

# 1991

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1 January 1991

Banks and building societies in Britain create a new savings scheme, the Tax Exempt Special Savings Account (TESSA).

1 January 1991

The Independent Television Commission in Britain takes over the Independent Broadcasting Authority's responsibilities for regulating commercially funded television.

1 January 1991

The Radio Authority, a dedicated organization for the regulation of radio, is established in Britain, taking over the Independent Broadcasting Authority's responsibilities in this area.

6 January 1991

Jorge Serrano Elias of the Solidarity Action Movement is elected as the successor to President Vinicio Cerezo in Guatemala.

7 January 1991

Five thousand ethnic Greek Albanians flee to Greece following rumours that border guards are no longer turning back refugees.

7 January 1991

Soviet paratroopers are despatched to the Baltic republics following independence demonstrations.

8 January 1991

The government of Kazimiera Prunskiene in Lithuania resigns over price increases.

10 January 1991

Albertas Shimiras becomes prime minister of Lithuania.

11 January 1991

Carl David Anderson, US physicist who discovered the positron, the first particle of antimatter, dies in San Marino, California (85).

13 January 1991

Former socialist prime minister Mario Soares is re-elected president of Portugal.

13 January 1991

Soviet troops storm the television station in Vilnius, Lithuania, killing 13 independence campaigners.

15 January 1991

Iraq fails to meet the United Nations (UN) deadline of midnight US time for withdrawal from Kuwait.

16 January 1991

A US-led coalition commences air offensive 'Operation Desert Storm' to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, beginning the Gulf War.

17 January 1991

English businessman Richard Branson and US balloonist Per Lindstrand complete the first hot-air balloon crossing of the Pacific Ocean, covering 10,818 km/6,761 mi in 46 hours.

17 January 1991

Giacomo Manzù, Italian sculptor, dies in Ardeu, near Rome, Italy (82).

17 January 1991

Olaf V of Norway, Norwegian monarch 1957-91, dies in Oslo, Norway (87).

17 January 1991

When King Olav of Norway dies, aged 87, his son succeeds as Harald V.

18 January 1991

Iraq launches Scud missiles against Israel during the Gulf War.

18 January 1991

Soviet troops attack the Interior Ministry in Riga, Latvia, killing four independence protesters.

20 January 1991

A hundred thousand people march through Moscow, capital of the USSR, in protest at the action of Soviet troops in the Baltic republics.

21 January 1991

Iraq threatens to use Western nationals taken hostage during its invasion of Kuwait as 'human shields' against air attacks during the Gulf War.

22 January 1991

Northrup Frye, Canadian literary critic, dies in Toronto, Ontario, Canada (78).

23 January 1991

The worst cholera epidemic this century strikes Peru. Nearly 100,000 are affected and more than 700 people die. It is believed to have spread by the consumption of seafood contaminated by untreated sewage.

24 January 1991

Iraq begins to pump Kuwaiti oil into the Gulf during the Gulf War, creating the world's largest oil spill. About 6-8 million barrels of oil are spilled, polluting 675 km/420 mi of coastline.

24 January 1991

Jack Schaeffer, US novelist best known for his book *Shane*, dies in Santa Fe, New Mexico (83).

26 January 1991

Rebels in Somalia take the capital Mogadishu; President Siad Barre flees to Kenya.

29-31 January 1991

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) launches missiles at Israel during the Gulf War.

30 January 1991

John Bardeen, US physicist who shared two Nobel Prizes for Physics, one for inventing the transistor (1956) and one for developing a theory of superconductivity (1972), dies in Boston, Massachusetts (82).

January 1991

An asteroid 16 km/10 mi in diameter passes between the Moon and the Earth.

January 1991

The British magazine *The Listener*, first published in 1929, closes down, after heavy losses in 1990.

1 February 1991

Dutch company Philips demonstrates its digital tape cassette at the electronics fair in Las Vegas, Nevada.

1 February 1991

President F W de Klerk announces plans to repeal the laws underpinning apartheid in South Africa.

5 February 1991

A constituent assembly convenes in Colombia to draft a new constitution; left-wing guerrillas begin a nationwide

terror campaign.

6 February 1991

Danny Thomas, US comedian, dies in Los Angeles, California (79).

6 February 1991

Salvador Edward Luria, Italian-born US physician who received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1969 for his work on bacteriophages, dies in Lexington, Massachusetts (78).

7 February 1991

Irish Republican Army (IRA) mortar bombs are fired at 10 Downing Street, London, England, the official residence of the British prime minister.

9 February 1991

A Lithuanian referendum votes for independence from the USSR.

9 February 1991

Radioactive water leaks out of the Mihama nuclear power plant in Japan, contaminating the water in the steam generator. It is Japan's worst nuclear accident.

14 February 1991

The government of Juan Carlos Furtado resigns because of disagreement over how to handle Peru's economic crisis.

16 February 1991

A bomb planted by a drugs cartel member kills 22 people and injures 135 others in Medellín, Colombia.

21 February 1991

Margot Fonteyn, English ballerina, dies in Panamá, Panama (71).

22 February-3 November 1991

Hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells are set alight by Iraqi soldiers during the Gulf War; the last fire is extinguished on 3 November.

23 February 1991

Martial law is declared in Thailand, following the military's overthrow of the government of Chatichai Choonhavan.

23 February 1991

The British pop group Happy Mondays releases the album Pills 'n' Thrills and Bellyaches.

24 February 1991

The US-led coalition launches a ground offensive against Iraqi forces in the Gulf War.

27 February 1991

Coalition forces enter the capital Kuwait City and declare Kuwait liberated from the Iraqis.

1 March 1991

A popular revolt against the government of Saddam Hussein begins in Basra, Iraq, and spreads to other Shiite cities; at the same time a separate Kurdish revolt starts in the north.

1 March 1991

Edwin Herbert Land, US physicist who developed the Polaroid camera, an instantaneous one-step process for developing and printing photographs, dies in Cambridge, Massachusetts (81).

1-7 March 1991

Twenty thousand Albanian refugees land at Italian ports, despite attempts by the Italian authorities to stop them.

2 March 1991

Nicaragua announces an austerity package involving devaluation of the cordoba following the disclosure that in 1990 inflation ran at 13,000%.

3 March 1991

A nationwide outcry follows the televising in the USA of video footage showing the black motorist Rodney King being beaten by four white policeman in Los Angeles, California.

3 March 1991

An armistice is signed by leaders of the international coalition and the Iraqi army, ending the Gulf War (in force from 11 April).

3 March 1991

Arthur Murray, US dance teacher, dies in Honolulu, Hawaii (95).

3 March 1991

Latvia and Estonia vote for independence from the USSR in referenda.

3 March 1991

William George Penny, British physicist who developed Britain's first atomic bomb, dies in East Hendred, Oxfordshire, England (81).

6 March 1991

Chandra Shekhar resigns as prime minister of a minority government in India.

11 March 1991

The trial begins of the former Greek prime minister Andreas Papandreu, on charges of corruption.

