

WORLD HISTORY

Chronology of World History

Note: In this section, the notation BCE (before the common era) is applied to years dating to the traditional BC (before Christ) era, and CE (common era) is applied to AD (anno domini) dates. This notation is now preferred in scientific and academic publications. The traditional Gregorian Calendar system and its dates and years are unaltered except by these labels.

Other abbreviations used in this chapter include: KYA = thousand years ago, MYA = million years ago, BP = years before the present, c. = circa, fl. = flourished, r. = ruled, b. = born, d. = died.

Prehistory: Our Ancestors Emerge

Reviewed by G. A. Clark, Ph.D.

Evidence of the origins of *Homo sapiens sapiens*, the genus, species and subspecies to which all living humans belong, comes from a small, but increasing, number of fossils, from genetic and anatomical studies, and from interpretation of the geological and archaeological records. The latest evidence suggests that humans evolved from apelike primate ancestors that lived in eastern and central Africa 7-5 million years ago (MYA). Although all humans living today are members of a single species, the fossil record confirms that our ancestors coexisted with a number of similar species throughout our evolutionary history. Current theories trace the first hominin (upright, bipedal, humanlike primate)¹ to Africa, where several distinct genera appeared 6-4 MYA. They lived in a variety of environments throughout most of the continent, including swampy forest margins, woodlands, and open savannas (usually near lakes or springs). In addition to *Australopithecus afarensis*—better known as “Lucy,” a 3.2 MYA Ethiopian specimen found in 1974—these earliest hominins include such recent discoveries as *Sahelanthropus* (c. 6.5 MYA, from Chad), *Ardipithecus* (c. 5 MYA, Kenya), *Kenyanthropus* (c. 3.5 MYA, Kenya), and *Orrorin* (c. 5 MYA, Kenya). Later, between 4 and 3 MYA, these earliest hominins gave rise to at least two groups of savanna/lake-edge adapted ‘man-apes.’ Called australopithecines, they are divided into ‘gracile’ and ‘robust’ lineages, both containing a number of species. The robust australopithecines were characterized by enormous molar and premolar teeth; they probably went extinct around 1 MYA, or slightly thereafter. Although it is uncertain from which australopithecine species humans descended, the most likely species are usually assigned to the gracile lineage.

Our genus, *Homo*, arose 3-2 MYA, when hominins began to produce primitive stone tools. The oldest tools are dated to c. 2.5 MYA from the Kada Gona site, in Ethiopia, and were used for scraping and cutting meat, sinew, and wood. It is not known whether these early hominins had the ability to speak, but they were social animals, lived in groups of c. 12-20 individuals, aggregated and dispersed seasonally, had campsites, and subsisted by gathering plants and small animals and by scavenging other kills. A closer ancestor, *Homo ergaster*, appeared in E Africa around 1.9 MYA and was the first to leave the continent, spreading throughout Eurasia by c. 1.8 MYA. *H. ergaster* is sometimes grouped with *H. erectus*, a species first identified in the 1890s on the island of Java. It was capable of hunting large and medium-sized hoofed animals, such as antelopes and horses, learned to make and control fire—by c. 500 KYA (thousand years ago) in Europe, possibly earlier in Africa—and almost certainly had primitive language skills.

After about 350 KYA, Europe provides a particularly rich set of fossil evidence usually assigned to *H. erectus*. By a near-universal consensus, this species gave rise to the Neanderthals, who appeared c. 200 KYA. Neanderthals were human-like in most respects: they could speak, were proficient hunters of large game, had sophisticated tools and weapons and a developed social organization, and were well adapted to the harsh climates of Ice Age Europe. Recent advances in molecular biology support the theory that Neanderthals were a distinct population or species that in some places coexisted, but evidently did not interbreed with early modern humans (also called Crô-Magnons). *H. antecessor*, a new species (c. 870 KYA) identified at the Trinchera Dolina site in north-

central Spain, might help clarify the relationship between the earliest representatives of *Homo* in western Europe, and the Neanderthals. A similar situation may have occurred in E Asia, where more primitive *Homo* species coexisted with early modern humans after c. 40 KYA, and possibly as recently as 18 KYA, on the island of Flores, in Indonesia.

