

When, if ever, does  
one draw  
a line under the  
horrors of history in  
the interest of  
truth and  
reconciliation?

How far should one  
go in remembering  
the past in order to  
heal the present?

A timeline of the recent  
political history of ten  
countries in conflict.

Colombia

Cuba

Iraq

Myanmar

North and South Korea

Palestine

Sudan

Tibet

United Latin America

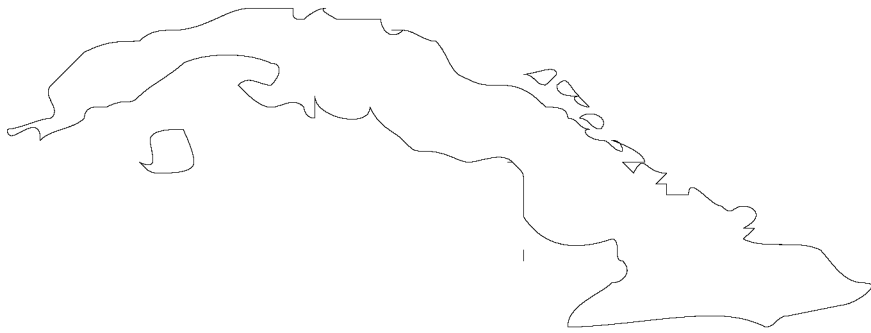
Zimbabwe



## Colombia

**1948** Assassination of Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, left-wing mayor of Bogota ignites riots. **1948-57** "La violencia:" 300,000 killed in civil war. **1958** Conservatives and Liberals agree to form National Front in a bid to end the civil war; other parties banned. **1965** Leftist National Liberation Army (ELN) and Maoist People's Liberation Army (EPL) founded. **1966** Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc, the current largest guerrilla grouping) set up. **1970** National People's Alliance formed as a left-wing counterweight to the National Front. **1971** Left-wing M-19 guerrilla group emerges. **1978** President Julio Cesar Turbay (Liberal) begins intensive fight against drug traffickers. **1982** President Belisario Betancur (Conservative) grants guerrillas amnesty and frees political prisoners. War against drug cartels stepped up. **1984** Campaign against drug traffickers stepped up following assassination of justice minister. **1985** Eleven judges and 90 other people killed after M-19 guerrillas force their way into the Palace of Justice. Patriotic Union Party (UP) founded. Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupts. An estimated 23,000 people are killed in four Andean towns. **1986** Virgilio Barco Vargas (Liberal) wins presidential elections by record margin. Right-wing paramilitary groups begin murder campaign against UP politicians, amid continuing violence by left-wing groups and death squads run by drugs cartels. **1989** M-19 becomes legal party after reaching peace agreement with government. Liberal Luis Carlos Galán and UP's Jaime Pardo Leal, presidential candidates, murdered during presidential election campaign, reputedly at the behest of drug cartels. Cesar Gaviria elected on anti-drug platform. **1991** New constitution legalises divorce, prohibits extradition of Colombians wanted for trial in other countries and guarantees indigenous peoples' democratic rights, but without addressing their territorial claims. **1993** Pablo Escobar, Medellin drug-cartel leader, shot dead while trying to evade arrest. **1995** Ernesto Samper Pizano (Liberal) elected president and is subsequently charged and cleared of receiving drug-cartel money for his election campaign. **1998** Andres Pastrana Arango, a Conservative- elected president, begins peace talks with guerrillas. 1998 November- Pastrana grants Farc a safe haven the size of Switzerland in the south-east to help move peace talks along. The zone is off-limits to the army. **1999** January- Peace talks formally launched but proceed in stop-start fashion. Pastrana and Farc leader Manuel Marulanda meet. 9 January- Powerful earthquake kills some 1,000 people. Cities of Armenia and Pereira badly hit. **2000** July- Pastrana's "Plan Colombia" wins almost US\$1 billion in mainly military aid from the US to fight drug-trafficking and rebels who profit and protect the trade. 2000 September- Government freezes talks; alleges Farc harboured hijacker of plane forced to land in safe haven. Later, Farc refuses to resume talks, accuses Pastrana of not stopping paramilitary groups. **2001** February - The Farc return to peace talks after meeting between Marulanda and Pastrana. Pastrana extends demilitarized area for eight months. 2001 June- Farc rebels free 359 police and troops in exchange for 14 captured rebels. Farc accused of using safe haven to rearm, prepare attacks and conduct drug trade. 2001 October- Government,

Farc sign San Francisco agreement, committing themselves to negotiate ceasefire. Pastrana extends life of safe haven until January 2002. **2002** January- Pastrana accepts Farc ceasefire timetable and extends safe haven until April. 2002 20 February- Pastrana breaks off three years of tortuous peace talks with Farc rebels, says hijacking of aircraft hours earlier is final straw. He orders rebels out of demilitarised zone. Government declares war zone in south after rebels step up attacks. 2002 May- Independent (Conservative) candidate Alvaro Uribe wins a first-round presidential election victory, promises to crack down hard on rebel groups. 2002 August- Moments before Alvaro Uribe is sworn in as president, suspected Farc explosions rock Bogota. Twenty people are killed. Days later, Uribe declares state of emergency. **2003** October- 14 out of 15 of President Uribe's planned austerity measures and political reforms rejected by voters in referendum. Three ministers, national police chief resign. 2003 November- Fighters from right-wing United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) begin to disarm. **2004** May- Farc's Ricardo Palmera, the most senior Colombian guerrilla ever captured, is jailed for 35 years. 2004 July- Right-wing AUC and government begin peace talks. AUC leaders address Congress. **2005** January- Bitter 15-day dispute with Venezuela over the capture of a Farc leader on Venezuelan soil. The affair is resolved at talks in Caracas in February. 2005 June- New law offers reduced jail terms and protection from extradition for paramilitaries who turn in their arms. Rights groups say the legislation is too lenient. 2005 December - Exploratory peace talks with the second biggest left-wing rebel group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), begin in Cuba. **2006** February- Colombia and the US agree on a free trade deal. The agreement awaits ratification in both countries. 2006 March- Parties loyal to President Uribe win an overwhelming victory in parliamentary elections. 2006 May- President Uribe wins a second term in office. 2006 November- Court investigates possible ties between high-ranking politicians from Sucre department and right-wing paramilitaries. 2006 December- Detained paramilitary leaders say they are pulling out of a peace process. Government says demobilisation of right-wing groups will continue. **2007** January- Ecuador turns to the Organisation of American States (OAS) for help with its challenge to Colombia's coca crop-spraying programme along their common border. 2007 June- Government releases dozens of jailed Farc guerrillas, in hope that rebels will reciprocate by releasing hostages. Farc rejects move, saying it will only free hostages if government pulls back troops and sets up demilitarised zone. 2007 July- Hundreds of thousands protest in Bogota against kidnappings and conflict in the country. 2007 September- In his role as mediator, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez agrees to invite rebels for talks on hostage release deal. 2007 November- Colombia sets deadline of 31 December for President Chavez to reach deal with rebels on prisoner swap. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez withdraws his country's ambassador to Bogota in a row over his role in negotiations between the Colombian government and rebel forces. **2008** January- The Farc releases two high-profile hostages, Clara Rojas and Consuelo Gonzalez, as a result of Mr Chavez's mediation. Mr Chavez calls on the US and European governments to stop treating Colombian left-wing rebel groups as terrorists, but Mr Uribe rejects the idea. 2008 March- A Colombia cross-border strike into Ecuador kills senior Farc rebel Raul Reyes, sparking a diplomatic crisis. Venezuela and Ecuador cut ties with Colombia and order troops to their borders. 2008 May- Colombia extradites 14 paramilitary warlords to the United States to stand trial on drug trafficking charges. US hails move as evidence Colombia deserves trade deal. Colombian opposition complains the extraditions mean that the militia leaders will not reveal their alleged links to political allies of President Uribe. Farc announces death of its leader and founder, Manuel Marulanda. 2008 June- Colombia renews low-level diplomatic relations with Ecuador. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez publicly requests the FARC to disarm and release all hostages saying that guerrilla warfare today is out of place.