13 March 1991

The British newspaper publisher and businessman Robert Maxwell purchases the New York Daily News.

14 March 1991

The 'Birmingham Six' are released in Britain after the Appeal Court finds their 1974 conviction for Irish Republican Army (IRA) pub bombings in Birmingham, England, 'unsafe and unsatisfactory'.

17 March 1991

A referendum in the USSR approves President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for a renewed federation of the socialist republics, giving them greater autonomy.

17 March 1991

The Yugoslav republic of Serbia suspends the constitution of the predominantly Albanian province of Kosovo, and the use of the Albanian language for official purposes is declared illegal.

20 March 1991

The 1990 Academy Awards are held. Best Actor: Jeremy Irons, for Reversal of Fortune; Best Supporting Actor: Joe Pesci, for GoodFellas; Best Actress: Kathy Bates, for Misery; Best Supporting Actress: Whoopi Goldberg, for Ghost; Best Director: Kevin Costner, for Dances with Wolves; Best Film: Dances with Wolves, directed by Kevin Costner.

24 March 1991

In Benin's first democratic elections for 20 years, the socialist president Mathieu Ahmed Kerekou is defeated by Nicéphore Soglo, supported by the Union for the Triumph of Democratic Renewal (UTRD).

25 March 1991

Iraqi government forces bomb the city of Kirkuk in northeast Iraq, held by Kurdish rebels; by 30 March the Iraqi government has recovered most of the country.

25 March 1991

The first religious commercial in Britain is broadcast, on Beacon Radio, for the Diocese of Lichfield in Staffordshire.

31 March 1991

The military structure of the Warsaw Pact (formed in 1955 between the USSR and East European communist states) is formally dissolved.

31 March 1991

The ruling Communist Party wins a majority in elections in Albania, amid claims of electoral corruption.

March 1991

The British version of the US men's magazine Esquire is launched.

1 April 1991

Martha Graham, US choreographer of modern dance, dies in New York City (96).

2 April 1991

British Telecom introduces a computerized directory enquiry service, with numbers being supplied by a recorded voice.

3 April 1991

Graham Greene, English novelist, dies in Vevey, Switzerland (86).

5 April 1991

The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), established to assist economic development in Eastern Europe and the USSR, is opened in London, England.

5 April 1991

Turkey and Iran admit Kurdish refugees fleeing persecution in Iraq; soon over 1 million leave the country.

6 April 1991

The left-wing Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla organization in Peru cuts off the electricity supply to the capital, Lima, and mounts attacks on foreign embassies, causing extensive damage.

7 April 1991

Prime Suspect, a police drama starring Helen Mirren as Detective Chief Inspector Jane Tennison and written by Lynda La Plante, starts on British television.

7 April 1991

The US space shuttle Atlantis launches the Gamma-Ray Observatory into Earth orbit to study gamma rays and their sources. It weighs 16.7 metric tons/17 tons and is the heaviest payload ever carried by a space shuttle.

9 April 1991

The Soviet republic of Georgia votes for independence from the USSR.

11 April 1991

Iraqi forces attack Kurdish refugees within the US exclusion zone north of the 36th parallel.

13 April 1991

Giulio Andreotti forms a new government in Italy, the 50th since 1945.

14 April 1991

The USA defeats England 19-16 in the final of the inaugural women's Rugby Union World Cup in Cardiff, Wales.

16 April 1991

David Lean, English film director who directed The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957), Lawrence of Arabia (1962), and Dr Zhivago (1965), dies in London, England (83).

16 April 1991

The US president George Bush announces the establishment of 'safe havens' for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq, where they will be protected by US, French, and British forces.

17 April 1991

British, French, and US troops start to enter northern Iraq to establish camps for Kurdish rebels.

20 April 1991

A conference of South American health ministers meets in Sucre, Bolivia, to discuss the region's worst cholera epidemic of the 20th century (which broke out in Peru in January).

20 April 1991

Donald Siegel, US film director, dies in Nipomo, California (78).

20 April 1991

Seán Ó Faoláin (born John Whelan), Irish novelist, short-story writer, critic, and biographer, dies in Dublin, Ireland (91).

22 April 1991

Agreement is reached by 39 countries on a 50-year moratorium on mineral exploration in Antarctica.

22 April 1991

An earthquake on the Panama-Costa Rica border kills 80 people.

23 April 1991

Johnny Thunders, US rock guitarist, singer, and songwriter, dies in New Orleans, Louisiana, from a drug overdose (38).

23 April 1991

The British government states that a new 'council tax' will replace the controversial community charge (the 'poll tax') from 1993.

29 April 1991

Around 200,000 people are killed by a cyclone in Bangladesh.

30 April 1991

Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya, military leader of Lesotho, is deposed in a coup by Col Elias Ramaema.

April 1991

The Welsh golfer Ian Woosnam wins the US Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Georgia. It is the fourth successive year that the tournament has been won by a British golfer.

5 May 1991

The United Nations (UN) demands that Iraq cease its persecution of the Kurds; the USA begins sending humanitarian relief to refugees.

6 May 1991

Wilfred Hyde White, English actor, dies in Woodland Hills, California (87).

9 May 1991

Yugoslavia's collective state presidency grants special powers for the predominantly Serb Yugoslav national army for operations in Croatia, freeing it from effective government control, following Serb-Croat clashes in Krajina.

12 May 1991

The Congress Party is victorious in the first multiparty elections in Nepal for 32 years; G P Koirala becomes prime minister (26 May).

14 May 1991

Jiang Qing, third wife of the Chinese leader Mao Zedong, a member of the Gang of Four and influential in promoting China's Cultural Revolution, commits suicide in Beijing, China (about 77).

14 May 1991

Winnie Mandela, wife of the African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, is sentenced in South Africa to six years' imprisonment for kidnap and accessory to assault.

15 May 1991

A ceasefire begins in Angola, suspending fighting between the communist People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the US-backed National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

15 May 1991

Manchester United defeat Barcelona 2-1 in the European Cup Winners' Cup football final in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to become the first English team to win a European trophy since the end of the five-year ban on English clubs playing in Europe imposed by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) after the Heysel disaster in Belgium in 1985.

15 May 1991

The socialist politician Edith Cresson becomes the first woman prime minister of France, following the resignation of Michel Rocard.

16 May 1991

Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the German Bundesbank, resigns over differences with the German government over monetary policy.

17 May 1991

The Somali National Movement declares northern Somalia independent.

18-26 May 1991

English chemist Helen Sharman becomes the first Briton to go into space, as a participant in a Soviet space mission launched in Soyuz TM-12. She spends six days with Soviet cosmonauts aboard the Mir space station.

19 May 1991

The Yugoslav republic of Croatia votes in favour of independence in a referendum.

20 May 1991

At the Cannes Film Festival in France, the Golden Palm is awarded to Barton Fink, directed by Joel Coen. The film also takes the prize for Best Director and Best Actor.

21 May 1991

President Haile Mengistu of Ethiopia flees to Zimbabwe as rebel troops advance on the capital, Addis Ababa.

