

1950s-1960s

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

A pivotal series of events in the United States, led by figures like Martin Luther King Jr., advocating for African American rights and an end to racial segregation and discrimination, influencing civil rights movements globally.

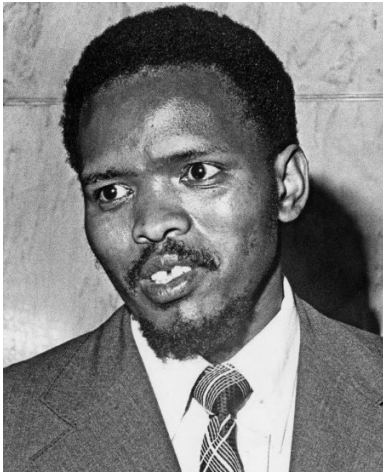


Credit: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/martin-luther-king-jr>

1960

THE ACTIVISM OF STEVE BIKO

In the 1960s Steve Biko helped to establish the South African Students Organisation and would be made president by 1968. The SASO would eventually evolve into the Black Consciousness Movement which promoted a new identity and politics of racial solidarity.



Credit: <https://alchetron.com/Steve-Biko>

Born Bantu Stephen Biko on 18 December 1946 in Tarkastad, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Died 12 September 1977 (aged 30) in Pretoria, South Africa.

Cause of death: Extensive brain injuries sustained from beatings by South-African security officers.



Credit: Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) logo. At <https://twitter.com/SvenTrueNorth/status/1304766338221703169>

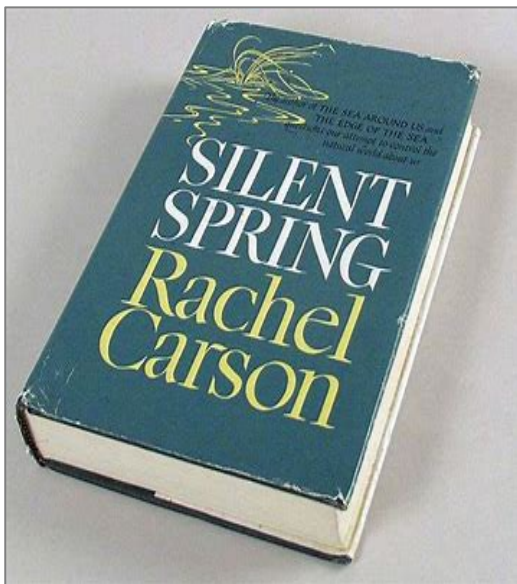
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Design editor: Dr Rene Gonzales, UCC.

1962

SILENT SPRING BY RACHEL CARSON

Rachel Carson wrote the book that launched a global environmental movement by documenting what then seemed like massive declines in bird populations. The silence Carson referred to came from fewer birds singing due to the negative effects of pesticides like DDT on bird populations.



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUIl>



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUI2>

1965

SELMA TO MONTGOMERY FREEDOM MARCHES

Sunday, March 7th, 600 people attempted a freedom march after the shooting dead of a young African American while demonstrating against the opposition to black voter registration. Multiple attempts to march were met with violent resistance by state and local authorities. Protesters finally completed their march under protection of National Guard troops.

It took 3 days to walk the 54 miles to Montgomery to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by black voters in the South, and the need for a Voting Rights Act, subsequently passed later that year.



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUk9>

1968

POLITICAL ACTIVISM AT THE OLYMPICS

At the Mexico City Games, US athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos were expelled for giving 'Black Power' salutes on the winner's podium.

In an interview 40 years after, John Carlos told the Guardian 'I had a moral obligation to step up. Morality was a far greater force than the rules and regulations they had.' The image of the two athletes raising their fists became one of the most iconic of the Civil Rights Movement and Olympic history.



Credit: <https://www.bbc.com/sport/olympics/58010557>

1960s-1970s

THE VIETNAM WAR PROTESTS

Global protests against the Vietnam War, marking one of the first major international anti-war movements, significantly impacting public opinion and policy in the United States and around the world.

[illegible]

Credit: <https://www.historic-newspapers.co.uk/blog/anti-vietnam-war-protest-1971/>

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1960s-Present

FEMINIST MOVEMENTS

The second wave of feminism in the 1960s, and subsequent movements, have advocated for women's rights, including issues like workplace equality, reproductive rights, and combating gender-based violence, influencing policies and societies worldwide.



