



The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

August 6 & 9, 1945 A.D. The U.S. Air force, flying the *Enola Gay* during WWII, dropped the first atomic bomb ever to be used in war. It devastated the city of Hiroshima, Japan, and within three days, a second a-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, bringing about their formal surrender on September 2, 1945.



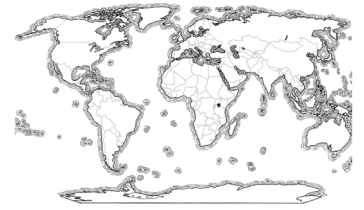
Explorer I & NASA

1958 A.D. After Russia launched the first artificial satellite, Sputnik I, into space in 1957, the U.S. was not far behind. Explorer I, the first U.S. satellite to orbit the earth, was successfully launched on January 31, 1958. Later in October, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) was established.



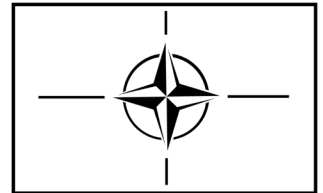
Brown vs. Board of Education

1954 A.D. The trial of Linda Brown that brought an end to school segregation. The opposition continued to be intense for years, such as in a New Orleans school in 1960, where 6-year-old Ruby Bridges bravely stood up for her right to attend an all white school.



United Nations

1945 A.D. An organization that replaced the League of Nations, its goal is to establish international security, peace, and economic growth.



NATO "North Atlantic Treaty Organization"

1949 A.D. An alliance of countries, including the U.S., Canada, and 19 other Western countries, whose primary purpose was to protect against Communist activity. It continues to operate peacekeeping efforts in Western Europe.



William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton

1946- A.D. The 42nd president of the United States (1993-2001). His term saw a reduced budget deficit and peace deals in the Middle East. Due to improper behavior, he was impeached on obstruction of justice and perjury charges by the House of Representatives, yet was acquitted by the Senate.



George Walker Bush

1946- A.D. The 43rd president of the United States (2001-) Son of former President Bush, his presidency witnessed the devastating attacks of the World Trade Center and Pentagon in his first year of service. Declaring a War on Terrorism, he pursued Osama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaeda. He further requested U.N. support for engaging Saddam Hussein in disarming Iraq of nuclear, biological, and chemical weaponry.



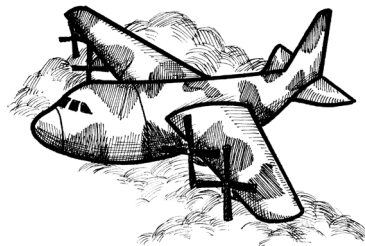
Korean War

1950-1953 A.D. A war between North Korea/China and South Korea/United States/United Nations forces. Long-time rivalry between the two regions of Korea had made unification efforts difficult. North Korea's surprise attack in 1950 was followed by three years of boundary-pushing. It ended in truce near the original boundary line.



Montgomery Bus Boycott

1955 A.D. When Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama, her violation of racial segregation laws spurred a 382-day bus boycott, led by Martin Luther King, Jr. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the segregated seating law, finding it unconstitutional.



Vietnam War

1954-1975 A.D. A country divided, where the communist North attempted, through guerrilla campaigns, to create one communist state. President Johnson encouraged military intervention beginning in 1965 to resist the spread of communism. A series of events shook confidence, and with resentment and controversy at home, the U.S. began to pull its forces. The war ended in 1975 with the Saigon airlift of the last Americans and several thousand South Vietnamese, and the triumph of North Vietnam.



The Cold War

1945-1991 A.D. A war fought politically, economically, and ideologically between the Soviet Union and the U.S. and its allies, after WWII. With dangers of nuclear war preventing military involvement, the division from this "Iron Curtain" saw highs and lows of conflict, ending with a joint declaration in 1989 between Mikhail Gorbachov and President Bush. The fall of communism was manifested by the tearing down of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.