

A timeline of peace events of the 20th century

29 July 1899

First Peace Conference signed at The Hague (Entry into force: September 1900)

1904 – 1906 Russian workers petition Tsar Nicolas for an 8-hour workday, and freedom of speech, press and religion

1906 Gandhi leads a non-violent campaign against anti-Indian laws in South Africa

18 October 1907 Second Peace Conference signed at The Hague (Entry into force: January 1910)

(1914 – 1918 World War I)

28 January 1916 Manitoba women became the first in Canada to win the rights to vote and to hold provincial office.

24 May 1918 All female citizens aged 21 and over became eligible to vote in federal elections in Canada.

July 1919 Women in Canada gain the right to stand for the House of Commons.

10 January 1920 Establishment of the League of Nations

Original members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Siam, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

1920 Gandhi leads first of his all-Indian campaigns against the British Empire

1923 Germans mount nonviolent resistance to French, Belgian and Italian regiments in The Ruhr, the industrial heartland of Germany

1924 *Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child* states the need for special safeguards for children of the world

25 September 1926 *Convention to Suppress Slavery* signed at The Hague

17 June 1925 Geneva Protocol to Hague Convention is signed, to enter into force on 8 February 1928: *Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare*

1929 Women in Canada gain the right to hold a seat in the Senate

1930's Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign for independence in India

(1933 Adolph Hitler comes to power in Germany)

(1940 Germany invades Denmark)

1940's A group of students in Munich, Germany work to work to stop the Nazis. Calling themselves the *White Rose*, they distribute leaflets denouncing the government and providing information about atrocities.

1942 – 1944 Denmark carries on organized State and citizen resistance to German occupation and obtains concessions from Germans

1944 Nationwide civic strike in El Salvador in opposition to martial law

1945 End of World War II and founding of the United Nations "to save future generations from the scourge of war"

August 1947 India gains independence from British Empire

1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* is signed by the United Nations members

(1948 Apartheid is imposed by National Party in South Africa)

1952 Defiance campaign against Apartheid begins

December 1955 Dr. Martin Luther King leads bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama

November 1959 The U.N. General Assembly proclaims the *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*

1960 Aboriginal People in Canada obtained the right to vote

1960's Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement in the United States

May 10, 1960 Lunch counters begin to serve African Americans

August 28, 1963 More than a quarter of a million people of all races gather near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington – the largest protest march in U.S. history. This peaceful march brought recognition to the civil rights movement.

2 July 1964 U.S. signs the Civil Rights Bill

1968 – 1975 Widespread student – led movements and civil disobedience protesting U.S. involvement in Viet Nam applied anti-war pressure on the American government

January 8, 1974 Signing of the first disengagement agreement between Israel and Egypt as a result of repeated negotiations and “shuttle diplomacy”

June 1976 Mass opposition to Apartheid begins in South Africa

1945 – 1980’s (ongoing) Since the creation of the United Nations: decolonization and recognition of sovereign independence of more than 80 nations in the world, particularly in Asia and Africa, all formerly non self-governing territories

1977 – 1983 Las Madres “The Mothers of the disappeared” begin nonviolent actions against the military junta in Argentina

1980’s Thousands of Americans sign pledges to take part in non-violent protests as the U.S. military invades Nicaragua

17 September 1980 A nationwide independent trade union, *Solidarity*, is established in Poland

1981 - 1989 Thousands of women take part in non-violent activities at Greenham Common to protest the locating of American cruise missiles in England.

1983 - 1988 Continued citizen opposition to military regime of military junta in under Augusto Pinochet leads to the end of his dictatorship

1986 Groups of citizens march in the streets to stop the military in non violent action to help bring down the dictatorship of President Marcos in the Philippines.

1989 During the *International Congress on Peace in the Minds of Men*, in Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire, the notion of a “Culture of Peace” is first mentioned. The culture of peace approach aims at addressing the root causes of violent conflict, thus preventing its emergence.

October 1989 The South African government begins releasing imprisoned leaders of the African National Congress

1988 - 98 Worldwide nonviolent campaign of financial sanctions and boycotts against the non-elected military government in Myanmar (Burma)

1988 In South Africa during the Apartheid regime, more than a hundred whites refuse to do military service with the South African Defence force.

9 November 1989 Private citizens begin to demolish whole sections of the Berlin Wall unimpeded by police. East Germany eventually joins in the removal of the wall and reunites with West Germany in 1990 as one nation, the Federal Republic of Germany.

1989 Nonviolent democratic movements end Communist rule in Eastern Europe

4 June 1989 *Solidarity* wins control of the Polish government in free elections.

11 February 1990 After 27 years in prison, black leader Nelson Mandela is released.

1991 In Belgrade, a group of 'Women in Black' appeared weekly on the streets to protest the war in Croatia, over the months joined by additional women.

26 – 29 August 1994 South Africans vote in fair and free elections, the ANC government is voted into power

1994 Protestors occupy houses and trees in East London to prevent contractors from bulldozing houses and vegetation to make way for a new road system.

1994 Federico Mayor, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), launches an international appeal on the establishment of a right to peace; in February 1994, UNESCO launches its *Towards a Culture of Peace programme*

1994 A mass rally is held in Hyde Park to protest Britain's *Criminal Justice Bill*.

1997 United Nations General Assembly calls for the promotion of a culture of peace as an integral approach to preventing violence and armed conflict

1998 U.N. Assembly declares 2001-2010 the *International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World*

2000 *International Year for the Culture of Peace*

February – March 2003 Worldwide marches take place for peace in Iraq

11 March 2003 International Criminal Court Opens. The ICC, based in The Hague, is a permanent tribunal to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