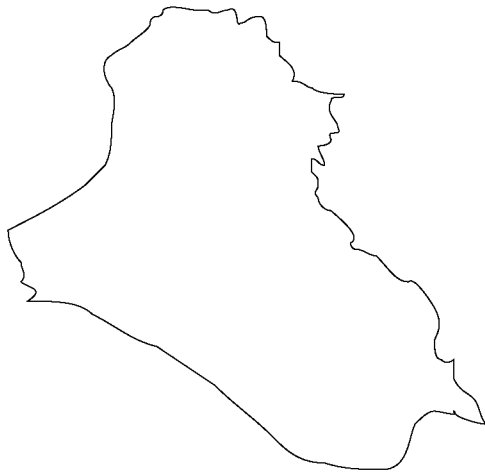


## Cuba

**1959** Castro leads a 9,000-strong guerrilla army into Havana, forcing Batista to flee. Castro becomes prime minister, his brother, Raul, becomes his deputy and Guevara becomes third in command.

**1960** All US businesses in Cuba are nationalized without compensation; US breaks off diplomatic relations with Havana. **1961** US sponsors an abortive invasion by Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs; Castro proclaims Cuba a communist state and begins to ally it with the USSR. **1962** Cuban missile crisis ignites when, fearing a US invasion, Castro agrees to allow the USSR to deploy nuclear missiles on the island. The crisis was subsequently resolved when the USSR agreed to remove the missiles in return for the withdrawal of US nuclear missiles from Turkey. **1965** Cuba's sole political party renamed the Cuban Communist Party. **1972** Cuba becomes a full member of the Soviet-based Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. **1976** Cuban Communist Party approves a new socialist constitution; Castro elected president. **1976-81** Cuba sends troops first to help Angola's left-wing MPLA withstand a joint onslaught by South Africa, Unita and the FNLA and, later, to help the Ethiopian regime defeat the Eritrean and Somalis. **1980** Around 125,000 Cubans, many of them released convicts, flee to the US. **1982** Cuba, together with other Latin American states, gives Argentina moral support in its dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands. **1988** Cuba agrees to withdraw its troops from Angola following an agreement with South Africa. **1991** Soviet military advisers leave Cuba following the collapse of the USSR. **1993** The US tightens its embargo on Cuba, which introduces some market reforms in order to stem the deterioration of its economy. These include the legalization of the US dollar, the transformation of many state farms into semi-autonomous cooperatives, and the legalization of limited individual private enterprise. **1994** Cuba signs an agreement with the US according to which the US agrees to admit 20,000 Cubans a year in return for Cuba halting the exodus of refugees. **1996** US trade embargo made permanent in response to Cuba's shooting down of two US aircraft operated by Miami-based Cuban exiles. **1998** Pope John Paul II visits Cuba. The US eases restrictions on the sending of money to relatives by Cuban Americans. **1999** November- Cuban child Elian Gonzalez is picked up off the Florida coast after the boat in which his mother, stepfather and others had tried to escape to the US capsized. A huge campaign by Miami-based Cuban exiles begins with the aim of preventing Elian from rejoining his father in Cuba and of making him stay with relatives in Miami. **2000** June- Elian is allowed to rejoin

his father in Cuba after prolonged court battles. **2000** October- US House of Representatives approves the sale of food and medicines to Cuba. **2000** December- Russian President Vladimir Putin visits Cuba and signs accords aimed at boosting bilateral ties. **2001** October- Cuba angrily criticizes Russia's decision to shut down the Lourdes radio-electronic centre on the island, saying President Putin took the decision as "a special gift" to US President George W Bush ahead of a meeting between the two. **2001** November- US exports food to Cuba for the first time in more than 40 years after a request from the Cuban government to help it cope with the aftermath of Hurricane Michelle. **2002** January- Prisoners taken during US-led action in Afghanistan are flown into Guantanamo Bay for interrogation as al-Qaeda suspects. **2002** January- Russia's last military base in Cuba, at Lourdes, closes down. **2002** April- Diplomatic crisis after UN Human Rights Commission again criticizes Cuba's rights record. The resolution is sponsored by Uruguay and supported by many of Cuba's former allies including Mexico. Uruguay breaks off ties with Cuba after Castro says it is a US lackey. **2002** May- US under Secretary of State John Bolton accuses Cuba of trying to develop biological weapons, adding the country to Washington's list of "axis of evil" countries. Former US president Jimmy Carter makes a goodwill visit which includes a tour of scientific centers, in response to US allegations about biological weapons. Carter is the first former or serving US president to visit Cuba since the 1959 revolution. **2002** June- National Assembly amends the constitution to make socialist system of government permanent and untouchable. Castro called for the vote following criticisms from US President George W Bush. **2003** March-April- Crackdown on dissidents draws international condemnation. Seventy-five people are jailed for terms of up to 28 years; three men who hijacked a ferry in an attempt to reach the US are executed. **2003** June- EU halts high-level official visits to Cuba in protest at the country's recent human rights record. **2004** April- UN Human Rights Commission censures Cuba over its rights record. Cuban foreign minister describes resolution - which passed by single vote as "ridiculous". **2004** May- US sanctions restrict US-Cuba family visits and cash remittances from expatriates. **2004** October- President Castro announces ban on transactions in US dollars, and imposes 10% tax on dollar-peso conversions. **2005** January- Havana says it is resuming diplomatic contacts with the EU, frozen in 2003 following a crackdown on dissidents. **2005** May- Approximately 200 dissidents hold a public meeting, said by organizers to be the first such gathering since the 1959 revolution. **2005** July- Hurricane Dennis causes widespread destruction and leaves 16 people dead. **2006** February - Propaganda war in Havana as President Castro unveils a monument which blocks the view of illuminated messages, some of them about human rights - displayed on the US mission building. **2006** July- President Fidel Castro undergoes gastric surgery and temporarily hands over control of the government to his brother, Raul. **2006** December- Fidel Castro's failure to appear at a parade to mark the 50th anniversary of his return to Cuba from exile prompts renewed speculation about his future. **2007** April- A lawyer and a journalist are given lengthy jail terms after secret trials, which rights activists see as a sign of a crackdown on opposition activity. **2007** May- Castro fails to appear at Havana's annual May Day parade. Days later he says he has had several operations. **2007** July- The first time since 1959 that Revolution Day is celebrated without Castro present. Castro issues statement on first anniversary of power handover saying he is fighting for full recovery. **2007** September- Castro gives interview to Cuban TV. It is his first television appearance in more than three months. **2007** December- Castro says in a letter read on Cuban TV that he would not cling to power indefinitely. **2008** February- Raul Castro takes over as president, days after Fidel announces his retirement.