Since 2004, excavations at Liang Bua cave on Flores have recovered the remains of 12-15 tiny hominins dated between c. 95-18 KYA. Popularly called ‘hobbits’ because of their diminutive stature (c. 3.5 ft. tall at adulthood) and large, broad feet, they had brains averaging less than one-third the size of even the smallest modern human brains, yet were accompanied by thousands of stone artifacts, evidence for the hunting of stegodons (dwarfed elephants), and clear signs of fire. Dubbed *H. floresiensis*, they probably represent a normal-sized *H. erectus* population that colonized Flores some 800 KYA and subsequently became dwarfed because of limited habitat. One probable implication is that the cognitive capacities of Middle Pleistocene hominins have been seriously underestimated.

Genetic evidence indicates that the first *Homo sapiens* originated in E Africa between 200 and 100 KYA. The oldest modern human fossils are dated to c. 160 KYA and were found at the Herto site in Ethiopia’s Middle Awash valley. The species quickly spread, displacing, extinguishing, out-

competing, and/or genetically ‘swamping’ the archaic humans it encountered. Modern humans were living in Israel by c. 100 KYA, and in Romania by c. 35 KYA. Migration from Asia to Australia took place as early as 60 KYA. First confirmation for the crossing from Asia to the Americas by the Bering land bridge dates to the end of the last Ice Age, at 14 KYA. However, genetic data suggests that small, isolated groups of hunter-gatherers arrived in the Americas up to 4,000 years earlier, settling in both continents. Their arrival

was rapidly followed by the extinction of the indigenous Pleistocene ‘megafauna’ (e.g. mammoths, mastodons), due either to overexploitation by humans, an extraterrestrial impact c. 12,900 years ago, or a combination of both.

As human cognitive capacities slowly expanded over the Pleistocene (1.7-0.01 MYA), a variety of behavioral modes—in toolmaking, diet, shelter, social arrangements, and spiritual expression—arose as humans adapted to different geographic and climatic zones. By about 13,000 years ago, sites from all over the world show seasonal migration patterns and efficient exploitation of a wide range of plant and animal foods, some of which were eventually domesticated.

The ability to make fire at will enormously expanded the human food niche. Fire-making possibly began as early as 1 MYA in Africa and is clearly documented in throughout Eurasia after c. 500 KYA. Hearths were found in northern Israel by c. 750 KYA, and by 465 KYA in southwestern France. Fire-hardened wooden throwing spears c. 3 m long were fashioned by big-game hunters c. 400 KYA at the Schoeningen lignite mine in Germany. Scraping tools, dated after 750 KYA in Europe, N Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia, suggest the preparation of hides for clothing. The oldest relatively unambiguous evidence of personal adornment, perforated shell beads, dates to c. 120 KYA at Skhul Cave on Mount Carmel in Israel. Although they were probably invented much earlier, impressions in burnt clay from the Czech Republic document the ability to



Cave paintings in Lascaux, France, discovered in 1940, have been carbon-dated to 11,000 to 30,000 years BP.

Opening a New Century: 2000-07

Terrorism. In Oct. 2000, 17 American sailors were killed aboard the **USS Cole** in Aden, **Yemen**, when a small boat exploded alongside it in a terrorist attack. On **Sept. 11, 2001**, hijackers crashed 2 jetliners into the twin towers of the **World Trade Center** in New York City and another into the **Pentagon** outside Washington, DC; a 4th crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. The attacks, which destroyed both towers and damaged the Pentagon, killed about 3,000 people, including all 265 aboard the planes. Saudi exile Osama bin Laden and his **al-Qaeda** terrorist network, based in **Afghanistan** and backed by the Taliban government there, emerged as responsible for the attacks. A U.S.-led military campaign launched in Oct. 2001 **ousted the Taliban**, and a transitional government was installed (Dec. 2001), although al-Qaeda remained active in some areas of Afghanistan and elsewhere, and bin Laden remained at large. Conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui was tried and sentenced to life in prison (May 2006) for his role in the attacks. Khalid Shaikh Mohammed confessed (March 2007) that he was responsible for planning the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, as well as several other acts of terrorism.

Among incidents elsewhere, a bomb exploded in a truck outside a synagogue in **Tunisia** (Apr. 2002), killing 17 (including the driver). A car bomb on the Indonesian island of **Bali** (Oct. 2002) killed about 200, mostly foreign tourists; Muslim extremists were arrested. Chechen guerrillas seized a Moscow movie theater (Oct. 2002); more than 100 hostages were killed in a subsequent raid by Russian troops. A terrorist explosion in **Moscow subways** killed 39 (Feb. 2004), and 89 died when 2 Russian planes were destroyed apparently by bombs (Aug. 2004). Chechen guerrillas took over a **Beslan, Russia, school**; 330 hostages, many students, and 31 guerrillas were killed in the standoff (Sept. 2004). The bombing of an Israeli-owned **hotel in Kenya** (Nov. 2002) killed 13 (including the 3 bombers). Suicide attacks against Western targets in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** (May 2003), killed 34 people (including 9 attackers). Suicide bombings in **Istanbul, Turkey** (Nov. 2003), hit two Jewish synagogues and British targets, killing about 60 people in all.