Credit: <https://www.liberationschool.org/feminism-and-the-mass-movements-1960-1990/>

1970

ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT AND THE FIRST EARTH DAY

The birth of the modern environmental movement, marked by the first Earth Day in 1970, mobilised millions globally for environmental protection and conservation, leading to significant policy changes and awareness.



Credit: <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/first-earth-day/>

1972

REGISTRATION OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) is a trade union movement which pioneered the empowerment of self-employed women and of women employed in informal economy enterprises (small, unregistered enterprises) and informal economy jobs (no secure contracts, worker benefits or social protection) where 93% of India's female labour force is employed. Membership now spans more than 1.75 million women in 12 states, 50 districts and 700 villages with 66% originating from rural areas.



Credit: <https://youtu.be/6SHWqcP-CLc>

1974

WANGARI MAATHAI PLANTS – HER FIRST TREE

Founder of the environmental conservation Green Belt Movement, Wangari Maathai plants her first tree in 1974 in Kenya.

Wangari Maathai was the founder of the Green Belt Movement and the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. In recognition of her deep commitment to the environment, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General named Professor Maathai a UN Messenger of Peace in December 2009, with a focus on the environment and climate change.



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUog>

1976

THE GRAMEEN BANK PROJECT

In 1976, Muhammed Yunus founded the Grameen Bank following an action research project to examine the possibility of designing a delivery system to provide banking services to the rural poor.

In October 1983, the Grameen Bank project was transformed into an independent bank by government legislation. Borrowers of the Bank own 90% of its shares, while 10% is owned by the government.

- Bank devoted entirely to microlending
- Also teaches customers basic financial principles
- Currently lends money to over 7.5 million impoverished people
- The majority of the bank's stocks are owned by low-income female basket weavers of Bangladesh
- Yunus and Grameen Bank collectively won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006

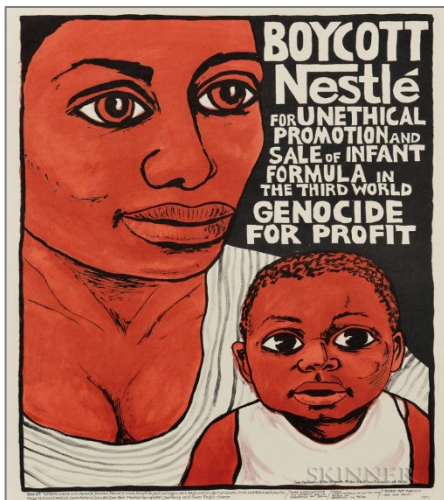


Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUro>

1977

NESTLÉ BOYCOTT

This campaign began in response to Nestlé's 'aggressive marketing' of breast milk substitutes especially in developing countries. Organisations such as International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) echo the arguments of the WHO and UNICEF who encourage the practice of breast feeding and oppose the idealisation of infant formula in many advertising campaigns. The boycott has been cancelled and renewed on the basis of reports on actual Nestlé practises and continues to this day.



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUtv>



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUuo>

1977

THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO

During the military dictatorship in Argentina from 1976 to 1983, many people were 'disappeared' as a direct consequence of state terrorism. Mothers of the disappeared began investigating and coming together to protest at the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, in front of the Casa Rosada – the Presidential palace, in defiance of the state and its laws. Their apparent 'simplicity', methods of organisation, their use of symbols and slogans, and, above all, their silent weekly protests grabbed the attention of the world. Their work continues today.



Credit: <https://englishinbachillerato.wordpress.com/2010/03/02/mothers-of-plaza-de-mayo/>

Credit: <https://onlineresize.club/2021-club.html>

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1978

MAIDEN VOYAGE OF RAINBOW WARRIOR

Greenpeace launch world's first purpose built environmental campaigning ship.

Rainbow Warrior was a Greenpeace ship involved in campaigns against whaling, seal hunting, nuclear testing, and nuclear waste dumping during the late 1970s and early 1980s. The Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (the French intelligence service) bombed Rainbow Warrior in the Port of Auckland, New Zealand on 10 July 1985, sinking the ship and killing photographer Fernando Pereira.