21 May 1991

Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India (1984-89), is assassinated in Sriperumpudur, Tamil Nadu, India, by a Tamil suicide bomber, during India's general election campaign (46).

21 May 1991

The import of US pit bull terriers into Britain is banned after a series of savage attacks by dogs.

24 May 1991

Israel flies 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel amid mounting instability in Ethiopia.

26 May 1991

A Boeing 767, en route to Vienna from Bangkok, explodes shortly after take-off; 223 people are killed.

26 May 1991

The Georgian nationalist Zviad Gamsakhurdia is elected president of the republic of Georgia.

28 May 1991

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) captures the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, overthrowing the established Marxist government.

31 May 1991

The Angolan president José dos Santos of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), sign a peace agreement in Lisbon, Portugal, to end the civil war in Angola which has been fought since independence in 1975.

May 1991

A storm surge inundates the Chittagong delta in Bangladesh, killing 125,000 people.

1 June 1991

Charles Sutherland Elton, English ecologist who defined the concept of food chains, dies in Oxford, England (91).

3 June 1991

Brian Bevan, Australian Rugby player, dies in Southport, Lancashire, England (66).

4 June 1991

The Algerian prime minister Mouloud Hamrouche resigns after security forces fire on Islamic Salvation Front rioters in Algiers.

5 June 1991

South Africa ends discriminatory land legislation, dismantling the legal framework of apartheid.

5 June 1991

The US shuttle Columbia launches the Spacelab Life Sciences 1 laboratory. Astronauts conduct experiments on themselves, rats, and jellyfish polyps.

7 June 1991

The Islamic Salvation Front ends protests in exchange for the promise of elections in Algeria.

9 June 1991

The London Monarchs defeat the Barcelona Dragons 21-0 in the inaugural American football World Bowl at Wembley Stadium, London, England.

10 June 1991

England's cricketers beat the West Indies in a Test match in England for the first time in 22 years, winning the first Test at Leeds by 115 runs.

11 June-9 July 1991

Selling Hitler, the story of how the Sunday Times was taken in by fake diaries alleged to be Hitler's, is shown on British television. Based on the book by Robert Harris, stars include Jonathan Pryce, Barry Humphries, and Alan Bennett.

12 June 1991

The Chicago Bulls win their first ever US National Basketball Association (NBA) title. Michael Jordan of the Bulls is the top NBA scorer for the fifth successive year.

12 June 1991

The Russian reformer Boris Yeltsin is elected leader of the Russian Federation.

14 June 1991

Dame Peggy Ashcroft, English actor, dies in London, England (83).



17 June 1991

South Africa repeals the Population Registration Act, dismantling the legal framework of apartheid.

19 June 1991

The leading Colombian drugs baron Pablo Escobar García gives himself up to police after the constituent assembly repeals legislation governing extradition of criminals to the USA.

20 June 1991

The Congress (I) leader P V Narasimha Rao is appointed Indian prime minister at the head of a minority government, following elections.

20 June 1991

The German parliament votes to move the seat of government from Bonn to Berlin.

25 June 1991

The republics of Croatia and Slovenia declare independence from Yugoslavia.

June 1991

At the First International Symposium on Conservation of our Geological Heritage held in Digne, France, an 'International Declaration of the Rights of the Memory of the Earth' is proclaimed. The Symposium is attended by 100 delegates from 30 states.

June 1991

Mount Pinatubo on Luzon, in the Philippines, erupts in the third-largest eruption this century. Clouds of ash are sent 20 km/12 mi into the atmosphere along with the greatest volume of sulphur dioxide ever measured. Timely warnings lead to the evacuation of 56,000 people and there are only a few deaths.

1 July 1991

A protocol signed in Prague, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic), dissolves the political structure of the Warsaw Pact (formed in 1955 between the USSR and East European communist states).

1 July 1991

European Community ministers order an embargo on the export of arms to Yugoslavia following the outbreak of inter-ethnic violence there.

1 July 1991

Michael Landon, US actor and director known for his roles in Little House on the Prairie and Bonanza, dies in Malibu, California (54).

2 July 1991

Lee Remick, US film and television actor, dies in Los Angeles, California (55).

5 July 1991

The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) collapses after the discovery of massive fraud and involvement in organized crime, arms dealing, and the drug trade.

8 July 1991

Children's Bonus Bonds, a special tax-free savings opportunity for children under 16, are issued in Britain.

8 July 1991

Slovenia's independence is recognized by the federal government of Yugoslavia.

9-10 July 1991

Following the final dismantling of apartheid, South Africa is readmitted to the International Olympic Committee and to the International Cricket Council.

16 July 1991

Robert Motherwell, US abstract expressionist painter, dies in Provincetown, Massachusetts (76).

17 July 1991

The European Space Agency's first remote-sensing satellite (ERS-1) is launched into polar orbit to monitor the Earth from space.

22 July 1991

The British prime minister John Major launches the 'Citizen's Charter', a scheme for setting standards for public services and providing for compensation when these are not met.

23 July 1991

A large-scale reorganization of the British Army is announced.

24 July 1991

The Indian government abandons centralized planning and introduces reforms to liberalize the economy.

27 July 1991

Roy Minton's controversial play about life in borstal institutions (youth custody centres), *Scum*, is finally broadcast on British television, after being commissioned as part of the Play for Today series in 1977 then subsequently banned by the BBC.

31 July 1991

The US president George Bush and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to reduce their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons by a third.

6 August 1991

Bangladesh abandons the presidential system of government and returns to parliamentary rule.

6 August 1991

Shahpur Bakhtiar, who became the last prime minister of Iran (1979) after Shah Pahlavi left the country during the Iranian Revolution, is stabbed to death in Suresnes, France (77).

8 August 1991

John McCarthy, the British journalist held hostage in Lebanon, is released after 1,943 days in captivity.

11 August 1991

The US golfer John Daly, a virtually unknown 25-year-old, is the surprise winner of the US PGA (Professional Golfers Association) Championship at Crooked Stick Golf Club, Carmel, Indiana.

15 August 1991

The United Nations (UN) Security Council condemns Iraq for hindering the work of UN inspectors by denying access to nuclear facilities.

18 August 1991

The remains of King Frederick II the Great of Prussia, buried in Austria since 1945, are reinterred at Sans Souci Palace in Potsdam, Germany, in accordance with his wishes.

19 August 1991

Reactionary communists led by Gennady Yanayev stage a coup against the Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, who is placed under house arrest in the Crimea; radio and television stations are shut down and military rule imposed in many cities.

20 August 1991

The Soviet republic of Estonia declares its independence from the USSR.

21 August 1991

The coup in the USSR against President Mikhail Gorbachev fails; Gorbachev returns to Moscow the following day.

21 August 1991

The Soviet republic of Latvia declares its independence from the USSR.

24 August 1991

The Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as general secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR, criticizing its role in the coup of 19-21 August.

26 August 1991

The Serb-dominated Yugoslav national army begins a siege of the Croatian town of Vukovar.