Four **commuter trains were bombed** in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 (Mar. 2004); elections held a week later ousted Spain's premier. Three subway trains and a bus were **bombed in London** during rush hour (June 2005); 56 people were killed, including 4 bombers. Three suicide bombers killed 20 others on Indonesian resort island **Bali** (Oct. 2005). Al-Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsibility (Nov. 2005) for **hotel bombings** in Jordan that killed 59, excluding the suicide bombers. Eight coordinated explosions killed 207 on commuter trains in Mumbai, India (July 2006); the attacks were tied to an Islamic separatist organization. British authorities thwarted (Aug. 2006) an alleged terrorist plot to detonate **liquid explosives** on transatlantic flights.

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down attempts to use military tribunals to try suspected terrorists (June 2006); Pres. Bush acknowledged (Sept. 2006) the existence of CIA-run overseas prisons for terrorism suspects.

War in Iraq. The U.S., with Great Britain, launched an **invasion of Iraq** (Mar. 2003), aimed at ousting the regime of **Saddam Hussein**. Troops took control of Baghdad and other cities, and Pres. Bush declared major combat ended, May 1, but **insurgents** caused continuing casualties among

troops and civilians. Searches for **weapons of mass destruction**, cited as major grounds for the invasion, yielded no evidence. **Saddam Hussein** was captured by U.S. troops (Dec. 2003), put on trial by Iraqis, sentenced to death, and **executed** (Dec. 2006).

An interim government was installed (June 2004). Photographic evidence that U.S. soldiers at **Abu Ghraib** prison in Iraq abused detainees arose in Apr. 2004. Despite threats by insurgents, Iraqis turned out in large numbers to vote in national elections (Jan. 2005). In a referendum, **Iraqis approved a constitution** (Oct. 2005), and voted again in parliamentary elections (Dec. 2005). Sectarian violence in Iraq between the **Sunni and Shiite** factions continued to raise fears of civil war; in late 2006, at least 100 people were dying each day as a result. Violent demonstrations followed an attack (Feb. 2006) on Iraq's "**Golden Mosque**" shrine, one of the holiest sites in Shia Islam. The elected government of Premier Nouri Kamel al-Maliki took office (May 2006) representing a Shiite coalition.

U.S. military deaths topped 3,000 (Dec. 2006). To address ongoing sectarian and **insurgent violence**, Pres. Bush announced (Jan. 2007) a so-called "surge," sending an additional 30,000 troops to Iraq. Four truck bombs in Nineveh province (Aug. 2007) killed at least 500 people in the deadliest attack since the war began in 2003.

Middle East. The peace process languished early in the decade as **violence between Israelis and Palestinians** escalated, with **suicide bombings** by Palestinians and retaliation by Israeli armed forces. In response to Palestinian suicide attacks that killed 26, Israeli forces stormed the compound of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat (Mar. 2002), keeping him confined there until early May. **Arafat died** in a Paris hospital (Nov. 2004) and was succeeded by Mahmoud Abbas following elections. The U.S., Russia, UN, and European Union (EU) formally initiated (Apr. 2003) a "**road map**" plan for Israeli-Palestinian **peace negotiations**, but little progress was made. Israel completed (Aug. 2005) evacuation of 25 Jewish settlements in the **West Bank and Gaza Strip**. Israeli Prime Min. Ariel Sharon suffered a severe stroke (Jan. 2006); leadership was passed to Ehud Olmert, who went on

to lead a coalition government following elections (Apr. 2006). The militant Palestinian political party **Hamas**, which did not acknowledge the right of Israel to exist, won a majority of parliamentary seats over the long-ruling Fatah party (Jan. 2006), casting the peace process into greater doubt, though talks with other parties, including U.S. Sec. of State Condoleezza Rice, continued.

Israel launched air and ground **attacks on Lebanon** (July 2006) in response to a raid into northern Israel by Lebanon-based **Hezbollah** guerrillas; a ceasefire was declared a month later.

