

1990s TIMELINE

■ 1990

- East and West Germany were reunited. Germany celebrated its formal reunification. Helmut Kohl was elected first Chancellor of reunited Germany.
- Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait. The United Nations imposed sanctions, and the U.S. and allies sent military forces to Saudi Arabia.
- The Cold War formally ended.
- John Major became the new United Kingdom Prime Minister after Margaret Thatcher was forced to resign.

■ 1991

- U.S. Generals Colin Powell and Arnold Schwarzkopf led troops in Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait from Iraq. Multinational forces overwhelmed Iraqi's military and freed Kuwait within six weeks. Iraq surrendered after setting fire to Kuwaiti oil wells.
- Four Los Angeles police officers were videotaped by a bystander beating motorist Rodney King.
- Boris Yeltsin won Russia's first free election defeating official Communist candidates.

■ 1992

- Hurricane Andrew hit much of Dade County south of Miami, FL.
- Slovenia and Croatia declared independence from the Communist Yugoslavian Federation of Republics.
- Bill Clinton, former Governor of Arkansas, was elected U.S. President.

■ 1993

- A bomb exploded at the World Trade Center in New York City killing five people and injuring hundreds. This was the first time there was a terrorist bombing on American soil.
- In Waco, TX, 80 members of the Branch Davidian cult died in a fiery blaze after a 51-day siege.

■ 1994

- Midwestern U.S. experienced severe flooding from relentless rains.
- African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela was elected the first black President of South Africa.
- The Justice Dept. subpoenaed files pertaining to President and Hillary Clinton's Whitewater investments.
- Former football hero and film star O.J. Simpson eluded California's highway patrol in his white Ford Bronco in a high-speed chase which ended in Simpson giving himself up. Earlier in the day, Simpson had failed to appear in court to be formally charged with the murder of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman.
- Republicans won control of both houses of U.S. Congress for the first time in 40 years.

■ 1995

- Millions of people around the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Allies' Victory in Europe (VE) Day.
- More than 100 people including 15 children were killed in Oklahoma City when a huge car bomb exploded outside the Alfred Murrah Federal Building. This tragedy took place on the second anniversary of the federal raid on the Branch Davidian Compound in Waco, TX.
- The Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated.

■ 1996

- Prince Charles and Princess Diana divorced.
- A Boeing 747 jumbo TWA jet exploded shortly after takeoff from New York City, killing all 228 people on board.
- Bill Clinton was reelected as U.S. President.
- U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright became the first female U.S. Secretary of State.

■ 1997

• Diana, Princess of Wales, and her companion, Dodi al-Fayed, died in a car accident in Paris. The driver, who also died, was allegedly drunk.

■ 1998

• The Independent Council, Kenneth Starr, led hearings against U.S. President Clinton that he lied under oath in the Paula Jones sexual harassment civil suit about an affair he had with Monica Lewinsky, an intern at the White House. He was later impeached on two articles by the House of Representatives. They accused Clinton of lying under oath and obstructing justice.

■ 1999

• The U.S. Senate acquitted President Clinton on both articles after a five-week trial.
• Two students killed 13 including students, a teacher, and themselves in a five-hour rampage using guns and bombs at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO.
• Chinese theft of U.S. nuclear technology was reported.
• The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) began to launch air strikes against Yugoslavia as the Serbs continued their assault on Kosovo's Ethnic Albanians.

BOOKS: *The Plains of Passage* (Auel), *The Burden of Proof* (Turow), *Message From Nam* (Steel), *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* (Hijuelos), *Scarlett: The Sequel to Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind* (Ripley), *The Sum of All Fears* (Clancy), *Rabbit at Rest* (Updike), *The Firm* (Grisham), *Nancy Reagan: The Unauthorized Biography* (Kelley), *Childhood* (Cosby), *Dolores Claiborne* (King), *The Way Things Ought to Be* (Limbaugh), *Diana: Her True Story* (Morton), *The Bridges of Madison County* (Waller), *The Client* (Grisham), *Vanished* (Steel), *Stop the Insanity* (Powter), *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* (Gray), *The Chamber* (Grisham), *Debt of Honor* (Clancy), *The Rainmaker* (Grisham), *The Lost World* (Crichton), *The Horse Whisperer* (Evans), *Charles Kuralt's America* (Kuralt), *Bad as I Wanna Be* (Rodman), *The Dilbert Principle* (Adams), *The Celestine Prophecy* (Redfield), *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (Berendt), *The Royals* (Kelley), *Chicken Soup for the Christian's Soul* and *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul* (Canfield, Hansen, et al), *Falling Up* (Silverstein), *The Testament* (Grisham), *River's End* (Roberts), *Hannibal* (Harris), *Tuesdays with Morrie* (Albom)

STAGE: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Gypsy*, *Grand Hotel - The Musical*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Miss Saigon*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *The Secret Garden*, *Conversations with My Father*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman - The Musical*, *Passion*, *Damn Yankees*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Hamlet*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Heiress*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Master Class*, *Barrymore*, *A Doll's House*, *Titanic*, *Chicago*, *The Lion King*

MOVIES: *Home Alone*, *Ghost*, *Pretty Woman*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Hook*, *City Slickers*, *Aladdin*, *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*, *Batman Returns*, *Lethal Weapon 3*, *A Few Good Men*, *Jurassic Park*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *The Fugitive*, *The Firm*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *The Lion King*, *Forrest Gump*, *True Lies*, *The Santa Clause*, *The Flintstones*, *Batman Forever*, *Apollo 13*, *Toy Story*, *Pocahontas*, *Goldeneye*, *Independence Day*, *Twister*, *Mission: Impossible*, *Jerry Maguire*, *The Rock*, *Titanic*, *Good Will Hunting*, *As Good as It Gets*, *Hercules*, *Men in Black*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Star Wars Trilogy* (re-release), *The Truman Show*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Life Is Beautiful*, *The Matrix*, *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace*