## Iraq

**1972** Iraq nationalizes the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC). **1974** In implementation of the 1970 agreement, Iraq grants limited autonomy to the Kurds but the KDP rejects it. **1975** March- At a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Algiers, Iraq and Iran sign a treaty ending their border disputes. **1979** 16 July- President Al-Bakr resigns, Vice-President Saddam Hussein becomes president. **1980** 1 April- The pro-Iranian Dawah Party claims responsibility for an attack on Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz in Baghdad. 1980 4 September- Iran shells Iraqi border towns, beginning the Iran/Iraq war. 1980 17 September- Iraq abrogates the 1975 treaty with Iran. 1980 22 September- Iraq attacks Iranian air bases, in response Iran bombs Iraqi military and economic targets. **1981** 7 June- Israel attacks an Iraqi nuclear research center Baghdad. **1988** 16 March- Iraq is said to have used chemical weapons against the Kurdish town of Halabjah. 1988 20 August- A ceasefire is monitored by the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (Unimog). **1990** 15 March- Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist accused of spying on a military installation, is hanged in Baghdad. 1990 2 August- Iraq invades Kuwait and is condemned by United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 660 which calls for full withdrawal. 1990 6 August- UNSC Resolution 661 imposes economic sanctions on Iraq. 1990 8 August- Iraq announces the merger of Iraq and Kuwait. 1990 29 November- UNSC Resolution 678 authorizes the states cooperating with Kuwait to uphold UNSC Resolution 660. **1991** 16-17 January- The Gulf War begins with "Operation Desert Storm". 1991 13 February- US planes destroy an air raid shelter, more than 300 die. 1991 24 February- The start of a ground operation leads to the liberation of Kuwait on 27 February. 1991 3 March- Iraq accepts a ceasefire. 1991 Mid-March/early April- Iraqi forces suppress rebellions in the north and south of Iraq. 1991 8 April- Establishment of a Kurdish safe haven is approved at a EU meeting. Two days later the US orders Iraq to end all military activity in the area. **1992** 26 August- A no-fly zone, prohibiting Iraqi planes to enter, is set up in southern Iraq, south of latitude 32 degrees north. **1993** 27 June- US forces launch a cruise missile attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad in response to an attempt to assassinate President George Bush. **1994** 29 May- Saddam Hussein becomes prime minister. 1994 10 November- Iraqi National Assembly recognizes Kuwait's borders and independence. **1995** 14 April- UNSC Resolution 986 allows the partial resumption of

Iraq's oil exports to buy food and medicine. **1995** August - Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Gen Hussein Kamil Hasan al-Majid, his brother and their families leave Iraq and are granted asylum in Jordan. 1995 15 October- Saddam Hussein wins a referendum allowing him to remain president for another seven years. **1996** 20 February- Hussein Kamil Hasan al-Majid and his brother, promised a pardon by Saddam Hussein, return to Baghdad and are killed on 23 February. 1996 31 August- After call for aid from KDP, Iraqi forces launch offensive into northern no-fly zone and capture Irbil. 1996 3 September- US extends northern limit of southern no-fly zone to latitude 33 degrees north. **1998** 31 October- Iraq ends cooperation with UN Special Commission to Oversee the Destruction of Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction (Unscm). 1998 16-19 December- After UN staff are evacuated from Baghdad, the US and UK launch "Operation Desert Fox", to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. **1999** 19 February- Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr, spiritual leader of the Shia community, is assassinated. Unscm staff prepare to destroy WMP that UN inspectors sought to destroy in the 1990s. 1999 17 December- Iraq rejects UNSC Resolution 1284 creating the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (Unmovic) replaces Unscm. **2001** February- Britain, US start bombing raids attempting to disable Iraq's air defence network. 2001 May- Saddam's son Qusay elected to the leadership of the ruling Baath Party. **2002** April- Baghdad suspends oil exports to protest against Israeli incursions into Palestinian territories. No other Arab countries follow the suit. Exports resume after 30 days. 2002 September- US President George W Bush tells world leaders at a UN General Assembly to confront the "grave and gathering danger" of Iraq - or stand aside US acts. British Prime Minister Tony Blair publishes a dossier on Iraq's military capability. 2002 November- UN weapons inspectors return to Iraq. **2003** March- Chief weapons inspector Hans Blix reports that Iraq has accelerated its cooperation but inspectors need more time. 2003 17 March- UK's ambassador to the UN says the diplomatic process on Iraq has ended; arms inspectors evacuate; US President Bush gives Saddam Hussein and his sons 48 hours to leave Iraq or face war. 2003 20 March- The US-led campaign to topple Saddam Hussein begins when American missiles hit targets in Baghdad. US and British ground troops enter Iraq from the south. 2003 9 April- US forces advance into central Baghdad. Kurdish fighters and US forces take control of the northern cities of Kirkuk and Mosul. 2003 April- Former deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz is taken into custody. 2003 May- UN Security Council backs US-led administration in Iraq and lifts economic sanctions. US abolishes Baath Party and institutions of former regime. 2003 July- US-appointed Governing Council meets for first time. Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay killed in gun battle in Mosul. 2003 August- Deadly bomb attacks on Jordanian embassy and UN HQ in Baghdad. Saddam's cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, captured. Car bomb in Najaf kills 125 including Shia leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqr al-Hakim. 2003 14 December- Saddam Hussein captured in Tikrit. 2004 February- More than 100 killed in Irbil aiming offices of main Kurdish factions. **2004** March- Suicide bombers attack Shia festival-goers in Karbala and Baghdad, killing 140 people. 2004 April-May- Shia militias loyal to radical cleric Moqtada Sadr take on coalition forces. Hundreds are reported killed in fighting from the US military siege of the Sunni Muslim city of Falluja. Photographic evidence emerges, showing abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US troops. 2004 June- US hands sovereignty to interim government. Saddam Hussein transferred to Iraqi legal custody. 2004 August- Fighting in Najaf between US forces and Shia militia of radical cleric Moqtada Sadr. 2004 November- Major US-led offensive against insurgents in Falluja. 2005 30 January- Eight million people vote for a Transitional National Assembly. The Shia United Iraqi Alliance wins a majority of assembly seats. Kurdish parties come second. **2005** 28 February- At least 114 people are killed by a massive car bomb in Hilla, south of Baghdad. 2005 April- Parliament selects Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani as president. Ibrahim Jaafari, a Shia, is named as prime minister. 2005

June- Massoud Barzani is sworn in as regional president of Iraqi Kurdistan. 2005 July- Study compiled by the Iraq Body Count organisation estimates that 25,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed since the 2003. 2005 August- Draft constitution is endorsed by Shia and Kurdish negotiators, but not by Sunni representatives. 2005 September- 182 people are killed in attacks in Baghdad, including a car bomb attack on a group of workers in a mainly-Shia district. 2005 October- Saddam Hussein goes on trial on charges of crimes against humanity. Voters approve a new constitution that aims toward an Islamic federal democracy. 2005 15 December- Iraqis vote for the first, full-term government and parliament since the US-led invasion. **2006** 20 January- Shia led United Iraqi Alliance wins elections, but does not gain an absolute majority. 2006 February- Sectarian violence emerges as a result of a bomb attack on an important Shia shrine in Samarra. 2006 22 April- Re-elected President Talabani asks Shia compromise candidate Jawad al-Maliki to form a new government, ending four months of political deadlock. 2006 May and June- UN estimates that 100 civilians per day are killed in violence in Iraq. 2006 7 June- Al-Qaeda leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, is killed in an air strike. 2006 September- Ceremony to transfer operational command from US-led forces to Iraq's new army is postponed. 2006 November- Saddam Hussein is found guilty and sentenced to death. Iraq and Syria restore diplomatic relations. More than 200 die in car bombings in the Shia area of Baghdad. An indefinite curfew is imposed. 2006 December- Iraq Study Group warns of the prospect of a slide towards chaos, triggering the collapse of the government and a humanitarian catastrophe. 2006 30 December- Saddam Hussein is executed. 2007 January- US President Bush announces a new Iraq strategy; thousands more US troops will be dispatched. Barzan Ibrahim- Saddam Hussein's half-brother, and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, former head of the Revolutionary Court, are executed. UN says more than 34,000 civilians were killed in violence during 2006. **2007** February- A bomb in Baghdad's Sadr City market kills more than 130 people. 2007 March- Former Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan is executed on the fourth anniversary of the US-led invasion. 2007 12 April- A bomb blast rocks parliament, killing an MP. 18. 2007 May- The leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Ayyub al-Masri, is reported killed. 2007 July- President Bush says there's been only limited military and political progress in Iraq following his decision to reinforce US troops levels there. 2007 August- The main Sunni Arab political bloc in Iraq, the Iraqi Accordance Front, withdraws from the cabinet. 2007 September- Controversy over private security contractors after Blackwater security guards allegedly fire at civilians, killing 17. 2007 October- Turkish parliament gives go-ahead for military operations in Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish rebels. Turkey comes under international pressure to avoid an invasion. The number of violent civilian and military deaths continues to drop, as well as the frequency of rocket attacks. Karbala, becomes the 18th province to be transferred to local control. 2007 December- Turkey launches an air raid on fighters from the Kurdish PKK movement inside Iraq. Britain hands over security of Basra province to Iraqi forces. **2008** January- Parliament passes legislation allowing former officials from Saddam Hussein's Baath party to return to public life. 2008 February- Turkish forces mount a ground offensive against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq. Iraqi troops crack down on militia loyal to Moqtada al-Sadr in Basra. 2008 March- Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visits Iraq. Prime Minister Maliki orders crackdown on militia in Basra. 2008 April- Sadr threatens to scrap Mehdi Army truce which he declared in August 2007. US military commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus, tells Congress he plans to halt US troop withdrawals because of fragile security gains. 2008 June- Australia ends its combat operations in Iraq. Maliki pays third visit to Iran since becoming premier. He seeks to allay Iranian fears over proposed indefinite extension of US military presence in Iraq by saying he will not allow his country to be used as a launch pad for an American attack on Iran.