28 August 1991

President Mikhail Gorbachev dismisses the Soviet government and disbands the leadership of the KGB (the secret police of the USSR).

30 August 1991

In the third World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan, Mike Powell of the USA sets a new world record for the long jump of 8.95 m/29 ft 4.5 in, beating the record set by Bob Beamon of the USA in 1968 - the oldest in track and field athletics.

30 August 1991

The Soviet republic of Azerbaijan declares its independence from the USSR.

2 September 1991

The governmental system of the USSR is suspended prior to the establishment of a new constitution.

3 September 1991

Frank Capra, Italian-born US film director who directed *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*, dies in La Quinta, California (94).

6 September 1991

The Soviet authorities make formal grants of independence to Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

7 September 1991

A European Community-sponsored peace conference on Yugoslavia opens in The Hague, the Netherlands, chaired by the British statesman Lord Carrington.

7 September 1991

Edwin McMillan, US nuclear physicist who discovered neptunium and plutonium, dies in La Jolla, California (70).

11 September 1991

President Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR announces the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Cuba.

13 September 1991

Joseph Pasternak, US film producer, dies in Beverly Hills, California (90).

15 September 1991

The ruling Social Democrats lose a general election in Sweden; Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson resigns and Carl Bildt subsequently forms a right-wing coalition.

17 September 1991

A ceasefire negotiated between Croats and Serbs in Yugoslavia is quickly broken.

18 September 1991

The English club Liverpool returns to European football after the expiry of the six-year ban imposed in 1985 after the Heysel stadium disaster in Belgium.

22 September 1991

The Soviet republic of Armenia declares its independence from the USSR.

24 September 1991

Dr Seuss (pseudonym of Theodore Seuss Geisel), US writer of children's books, dies in La Jolla, California (87).

25 September 1991

Klaus Barbie, German Nazi war criminal known as the 'Butcher of Lyon', dies in Lyon, France (77).

25 September 1991

The United Nations (UN) imposes a mandatory arms embargo on Yugoslavia following the outbreak of serious ethnic clashes.

26 September-1 October 1991

Troops are deployed in Romania after two days of riots by miners demanding higher wages; the government led by Petre Roman resigns and Teodor Stolojan is named prime minister (1 October).

27 September 1991

Roy (Broadbent) Fuller, English poet and novelist, dies in London, England (79).

28 September 1991

Miles Davis, US jazz trumpeter and bandleader, dies in Santa Monica, California (65).

29 September 1991

The USA regains the Ryder Cup in golf, defeating Europe 141/2-131/2 at Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

30 September 1991

Peter Morris of the USA wins the first World Scrabble Championship, with a score of 371.

30 September 1991

President Jean Bertrand Aristide is overthrown in a military coup in Haiti.

1 October 1991

The Russian city of Leningrad reverts to its pre-revolutionary name of St Petersburg.

1 October 1991

The Serb-dominated Yugoslav national army begins a siege of the Croatian port of Dubrovnik; federal jets attack the Croatian capital, Zagreb, on 7 October.

4 October 1991

Carl Bildt forms a right-wing coalition government in Sweden.

6 October 1991

Prime Minister Cavaco Silva's ruling Social Democratic Party gains an outright majority in the general elections in Portugal.

8 October 1991

Having overthrown President Jean Bertrand Aristide on 30 September, the military install Judge Joseph Norette as provisional president of Haiti.

9 October 1991

The US Food and Drug Administration approves DDI, a drug to combat AIDS that is much cheaper than AZT, and which can be taken by those who cannot tolerate AZT.

13 October 1991

The Bulgarian Socialist Party is defeated in elections; a noncommunist government under Filip Dimitrov is formed in November.

14 October 1991

The Children Act becomes law, aiming to provide greater protection for young people in Britain.

15 October 1991

The parliament in the Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina votes to declare independence.

16 October 1991

George Hennard, using two semi-automatic pistols, kills 22 people at a restaurant in Killeen, Texas, the worst gun massacre in US history.

18 October 1991

A peace agreement is signed in Rome, Italy, to end civil war in Mozambique between the government and Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels.

20 October 1991

Suleyman Demirel's True Path Party wins the general elections in Turkey.

21-31 October 1991

President Mobutu of Zaire dismisses Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi, provoking violent rioting; the opposition movement forms a rival government on 31 October.

23 October 1991

The first of the Planet Hollywood theme restaurants, owned by film stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, and Sylvester Stallone, and film director Jogn Hughes, opens in New York City.

23 October 1991

The four factions engaged in the civil war in Cambodia sign a peace accord in Paris, France.

24 October 1991

Gene Roddenberry, US writer and film and television producer who created Star Trek, dies in Santa Monica, California (70).

27 October 1991

Poland holds its first free parliamentary elections since World War II but the result is inconclusive, with no party polling more than 12%.

29 October 1991

Galileo takes the closest ever picture of an asteroid - Gaspra - at a distance of 1,600 km/900 mi.

31 October 1991

President Kenneth Kaunda is defeated in Zambian elections and succeeded by Frederick Chiluba, leader of the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD).

1 November 1991

The Quorn Hunt is banned from National Trust land in Derbyshire and Leicestershire, England, after revelations of cruelty by the hunt's masters.

5 November 1991

Fred MacMurray, US actor, dies in Santa Monica, California (61).

5 November 1991

The Czech-born British media tycoon Robert Maxwell dies after allegedly falling from his yacht off the Canary Islands (68). Following his death, the Mirror group is taken over and run by receivers and the European ceases publication. Revelations of problems concerning pension funds in Maxwell companies soon begin to appear.

6 November 1991

The Philippines are hit by severe floods and landslides.

8 November 1991

Filip Dimitrov of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) becomes the first noncommunist prime minister of Bulgaria since 1944.

8 November-2 December 1991

European Community foreign ministers decide to impose immediate economic and trade sanctions against Yugoslavia in response to the sieges of Vukovar and Dubrovnik in Croatia by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav national army; on 2 December the sanctions are dropped against all republics except Serbia and Montenegro.

9 November 1991

The Joint European Torus (JET) at Culham, near Oxford, England, produces a 1.7 megawatt pulse of power in an experiment that lasts 2 seconds.

9 November 1991

Yves Montand, Italian-born French singer and actor, dies in Senlis, France (70).

11 November 1991

(Clarence) Leo Fender, US guitar-maker who created the solid-body electric guitar, dies in Fullerton, California (81).

12 November 1991

Indonesian troops kill 115 people at an independence demonstration in Dili, East Timor.

13 November 1991

Hundreds of civilians are evacuated from the Croatian port of Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, during a ceasefire arranged by the United Nations.

14 November 1991

Prince Norodom Sihanouk returns to Cambodia after 13 years' exile as president of a multi-faction Supreme National Council.

17 November 1991

The Croatian town of Vukovar is taken by Serb forces after an 86-day siege.

18 November 1991

Gustáv Husák, communist leader of Czechoslovakia 1969-75 and president of Czechoslovakia (now the Czech and Slovak Republics) 1975-89, dies in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia (now capital of the Slovak Republic) (78).