SONGS: *Another Day in Paradise*, *Oh Pretty Woman*, *Janie's Got a Gun*, *Here and Now*, *Birdland*, *Where've You Been*, *Unforgettable*, *When a Man Loves a Woman*, *Something to Talk About*, *Everything I Do I Do It for You*, *Losing My Religion*, *Luck of the Draw*, *Love Can Build a Bridge*, *Power of Love*, *Ropin' the Wind*, *Tears in Heaven*, *Constant Craving*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Layla*, *Ain't It Heavy*, *Heaven and Earth*, *I Still Believe in You*, *I Will Always Love You*, *A Whole New World*, *If I Ever Lose My Faith in You*, *Steppin' Out*, *Ain't That Lonely Yet*, *All I Wanna Do*, *Can You Feel the Love Tonight*, *I Fall to Pieces*, *When Love Finds You*, *Kiss From a Rose*, *Let Her Cry*, *You Oughta Know*, *Gangsta's Paradise*, *Change the World*, *Time of Your Life*, *My Heart Will Go On*, *Strawberry Wine*, *It's Your Love*, *Sunny Came Home*, *Candle in the Wind*, *Last Dance*, *How Do I Live*, *In Another's Eyes*, *Butterfly Kisses*, *I Believe I Can Fly*, *Livin' la Vida Loca*, *Believe*, *Uninvited*, *Wide Open Spaces*, *You're Still the One*

POPULAR TV SHOWS: *Cheers, 60 Minutes, Roseanne, A Different World, The Cosby Show, NFL Monday Night Football, America's Funniest Home Videos, Murphy Brown, Designing Women, Murder She Wrote, Full House, Coach, In the Heat of the Night, Home Improvement, Unsolved Mysteries, Northern Exposure, Coach, Rescue: 911, Mad About You, 20/20, Seinfeld, Grace Under Fire, Frasier, NYPD Blue, ER, Friends, Caroline in the City, Spin City, X-Files, Law and Order, The Drew Carey Show, Touched By an Angel, Ally McBeal*

FIRSTS: worldwide ban on ivory trading (to protect elephants from extinction), first Cricket player to take 400 test wickets (New Zealander Richard Hadlee), first film to be made in digital sound (*Dick Tracy*), paying passenger in space (Toyohiro Akiyama), demonstration of digital sound on the mini disc (Sony, Japan), almost-intact body of a 4,000-year-old prehistoric hunter (Tyrolean Alps, Austria), eight people sealed inside the giant *Biosphere II* greenhouse for a two-year experiment (U.S.), United Kingdom-Australian team flight over Mount Everest in hot-air balloon, computer virus *Michelangelo* that infected IBM computers, Euro Disney amusement park opened near Paris, voice-operated TV/radio remote control, first film to be created entirely on computer (*Toy Story*), Channel Tunnel linking France and the United Kingdom opened, audio books

FADS: karaoke, children's karaoke tape recorders, Nintendo's Mario Brothers computer games, Sega's Sonic the Hedgehog computer games, talking Elmos, virtual reality 3-D video games, Sony Playstation computer games, hand-held video games, '60s and '70s fashions, Beanie Babies, Furbies, virtual pets, yo-yos, oxygen bars

SPORTS HEADLINES

- U.S. tennis player John McEnroe is kicked out of the Australian Open tournament for bad behavior. (1990)
- Czech-born U.S. tennis player Martina Navratilova won a record ninth Wimbledon singles title. (1990)
- The U.S. won the first Women's Rugby World Cup held in the United Kingdom. (1991)
- At the Tokyo track and field events U.S. long jumper Mike Powell set a new world record of 29.36 ft. (8.95 m.). (1991)
- The Summer Olympics were held in Barcelona, Spain. There were over 10,000 competitors from 172 countries. (1992)
- The United Kingdom's Grand National horse race was declared null and void after three false starts. (1993)
- In March 1993, Chicago Bulls Michael Jordan announced his retirement from professional basketball. He played minor league baseball for a season, then returned to the Bulls in October, 1995.
- The Winter Olympics were held in Lillehammer, Norway. Some of the winners were speed skater Dan Jansen (U.S.) and skiers Tommy Moe and Diann Roffe-Stein (U.S.). (1994)
- The World Series was cancelled as Major League Baseball players went on strike over disagreements over salary caps. (1994)
- The Summer Olympic Games were held in Atlanta, GA. Over 11,000 athletes from 197 nations participated. Some of the winners were swimmer Michelle Smith (Ireland), track and field star Carl Lewis (U.S.), sprinter Michael Johnson (U.S.), sprinter Donovan Bailey (Canada), and U.S. women's gymnastics team. (1996)
- The Denver Broncos upset the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXII by winning 31-24. It was the Broncos' first Super Bowl win in five tries. (1998)
- The Winter Olympics were held in Nagano, Japan. (1998)
- St. Louis Cardinal Mark McGuire broke the home run record that was set by Roger Maris in 1961. McGuire hit 70 homers. Chicago Cubs Sammy Sosa ended the season with 66 home runs. (1998)
- U.S. women's team won soccer's World Cup. (1999)
- Lance Armstrong became the second American to win the Tour de France cycle race. (1999)
- Three popular professional athletes retired: Michael Jordan (basketball), Wayne Gretsky (hockey), John Elway (football). (1999)