Syrian Pres. Hafez al-Assad **died** (June 2000); succeeded by his son. Iran was censured (Dec. 2003) by the UN Intl. Atomic Energy Agency for covering up aspects of its nuclear weapons program, which it claimed was for peaceful purposes. Iran continued to enrich uranium in defiance of several IAEA deadlines (2006-07), in spite of escalating international sanctions.

Europe. In Oct. 2000, Yugoslav strongman Slobodan **Milosevic yielded power** to Vojislav Kostunica, who had declared himself president in the face of anti-Milosevic protests after a disputed election. Milosevic surrendered to Ser-



The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, killed more than 2,600 people in New York, including 343 firefighters.

HISTORICAL FIGURES

Ancient Greeks and Romans

Greeks

Aeschines, orator, 389-314 BCE
 Aeschylus, dramatist, 525-456 BCE
 Aesop, fableist, c. 620-c. 560 BCE
 Alcibiades, politician, 450-404 BCE
 Anacreon, poet, c. 582-c. 485 BCE
 Anaxagoras, philosopher, c. 500-428 BCE
 Anaximander, philosopher, 611-546 BCE
 Anaximenes, philosopher, c. 570-500 BCE
 Antiphon, speechwriter, c. 480-411 BCE
 Apollonius, mathematician, c. 265-170 BCE
 Archimedes, mathematician, 287-212 BCE
 Aristophanes, dramatist, c. 448-380 BCE
 Aristotle, philosopher, 384-322 BCE
 Athenaeus, scholar, fl. c. 200
 Callicrates, architect, fl. 5th cent. BCE
 Callimachus, poet, c. 305-240 BCE
 Cratinus, comic dramatist, 520-421 BCE
 Democritus, philosopher, c. 460-370 BCE
 Demosthenes, orator, 384-322 BCE
 Diodorus, historian, fl. 20 BCE

Diogenes, philosopher, 372-c. 287 BCE
 Dionysius, historian, d. c. 7 BCE
 Empedocles, philosopher, c. 490-430 BCE
 Epicharmus, dramatist, c. 530-440 BCE
 Epictetus, philosopher, c. 55-c. 135
 Epicurus, philosopher, 341-270 BCE
 Eratosthenes, scientist, 276-194 BCE
 Euclid, mathematician, fl. c. 300 BCE
 Euripides, dramatist, c. 484-406 BCE
 Galen, physician, 129-216
 Heraclitus, philosopher, c. 540-c. 475 BCE
 Herodotus, historian, c. 484-420 BCE
 Hesiod, poet, 8th cent. BCE
 Hippocrates, physician, c. 460-377 BCE
 Homer, poet, fl. c. 8th cent. BCE
 Isocrates, orator, 436-338 BCE
 Menander, dramatist, 342-292 BCE
 Parmenides, philosopher, b. c. 515 BCE
 Pericles, statesman, c. 495-429 BCE
 Phidias, sculptor, c. 500-435 BCE

Pindar, poet, c. 518-c. 438 BCE
 Plato, philosopher, c. 428-347 BCE
 Plutarch, biographer, c. 46-120
 Polybius, historian, c. 200-c. 118 BCE
 Praxiteles, sculptor, 400-330 BCE
 Pythagoras, phil., math., c. 580-c. 500 BCE
 Sappho, poet, c. 610-c. 580 BCE
 Simonides, poet, 556-c. 468 BCE
 Socrates, philosopher, 469-399 BCE
 Solon, statesman, 640-560 BCE
 Sophocles, dramatist, c. 496-406 BCE
 Strabo, geographer, c. 63 BCE-24 CE
 Thales, philosopher, c. 634-546 BCE
 Themistocles, politician, c. 524-c. 460 BCE
 Theocritus, poet, c. 310-250 BCE
 Theophrastus, phil., c. 372-c. 287 BCE
 Thucydides, historian, fl. 5th cent. BCE
 Timon, philosopher, c. 320-c. 230 BCE
 Xenophon, historian, c. 434-c. 355 BCE
 Zeno, philosopher, c. 335-c. 263 BCE

Romans

Ammianus, historian, c. 330-395
 Apuleius, satirist, c. 124-c. 170
 Boethius, scholar, c. 480-524
 Caesar, Julius, leader, 100-44 BCE
 Catiline, politician, c. 108-62 BCE
 Cato (Elder), statesman, 234-149 BCE
 Catullus, poet, c. 84-54 BCE
 Cicero, orator, 106-43 BCE
 Claudian, poet, c. 370-c. 404
 Ennius, poet, 239-170 BCE
 Gellius, author, c. 130-c. 165
 Horace, poet, 65-8 BCE

