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ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, and MODERN
CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED

PETER N. STEARNS, General Editor

SIXTH EDITION

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AND UPDATED EDITION

of the

CLASSIC REFERENCE WORK

originally compiled and edited by

WILLIAM L. LANGER



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International Court of Justice ruled (1952) that it did not have jurisdiction because this was an internal matter. The matter was not resolved until the shah, **Mohammad Reza**, was restored to full power by a military coup aided by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in 1953.

1952. Cold war developments included the announcements that Great Britain had produced an atomic bomb and that the United States had tested **hydrogen bombs**. The Soviet Union vetoed admission of Japan and three Indochinese states to UN. Cold war vetoes, particularly by the Soviets, frequently marked UN debates.

July. EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION brought to power a group of young military officers advocating radical reforms; the most important of such revolutions in the Middle East.

Oct. The **Mau Mau revolt** in Kenya began with attacks on white settlers, and a state of emergency was declared by the British.

1953. Cold war developments included the successful explosion of a **hydrogen bomb** by the Soviet Union, the suppression by Soviet forces of major demonstrations in **East Berlin**, and the end of the Korean War.

April. **DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD** elected secretary general of the United Nations.

Oct. The **Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland** was established to unify the major British territories in central Africa and begin the transition to a multiracial, independent political system.

1954. Cold war developments included the agreement of the Western powers on the rearmament of **West Germany** and its admission to NATO, and the establishment by the United States of the **Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)**.

The second meeting of the assembly of the **World Council of Churches** was held in Evanston, Illinois.

Jonas E. Salk, developer of an antipoliomyelitis serum, begins inoculation program in Pennsylvania.

Nautilus, the first nuclear-powered submarine, was launched by the United States.

May. Defeat of the French at **Dien Bien Phu** in Vietnam brought an end to French rule in Indochina. The **Geneva Agreements** (July) defined the partition of Vietnam.

1955. Cold war developments included the **FOUR-POWER SUMMIT MEETING IN GENEVA** (July) in which U.S. president **Eisenhower** met directly with Soviet premier **Bulganin** for discussions on Germany and other matters.

Feb. The **BAGHDAD PACT**, which created the basis for the **Central Treaty Organization** in the U.S. system of regional alliances, was signed by Turkey and Iraq. Great Britain, Pakistan, and Iran soon joined as well.

April. The **BANDUNG CONFERENCE OF ASIAN-AFRICAN STATES** was attended by leaders from 29 countries, including **Tito** of Yugoslavia, **Nehru** of India, **Zhou Enlai** of the People's Republic of China, and **Nasser** of Egypt. The conference was the effective beginning of the **nonaligned movement** in world affairs.

1956. Cold war developments included the anti-Soviet **HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION** (Oct.) which was crushed by Soviet armed forces (Nov.)

SUEZ CRISIS. The Egyptian government under **Nasser** (p. 966) nationalized the **SUEZ CANAL** following the announcement by the United States and Britain that they would not participate in financing the **Aswan High Dam** (July). Egypt took control of the operation of the canal (Sept.) following the withdrawal of foreign technicians. A series of international conferences failed to resolve the issues. A coordinated **invasion of Egypt** by Israeli, French, and British forces resulted in the occupation of **Sinai** and the canal zone. U.S. and Soviet opposition to the invasion resulted in the creation of a **UN Emergency Force** (Nov.), which supervised the withdrawal of forces (completed by Jan. 1957).

1957. Cold war developments included the promulgation (Jan.) of the **Eisenhower Doctrine** on the use of U.S. armed forces in the event of communist aggression in the Middle East, and the test explosion of a **hydrogen bomb** by Britain. **SPUTNIK**, the first successful artificial satellite, was launched by the Soviet Union. **UN International Atomic Energy Commission** established to encourage the peaceful use of atomic power.

March. The **Treaty of Rome** established the **EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**, creating a major new economy in the global markets.

June. The **International Geophysical Year** began. Thousands of scientists from more than 60 countries engaged in a massive coordinated research effort coinciding with a period of maximum solar activity. Among the achievements was the discovery of the **Van Allen radiation belts** around the earth.

Dec. The **Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference** convened in Cairo and established a permanent secretariat in Egypt. It worked to define the principles of **positive neutralism** in the cold war but was viewed in the West as being procommunist.

1958. Cold war developments included extensive discussions on discontinuance of **nuclear weapons testing**, leading to the opening of a Geneva conference on the issue. Russian author **Boris Pasternak** received the Nobel Prize for Literature. The nuclear-powered submarine **Nautilus** undertook major Arctic explorations and passed under the ice cap at the **North Pole**. The **First UN Conference on the Law of the Sea** produced four major conventions dealing with the use of the seas and their natural resources.

Jan. The **Federation of the West Indies** was established, bringing together ten British territories in the Caribbean. The federation was dissolved in 1962, following the withdrawal of Jamaica and Trinidad-Tobago.