18 November 1991

Terry Waite, envoy to the archbishop of Canterbury and the last British hostage in Lebanon, is freed after 1,763 days in captivity.

23 November 1991

Klaus Kinski, German actor, dies in Lagunitas, California (65).

24 November 1991

A general election in Belgium produces gains for Flemish extremists and the Green Party.

24 November 1991

Freddie Mercury, lead singer and songwriter of the British rock group Queen, dies of AIDS in London, England (45).

November 1991

The records of the rapper Ice Cube provoke controversy in the USA, as they are described as promoting violence against racial minorities. The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, California, an international centre promoting Holocaust remembrance, asks record stores to stop selling the album Death Certificate.

1 December 1991

France defeats the USA by three matches to one to win the Davis Cup tennis competition for the first time since 1932, in Lyon, France.

1 December 1991

The Soviet republic of Ukraine votes to secede from the USSR.

2-4 December 1991

Joseph Cicipio, US hostage in Lebanon is released, followed by Alan Steen (3 December) and Terry Anderson (4 December).

3 December 1991

The Kenyan general assembly votes to reintroduce multiparty politics.

5 December 1991

Canada introduces strict gun controls, banning automatics, sawn-off rifles and shotguns, and other classes of weapon.

5 December 1991

Leonid Kravchuk becomes president of Ukraine on its formal accession to independence from the USSR.

5 December 1991

Roy (Roland) Welensky, Rhodesian politician instrumental in the creation of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1953), and prime minister 1956-63, dies in Blandford Forum, Dorset, England (84).

5 December 1991

The business empire of the late British publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell collapses with huge debts and revelations about the misappropriation of money in pension funds.

8 December 1991

The leaders of the Soviet republics of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine agree to the formation of a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to replace the USSR.

9-10 December 1991

A summit of European Community heads of government in Maastricht, the Netherlands, agrees the Maastricht Treaty on closer economic and political union (Britain obtains the right to abstain from social legislation and a single currency).

13 December 1991

The United Nations (UN) ends its ban on sporting, scientific, and academic links with South Africa following the repeal of apartheid.

16 December 1991

Gilbert O'Sullivan, composer of the 1970s hit 'Alone Again (Naturally)', wins a multi-million dollar lawsuit in the USA against rapper Biz Markie for sampling his work, and the judge also recommends criminal prosecution. The popularity of sampling - the incorporation of segments of other songs, especially featured in rap music - results in debates over copyright protection.

19 December 1991

Paul Keating replaces Bob Hawke as prime minister and leader of the Australian Labor Party.

20 December 1991

Ante Marković, a Croat, resigns as federal prime minister of Yugoslavia in protest at the funding of the Serb-dominated Yugoslav national army by the federal budget.

21 December 1991

Following the lead of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine (on 8 December), eight other republics of the USSR sign the

agreement to form a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

25 December 1991

Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as president of the USSR, which officially ceased to exist on 9 December.

26 December 1991

The Islamic Salvation Front defeats the ruling National Liberation Front in the first round of the Algerian elections.

1991

Beverly Hills 90210, a US drama series about the lives of rich teenagers in California, starts on British television. Stars include Jason Priestley, Luke Perry, and Shannon Doherty.

1991

Big Break, a snooker game show hosted by Jim Davidson and John Virgo, starts on British television.

1991

GBH, a political drama series about the conflict between a schoolteacher and a council leader, is shown on British television. Written by Alan Bleasdale, it stars Michael Palin and Robert Lindsay.

1991

Noel's House Party, a live show presented by Noel Edmonds, which includes playing tricks on the audience and celebrity guests, starts on British television.

1991

Northern Exposure, a US drama series about a doctor from New York City adjusting to life in the tiny Alaskan town of Cicely, starts on British television. It stars Rob Morrow, and the cast includes Danine Turner, Darren E Burrows, and John Corbett.

1991

Soldier, Soldier, a drama about the lives of British soldiers and their families, starts on British television. Stars include David Hough, Cathryn Harrison, and Sean Baker.

1991

'BioSphere 2', an experiment that attempts to reproduce the world's biosphere in miniature within a sealed glasshouse, is launched in Arizona, USA. Eight people remain sealed inside for two years.

1991

37.3% of USSR citizens are Christian (Orthodox, 32%; Protestant, 3.4%; Roman Catholic, 1.9%), 13.4% are Muslim, 0.8% are Jewish, 29.1% are nonreligious, 19.1% are atheist, and followers of other religions comprise 0.3% of the population.

1991

A borehole in the Kola Peninsula in Arctic Russia, begun in the 1970s, reaches a record depth of 12,261 m/40,240 ft.

1991

A circular impact structure of Cretaceous-Tertiary (K-T) age is found buried beneath in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. Called the Chicxulub crater, it is the best candidate for the K-T impact site envisioned by Alvarez and others.

1991

A consortium led by Canadian businessman Conrad Black takes over the Fairfax Group of newspapers in Australia.

1991

A European Community Directive is issued to control levels of nitrates released into soils and water. Member states must declare vulnerable zones where nitrate concentration in water sources reaches 50 parts per million.

1991



A tropical storm called 'Thelma' hits the Philippines and causes a loss of over 6,500 lives.

1991

Andrew Morton writes *Diana: Her True Story*, a biography of the Princess of Wales, with the collaboration of her friends.

1991

At the César awards in Paris, France, *Cyrano de Bergerac* wins a record ten Césars, including Best Film, Best Director (Jean-Paul Rappeneau), and Best Actor (Gérard Depardieu).

1991

Austin Bradford Hill, English epidemiologist and statistician, who was one of the first to demonstrate the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, dies in Cumbria, England (94).

1991

Australian and British studies show that passive smoking is a significant cause of lung cancer. Children whose parents smoke suffer an increased risk of asthma and respiratory infections.

1991

Automatic number identification or 'Caller-ID' is introduced in the USA. The caller's number is displayed on the receiver's telephone before it is answered.

1991

British manufacturing output falls by 2.5%, the steepest decline since the 1930s.

1991

British Telecom begins offering Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) to businesses in the UK. Introduced in Japan in 1988, it provides the fast transfer of computerized information. New services include computer conferencing, teleshopping, home banking, and services where both voice and computer communications take place simultaneously.

1991

British-manufactured miniature Polly Pocket dolls become the most popular toy in Japan.

1991

Circulation figures of British daily newspapers: *The Daily Express* 1,518,764; *the Daily Mail* 1,683,768; *the Daily Mirror* 3,641,269; *the Sun* 3,665,006; *Today* 459,621; *the Daily Telegraph* 1,058,082; *the Independent* 372,240; *the Financial Times* 287,120; *the Guardian* 409,660; *The Times* 387,386.

1991

Distance learning programmes continue to expand worldwide.

1991

Drawings done in charcoal on the walls of the Cosquer Cave near Marseille, France, are discovered and are radiocarbon-dated to 27,110 years old.

