

TIME

GREAT EVENTS

OF
THE

20th CENTURY

By the Editors of TIME



ESSAY

REVEILLE FOR A CENTURY 2

NATIONS

INTRODUCTION 6

ELEGY FOR AN EMPIRE 8

The funeral of Queen Victoria ends an era

REVOLT AGAINST THE OLD ORDER . 10

Battles of liberation shake old regimes

MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS ... 12

World War I introduces high-tech slaughter

SHORTCUT TO REVOLUTION 14

Lenin's Bolsheviks seize power in Russia

ARCHITECTS OF DISASTER 16

The Treaty of Versailles is a recipe for revenge

HARD TIMES 18

The Great Depression fosters global misery

REHEARSAL FOR A BLOODLETING . 20

Spain's civil war foreshadows World War II

HEIL HITLER! 22

Adolf Hitler's Nazis roll to power in Germany and begin a campaign of expansion in Europe

SEPTEMBER LIGHTNING 24

Hitler's generals launch a blitzkrieg in Poland

DELIVERANCE 26

The British army slips into safety at Dunkirk

DAY OF INFAMY 28

Japan's surprise attack on the U.S. at Pearl Harbor brings America into World War II

DAWN COMES UP LIKE THUNDER . 30

On D-day the Allies begin to liberate Europe

GROUND ZERO 32

The war in Asia ends with the destruction of two Japanese cities by U.S. atom bombs

BIRTH PAINS 34

In the aftershocks of World War II, Israel, India and Mao's China embrace new destinies

WINGED VICTORY 36

A daring Allied airlift feeds blockaded Berlin

BITTER BATTLE IN A COLD WAR . 38

A superpower proxy battle in Korea ends up with Chinese soldiers fighting U.S. troops

BORDER WARS 40

Nikita Khrushchev builds a wall in Berlin

DEATH OF A PRESIDENT 42

John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas

NO WAY OUT 44

The U.S. intervenes in Vietnam—and finds the unwinnable conflict breeds revolt at home

LAST FLIGHT FROM SAIGON 46

America's humbling departure from Vietnam

IN DEFEAT, DEFIANCE 48

Richard Nixon resigns the presidency

DESERT PROPHET 50

Ayatullah Khomeini leads a revolution in Iran

YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE 52

Beijing stamps out a protest for democracy

COLD WAR HOT SPOTS 54

Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Poland are chess pieces in the end game of superpower politics

AND THE WALL CAME 56

The Berlin Wall, the Iron Curtain and the Soviet Union all come tumbling down

BOMBS OVER BAGHDAD 58

Desert Storm frees Kuwait from Iraq's grasp

HISTORY IN A HANDSHAKE 60

After decades of hatred and terrorism, Israel and the Palestinians agree to wage peace

FREE AT LAST 62

Apartheid ends in South Africa, and a new nation is born under Nelson Mandela

A BLOW TO THE HEART 64

Homegrown terror strikes Oklahoma City

BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION 66

GETTING IN GEAR 68

Henry Ford perfects the moving assembly line

PURE POWER 70

With the Pure Food and Drug Act, Uncle Sam steps in to monitor American commerce

CRASH! 72

Wall Street's booming '20s end with a crash

THE QUEST FOR FUEL 74

A rush of gushers drives national destinies

SHOWDOWN IN MICHIGAN 76

Victory in auto-factory sit-down strikes is the century's high point for U.S. labor unions

EMPIRES OF THE AIRWAVES 78

America's TV networks begin broadcasting

THINKING MACHINES 80

Early computers transform the workplace

FAST FOOD, EASY CREDIT 82

McDonald's begins the franchising of America

DISASTERS

THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE . 84

The earth moves and the city of wood burns in America's greatest natural disaster