## North and South Korea

**1948** South declares independence, sparking North Korean invasion. **1953** Armistice ends Korean War, which has cost two million lives. 1950s South sustained by crucial US military, economic and political support. **1961** Military coup puts General Park Chung-hee in power in South Korea. 1963 General Park restores some political freedom and proclaims Third Republic. Major program of industrial development begins. **1968** US intelligence-gathering vessel seized by North Korean gunboats. 1969 US reconnaissance plane is shot down in North Korea. **1972** Martial law in South Korea, Park increases his powers with constitutional changes. After secret North-South talks, both sides seek to develop dialogue aimed at unification. **1979** Park assassinated. General Chun Doo-hwan assumes power. 1980 Martial law declared in South Korea after student demonstrations. In the city of Kwangju at least 200 killed by the army, causing resentment that has yet to fade. Fifth republic and new constitution. In North Korea Kim Il-sung's son, Kim Jong-il, moves up party and political ladder. **1981** Chun indirectly elected to a seven year term. Martial law ends, but government continues to have strong powers to prevent dissent. **1987** President Chun pushed out of office by student unrest and international pressure in the build-up to the Sixth constitution. Roh Tae-woo succeeds Chun. **1988** First free parliamentary elections. 1991 North and South Korea join the United Nations. **1992** North Korea agrees to allow inspections by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but over next two years refuses access to sites of suspected nuclear weapons production. **1993** South Korean President Roh succeeded by Kim Young Sam, a former opponent of the regime and the first civilian president. **1994** Death of Kim Il-sung. Kim Jong-il succeeds him as leader, but doesn't take presidential title. North Korea agrees to freeze nuclear programme in return for \$5bn worth of free fuel and two nuclear reactors. **1995** Corruption and treason charges against Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-hwan. US formally agrees to help provide North Korea with two modern nuclear reactors designed to produce less weapons-grade plutonium. 1996 North Korean submarine runs aground in South, 11 crew found shot dead in apparent mass suicide and 13 killed by South Korean forces during massive search operation. South Korea admitted to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. **1998** Kim Dae-jung sworn in as president and pursues "sunshine policy" of offering unconditional economic and humanitarian aid to North Korea. South Korea captures North Korean mini-submarine in its waters. Nine crew inside found dead. The late Kim Il-sung declared "eternal president", while Kim Jong-il's powers widened to encompass head of state. North launches rocket which flies over Japan and lands in the Pacific Ocean. Pyongyang insists it fired a satellite, not a missile. **2000** June- Summit in Pyongyang between Kim Jong-il and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. North stops propaganda broadcasts against South. 2000

August- Border liaison offices re-open at truce village of Panmunjom. South Korea gives amnesty to more than 3,500 prisoners. One hundred North Koreans meet their relatives in the South in a highly-charged, emotional reunion. Kim Dae-jung awarded Nobel Peace Prize. **2001** Opening of Incheon International airport, built on tidal land off port of Incheon. **2002** June - Battle between South Korean and North Korean naval vessels along their disputed sea border leaves four South Koreans dead and 19 wounded. Thirty North Koreans are thought to have been killed. 2002 January- US President George W Bush says North Korea is part of an "axis of evil", along with states such as Iraq and Iran. Pyongyang says Bush has not stopped far short of declaring war. 2002 October-December- Nuclear tensions mount. In October the US says North Korea has admitted to having a secret weapons program. The US decides to halt oil shipments to Pyongyang. In December North Korea begins to reactivate its Yongbyon reactor. International inspectors are thrown out. **2003** January- North Korea withdraws from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). 2003 April- Delegations from North Korea, the US and China begin talks in Beijing on North Korea's nuclear ambitions, the first such discussions since the start of the nuclear crisis. 2003 July- Pyongyang says it has enough plutonium to start making nuclear bombs. 2003 October- Biggest mass crossing of demilitarised zone since Korean War: Hundreds of South Koreans travel to Pyongyang for opening of gymnasium funded by South's Hyundai conglomerate. **2004** March-May- President Roh Moo-hyun suspended after parliament votes to impeach him over breach of election rules and for incompetence. In May the Constitutional Court overturns the move and President Roh is reinstated. 2004 September- South Korea admits that its scientists carried out an experiment to enrich uranium in 2000. In November the UN's nuclear watchdog rebukes Seoul but decides not to refer the matter to the Security Council. 2004 December - Parliament votes to extend the deployment of South Korean troops in Iraq. **2005** February- Pyongyang says it has built nuclear weapons for self-defense. 2005 September- Fourth round of six-nation talks on nuclear program concludes. North Korea agrees to give up its weapons in return for aid and security guarantees. But it later demands a civilian nuclear reactor. 2006 July- North Korea test-fires a long-range missile, and some medium-range ones. **2006** October- North Korea claims to test a nuclear weapon for the first time. 2006 November- Government approves one-year extension of military mission in Iraq. 2006 December- Prosecutors charge five people with spying for North Korea in the largest such case since the political reconciliation of the two Koreas in 2000. 2007 February- South and North Korea agree to restart high-level talks suspended since July 2006 in wake of North's nuclear test. South Korea agrees with US to assume operational control of its own military forces, in the event of war, from 2012. **2007** April- South Korea and the US agree on a free-trade deal after 10 months of talks. 2007 May- Passenger trains cross the North-South border for the first time in 56 years. Group of 23 South Korean church workers is taken hostage in Afghanistan. 2007 June- International inspectors visit the Yongbyon nuclear complex for the first time since being expelled from the country in 2002. 2007 August- North Korea appeals for aid after devastating floods. 2007 October- Pyongyang commits to disable three nuclear facilities and declare all its nuclear programmes by year-end. The presidents of North and South Korea pledge at a summit to seek talks to formally end the Korean war. 2007 November- Prime ministers from North and South Korea meet for the first time in 15 years. 2008 January- US says North Korea has failed to meet end-of-2007 deadline on declaring nuclear activities. China urges North Korea to honor its commitments. 2008 February- South Korea's new conservative President Lee Myung-bak says aid to North conditional on nuclear disarmament and human rights progress. **2008** March-April- North-South relations deteriorate sharply. North Korea expels Southern managers from joint industrial base, test-fires short-range missiles and accuses President Lee Myung-bak of sending a warship into Northern waters.