1991

Dutch company Philips introduces an electromagnetic induction light with no parts that can wear out and which lasts for 60,000 hours.

1991

Economic recession causes a decline in the number of bottles of champagne purchased in Britain, previously the top champagne importer in the world.

1991

Experiments at the CERN research centre in Switzerland demonstrate the existence of three 'families' of elementary particles, each with two quarks and two leptons.

1991

Following the death from AIDS of the British rock group Queen's lead singer Freddie Mercury, the single 'Bohemian Rhapsody' is re-released and goes to number one in the UK charts for the second time.

1991

French physicist Pierre-Gilles de Gennes receives the Nobel Prize for Physics for discovering that methods developed for studying order phenomena in simple systems can be generalized to more complex forms of matter, in particular to liquid crystals and polymers.

1991

Heart surgeons develop a way of repairing damaged hearts using muscles from the patient's body.

1991

Illegitimacy rates are: Australia, 20.0% of live births; Belgium, 7.8%; Bulgaria, 10.5%; Czechoslovakia, 7.3%; Denmark, 44.7%; Eire, 12.6%; Finland, 19.2%; France, 28.2%; Germany, 15.5%; UK, 28.7%; Greece, 2.1%; Netherlands, 10.6%; Hungary, 12.4%; Italy, 6.1%; Norway, 36.4%; Sweden, 51.8%; USA, 23.4%; USSR, 10.2%.

1991

In the grip of the longest recession since the 1930s, unemployment in Britain stands at 2.5 million and house repossessions at 80,000 for the year.

1991

ITV companies in Britain are forced to bid for the renewal of licenses for the franchises, making them adopt a more commercial and competitive approach. Assessments made by the government see Thames Television, among others, lose its franchise.

1991

Jahanghir Khan of Pakistan wins a record tenth successive British Open squash title.

1991

Japanese electronics companies Sega and Nintendo compete for the lucrative console games market. Sega's 'Sonic the Hedgehog' is matched against Nintendo's 'Super Mario Brothers'.

1991

Less than 50% of the world's rainforest remains.

1991

Nicotine patches become available on prescription in the USA as an aid to giving up smoking.

1991

Retailers in Britain such as Sainsbury's, Asda, and Tesco, begin to break the laws against Sunday opening.

1991

Several US companies introduce local area networks (LANs), which use nondirectional microwaves to transmit data as fast as fibre optic cables.

1991

Swiss chemist Richard Ernst receives the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for improvements in the technology of nuclear magnetic resonance.

1991

The 'coffee culture' emerges in Seattle, Washington, personified, in part, by the national success of the Seattle-based purveyors of gourmet coffee, Starbuck's.

1991

The Antarctic Treaty is signed by the 39 nations. It imposes a 50-year ban on mineral exploitation of the continent.

1991

The antiprogesterone abortion pill introduced in France in 1989 under the name RU486 is licensed in the UK as mifepristone. It must be used in the first nine weeks of pregnancy and can only be given in hospitals or recognized clinics. It has a success rate of 95%.

1991

The Australian pop singer Kylie Minogue sets a record when her first 13 singles make the Top 10 in the British charts.

1991

The body of a man, complete with clothing, bow, arrows, a copper axe, and other implements, is found preserved in a glacier in the Italian Alps. Known as the 'iceman', he is estimated to be 5,300 years old. The discovery leads to a reappraisal of the boundary between the Bronze and the Stone Age.

1991

The British firm Virtuality launches its first commercial virtual reality products: games machines in arcades where players wear head-mounted displays.

1991

The British geneticists Peter Goodfellow and Robin Lovell-Badge discover the gene on the Y chromosome that determines sex.

1991

The British government's Broadcasting Act requires the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the ITV companies to commission 25% of their programmes from independent production companies.

1991

The British pop group Primal Scream releases the album *Screamadelica*.

1991

The British pop group Simply Red releases the album *Stars*.

1991

The British punk group the Clash re-releases the single 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?'.

1991

The British Science Museum constructs Charles Babbage's second difference engine, demonstrating that it would have worked had the materials then been available. It evaluates polynomials up to the seventh power, with 30-figure accuracy.

1991

The Canadian rock singer Bryan Adams releases the single '(Everything I Do) I Do It for You'. Its stay at the number one position on the British charts for 16 weeks is the second longest ever.

1991

The Canadian writer Douglas Coupland's novel *Generation X* identifies a generation of disillusioned twentysomethings with little hope for the future.

1991

The Chilean writer Isabel Allende publishes her novel *El plan infinito/The Infinite Plain*.

1991

The Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meets and considers what response to make to a proposal from South Africa that the outlawed trade in ivory should be allowed to resume.

1991

The Criminal Justice Act introduces income-related fines and prevents judges from taking previous convictions into

account when passing sentence in Britain.

1991

The documentary *Paris is Burning*, about gay black men who compete in drag competitions, is released. It is directed by the US film-maker Jennie Livingston.

1991

The Dutch electronics company Philips launches the Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I) in the USA, a multimedia technology that is viewed using a special player on a television set.

1991

The English boxer Michael Watson falls into a coma after losing a bout with fellow English boxer Chris Eubank to decide the vacant world super-middleweight title. He eventually regains consciousness but is permanently brain damaged.

1991

The English composer Michael Tippett completes his *String Quartet No. 5*.

1991

The English composer Harrison Birtwistle completes his orchestral work *Gawain's Journey*.

1991

The English composer John Tavener completes his choral work *Icon of the Nativity* and his chamber work *The Last Sleep of the Virgin*.

1991

The English philosopher Michael Dummett publishes *The Logical Basis of Metaphysics*.

1991

The English rock singer Elvis Costello releases the album *Mighty Like a Rose*.

1991

The English writer Angela Carter publishes her last novel *Wise Children*.

1991

The English writer Pat Barker publishes her novel *Regeneration*, the first part of her *Regeneration* trilogy.

1991

The Estonian composer Arvo Pärt completes his *Berlin Mass*.

1991

The exhibition 'High and Low' is held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

1991

The exhibition 'Pop Art' is held at the Royal Academy in London, England.

1991

The film *Barton Fink*, directed by Joel Coen, is released in the USA, starring John Turturro and John Goodman.

1991

The film *Boyz n the Hood*, directed by John Singleton, is released in the USA, starring Ice Cube, Larry Fishburne, and Cuba Gooding, Jr. Singleton, at the age of 23, becomes the youngest director to receive an Academy Award nomination.

1991

The film *City Slickers*, directed by Ron Underwood, is released in the USA, starring Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern, Bruno Kirby, and Jack Palance.

1991

The film *Edward II*, directed by Derek Jarman, is released in Britain. Based on the play by Christopher Marlowe, it stars Steven Waddington, Kevin Collins, and Tilda Swinton.

1991

The film *Europa, Europa*, directed by Polish film-maker Agnieszka Holland, is released in France, starring Marco Hofschneider, Julie Delpy, and André Wilms.