Credit: <https://cafepacific.blogspot.com/2015/08/about-rainbows-warriors-and-ship-naming.html>

1980

ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT

Global activism against nuclear weapons and nuclear power peaked in the 1980s, influenced by the Cold War tensions and events like the Chernobyl disaster, leading to significant disarmament initiatives and changes in nuclear policy.



Credit: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Anti-nuclear_weapons_protest,_UK_1980.JPG

1984

FREE NELSON MANDELA

Influenced by South African music with upbeat, ska rhythm melodies, the song “Free Nelson Mandela” is launched by UK band The Specials.

Against the backdrop of the international sports, cultural and academic boycott of South Africa, the song scored well in the music charts, prompting a whole generation to become aware of the horrors of apartheid.



Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archive_\(The_Specials_album\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archive_(The_Specials_album))

1995

BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

At the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995 in Beijing, the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted – an historical roadmap for women’s empowerment requiring commitment from all 189 governments involved. It flagged 12 key areas where urgent action was needed to ensure greater equality and opportunities for women, men, girls, and boys. It is seen as the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women’s rights.



Credit: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/beijing1995>

1997

THE 1997 OTTAWA OR 'MINE BAN' TREATY

Historically, armed force personnel, 'security experts' and even governments argued that the use of landmines was justified despite collateral civilian casualties. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines mobilised public opinion over two decades and eventually built up a network of NGOs, International Organisations, United Nations agencies and governments committed to the ban. This objective was achieved in 1997.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction of 1997, known informally as the Ottawa Treaty, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or often simply the Mine Ban Treaty, aims at eliminating anti-personnel landmines (APLs) around the world.

By August 2022, 164 states had ratified or acceded to the treaty. Major powers, which are also past and current manufacturers of landmines, are not parties to the treaty. These include the United States, China, and Russia. Other non-signatories include India and Pakistan.



Video on 25 years of Action

International Campaign to ban land mines <https://youtu.be/PB2dnyRnJiU>

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1999

GLOBAL TRADE RULES PROTESTS

Massive civil society protests of 40,000 people in Seattle, Washington, helped shut down international free trade negotiations and spotlight the environmental and social shortcomings of the World Trade Organisation.



A police officer sprays pepper spray at the crowd

Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUSn>

The 1999 Seattle WTO protests, sometimes referred to as the Battle of Seattle, were a series of protests surrounding the WTO Ministerial Conference of 1999, when members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) convened at the Washington State Convention and Trade Centre in Seattle, Washington on November 30, 1999. The Conference was to be the launch of a new millennial round of trade negotiations. There were no less than 40,000 protesters.

2000

WATER WARS IN BOLIVIA

In response to the privatisation of water services and sharp increases in the cost of water in Cochabamba, Bolivia, local citizens formed the Coalition in Defence of Water and Life in January 2000; they issued a declaration for the protection of universal water rights for all citizens and an end to privatisation.

Their demands were rejected, protests continued and finally the government was forced to back down. The US company which had been given the water contract, Bechtel, left Bolivia and filed a lawsuit against Bolivia demanding \$50 million in compensation; protests continued for four years and in 2006, Bechtel settled for a token 30 cent payment.



March in Cochabamba against water privatisation in 2000.

Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FUXF>

2000

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

189 countries came together to sign up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at a landmark moment to insist that they would not tolerate the extreme inequality in the world and would do all in their power to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.



Credit: <https://borgenproject.org/millennium-development-goals-achieved/>

2002

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT ENTERS INTO FORCE

Efforts to establish a global criminal court spans more than a century, including in 1872 that of Gustav Moynier (one of the founders of the International Committee of the Red Cross) who proposed a permanent court in response to the crimes of the Franco-Prussian War. Other calls followed to try war criminals after both WWI and WWII, establishing codes recognising crimes against humanity and genocide and the campaigning work of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court which included 2,500 organisations in 150 countries.



Credit: <https://www.pgaction.org/about/partners.html>

2003

THE WORLD MARCHES AGAINST WAR

On the 15th of February, an estimated 30 million people across the world protested against the war in Iraq, including 2 million people in London and across 800 cities. In Dublin, at least 100,000 people marched. For active citizens this is an indication of how many people were prepared to join others to make their feelings heard.



Credit: <https://www.businessinsider.com/largest-marches-us-history-2017-2?r=US&IR=T#protests-against-the-iraq-war-in-americas-largest-cities-february-15-16-2003-9>

2004

POLLUTION DATA

The European Union issues it's first-ever pollution register containing a wealth of data on industrial emissions and representing a "landmark event" in public provision of environmental information.