Feb. The **UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (UAR)** was created, joining Egypt and Syria in a major experiment in **pan-Arab nationalism** under the leadership of **Nasser**. Syria withdrew in 1961.

Oct. Cardinal Roncalli elected as Pope, taking the name of **JOHN XXIII**, beginning an era of major change in the Roman Catholic Church.

1959, Feb. **FIDEL CASTRO** became **premier of Cuba** following the victory of the revolutionary forces, and Cuba became a radical force in the Western Hemisphere.

Sept. The Soviet rocket **Luna 2** became the first space vehicle to reach the moon.

Dec. The **ANTARCTIC TREATY** reserved the Antarctic for scientific and other peaceful activities in an important action of international cooperation among all interested major powers. The UN established a permanent committee for the **peaceful uses of outer space**.

1960. Cold war developments included plans for a summit meeting between Eisenhower and Khrushchev; it was cancelled when a U.S. **high-altitude spy plane**, a U-2, was discovered and shot down by the Soviets.

Independence achieved by 17 countries in **AFRICA** during the year.

UN peacekeeping force deployed in the newly independent **Congo** following the outbreak of severe civil strife. The force was finally withdrawn in 1964.

The **Second UN Conference on the Law of the Sea** added to existing agreements on the use of ocean resources.

1961. Cold war developments included the **VIENNA SUMMIT CONFERENCE** (June) between U.S. president **Kennedy** and Soviet premier **Khrushchev**, at which many issues were discussed; the construction of the **BERLIN WALL** (Aug.) revealed the continuing tension over Germany and Soviet concern about the large numbers of refugees fleeing to the West.

The **World Food Program** for dealing with problems of hunger and famine relief was established.

The Assembly of the **World Council of Churches** met in Delhi, India, and the International Missionary Council was formally integrated into the organization.

April. **Yuri Gagarin**, Soviet astronaut, became the **FIRST HUMAN TO ORBIT THE EARTH**.

Sept. The **Conference of Non-Aligned Nations** in Belgrade was attended by 25 states and established a continuing organizational structure. UN secretary general **Dag Hammarskjöld** was killed in an airplane crash in the Congo.

Nov. **U THANT OF BURMA** named acting secretary general of the UN and subsequently elected (1962) to a four-year term.

1962. Cold war developments included the **CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS** (Oct.-Nov.), a major U.S.-Soviet confrontation over the Soviet placement of missiles in Cuba that brought the superpowers close to war.

A 17-nation **Disarmament Conference** opened in Geneva (March) but was finally adjourned (Aug. 1963) without reaching any agreements.

July. The completion of the **DILLON ROUND** of tariff negotiations

1959, Jan. 27–Feb. 5. The 21st Party Congress in Moscow adopted a new seven-year economic plan.

Feb. 21–March 3. British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan visited Russia.

June 6. Khrushchev stated that unless the Western powers agreed to a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans, Soviet rocket bases would be set up in Albania, Bulgaria, and Romania.

July 24. United States vice president Richard Nixon opened the American national exhibition in Moscow, engaging in an informal debate with Khrushchev.

Sept. 13. Russia launched the first man-made object to land on the moon, *Lunik II*.

Sept. 15–27. Khrushchev visited the United States (p. 919).

1960, Jan. 14. Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union would reduce its standing armed forces by a third in 1960–61.

Jan. 14. Talks reopened with the United States, on lend-lease debts, after a lapse of seven years, but again broke off without agreement (Feb. 23).

Feb. 13–March 5. Khrushchev toured Asia.

March 29. A trade pact with China provided for an exchange of goods totaling 7.9 billion rubles.

May 1. A high-altitude United States reconnaissance plane, a U-2, was shot down over Soviet Russia. Khrushchev used this incident to break up the Paris summit conference.

May 7. Leonid Brezhnev replaced Marshal K. Y. Voroshilov as president of the Soviet Union.

May 30. The Soviet defense minister announced that Soviet rockets had been ordered to fire on any foreign base from which an Allied plane took off for a flight over the USSR.

Aug. 17. American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers pleaded guilty before a high Soviet military tribunal to charges of having flown an intelligence mission over the Soviet Union. On Aug. 19 he was found guilty of espionage for the United States and sentenced to ten years' loss of liberty.

1961, April 12. Maj. Yuri A. Gagarin, in the spaceship *Vostok I*, became the first man successfully to orbit the earth; he circled the earth for 108 minutes at a maximum altitude of 203 miles.

July 8. Khrushchev announced the suspension of planned Soviet reductions in the armed forces and an increase in defense expenditures as a result of the Berlin crisis (p. 872).

Aug. 31. The resumption of nuclear testing was announced.

Oct. 17. Khrushchev, in an address opening the CPSU's 22nd Congress in Moscow, offered to delay the year-end deadline for signing a German peace treaty, declared that the USSR would "probably" test a 50-megaton hydrogen bomb, and attacked Albania for pursuing Stalinist policies.

Oct. 30. A 50-plus-megaton bomb was detonated in the Arctic.

Oct. 31. Stalin's body was removed from Lenin's Tomb in Red Square.