1991

The film *JFK*, directed by Oliver Stone, is released in the USA, starring Kevin Costner, Sissy Spacek, Joe Pesci, Tommy Lee Jones, and Gary Oldman.

1991

The film *Korczak*, directed by Andrzej Wajda, is released in Poland, starring Wojtek Pszoniak.

1991

The film *La Belle Noiseuse*, directed by Jacques Rivette, is released in France, starring Michel Piccoli, Jane Birkin, and Emmanuelle Béart.

1991

The film *La Double Vie de Véronique/The Double Life of Véronique*, directed by Krzysztof Kieślowski, is released in Poland, starring Irène Jacob, Halina Gryglaszewska, and Kalina Jedrusik.

1991

The film *Les Amants du Pont-Neuf/The Lovers on the Pont-Neuf*, directed by Leos Carax, is released in France, starring Juliette Binoche and Denis Lavant.

1991

The film *Let Him Have It*, directed by Peter Medak, is released in Britain. It stars Christopher Eccleston as Derek Bentley, who was hanged through a miscarriage of justice.

1991

The film *My Own Private Idaho*, directed by Gus Van Sant, is released in the USA, starring River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves.

1991

The film *Naked Lunch*, directed by the Canadian film-maker David Cronenberg, is released in Britain. Based on the novel by William S Burroughs, it stars Peter Weller, Judy Davis, Ian Holm, and Julian Sands.

1991

The film *Prospero's Books*, directed by Peter Greenaway, is released in Britain, starring John Gielgud, Michael Clark, Michel Blanc, Erland Josephson, and Isabelle Pasco.

1991

The film *Raise the Red Lantern*, directed by Zhang Yimou, is released in China, starring Gong Li, Ma Jingwu, He Caifei, Cao Cuifeng, and Jin Shuyan.

1991

The film *Reservoir Dogs*, directed by Quentin Tarantino, is released in the USA, starring Harvey Keitel, Tim Roth, Michael Madsen, and Steve Buscemi.

1991

The film *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, directed by Kevin Reynolds, is released in the USA, starring Kevin Costner, Morgan Freeman, Mary Elizabeth Mastroantonio, and Alan Rickman.

1991

The film *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, directed by James Cameron, is released in the USA, starring Arnold

Schwarzenegger. With its use of spectacular innovative computer-generated effects, its budget is a record \$100 million.

1991

The film *The Addams Family*, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, is released in the USA, starring Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, and Christopher Lloyd.

1991

The film *The Commitments*, directed by Alan Parker, is released in Britain. Based on the novel by Irish author Roddy Doyle, it stars Robert Arkins, Michael Aherne, Bronagh Gallagher, and Andrew Strong.

1991

The film *The Doors*, directed by Oliver Stone, is released in the USA, starring Val Kilmer as Jim Morrison, Meg Ryan, Kevin Dillon, and Kyle MacLachlan.

1991

The film *The Fisher King*, directed by Terry Gilliam, is released in the USA, starring Jeff Bridges, Robin Williams, Amanda Plummer, and Mercedes Ruehl.

1991

The film *The Last Days of Chez Nous*, directed by Gillian Armstrong, is released in Australia, starring Bruno Ganz and Lisa Harrow.

1991

The film *The Silence of the Lambs*, directed by Jonathan Demme, is released in the USA. Based on the novel by Thomas Harris, it stars Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins.

1991

The film *The Vanishing*, directed by Dutch film-maker George Sluizer, is released in the Netherlands, starring Bernard-Pierre Donnadiou, Gene Bervoets, and Johanna Ter Steege.

1991

The film *Thelma and Louise*, directed by the English film-maker Ridley Scott, is released in the USA, starring Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis.

1991

The film *Toto the Hero*, directed by Jaco Van Dormael, is released in Belgium, starring Michel Bouquet and Jo de Backer.

1991

The first magnetohydrodynamic passenger boat, the *Yamato 1*, is tested in Japan. Electric current passes through electrodes, which accelerates water through two cylindrical thrusters propelling the boat forward at 8 knots.

1991

The first Toys R Us superstore opens in Tokyo, Japan.

1991

The German composer York Georg Höller completes his work for piano, orchestra, and tape *Pensées/Thoughts*.

1991

The German physiologists Erwin Neher and Bert Sakmann are jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries concerning the function of single ion channels in cells.

1991

The Gulf War is the first war in which laser weapons are used extensively.

1991

The Irish rock group U2 releases the album Achtung Baby.

1991

The Japanese electronics company Sony launches the Mini Disk in Japan and the USA. It holds 74 minutes of music and is 6.4 cm/2.5 in in diameter.

1991

The Japanese electronics company Sharp launches a flat wall-mounted television, which is 7.7 cm/3 in deep and 22 cm/8.6 in high.

1991

The Jodrell Bank radio astronomy centre, Cheshire, England, reports the possible discovery of a planet orbiting pulsar star PSR 1829-10.

1991

The Nature Conservancy Council in the UK is dissolved and its three regional bodies, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Countryside Council for Wales, become autonomous agencies.

1991

The New Technology Telescope, an optical telescope that is part of the European Southern Observatory at La Silla, Chile, comes into operation. Its thin lightweight mirror, 3.38 m/141 in across, is kept in shape by computer-adjustable supports to produce a sharper image than is possible with conventional mirrors.

1991

The Nigerian writer Ben Okri publishes his novel *The Famished Road*, which wins the Booker Prize.

1991

The Nobel Prize for Literature is awarded to the South African novelist Nadine Gordimer.

1991

The opera *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, by the English composer Harrison Birtwistle and based on the 14th-century English poem, is first performed in London, England.

1991

The opera *The Ghosts of Versailles*, by the US composer John Corigliano, is first performed in New York City.

1991

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) produces its report *State of the Nation*, which gives a pessimistic survey of the environmental costs of development in the organization's 24 member states.

1991

The play *Kvetch*, by the English dramatist Steven Berkoff, is first performed in London, England.

1991

The play *Lost in Yonkers*, by the US dramatist Neil Simon, is first performed in New York City. It wins him the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

1991

The play *Silly Cow*, by the English writer and performer Ben Elton, is first performed in London, England.

1991

The play *The Madness of George III*, by the English writer Alan Bennett, is first performed, in London, England.

1991

The Pulitzer Prize for Biography is awarded to Steven Naifeh and George White Smith for *Jackson Pollock: An American Saga*, the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry is awarded to Mona Van Duyn for *Near Changes*, and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction is awarded to John Updike for *Rabbit at Rest*.

1991

The Pulitzer Prize for Drama is awarded to Neil Simon for *Lost in Yonkers*.

1991

The Pulitzer Prize for History is awarded to Laurel Thatcher Ulrich for *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary 1785-1812*.

1991

The Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction is awarded to Edward O Wilson and Burt Holldobler for *The Ants*.

1991

The red ribbon signifying AIDS awareness is designed for the Tony Awards in New York City.

1991

The remains of an ancient civilization are discovered at Taperinha on the Amazon River, East of Santarem, Brazil. Believed to have existed 6,000-8,000 years ago, it predates the ancient New World civilizations of Mexico and the Andes.