Credit: <https://globe-net.com/climate-change-wealth-creation/>

2007

BAMBOO BICYCLES

Although Ghana is rich in physical, cultural and intellectual resources, it is also a country with traffic congestion, environmental degradation, a stark urban-rural divide, low-employment and poverty.

The Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative is founded: a youth led non-profit enterprise committed to the economic empowerment of youth by taking advantage of the abundant bamboo raw materials in Ghana to manufacture and assemble high quality bamboo bikes – suitable for the road conditions and terrain in Ghana, avoidable and carbon free. Growing bamboo helps prevent soil erosion and improves waters and air quality.

Bamboo Bikes has created 30 jobs (20 bike assemblers and 10 farmers)

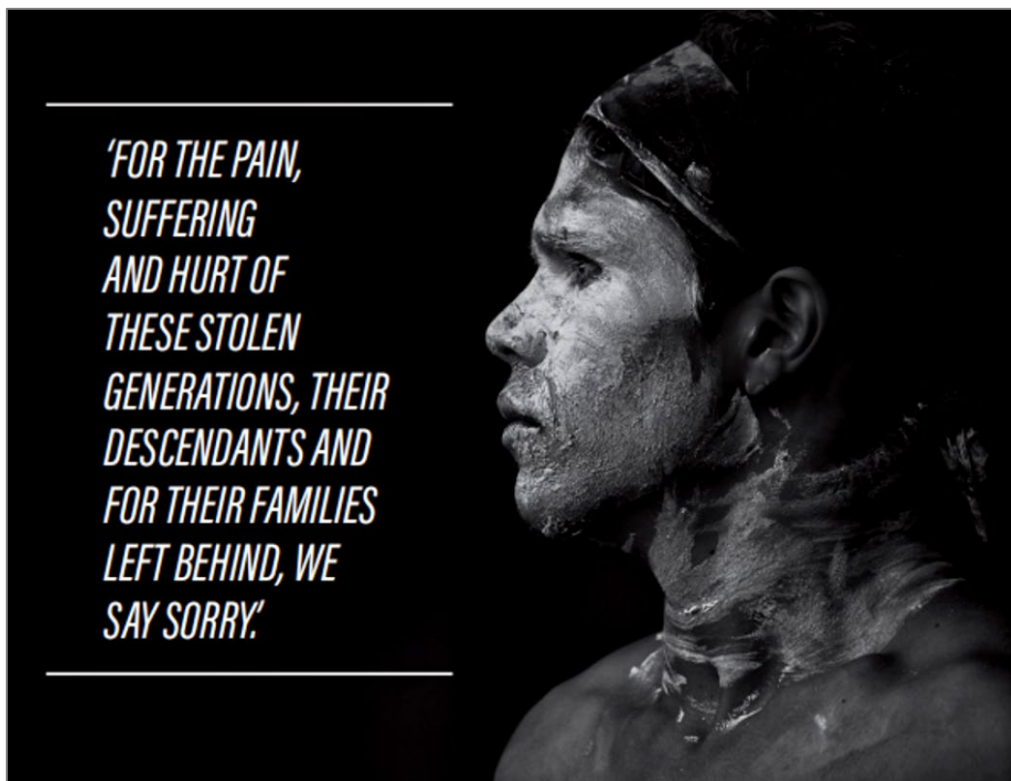


Further Information: <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/women-for-results/ghana-bamboo-bikes-initiative#Fast%20Facts>

2008

THE APOLOGY

Following campaigning since the early 1980s, the Australian PM Kevin Rudd issues a formal apology in parliament for the past wrongs caused by successive governments on the indigenous Aboriginal population forcibly removed from their families from 1909 until the 1960s.



Credit: <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-aboriginal-australian-dancer-with-face-paint-standing-in-shadow-atmospheric-100682322.html>

2010

ENDING TRADE CONFLICT MINERALS

Multinational firms such as Apple, Intel and Motorola were unwittingly buying conflict minerals to make products such as smartphones and laptop computers. US activists successfully pressured democrat and republican lawmakers to pass legislation. Section 1502 in the Dodd-Frank Act compels US companies to audit and disclose publicly on their supply chains to ensure that they are not using conflict minerals — particularly gold, coltan, tin and tungsten from artisanal mines controlled by the Democratic Republic of Congo's murderous militias, armed groups, and the army.