## Myanmar (Burma)

**1948** Burma becomes independent with U Nu as prime minister. Mid-1950s U Nu, together with Indian Prime Minister Nehru, Indonesian President Sukarno, Yugoslav President Tito and Egyptian President Nasser co-found the Movement of Non-Aligned States. **1958-60** Caretaker government, led by army Chief of Staff General Ne Win, formed as the AFPFL party splits. **1960** U Nu's party faction wins decisive victory in elections. **1962** U Nu's faction ousted in military coup led by Gen Ne Win, who abolishes the federal system and inaugurates "the Burmese Way to Socialism" - nationalizing the economy, forming a single-party state with the Socialist Programme Party as the sole political party, and banning independent newspapers. **1974** New constitution comes into effect, transferring power from the armed forces to a People's Assembly headed by Ne Win and other former military leaders. **1975** Opposition National Democratic Front formed by regionally-based minority groups, who mounted guerrilla insurgencies. **1981** Ne Win relinquishes the presidency to San Yu, a retired general, but continues as chairman of the ruling Socialist Programme Party. **1982** Law designating people of non-indigenous background as "associate citizens" bans them from public office. **1987** Currency devaluation wipes out many people's savings and triggers anti-government riots. **1988** Thousands of people are killed in anti-government riots. The State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) is formed. **1989** Slorc declares martial law, arrests thousands of people, including advocates of democracy and human rights, renames Burma as Myanmar, with the capital, Rangoon, becoming Yangon. NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Aung San, is put under house arrest. **1990** Opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) wins landslide victory in general election, but the result is ignored by the military. **1991** Aung San Suu Kyi awarded Nobel Peace Prize for her commitment to peaceful change. **1992** Than Shwe replaces Saw Maung as Slorc chairman, prime minister and defence minister. Several political prisoners freed in bid to improve Burma's international image. **1995** Aung San Suu Kyi is released from house arrest after six years. **1996** Aung San Suu Kyi attends first NLD congress since her release; Slorc arrests more than 200 delegates on their way to party congress. **1997** Burma admitted to Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean); Slorc renamed State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). **1998** 300 NLD members are released from prison; ruling council refuses to comply with NLD deadline for convening of parliament; student demonstrations broken up. **1999** Aung San Suu Kyi rejects ruling council conditions to visit her British husband, Michael Aris, who dies of cancer in UK. **2000** September- Ruling council lifts restrictions on movements of Aung San Suu Kyi and senior NLD members. 2000 October- Aung San Suu Kyi begins secret talks with ruling council. **2001** Ruling council releases some 200 pro-democracy activists. Government says releases reflect progress in talks with opposition NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi who remains under house arrest. 2001 February- Burmese army, Shan rebels clash on Thai border. 2001 June- Thai Prime Minister Shinawatra visits, says relations are back on track. 2001



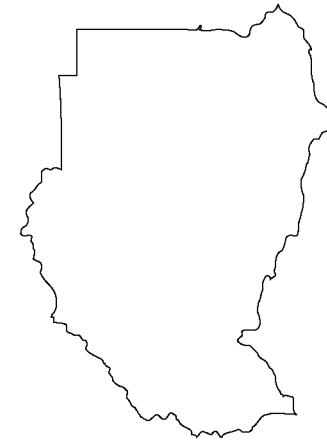
September- Intelligence chief Khin Nyunt visits Thailand. Burma pledges to eliminate drugs trade in the Golden Triangle by 2005. 2001 November- Chinese President Jiang Zemin visits, issues statement supporting government, reportedly urges economic reform. **2002** May- Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi released after nearly 20 months of house arrest. **2003** May- Aung San Suu Kyi taken into "protective custody" after clashes between her supporters and those of government. 2003 August- Khin Nyunt becomes prime minister. He proposes to hold convention in **2004** on drafting new constitution as part of "road map" to democracy. 2004 November- Five senior NLD leaders released from house arrest after visit of UN human rights envoy. 2004 January- Government and Karen National Union - most significant ethnic group fighting government - agree to end hostilities. 2004 May- Constitutional convention begins, despite boycott by National League for Democracy (NLD) whose leader Aung San Suu Kyi remains under house arrest. The convention adjourns in July. 2004 October- Khin Nyunt is replaced as prime minister amid reports of a power struggle. He is placed under house arrest. 2004 November- Leading dissidents are freed as part of a release of thousands of prisoners, including Min Ko Naing, who led the 1988 pro-democracy student demonstrations. 2004 December- Giant waves, generated by an undersea earthquake off the Indonesian coast, hit the coast. The prime minister says 59 people were killed and more than 3,000 left homeless. **2005** February- Constitutional convention resumes, but without the participation of the main opposition and ethnic groups. Talks end in January 2006 with no reports of any clear outcomes. 2005 7 May- Three near-simultaneous explosions go off in shopping districts in the capital; the government puts the death toll at 23. 2005 July- Asean announces that Burma has turned down the 2006 chairmanship of the regional grouping. 2005 November- Burma says its seat of government is moving to a new site near the central town of Pyinmana. **2006** March- The new capital - Nay Pyi Taw - hosts its first official event, an Armed Forces Day parade. **2007** January- China and Russia veto a draft US resolution at the UN Security Council urging Burma to stop persecuting minority and opposition groups. 2007 April- Burma and North Korea restore diplomatic ties, 24 years after Rangoon broke them off, accusing North Korean agents of staging a deadly bomb attack against the visiting South Korean president. 2007 May- Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest extended for another year. 2007 June- In a rare departure from its normally neutral stance, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) accuses the government of abusing the Burmese people's rights. 2007 August- Wave of public dissent sparked by fuel price hikes. Dozens of activists are arrested. 2007 September- Military government declares 14 years of constitutional talks complete and closes the National Convention. Buddhist monks hold a series of anti-government protests. Aung San Suu Kyi is allowed to leave her house to greet monks demonstrating in Rangoon. It is her first public appearance since 2003. Authorities begin to crack down on protests, but demonstrations continue. UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari meets opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. 2007 October- Normality returns to Rangoon amid heavy military presence. Monks are absent, after thousands are reportedly rounded up. After some delay, UN Security Council deplores military crackdown on peaceful protestors. **2008** January- A series of bomb blasts hits the country. State media blame "insurgent destructionists", including the Karen National Union (KNU), a group fighting for greater autonomy for the ethnic Karen people. 2008 April- Government publishes proposed new constitution, which allocates a quarter of seats in parliament to the military and bans opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from holding office. To be put to national referendum on 10 May. 2008 May- Cyclone hits the low-lying Irrawaddy delta. Some estimates put the death toll as high as 134,000. Referendum proceeds amid humanitarian crisis following cyclone. Government says 92% voted in favour of draft constitution and insists it can cope with cyclone aftermath without foreign help. Junta renews Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest.



