

- 1951 - Labour nationalises iron and steel
Conservative election victory for Winston Churchill
- 1952 - Mau Mau rebellion against British rule in Kenya
- 1953 - Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, watched by millions in the UK
- 1954 - British withdrawal from Egypt
- 1955 - Conservative election victory for Anthony Eden
Launch of ITV to rival BBC
Britain opts out of the EEC at the Messina Conference
- 1956 - Suez crisis, Britain is humiliated and Eden's popularity goes down
- 1957 - Harold Macmillan replaces Anthony Eden as Conservative Prime Minister
Independence achieved by Ghana and Malaysia
- 1958 - Formation of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)
- 1959 - Conservative election victory for Harold Macmillan
Feature film "Sapphire" starts to bring to light the issues of race relations
- 1960 - Blue Streak missile abandoned in favour of American Polaris
Macmillan's "wind of change" speech
Independence granted to Cyprus and Nigeria
- 1961 - Britain applies to join the EEC (Macmillan)
Cold war tensions intensified by building of the Berlin Wall
- 1962 - Macmillan's cabinet reshuffle, the "Night of Long Knives," lowers confidence
- 1963 - Britain's EEC application blocked by French president de Gaulle, an Anglophobe
Independence granted by Kenya
Profumo scandal, followed by the resignation of Macmillan
- 1964 - Labour election victory for Harold Wilson
Start of Rhodesia crisis
- 1965 - Abolition of the death penalty - Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act 1965
- 1966 - Labour election victory with increased majority for Harold Wilson
- 1967 - Deep cuts in military commitments east of Suez
Devaluation of the sterling by the Wilson government (Pounds in your pocket speech)
Liberalisation of laws on abortion and homosexuality
Abortion - Abortion Act 1967
Homosexuality - Sexual Offences Act 1967
Enoch Powell's "Rivers of Blood" speech, warning against mass immigration
- 1969 - Voting age reduced to 18
Start of the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland
Divorce Reform Act 1969 (Easier for couples to separate "irretrievably broken down")
- 1970 - Surprise election victory for Conservatives under Edward Heath
Equal Opportunities Act 1970 passed
Equal Pay Act 1970
- 1971 - Decimalisation of the currency
Further reform of divorce laws
- 1972 - Bloody Sunday occurs
Unemployment rises above 1 million for the first time since the 30s

- 1973 - Oil price crisis and energy shortages
British accession to the EEC alongside Ireland and Denmark
Sunningdale Agreement for power-sharing Northern Ireland
"Three Day Week" imposed
- 1974 - Edward Heath narrowly defeated in February election, Harold Wilson returns to PM
Collapse of Sunningdale Agreement after Loyalist Workers' Strike
- 1975 - EEC referendum brings a 2:1 majority for the "yes" vote
Margaret Thatcher becomes Conservative leader
Sex Discrimination Act (reinforced Equal Pay Act 1970)
- 1976 - Wilson resigns and James Callaghan becomes PM
Britain forced into deep spending cuts by terms of IMF loan
- 1977 - SALT 1 (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks)
Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II
Start of Concorde flights to New York
- 1979 - "Winter of Discontent"
Devolution for Scotland and Wales rejected in referendums
Conservative election victory for Margaret Thatcher
- 1980 - Independence granted to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)
- 1981 - Members of Labour split off to form the SDP (splitting voters)
Riots in Brixton and Liverpool
Big gains in opinion polls by Liberal-SDP Alliance
Hunger strikes
- 1982 - Victory in the Falklands War
Unemployment above 3 million
- 1983 - Conservative election victory for Margaret Thatcher
Michael Foot's manifesto the "Longest suicide note in history," replaced by Neil Kinnock
USA invades Grenada, humiliating Britain
- 1984 - IRA bombing at Brighton hotel, targeting Margaret Thatcher
Miners' strike and Battle of Orgreave
Hong Kong, Sino-British
- 1985 - Miners' strike called off
Negotiation with Soviet Union leader Gorbachev
Anglo-Irish agreement
Single European Act
- 1986 - Michael Heseltine resigns after the Westland affair
Deregulation of financial markets in the "Big Bang"
- 1987 - Conservative election victory for Margaret Thatcher
Stock market crash in London and New York
End of the Cold War
- 1988 - Fall of the Berlin Wall
SDP Liberal alliance ceased via the formation of the Liberal Democrats
Introduction of the poll tax
- 1989 - Sky TV broadcasts

- Hillsborough disaster
- Britain joins the ERM (Lawson designed)
- 1990 - Margaret Thatcher "betrayed" by her own party and is forced to resign
 - Conservative election victory for John Major 22 seat majority
 - Poll tax scrapped after rioting and replaced with the council tax
- 1991 - Mortar attack on Downing Street by IRA
 - Gulf War, maintaining special relationship, but Saddam Hussein was left in power
- 1992 - Black Wednesday, problems arising from the ERM (Exchange Rate Mechanism), lead to a crisis with the pound sterling value. Interest rates were put up to 15% to stay in the ERM and many ordinary people suffered. After Britain pulled out of the ERM, the ERM subsequently collapsed
 - Sleaze and scandals (David Mellor)
 - Maastricht Treaty - single currency and EWTD opt outs, Conservative Eurosceptics rebel
 - Major wins election victory again
- 1993 - Coal privatisation
 - Downing Street Declaration (MT saw IRA through a security prism, JM negotiated)
- 1994 - Death of new Labour leader John Smith, Tony Blair becomes Labour leader
 - Scott Report, illegal machinery dealing to create weapons in Iraq
- 1995 - Balkan War ends after 3 years
 - IRA ceasefire suspended and new bombing campaign begins
 - Dayton Peace Treaty (Ohio) ends Bosnian War
 - John Redwood challenges John Major for the leadership and loses
- 1996 - Mad Cow Disease
 - IRA ceasefire renews
 - Railway privatisation
- 1997 - Landslide election victory for "New Labour" and Tony Blair
 - Death of Princess Diana
 - Hong Kong is handed to China
 - William Hague elected Conservative leader, replacing John Major
- 1998 - Good Friday Agreement brings an end to Northern Ireland troubles
 - Human Rights Act 1998
- 1999 - Launch of the euro in nine EU states (not Britain)
 - Devolved parliaments for Scotland and Wales established
 - NATO bombing campaign expels Serb forces from Kosovo
- 2000 - Intervention by British forces in Sierra Leone for stabilisation
- 2001 - Labour election victory with a slightly lessened, but still large majority
 - 9/11 and the War on Terror begins
 - NATO invasion of Afghanistan and overthrow of the Taliban
 - Iain-Duncan Smith replaces William Hague as Conservative leader
- 2002 - UN resolution direction against WMD in Iraq
- 2003 - Iraq War begins (dodgy dossier and David Kelly commits suicide out of guilt later)
 - Iain Duncan-Smith replaced as Conservative leader by Michael Howard
- 2004 - Hutton Report published

- EU adds Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia to its member states
- 2005 - Third successive election victory for Tony Blair and Labour
 - David Cameron becomes Conservative leader
 - 7/7 terror attacks occur in London (56 killed)
- 2006 - G8 summit at Heiligendamm
- 2007 - Power-sharing government agreed upon for Northern Ireland
 - Tony Blair resigns and Gordon Brown becomes the new PM
 - Collapse of Northern Rock and growing financial crisis