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FVp2>

2011

ART AS ACTIVISM IN EGYPT

Art historian Bahia Shehab has long been fascinated with the Arabic script for 'no.' 'I am a quiet person. I don't know how to scream. My contribution to the revolution was to paint on walls, was to be an artist'. Her message was simple: 'no'.

No to military rule, no to emergency law, no to stripping the people, no to burning books, no to violence and more. She has painted this message around Cairo in many forms.

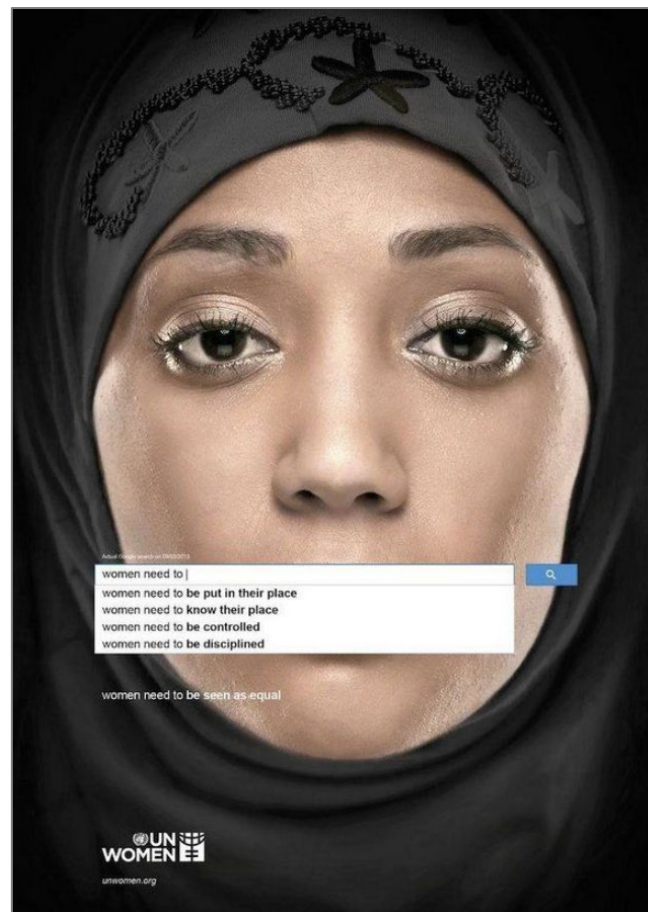


Credit: Franco Cedillo, 2012 at <https://www.khtt.net/en/page/20851/podr-n-cortar-todas-las-flores-pero-no-podr-n-detener-la-primavera-pablo-nerud>

2013

WOMEN DRIVERS

Women in Saudi Arabia are subjected to various restrictions, including needing a male guardian's consent in almost every aspect of their lives, including being banned from driving. More than 30 women staged a driving demonstration to challenge the driving ban law on women, following two demonstrations in 1990 and 2011 when dozens of women drove in opposition to the ban.



Credit: <https://advertisingrow.com/advertising/creative/creative-advertising-30-creative-ads-to-make-you-think/>

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2013

EQUAL VOTING RIGHTS FOR PRODUCERS AND SELLERS

The Fairtrade General Assembly brought together representatives from national Fairtrade markets (Europe, North America, Oceania) and producer networks (Asia, Africa, Latin America) and is the highest decision-making body in Fairtrade. Since 2013 producers have half of the votes, giving farmers and workers an equal say in all major decisions creating a truly global cooperative that tackles inequalities through fairer trade, wages, and ownership.



Credit: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade/using-the-fairtrade-mark/>

2013

THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

In April 2013, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to support an Arms Trade Treaty which entered into force in December 2014 with 87 states signing and ratifying it. It followed a long campaign by NGOs and civil society groups.

The Treaty seeks to regulate the international trade of conventional weapons to contribute to international peace and to promote co-operation, transparency and responsible action in a notoriously secretive trade.



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FVrE>

2015

SHOES IN PARIS

In November 2015, 10,000 pairs of shoes were left at Place de la Republique in Paris by people who were to take part in a planned Climate Change protest, but were unable to due to a terrorist attack the previous week.