## Palestine

**1945** Large scale Jewish immigration begins after the end of World War II. **1947** The UN suggests the creation of separate Jewish and Arab States, proposing 56.47% of Palestine to the Jewish state and 43.53% to the Arab state. As a result, Zionists receive more than half of Palestinian territory and many Arabs are forced out of their land. A civil war breaks out between the Arabs and Zionists. 1948 Israel declares its independence, and a day later Arab armies from Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq immediately invaded Israel, but were repulsed. **1948** A large portion of Palestine is annexed by Israel, and the Arab population is displaced and loses the majority of the land. **1956** The Suez War begins when Israel aided by Britain and France attack Egypt. **1957** The Suez War ends when Israel withdraws its troops from Sinai and the Gaza strip. **1959** Fatah is founded by Yasar Arafat. **1964** January- Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) established in Cairo. The Palestine National Council (PNC) serves as the parliament of the PLO. **1965** Fatah conducts their first guerilla attack on Israel. 1967 June- Arab-Israeli six days war occurs when Israel attacks Egypt. Israel occupies the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Egyptian Sinai, and Syrian Golan Heights, expands Jerusalem boundaries and extends Israeli law over East Jerusalem; U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 calls for withdrawal of Israeli troops from territories newly occupied; 500,000 more Palestinians are displaced. **1968** PLO adopts goal of a democratic secular state in all of Mandate Palestine. The War of Attrition between Israel and Egypt, Israel and Syria occur. Guerrilla groups admitted to the PNC 1969 Arafat former leader of the guerrilla group Fatah becomes the head of the PLO 1970 Fatah becomes the main leading power of the PLO. A Civil war between Jordanian army and Palestinians following airplane hijackings by a Palestinian guerilla group. The PLO is expelled from Jordan and moves to Lebanon. **1972** Eleven Israeli athletes are killed at the Munich Olympics. **1973** October- Yom Kippur War begins when Egypt seeks to regain by force Egyptian land that Israel captured in 1967; the UN Security Council Resolution 338 calls for a cease-fire and comprehensive peace conference between the two countries. The US and USSR call for cease-fire. An oil embargo is set by Arab petroleum exporting countries. **1974** The Arab League declares PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Arafat addresses at the UN. **1975** PLO is granted observer status by the UN as a result of Arafat's address at the UN in the previous year. **1976** Pro-PLO candidates sweep Palestinian municipal elections in the West Bank. **1977** Likud wins the Israeli elections, and Menachem Begin becomes prime minister, both whom are right wing. 1977 November- Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visits Israel and makes a speech to the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem. Sadat becomes the first Arab leader to recognise Israel. **1978** Temporary Israeli invasion in southern Lebanon, US attempts to bring peace between Palestine and Israel through the Camp David Accords which is signed by US President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem. **1979** March- A bilateral Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed by Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem. Egypt is boycotted by Arab states due to negotiating a separate treaty with Israel. The Sinai Peninsula is returned to Egypt. **1981** Sadat assassinated by Islamist elements in the Egyptian army, who opposed peace with Israel, during national celebrations to mark the anniversary of the October war. **1982** June- Israel invades southern Lebanon in order to wipe out Palestinian guerrilla bases near Israel's northern border, Defence Minister Ariel Sharon pushes to Beirut and expels the PLO from the country. 1982 September- the Phalangists who were allied to Israel kills hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. **1983** Sharon resigns from Defence Minister after a Israeli inquiry concluded that he had failed to act to prevent the massacre. **1985** Israel withdraws from most of Lebanon, leaving an Israeli-allied Lebanese force in control of the southern areas; Israel bombs Tunisian headquarters of the PLO. **1987** Hamas found by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. A mass uprising against the Israeli occupation begins in Gaza and the West Bank. PNC recognize Israel as a state, conflict between PLO and Hamas regarding the recognition of Israel. The PNC seeks a negotiated settlement based on Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from territory captured in the 1967 war, and Resolution 338. **1991** Israel imprisons Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. An international Arab-Israeli peace conference in Madrid includes Palestinians in joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. **1992** Israel holds elections and Yitzhak Rabin becomes prime minister who aims for Palestinian autonomy 1993 At the Oslo Accords the PLO signs the Declaration of Principles on Palestinian self government, and the West Bank is returned to Palestine. Hamas opposes talks between Palestine and Israel. **1994** Israel withdraws from Gaza. 1994 February- a Jewish settler in the West Bank town of Hebron fires praying Muslims, killing 29 people. **1995** Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin come to agreement to expand Palestinian rule. Palestinian Authority established, the PA rules 6 major towns in the West Bank. 1995 November- Rabin is assassinated. **1996** Right wing Netanyahu wins elections for Israeli prime minister. **1999** Israel does not meet their deadline for military removal in the West Bank and Gaza. **2000** Sharon visits the Temple Mount regardless of his controversy involving the Sabra and Shatila massacres. **2002** Israeli troops reoccupy the West Bank. **2003** PLO establishes the role of prime minister- Abbas is chosen but resigns. Israel bombs guerilla groups located in Syria. **2003** Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin is assassinated. Arafat dies in Paris, and Abbas becomes the head of PLO. **2005** Abbas and Sharon announce a mutual ceasefire at a summit in Egypt. Israel withdraws their troops from parts of the West Bank, and all of Gaza. **2006** Hamas wins over Fatah in the PNC elections. **2008** Abbas declares a state of emergency due to tension rising among Palestine and Israel.

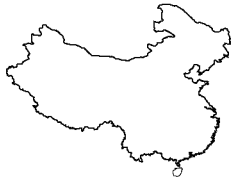


## Sudan

**1899-1955** Sudan is under joint British-Egyptian rule. **1956** Sudan becomes independent. **1958** General Abbud leads military coup against the civilian government elected. **1962** Civil war begins in the south, led by the Anya Nya movement. **1964** The "October Revolution" overthrows Abbud and a national government is established. **1969** Jafar Numayri leads the "May Revolution" military coup. **1971** Sudanese Communist Party leaders executed after coup against Numayri. **1972** Under the Addis Ababa peace agreement between the government and the Anya Nya the south becomes a self-governing region. **1983** Civil war breaks out again in the south involving government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), led by John Garang. Islamic law imposed. 1983 President Numayri declares the introduction of Sharia (Islamic law). **1985** After widespread popular unrest Numayri is deposed by a group of officers and Transitional Military Council is set up to rule the country. **1986** Coalition government formed after general elections, with Sadiq al-Mahdi as prime minister. **1988** Coalition partner the Democratic Unionist Party drafts cease-fire agreement with the SPLM, but it is not implemented. **1989** National Salvation Revolution takes over in military coup. **1993** Revolution Command Council dissolved after Omar al-Bashir is appointed president. **1995** Egyptian President Mubarak accuses Sudan of being involved in attempt to assassinate him in Addis Ababa. **1998** US launches missile attack on a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, alleging that it was making materials for chemical weapons. 1998 A new constitution endorsed by over 96% of voters in referendum. **1999** President Bashir dissolves the National Assembly and declares a state of emergency following a power struggle with parliamentary speaker, Hassan al-Turabi. 1999 Sudan begins to export oil. **2000** President Bashir meets leaders of opposition National Democratic Alliance for first time. Main opposition parties boycott presidential elections. Incumbent Bashir is re-elected for further five years. Shifa plant in Khartoum; US alleged that it was making materials for chemical weapons. **2001** Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi's party, the Popular National Congress, signs memorandum of understanding with the SPLM's armed wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Al-Turabi is arrested the next day, with more arrests of PNC members in the following months. Government accepts Libyan/Egyptian initiative to end the civil war after failure of peace talks between President Bashir and SPLM leader John Garang in Nairobi. US extends unilateral sanctions against Sudan for another year, citing its record on terrorism and rights violations. **2002** Government and SPLA sign landmark ceasefire agreement providing for six-month renewable ceasefire in central Nuba. Sudanese vice-president Ali Osman Taha (L) and

