

THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER 1939-1945

World War II to the formation of the United Nations

1939

Declaration of War

Germany Invades Poland
Australia declares War with Germany
Australian forces deployed to Europe and North Africa



1940

Signing of the Axis

Japan signs a pact with Germany and Italy.
The US imposes economic sanctions on Japan to curb aggression on the expanding empire

1941

Bombing of Pearl Harbour

Japan bombs Pearl Harbour
Australia declares War with Japan
Australians now fighting on two fronts: The Battle for Europe and The Battle for the Pacific

1942

US forces based in Brisbane, Conscription and Kokoda

US forces heavily involved in South West Pacific Theatre under the Command of General McArthur.
US forces based in Brisbane.
Australians conscripted into active service for the 1st time in Australian Territories including New Guinea which saw some of the toughest battles of the war including the infamous Kokoda Track.
Bombing of Darwin.
Midget Submarine Attack in Sydney.



1943

Invasion Force Prepared

US prepares invasion force for the Battle of Europe
US Troops deployed in Northern Africa and then into Italy

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1944

D Day

Allied forces including Australia land in Normandy on 6th June and start to liberate Western Europe

February 1945

Yalta Conference

Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill discussed the Post-war fate of Germany and Europe as well as the terms for Soviet entry into the ongoing war in the Pacific against Japan. Discussions were also held about the formation of the United Nations

May 1945

Germany Surrenders

Germany surrenders following the suicide of Adolf Hitler.

Political boundaries were up for negotiation and the new world powers of the US, Soviet Union and Great Britain were recognised.

Countries where the Germans were defeated by the Soviets were given no choice but to join the Communist Soviet Bloc.

Division between the Soviet Union in the East and the Democratic West which included Western European countries, the US, Australia and New Zealand later led to the Cold War.

July 1945

Potsdam Conference

The Potsdam conference with Stalin, Churchill and Truman was the last of the big 3 meetings during WWII.

The military administration of Germany including the economy and placing primary emphasis on the development of agriculture and non-military industries.

Truman mentions the development of the Atomic Bomb to Stalin



August 1945

Atomic Weapons and Japanese Surrender

Japanese surrender following the Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which marked the start of the Nuclear Proliferation era.

The accumulation of nuclear weapons dominated international relations during the Cold War.

Resulted in a doctrine known as 'Mutually- assured destruction' (MAD) where neither side considered using their Nuclear weapons because it would result in their own annihilation.

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September 1945

United Nations

The formation of the United Nations.

1947

Cold War

Start of the Cold War
Truman Doctrine developed to counter Soviet geopolitical expansion

1948

Human Rights

Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted.

1950

Korean War

Korean War begins

1951

ANZUS Treaty

ANZUS Treaty was formed as a security alliance between the US, Australia and New Zealand

1953

Korean War and Stalin

Korean War Armistice
Josef Stalin dies after 29 years in power

1955

Soviet Bloc and Vietnam War

Warsaw Pact and the commencement of the Soviet Bloc.
Vietnam War commences



Australian entertainers in Korea

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1956

Nuclear tests and TV

British Nuclear tests commence at Maralinga in South Australia.

Television arrives in Australia and displayed the Vietnam War in graphic detail. Reports were often commodified according to the Network's political beliefs.

1962

Vietnam War

Australia's first involvement in the Vietnam War. Cold War hysteria is heightened due to the Cuban Missile Crisis



1963

Nuclear tests

British Nuclear tests are ceased at Maralinga in South Australia

1964

Conscription

Conscription was re-introduced in November 1964. Young men whose birthdays were drawn in a ballot were obliged to serve 2 years in Army units and could be sent to Vietnam. Out of 63,000 conscripts, 19,000 served in Vietnam. There was strong opposition to conscription, particularly from the Australian Labour Party



Australia's best-known conscript, Normie Rowe

1966

Battle of Long Tan

The battle of Long Tan is the most publicised Australian battle of the Vietnam War where 105 Australians and 3 New Zealanders held back 2,000 Viet Cong troops



Australian and New Zealand troops, Long Tan Vietnam

1972

Conscription Ends

Conscription ended with a change of government

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1973

Vietnam

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War officially comes to an end

1975

Vietnam War Ends

End of Vietnam war with a victory for the Communist Party of Vietnam

1976

Vietnam Refugees

Vietnamese who did not support communism were forced from their homes and businesses. Thousands fled Vietnam and Australia began welcoming the refugees. Most came by official channels however some arrived in boats and skipped the formal immigration process. Well known Vietnamese Australians include Anh Do and Luke Nguyen

1985

Gorbachev

Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union and develops plans to reform the Soviet Union politically and economically as well as pursuing openness and Nuclear Disarmament.

1988

Eastern Bloc Relaxation

Gorbachev relaxes Soviet Union control on Eastern Bloc nations including the easing of Soviet troop numbers and the cessation of interfering in domestic affairs.

1989

Berlin Wall Falls

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Soviet Bloc in Eastern Europe which led to several revolutions in Eastern Europe including Yugoslavia.

1991

Cold War Ends

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the official end to the Cold War. Soviet states such as Ukraine declare independence and the Russian