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FVsJ>

2015

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Adopted by countries across the world at the UN on September 25th, 2015, aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Extending the MDGs agenda, each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 year and follow the UN's largest public consultation exercise in history involving more than 8.5 million people worldwide.



Credit: <https://www.cso.ie/en/unsdgs/>

2015

SAVING LIVES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

At 18 years old Yusra Mardini and her sister fled their home in Damascus and boarded a dinghy to cross the Aegean Sea. When their boat began to take on water, Yusra Mardini, her sister and two others jumped into the sea and pushed the boat for three hours, saving the lives of 20 people on board. Mardini went on to compete in the women's 100-meter butterfly and freestyle swimming races in the Olympic Games in Rio in August 2016.



Credit: <http://bitly.ws/FVtI>

1980s-Present

GLOBAL RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS

Activism and advocacy for HIV/AIDS treatment and research, beginning in the 1980s, significantly impacted global health policies and helped destigmatise the disease.



Credit: How '80s AIDS Activist Group ACT UP Changed The Face Of Medicine: Shots - Health News: NPR. At: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/02/09/689924838/how-to-demand-a-medical-breakthrough-lessons-from-the-aids-fight-target>

1989

THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL AND THE REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY

On November 9, 1989, Berliners began tearing down the wall that had divided their city for nearly three decades. The symbolic moment marked the beginning of the reunification of Germany. Since then, both the former East and West have noted remarkable economic growth.



Credit: <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/berlin-wall/>

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 was a significant event for several reasons:

1. **End of the Cold War:** It symbolised the end of the Cold War, a period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States and their respective allies.
2. **German Reunification:** It paved the way for the reunification of East and West Germany, which had been divided since the end of World War II.
3. **Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe:** The fall of the Wall was a catalyst for the collapse of communist regimes across Eastern Europe.
4. **Symbol of Freedom:** It became a powerful symbol of freedom and the triumph of democracy over totalitarianism.
5. **Global Political Realignment:** The event led to a significant realignment of international politics, with many Eastern European countries transitioning to democracy and later joining the European Union and NATO.
6. **Economic Integration:** It facilitated economic integration and cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe.
7. **Cultural Exchange:** The fall of the Wall increased cultural and social exchanges between the East and the West, which had been severely restricted.
8. **Inspiration for Other Movements:** It inspired other movements for freedom and democracy around the world.
9. **Psychological Impact:** It had a profound psychological impact on people's perception of freedom and the possibility of change in seemingly unchangeable political systems.
10. **Historical Milestone:** It marked a major historical milestone, representing not just the literal demolition of a barrier, but also the figurative tearing down of ideological divisions.

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1990

THE RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA

The release of Nelson Mandela in 1990, ending apartheid in South Africa, was a pivotal event symbolising the triumph of a justice movements over oppressive systems.



Credit: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/07/nelson-mandela-prison-release-1990>

The release of Nelson Mandela in 1990 was a pivotal moment in global history, signifying a major stride towards the end of apartheid in South Africa. Mandela's release, after 27 years of imprisonment for his anti-apartheid activism, marked the beginning of the dismantling of a deeply entrenched system of racial segregation and oppression. It set the stage for the subsequent democratic transition in South Africa, including the country's first multi-racial elections in 1994, in which Mandela was elected as the first Black president. Mandela's release became a symbol of hope and resilience for oppressed people worldwide, inspiring movements for justice and equality globally. His leadership and inclusive approach in the following years played a crucial role in avoiding a potential civil war in South Africa, steering the nation towards a path of reconciliation and healing.

Late 1990s-Early 2000s

ANTI-GLOBALISATION MOVEMENT

Protests and activism against the perceived negative aspects of globalisation, including the World Trade Organisation (WTO) meetings in Seattle in 1999, highlighting issues of economic inequality, labour rights, and environmental concerns.



Credit: <https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/57829aeeb8a79b369b387af4/1475707530344-55GK2NUVA5UYFQD5PZXX/Screen+Shot+2016-09-05+at+4.44.44+PM.png?format=1000w>

2019-Present

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKES

Inspired by Greta Thunberg, these strikes represent a significant global movement of mainly young people advocating for urgent action on climate change, influencing public discourse and policy on a global scale.



Credit: <https://www.pinterest.ie/pin/777926535617484375/>