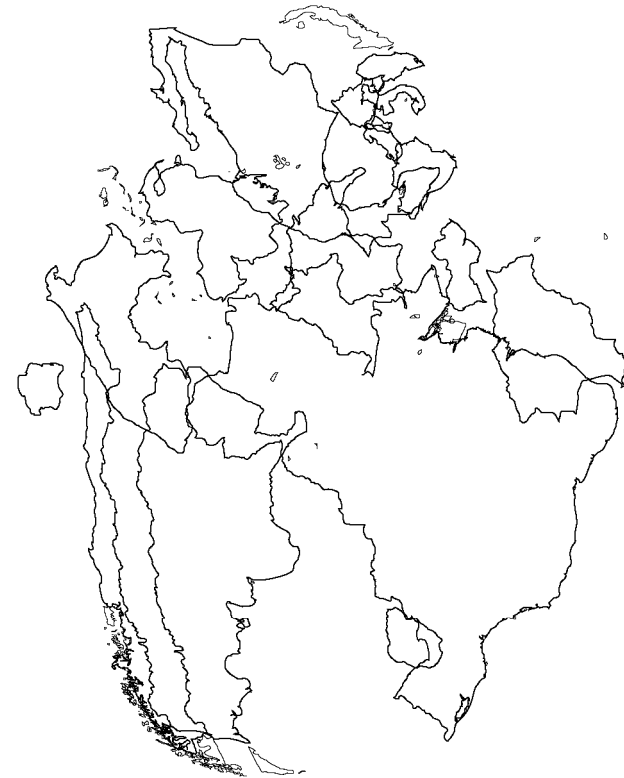
Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) leader John Garang Eight-year peace process ended with deal to end conflict in south. Talks in Kenya lead to a breakthrough agreement between the government and southern rebels on ending the 19-year civil war. The Machakos Protocol provides for the south to seek self-determination after six years. **2003** February- Rebels in western region of Darfur rise up against government, claiming the region is being neglected by Khartoum. 2003 October- PNC leader Turabi released after nearly three years in detention and ban on his party is lifted. **2004** January- Army moves to quell rebel uprising in western region of Darfur; hundreds of thousands of refugees flee to neighbouring Chad. 2004 March- UN official says pro-government Arab "Janjaweed" militias are carrying out systematic killings of African villagers in Darfur. Army officers and opposition politicians, including Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi, are detained over an alleged coup plot. 2004 May- Government and southern rebels agree on power-sharing protocols as part of a peace deal to end their long-running conflict. The deal follows earlier breakthroughs on the division of oil and non-oil wealth. 2004 September- UN says Sudan has not met targets for disarming pro-government Darfur militias and must accept outside help to protect civilians. US Secretary of State Colin Powell describes Darfur killings as genocide. **2005** January- Government and southern rebels sign a peace deal. The agreement includes a permanent ceasefire and accords on wealth and power sharing. UN report accuses the government and militias of systematic abuses in Darfur, but stops short of calling the violence genocide. 2005 March- UN Security Council authorises sanctions against those who violate ceasefire in Darfur. Council also votes to refer those accused of war crimes in Darfur to International Criminal Court. 2005 June- Government and exiled opposition grouping - National Democratic Alliance (NDA) - sign reconciliation deal allowing NDA into power-sharing administration. President al-Bashir frees Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi, detained since March 2004 over alleged coup plot. 2005 9 July- Former southern rebel leader John Garang is sworn in as first vice president. A constitution, which gives a large degree of autonomy to the south, is signed. 2005 1 August - Vice president and former rebel leader John Garang is killed in a plane crash. He is succeeded by Salva Kiir. Garang's death sparks deadly clashes in the capital between southern Sudanese and northern Arabs. 2005 September- Power sharing government is formed in Khartoum. 2005 October- Autonomous government is formed in the south, in line with January 2005 peace deal. Former rebels dominate the administration. **2006** May- Khartoum government and the main rebel faction in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement, sign a peace accord. Two smaller rebel groups reject the deal. Fighting continues. 2006 August- Sudan rejects a UN resolution calling for a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur, saying it would compromise sovereignty. 2006 October- Jan Pronk, the UN's top official in Sudan, is expelled. 2006 November- African Union extends mandate of its peacekeeping force in Darfur for six months. Hundreds are thought to have died in the heaviest fighting between northern Sudanese forces and their former southern rebel foes since they signed a peace deal last year. Fighting is centred on the southern town of Malakal. **2007** April- Sudan says it will accept a partial UN troop deployment to reinforce African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, but not a full 20,000-strong force. 2007 May- International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for a minister and a janjaweed militia leader suspected of Darfur war crimes. US President George W Bush announces fresh sanctions against Sudan. 2007 July- UN Security Council approves a resolution authorising a 26,000-strong force for Darfur. Sudan says it will co-operate with the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (Unamid). 2007 October- SPLM temporarily suspends participation in national unity government, accusing Khartoum of failing to honour the 2005 peace deal. 2007 December- SPLM resumes participation in national unity government. **2008** January- UN takes over Darfur peace force. Within days Sudan apologises after its troops fire on a convoy of Unamid, the UN-African Union hybrid

mission. Government planes bomb rebel positions in West Darfur, turning some areas into no-go zones for aid workers. 2008 February- Commander of the UN-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, Balla Keita, says more troops needed urgently in west Darfur. 2008 March- Russia says it's prepared to provide some of the helicopters urgently needed by UN-African Union peacekeepers. Tensions rise over clashes between an Arab militia and SPLM in Abyei area on north-south divide - a key sticking point in 2005 peace accord. Presidents of Sudan and Chad sign accord aimed at halting five years of hostilities between their countries. 2008 April- Counting begins in national census, which is seen as a vital step towards holding democratic elections after the landmark 2005 north-south peace deal. UN humanitarian chief John Holmes says 300,000 people may have died in the five-year Darfur conflict. 2008 May- Southern defence minister Dominic Dim Deng is killed in a plane crash in the south. Tension increases between Sudan and Chad after Darfur rebel group mounts raid on Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city across the Nile. Sudan accuses Chad of involvement and breaks off diplomatic relations. Intense fighting breaks out between northern and southern forces in disputed oil-rich town of Abyei. 2008 June- President al-Bashir and southern leader Salva Kiir agree to seek international arbitration to resolve dispute over Abyei.



## Tibet

**1949** Mao Zedong proclaims the founding of the People's Republic of China and threatens Tibet with "liberation". **1950** China enforces a long-held claim to Tibet. The Dalai Lama, now aged 15, officially becomes head of state. **1951** Tibetan leaders are forced to sign a treaty dictated by China. The treaty, known as the "Seventeen Point Agreement", professes to guarantee Tibetan autonomy and to respect the Buddhist religion, but also allows the establishment of Chinese civil and military headquarters at Lhasa. Mid-1950s Mounting resentment against Chinese rule leads to outbreaks of armed resistance. **1954** The Dalai Lama visits Beijing for talks with Mao, but China still fails to honour the Seventeen Point Agreement. **1959** March - Full-scale uprising breaks out in Lhasa. Thousands are said to have died during the suppression of the revolt. The Dalai Lama and most of his ministers flee to northern India, to be followed by some 80,000 other Tibetans. **1963** Foreign visitors are banned from Tibet. **1965** Chinese government establishes Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR). **1966** The Cultural Revolution reaches Tibet and results in the destruction of a large number of monasteries and cultural artifacts. **1971** Foreign visitors are again allowed to enter the country. **Late 1970s** End of Cultural Revolution leads to some easing of repression, though large-scale relocation of Han Chinese into Tibet continues. **1980s** China introduces "Open Door" reforms and boosts investment while resisting any move towards greater autonomy for Tibet. **1987** The Dalai Lama calls for the establishment of Tibet as a zone of peace and continues to seek dialogue with China, with the aim of achieving genuine self-rule for Tibet within China. **1988** China imposes martial law after riots break out. **1989** The Dalai Lama is awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. **1993** Talks between China and the Dalai Lama break down. **1995** The Dalai Lama names a six-year-old boy, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, as the true reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, the second most important figure in Tibetan Buddhism. The Chinese authorities place the boy under house arrest and designate another six-year-old boy, Gyancaïn Norbu, as their officially sanctioned Panchen Lama. **2002** Contacts between the Dalai Lama and Beijing are resumed. **2006** Jul - A new railway linking Lhasa and the Chinese city of Golmud is opened. The Chinese authorities hail it as a feat of engineering, but critics say it will significantly increase Han Chinese traffic to Tibet and accelerate the undermining of traditional Tibetan culture. **2007** November - The Dalai Lama hints at a break with the centuries-old tradition of selecting his successor, saying the Tibetan people should have a role. 2007 December - The number of tourists travelling to Tibet hits a record high, up 64% year on year at just over four million, Chinese state media say. **2008** March - Anti-China protests escalate into the worst violence Tibet has seen in 20 years, five months before Beijing hosts the Games. Pro-Tibet activists in several countries focus world attention on the region by disrupting progress of the Olympic torch relay.