1962, Feb. 10. The Soviet Union released Francis Gary Powers, U.S. pilot of the U-2 aircraft that crashed in the USSR in May 1960, in exchange for Col. Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy convicted of espionage by the United States in 1957.

March 21. Khrushchev accepted President John F. Kennedy's proposal for Soviet-American cooperation in outer space exploration and research. Discussions regarding the possibility of such cooperation began on March 27.

Aug. 5. The USSR resumed its nuclear tests with a high-altitude blast thought to be in the 40-megaton range.

Nov. 21. The government announced the end of the state of alert that had been called for Warsaw Pact and Soviet forces because of the Cuban missile crisis.

1963, March 8. Khrushchev declared that de-Stalinization policies did not permit individual political liberties or artistic deviations from socialist realism.

Aug. 5. A Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed in Moscow.

Nov. 1. The government announced the launching and successful performance of *Polyot I*, the first maneuverable unmanned satellite.

1964, Jan. 1. In a message to the world capitals, the Soviet Union proposed the renunciation of force in all territorial disputes.

Feb. 10–15. A meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee called for the use of more scientific and technological methods to

increase agricultural production. Problems with agriculture, including the failure of expensive plans to expand cultivation in Siberia, brought growing criticism of Khrushchev.

April 3. *Pravda* confirmed the expulsion of Malenkov, Molotov, and Kaganovich from the Communist Party for "antiparty" activity directed against Khrushchev.

April 12. Khrushchev called on all Communist governments to join in a "resolute rebuff" of Chinese claims to a special place in the socialist world. He insisted on the equality of all Communist countries.

May 11–25. Khrushchev visited Egypt and inspected work on a projected Aswan Dam. He promised Soviet aid and support of Egypt in times of crisis.

June 16–July 4. Khrushchev visited the Scandinavian countries and suggested that they resign from NATO.

Oct. 12–13. Three men in a Soviet spacecraft completed 16 orbits of the earth.

Oct. 14–15. DEPOSITION OF KHRUSHCHEV, charged by his opponents with hasty decisions, phrase mongering, personality cult, and so on. The new first secretary of the Communist Party was Leonid I. Brezhnev and the new premier, Aleksei N. Kosygin.

1965. Efforts to revitalize the Soviet economy: in the industrial sphere, more freedom of decision was given to management, and a system of profit sharing was introduced. More emphasis was placed on increased production of consumer goods. In agriculture, the collective farmers were assured of a monthly wage and an old-age pension. Use of fertilizers was expanded and improved varieties of seed were introduced.

Feb. 11–15. Kosygin visited North Vietnam and North Korea: proclaimed Soviet support to strengthen the defenses of North Vietnam.

March 1–15. A meeting of representatives of Communist Parties was boycotted not only by the Chinese, but also by the North Vietnamese, the North Koreans, the Indonesians, the Japanese, and the Romanians and Albanians. All efforts to bridge the rift between the USSR and Communist China proved unavailing.

March 18–19. Lt. Col. Aleksei A. Leonov, in the Soviet spacecraft *Voskhod II*, became the first human being to walk in space.

1966, Feb. 14. Conviction and imprisonment of Andrei Sinyavsky and Yuli Daniel for arranging the publication of anti-Soviet writings in the West. In literature and art, the Soviet authorities frowned on the extension of freedom of expression. (Neither Boris Pasternak nor Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was able to go to Stockholm to accept his Nobel Prize for literature.) At the same time, prominent scientists, such as Andrei Sakharov and even Pyotr Kapitsa, being essential to the Soviet military effort as well as the space program, went unpunished despite their repeated pleas for greater freedom of thought and expression and improved relations with the West.

March 29–April 8. The 23rd Congress of the CPSU. The Chinese Communists not only rejected an invitation to attend but also seized the occasion for delivering a new blast against Soviet policies.

April 21–27. Foreign Minister Gromyko visited Italy and the Vatican. His visit led to the conclusion of an agreement for the construction of a Fiat automobile factory in Russia.

June 20–July 1. French president Charles de Gaulle visited Russia. The visit resulted in an agreement on improved trade and cultural relations.

1967, Jan. 27. Signature of the Treaty for the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space.

June. Outbreak of the Arab-Israeli War (p. 967). The USSR, which had for years supplied the United Arab Republic with military equipment and training, immediately began replacing materiel (especially planes) that had been wiped out in the Israelis' surprise attack. At the same time, the Soviet government began to strengthen its naval units in the eastern Mediterranean and even in the Indian Ocean, presaging a fundamental change in the balance of power in the Middle East and Indian Ocean areas.

July 7. Marshal Ivan I. Yakubovsky was named supreme commander of the Warsaw Pact forces.

1968, June 3. Conclusion of a Soviet-British trade treaty.

June 4. Signature of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, ratified Nov. 24, 1969.

Aug. Invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet and other Warsaw Pact forces (p. 887).

1969, March 2, 5. Serious border clashes between Soviet and Communist