THE TITANIC 86

An "unsinkable" ship collides with an iceberg

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC 88

A worldwide virus kills 25 million people

THE HINDENBURG 90

The age of giant airships ends in a cataclysm

THE CHALLENGER 92

A space shuttle explodes seconds after lift-off

SOCIETY

- INTRODUCTION** 94
- THE GREAT MIGRATION** 96
1907 is the peak year for U.S. immigration
- LONG MARCH TO EQUALITY** 98
Women get the vote—and keep crusading
- DRY SEASON** 100
Prohibition, a “noble experiment,” goes flat
- A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME** 102
Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson integrate baseball—and spark a revolution in civil rights
- DREAM TEAM** 104
U.S. blacks march for equality in Washington
- A SYMBOL SLAIN** 106
The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is murdered
- FRESH BREEZE** 108
Pope John XXIII's Vatican Council revitalizes and transforms the Roman Catholic Church
- JUSTICE IN THE DOCK** 110
The O.J. Simpson trial is a racial watershed, but only one of many “trials of the century”
- ANTAGONISTS OF ABORTION** 112
A Supreme Court ruling splits U.S. society
- ON THE ROCKS** 114
The *Exxon Valdez* oil spill highlights Planet Earth's imperiled natural resources

DISCOVERIES

- RACE FOR THE POLES** 116
Dashing adventurers find fame in the frost
- IN THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMEN** . 118
A pharaoh's burial vault yields golden treasure
- THE CAVES OF LASCAUX** 120
Prehistoric art emerges from the underground
- THE CONQUEST OF EVEREST** 122
Two climbers reach the roof of the world
- THE ARMY OF SOLDIERS** 124
7,500 life-size statues are found in China

SCIENCE

- INTRODUCTION** 126
- THE WILD BLUE YONDER** 128
The Wright brothers slip the bonds of gravity
- ON THE AIR** 130
Television is invented, and radio crosses the sea
- BOOTING UP** 132
ENIAC is the first fully electronic computer
- A WORLD IN A GRAIN OF SAND** . . . 134
Particle physicists begin smashing the atom
- CULTIVATING ANNIHILATION** 136
U.S. physicists develop the first atom bomb
- GRAVITY BUSTERS** 138
The Soviet Sputnik plants a red star in orbit

STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND . . 140

- The *Eagle* lands, and man walks on the moon
- ABOVE IT ALL** 142
The ailing Hubble telescope is born again
- ON THE TRAIL OF EARLY MAN** . . . 144
“Lucy” offers a new vision of early humans
- MAGELLANS OF MEDICINE** 146
New drugs and surgical techniques foil disease
- MY MOTHER, MY SELF** 148
Researchers in Scotland clone a sheep

SPORT

- THE BABE'S BEST YEAR** 150
Why he's the Sultan of Swat—and you're not
- SUPER BOWL III** 152
Joe Namath gives pro football its biggest upset
- RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE** 154
Muhammad Ali and George Foreman battle for the heavyweight crown in Zaïre
- BLACK GOLD** 156
Jessie Owens spoils Hitler's Berlin Olympics

THE ARTS

- INTRODUCTION** 158
- REALITY REMADE** 160
Pablo Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger* gives painting a new edge for the new age
- MACHINES FOR LIVING** 162
The Bauhaus School spreads the spare lines of the International Style around the world
- STAGE CENTER** 164
The play's the thing, even in the age of cinema
- BIRTH OF A MEDIUM** 166
D.W. Griffith's early blockbuster, *The Birth of a Nation*, gives film its basic grammar
- STARDUST** 168
From *Gone With the Wind* to *The Wizard of Oz*, 1939 was Hollywood's single greatest year
- SCREEN RITES** 170
Daring directors turn movies into an art form
- STEP BY STEP** 172
Balanchine's new school makes ballet modern
- ESCAPE ARTIST** 174
Forsaking Ireland, James Joyce is the first of the century's many writers-in-exile
- SPRING FEVER** 176
Stravinsky shocks Paris with *The Rite of Spring*
- ALL THAT JAZZ** 178
Duke Ellington tears it up at Newport
- ROCK ROLLS IN** 180
Roll over, Beethoven: here comes Elvis!
- INDEX** 182
- PHOTO CREDITS** 186