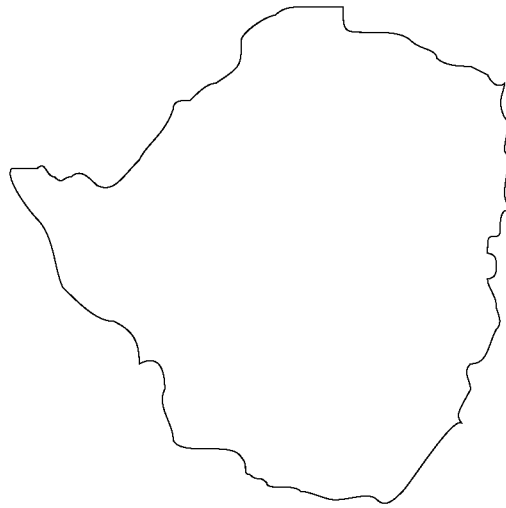


## United Latin America

Considering that Latin America has been a region largely in conflict throughout the twentieth century, it is with respect and admiration that I have re-configured the map of the area to reflect a plan of unity and brotherhood between the nations, as dreamt by Simon Bolivar, who fought for his revolutionary vision of establishing The Great Colombia (**1819-1831**).

The united countries of present-day Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama, as well as smaller parts of Costa Rica, Peru, Brazil and Guyana together, were to oppose the violent and destructive forces of the colonial might. The liberator's plan failed.

Let's embrace this utopian idea today and imagine a continent that will oppose the economic, social, military and economic pressure of the United State. Let's imagine a continent that will emerge from the shadows and become a self-sufficient power that will respect social equality and human rights.



## Zimbabwe

**1980** Independence. Veteran pro-independence leader Robert Mugabe and his Zanu party win British-supervised independence elections. Mugabe is named prime minister and includes Zanu leader Joshua Nkomo in his cabinet. Independence on 18 April is internationally recognised. **1982** Mugabe sacks Nkomo, accusing him of preparing to overthrow the government. North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade deployed to crush rebellion by pro-Nkomo ex-guerrillas in Midlands and Matabeleland provinces. Government forces are accused of killing thousands of civilians over next few years. **1987** Mugabe, Nkomo merge their parties to form Zanu-PF, ending the violence in southern areas. Mugabe changes constitution, becomes executive president. **1991** The Commonwealth adopts the Harare Declaration at its summit in Zimbabwe, reaffirming its aims of fostering international peace and security, democracy, freedom of the individual and equal rights for all. **1998** Economic crisis accompanied by riots and strikes. **1999** Economic crisis persists, Zimbabwe's military involvement in DR Congo's civil war becomes increasingly unpopular. Opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formed. **2000** February- President Mugabe suffers defeat in referendum on draft constitution. Squatters seize hundreds of white-owned farms in an ongoing and violent campaign to reclaim what they say was stolen by settlers. 2000 June- Parliamentary elections: Zanu-PF narrowly fights off a challenge from the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Morgan Tsvangirai, but loses its power to change the constitution. **2001** May - Defence Minister Moven Mahachi killed in a car crash - the second minister to die in that way in a month. 2001 July- Finance Minister Simba Makoni publicly acknowledges economic crisis, saying foreign reserves have run out and warning of serious food shortages. Most western donors, including the World Bank and the IMF, have cut aid because of President Mugabe's land seizure programme. **2002** February- Parliament passes a law limiting media freedom. The European Union imposes sanctions on Zimbabwe and pulls out its election observers after the EU team leader is expelled. 2002 March- Mugabe re-elected in presidential elections condemned as seriously flawed by the opposition and foreign observers. Commonwealth suspends Zimbabwe from its councils for a year after concluding that elections were marred by high levels of violence. 2002 April- State of disaster declared as worsening food shortages threaten famine. Government blames drought, the UN's World Food

Programme says disruption to agriculture is a contributing factor. 2002 June- 45-day countdown for some 2,900 white farmers to leave their land begins, under terms of a land-acquisition law passed in May. 2002 September- Commonwealth committee - including leaders of South Africa, Nigeria and Australia - fails to agree on further sanctions against President Mugabe. 2002 November- Agriculture Minister Joseph Made says the land-grab is over. He says the government has seized 35m acres of land from white farmers. **2003** March - Widely-observed general strike is followed by the arrests - and reported beatings - of hundreds of people. A BBC correspondent says the evidence points to a crackdown of "unprecedented brutality". 2003 June- Opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Morgan Tsvangirai is arrested twice, amid a week of opposition protests. He is charged with treason, adding to an existing treason charge from 2002 over an alleged plot to kill President Mugabe. 2003 November- Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe's first black president, dies aged 67. 2003 December- Zimbabwe pulls out of Commonwealth after organisation decides to extend suspension of country indefinitely. 2004 March- 67 men - alleged to be mercenaries planning a coup in Equatorial Guinea - are detained and charged after their plane is impounded in Harare. In September their leader, British national Simon Mann, is sentenced to seven years in prison for attempting to buy guns. **2004** October- Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai is acquitted of treason charges relating to an alleged plot to kill President Mugabe. He faces a separate treason charge. **2005** January- The US labels Zimbabwe as one of the world's six "outposts of tyranny". Zimbabwe rejects the statement. 2005 March - Ruling Zanu-PF party wins two-thirds of the votes in parliamentary polls. Main opposition party says election was rigged against it. 2005 May-July - Tens of thousands of shanty dwellings and illegal street stalls are destroyed as part of a "clean-up" programme. The UN estimates that the drive has left about 700,000 people homeless. 2005 August- Prosecutors drop remaining treason charges against opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai. 2005 November- Ruling Zanu-PF party wins an overwhelming majority of seats in a newly-created upper house of parliament, the Senate. The opposition MDC splits over its leader's decision to boycott the poll. 2005 December- After a four-day visit, UN humanitarian chief Jan Egeland says Zimbabwe is in "meltdown". **2006** May- Year-on-year inflation exceeds 1,000%. New banknotes, with three noughts deleted from their values, are introduced in August. 2006 September- Riot police disrupt a planned demonstration against the government's handling of the economic crisis. Union leaders are taken into custody and later hospitalised, allegedly after being tortured. 2006 December- Ruling ZANU-PF party approves a plan to move presidential polls from 2008 to 2010, effectively extending Mr Mugabe's rule by two years. 2007 February- Rallies, demonstrations banned for three months. The ban is extended in May. 2007 March- Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai is hospitalised after his arrest at a rally. One man is shot dead as riot police move to disperse the gathering. **2007** May - Warnings of power cuts for up to 20 hours a day while electricity is diverted towards agriculture. 2007 June- Five men are charged with treason for plotting a coup. Their lawyer says they were planning to form a political party. Ruling ZANU-PF and opposition MDC hold preliminary talks in South Africa. 2007 November- Former prime minister Ian Smith dies. 2007 December- Mugabe attends EU-Africa summit, where he is criticised over his rights record. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown boycotts the meeting over Mugabe's presence. **2008** March- Opposition MDC wins parliamentary elections. Morgan Tsvangirai wins first round of presidential poll by clear margin, but Mugabe refuses to admit defeat. 2008 May - Electoral Commission announces presidential run-off election to be held on 27 June. Mr Tsvangirai says there should be no need for second round, insisting he won outright in first round, but agrees to take part in run-off. 2008 June - Government bans food aid distribution, accusing aid agencies of campaigning for the opposition.

**When, if ever, does one draw a line under the horrors  
of history in the interest of truth and reconciliation?**

**a portfolio of prints by Carlos Motta**

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