1991

The resurgence in use of the hallucinogenic drug LSD in the UK and the USA is accompanied by the development of ambient techno music.

1991

The Russian composer Alfred Schnittke completes his *Concerto Grosso No. 5*.

1991

The Russian composer Dmitri Smirnov completes his *Song of Liberty* for voices and orchestra.

1991

The Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery in London, England, designed by the US architect Robert Venturi and the English architect Denise Scott Brown, is completed.

1991

The Scottish composer Judith Weir completes her chamber work *I Broke off a Golden Branch*.

1991

The Skarnsundet Bridge is completed in Norway; it is the longest cable-stayed bridge in the world, with a main span of 527 m/1,729 ft.

1991

The Terminal at Stansted Airport in Essex, England, designed by the English architect Norman Foster, is completed.

1991

The US General Instrument Corporation develops the first digital high-definition television (HDTV) prototype.

1991

The US heavy rock group Guns n' Roses releases the album *Use Your Illusion II*.

1991

The US journalist E J Dionne publishes *Why Americans Hate Politics*.

1991

The US journalist Nicholas Lemann publishes *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America*.

1991

The US journalist Robert Dallek publishes *Lone Star Rising: Lyndon Johnson and His Times, 1908-60*.



1991

The US molecular biologist Craig Venter files applications for patents on more than 300 genes.

1991

The US philosopher Thomas Nagel publishes Equality and Partiality.

1991

The US pop singer Michael Jackson releases the album Dangerous.

1991

The US rap group Public Enemy releases the single 'Apocalypse '91: The Empire Strikes Back'.

1991

The US rock group Nirvana releases the album Nevermind; it marks the advent of grunge music, much of it coming from Seattle, Washington.

1991

The US rock group REM releases the single 'Losing My Religion' and the album Out of Time.

1991

The US Taliq Corporation introduces Taliq Liquid Cristal glass, which is normally opaque but turns clear when an electric current is applied. It is used primarily for office dividers.

1991

The US toy manufacturer Larami introduces the Super Soaker water gun which can shoot jets of water 90 ft/25 m, and Tiger Toys launches the action figure Captain Planet, based on the US television series.

1991

The US writer Adrienne Rich publishes her poetry collection An Atlas of the Difficult World.

1991

The US writer Garrison Keillor publishes his novel A Radio Romance.

1991

The US writer Harold Brodkey publishes his novel The Runaway Soul.

1991

The US writer James Broughton publishes his poetry collection The Androgyne Journal.

1991

The US writer John Barth publishes his novel The Last Voyage of Somebody the Sailor.

1991

The US writer Mary Gaitskill publishes her novel Two Girls, Fat and Thin.

1991

The US writer Norman Mailer publishes his novel Harlot's Ghost.

1991

The US writer Richard Condon publishes his novel The Final Addition.

1991

The Walt Disney animated film Beauty and the Beast is released. Its success revives interest in feature-length animation.

1991

The World Ocean Experiment (WOCE) programme is set up to monitor ocean temperatures, circulation, and other

parameters.

1991

The world population is 5.5 billion, compared with 3.63 billion in 1970.

1991

The world's first solar power station connected to a national grid goes on line at Adrano, Sicily. Giant mirrors follow the Sun throughout the day, focusing the rays onto a steam boiler that drives a conventional turbine. The plant generates up to one megawatt.

1991

The world's largest national populations are: China, 1.1 billion; India, 871 million; USSR, 291 million; USA, 252 million; Indonesia, 182 million; Brazil 153 million; Pakistan, 126 million; Japan, 124 million; Nigeria, 124 million; Bangladesh, 116 million; Mexico, 82 million; Germany, 79 million; Vietnam, 68 million; Philippines, 62 million; Italy, 58 million; UK, 58 million; Turkey, 57 million; Iran, 57 million; France, 57 million.

1991

Twenty-two soccer clubs break away from the English Football League, under the auspices of the Football Association (FA), to form the FA Premier League. Play commences in August 1992.

1991

US computer manufacturer Apple introduces 'System 7', an intuitive, easy-to-use interface, with icons, windows, and a mouse.

1991

US firm Cray Research introduces the Cray Y-MP 90 computer, which is capable of 16 billion calculations a second.

1991

US grunge bands, such as Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Soundgarden, provide the music for Generation X, or the 'slacker' generation, the disaffected youth of the USA who see no hopeful future for themselves. The term Generation X is derived from US writer Douglas Coupland's novel of the same name.

1991

US linguist Noam Chomsky publishes *Detering Democracy*.

1991

US pathologist Jack Kervorkian, known as 'Dr Death', publishes *Prescription: Medicide: The Goodness of Planned Death*, a book advocating physician-assisted suicide.

1991

Veterans of the Gulf War complain of headaches, memory loss, listlessness, depression, respiratory problems, lethargy, muscle weakness, nausea, and pain. Known as Gulf War Syndrome, these symptoms may be caused by the cocktail effect of a combination of vaccinations against tropical diseases and diseases likely to be used in biological weapons, nerve gas, antinerve gas drugs, and organophosphate (OP) insecticides.

1991

Videoplus, a system using codes to allow automatic video programming, is launched in the UK.

c. 1991

As cheaper phone charges make telemarketing more viable, 'infomercials' - advertisements styled as informative programs - proliferate on US television.

c. 1991

Baby-doll dresses - frilly with high waists - become popular as part of a trend for infantile fashions. This is exemplified by the US singer Courtney Love, who labels it her 'kinderwhore' look.

c. 1991

Computer viruses, programs deliberately constructed and disseminated to damage existing data, become more destructive. The development of 'disinfection' programs takes off as a result.

c. 1991

Ecotourism, an attempt to make tourist travel environmentally aware and constructive, goes mainstream with the development of eco package tours. Ecotourism features visits to scenic, 'natural', or endangered environmental sites, with emphasis on balancing the needs of the local economy and the desires of the tourist with environmental needs. Favourite sites are rain forests, African game reserves, and the Galapagos islands.

c. 1991

Extreme sports, such as bungee jumping, snowboarding, and sky-surfing, are becoming increasingly popular.

c. 1991

Manufacturers begin to introduce more recyclable materials into their packaging.

c. 1991

The medication Ritalin is widely used to treat children whose poor performance at school is interpreted as a symptom of the psychiatric condition Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), consisting of hyperactivity, disruptive behaviour, and short attention span, which was first identified in 1987.

1991-1993

Spender, a drama series about a Tyneside detective, starring Jimmy Nail, is shown on British television.

1991-1993

The Darling Buds of May, based on H E Bates's stories of the Larkin family and set in rural Kent in the 1950s, is shown on British television. It stars David Jason, Pam Ferris, Catherine Zeta Jones, and Philip Franks.

1991-1994

The House of Eliott, a costume drama series set in a fashion house in London, England, in the 1920s, is shown on British television. It stars Stella Gonet and Louise Lombard.



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