



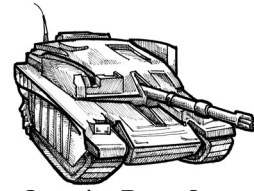
Collapse of Soviet Union

1991 A.D. In the late 1980s, under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union began establishing reforms in Eastern Europe. It did not intervene when the Soviet-bloc countries of Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary all displaced their communist dictatorships. By the end of 1991, driven by a collapsing economy and the nationalism of many of its republics, the Soviet Union dissolved.



South Africa Repeals Apartheid Laws

1991 A.D. Initially imposed by 1948 legislation, apartheid enforced racial segregation of facilities, such as lavatories and transportation, as well as land regions. In 1961, South Africa had to withdraw from the British Commonwealth because of apartheid laws. Increasing internal unrest, combined with pressure from other countries, led to the dismantling of apartheid. By the end of June, 1991, all apartheid laws had been repealed.



Operation Desert Storm (Persian Gulf War)

Began January 18, 1991 A.D. Under President Bush, the U.S. and 31 allied nations joined forces against Iraq and its president, Saddam Hussein, due to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990. The UN Security Council warned Iraq to withdraw, but Hussein refused, which led to the launch of Operation Desert Storm under U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf. A cease-fire was declared February 28, with the liberation of Kuwait.



Scientists Clone "Dolly" the Sheep

February, 1997 A.D. Scottish scientists were the first to successfully clone an adult mammal. A lamb was produced from the tissue taken from a six-year-old ewe's udder.



Bosnia-Herzegovina Declare Independence

March 3, 1992 A.D. After declaring sovereignty in 1991 and formally declaring independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1993, neighboring Bosnian Serbs, with the support of Serbia and Montenegro, retaliated, causing a civil war. A peace agreement (Dayton Agreement) was signed in 1995 ending the interethnic civil strife.



North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

1994 A.D. A free trade treaty that lifted tariffs on the majority of merchandise produced by the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.



The Channel Tunnel "Chunnel"

1994 A.D. Originally suggested to Napoleon in 1802, this underwater tunnel runs between Folkestone, England, and Coquelles, France, 150 feet under the English Channel seabed. Work on the 30.7 mile tunnel began in 1882 and was abandoned and restarted several times before finally opening in 1994.



Slovenia and Croatia Declare Independence

June 25, 1991 A.D. Slovenia and Croatia were closely tied with the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia before claiming their independence. With Slovenia choosing complete secession, the country was met with an offensive of the Serbian dominated Yugoslav People's Army the day after independence was declared.



The Euro

1999 A.D. The first introduction of a single basic unit of currency among participating countries in Europe. Established to stabilize exchange rates between countries, it provided a possible advance in the direction of economic and monetary union.



Operation Iraqi Freedom

Began March, 2003 A.D. With the rebellious lack of cooperation of the Saddam Hussein regime in eliminating suspected hidden nuclear and biological weapons, U.S. President George W. Bush declared war on the Iraqi government. The goal was to oust the terrorist-supporting dictatorship and enable the transition to a democracy. With the support of several countries the goal was achieved by the first of May, with coalitions remaining to help with reconstruction efforts.