñoz Marn

1949 January 21	Chiang Kai-shek reigns as president of China
1949 January 25	David Ben-Gurion becomes first Prime Minister of Israel
1949 Feb	Poking (Pocking) Displaced Persons camp, the second largest Displaced Person camp after Belsen, closes
1949 February 8	Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary is sentenced to life imprisonment for treason against the Hungarian Communist government
1949 February 12	The Vatican announces the excommunication of all persons involved in the trial and conviction of Cardinal Mindszenty
1949 February 14	Antonio Carmona is re-elected president of Portugal
1949 March 8	France recognises Vietnam's independence within the French Union
1949 March 25	The Soviet authorities conduct mass deportations of more than 92,000 people from Baltics to remote areas of the Soviet Union
1949 March 31	The former British colony of Newfoundland joins Canada
1949 April 1	Ireland leaves the British Commonwealth and becomes the Republic of Ireland
1949 April 4	The North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) is signed in Washington, DC, creating the NATO defense alliance. Members are Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Britain, and the United States
1949 April 9	The International Court of Justice of the United Nations makes first decision: Albania is held responsible for incidents that occurred in the Corfu Channel in 1946
1949 April 18	Ireland formally became the Republic of Ireland.
1949 April 23	Chinese communist troops take Nanking
1949 April 26	Eschwege Displaced Persons Camp near Frankfurt a. Main closes
1949 May	Lampertheim Displaced Persons camp near Frankfurt a. Main closes. Tripartite Exit Control Agreement concerning exit permit policies from the French, British and American zones in Germany agreed
1949 May 5	The Council of Europe is founded by the signing of the Treaty of London. It establishes a Committee of Ministers and a Consultative Assembly based in Strasbourg. The members are Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden. (Greece, Iceland and Turkey join later)
1949 May 11	Israel is admitted to the United Nations. Siam is renamed Thailand
1949 May 12	The Soviet Union lifts its Blockade of Berlin but the airlift continues until the end of September
1949 May 12	The Soviet Union lifts its Blockade of Berlin but the airlift continues until the end of September
1949 May 23	The Federal Republic of Germany is established with headquarters in Bonn; Konrad Adenauer is the first Chancellor
1949 June	Displaced Persons camps, Munchen neu Freimann, Munich District, and Indersdorf, Bayern, close
1949 June	Operation Westward Ho, the recruitment of Displaced Persons for labour in Britain brings 60,000 DPs to Britain by end of June 1949
1949 June 2	Transjordan becomes kingdom of Jordan

1949 Aug	United Nations Department of Social Affairs on behalf of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) publishes A Study of Statelessness
1949 August 8	Bhutan becomes independent
1949 August 14	Military coups in Syria
1949 August 29	First meeting of the Council of Europe.
1949 September 6	Allied military authorities relinquish control of former Nazi Germany assets back to German control
1949 September 13	Soviet Union vetoes United Nations membership of Ceylon, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Jordan and Portugal
1949 September 24	Hungary's former foreign minister, Laszlo Rajk, is sentenced to death
1949 Oct	An estimated 50,000 Hard Core Displaced Persons, those with limited opportunities for resettlement, or Jews not wishing to return to their former homeland, are still in camps by October 1949
1949 October 1	People's Republic of China is proclaimed with Mao Zedong as chairman of the Central Administrative Council
1949 October 7	Democratic Republic of Germany (DDR) is established officially under Soviet control
1949 October 16	Civil war ends in Greece
1949 November 26	Indian Constituent Assembly adopts India's constitution
1949 December 8	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is established
1949 December 14	Bulgaria's former vice-prime minister, Traicho Kostov, is sentenced to death
1949 December 16	Sukarno elected president of Republic of Indonesia
1949 December 27	Queen Juliana of the Netherlands grants Indonesia sovereignty under the presidency of Achmed Sukarno
1950 January 26	Rajendra Prasad becomes the first president of the Republic of India
1950 February 1	Chiang Kai-shek is re-elected as a president of the Republic of China
1950 February 14	The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China sign a mutual defense treaty citing Japan and United States as common enemies
1950 February 15	Juho Kusti Paasikivi is re-elected president of Finland
1950 February 24	British Labour Party wins general election. Clement Attlee remains Prime Minister
1950 March 1	Klaus Fuchs is convicted of spying for the Soviet Union by giving them top secret atomic bomb data
1950 March 3	Poland states that it intends to exile all Germans
1950 March 8	The Soviet Union claims to have an atomic bomb
1950 March 20	Government of Poland confiscates the property of Polish church
1950 March 22	Egypt demands that Britain remove all its troops in Suez Canal
1950 April 24	Jordan formally annexes West Bank
1950 May 9	The 'Schuman Plan', a proposal to unite Western Europe's coal and steel resources, is proposed to Robert Schuman by Jean Monnet. It is a precursor to the European Economic Community
1950 June	Gabersee Displaced Persons camp, near Wasserburg, closes

1950 June 16	US President Truman signs the second Displaced Persons Act raising the total admissions of refugees to the United States to 400,000 and extending the cut-off date for entry into Western zones to 1 January 1949
1950 June 25	Beginning of Korean War as North Korean forces invade South Korea
1950 June 28	North Korean forces capture Seoul
1950 August 8	Winston Churchill supports idea of pan-European army allied with Canada and United States
1950 September 1	Hungarian major general Laszlo Viragen defects to Austria and applies for political asylum
1950 September 12	Communist riots in Berlin
1950 September 19	West Germany decides to fire all its communist officials
1950 September 26	Indonesia admitted to the United Nations
1950 Oct	Landsberg Displaced Persons camp, Bavaria, closes
1950 October 3	Getúlio Vargas re-elected president of Brazil
1950 October 7	The Chinese invasion of Tibet begins
1950 October 15	Communists win elections in East Germany
1950 October 21	China invades Tibet
1950 October 29	Sweden's King Gustavus V dies and is succeeded by his son, Gustav VI Adolf
1950 November 4	United Nations ends the diplomatic isolation of Spain
1950 November 28	Greece and Yugoslavia reform diplomatic relations
1950 December 2	United Nations votes to unite Ethiopia and Eritrea which have been administered by the British