Juvenal, satirist, 60-127
 Livy, historian, 59 BCE-17 CE
 Lucan, poet, 39-65
 Lucilius, poet, c. 180-c.102 BCE
 Lucretius, poet, c. 99-c. 55 BCE
 Martial, epigrammatist, c. 38-c. 103
 Nepos, historian, c. 100-c. 25 BCE
 Ovid, poet, 43 BCE-17 CE
 Persius, satirist, 34-62
 Plautus, dramatist, c. 254-c. 184 BCE
 Pliny the Elder, scholar, 23-79
 Pliny the Younger, author, 62-113

Quintilian, rhetorician, c. 35-c. 97
 Sallust, historian, 86-34 BCE
 Seneca, philosopher, 4 BCE-65 CE
 Silius, poet, c. 25-101
 Statius, poet, c. 45-c. 96
 Suetonius, biographer, c. 69-c. 122
 Tacitus, historian, 56-120
 Terence, dramatist, 185-c. 159 BCE
 Tibullus, poet, c. 55-c. 19 BCE
 Vergil, poet, 70-19 BCE
 Vitruvius, architect, fl. 1st cent. BCE

Roman Rulers

From Romulus to the end of the Empire in the West. Rulers in the East sat in Constantinople and, for a brief period, in Nicaea, until the capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453, when Byzantium was succeeded by the Ottoman Empire.

The Kingdom

BCE
753 Romulus (Quirinus)
716 Numa Pompilius
673 Tullus Hostilius
640 Ancus Marcius
616 L. Tarquinius Priscus
578 Servius Tullius
534 L. Tarquinius Superbus

The Republic

509 Consulate established
509 Quaestorship instituted
498 Dictatorship introduced
494 Plebeian Tribune created
494 Plebeian Aedileship created
444 Consular Tribune organized
435 Censorship instituted
366 Praetorship established
366 Curule Aedileship created
362 Military Tribune elected
326 Proconsulate introduced
311 Naval Duumvirate elected
217 Dictatorship of Fabius Maximus
133 Tribune of Tiberius Gracchus
123 Tribune of Gaius Gracchus
82 Dictatorship of Sulla
60 First Triumvirate formed (Caesar, Pompeius, Crassus)
46 Dictatorship of Caesar
43 Second Triumvirate formed (Octavianus, Antonius, Lepidus)

The Empire

27 Augustus (Octavian)
CE
14 Tiberius I
37 Caligula
41 Claudius I
54 Nero
68 Galba
69 Galba; Otho, Vitellius

69 Vespasianus
79 Titus
81 Domitianus
96 Nerva
98 Trajanus
117 Hadrianus
138 Antoninus Pius
161 Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus
169 Marcus Aurelius (alone)
180 Commodus
193 Pertinax; Julianus I
193 Septimius Severus
211 Caracalla and Geta
212 Caracalla (alone)
217 Macrinus
218 Elagabalus (Heliogabalus)
222 Alexander Severus
235 Maximinus I (the Thracian)
238 Gordianus I and Gordianus II; Pupienus and Balbinus
238 Gordianus III
244 Philippus (the Arabian)
249 Decius
251 Gallus and Volusianus
253 Aemilianus
253 Valerianus and Gallienus
258 Gallienus (alone)
268 Claudius Gothicus
270 Quintillus
270 Aurelianus
275 Tacitus
276 Florianus
276 Probus
282 Carus
283 Carinus and Numerianus
286 Diocletianus and Maximianus
305 Galerius and Constantius I
306 Galerius, Maximinus II, Severus I
307 Galerius, Maximinus II, Constantinus I, Licinius, Maxentius
311 Maximinus II, Constantinus I, Licinius, Maxentius
314 Maximinus II, Constantinus I, Licinius
314 Constantinus I and Licinius

324 Constantinus I (the Great)
337 Constantinus II, Constans I, Constantius II
340 Constantius II and Constans I
350 Constantius II (alone)
361 Julianus II (the Apostate)
363 Jovianus

West (Rome) and East (Constantinople)

364 Valentinianus I (West), Valens (East)
367 Valentinianus I with Gratianus (West), Valens (East)
375 Gratianus with Valentinianus II (West), Valens (East)
378 Gratianus with Valentinianus II (West), Theodosius I (East)
383 Valentinianus II (West), Theodosius I (East)
394 Theodosius I (the Great)
395 Honorius (West), Arcadius (East)
408 Honorius (West), Theodosius II (East)
423 Valentinianus III (West), Theodosius II (East)
450 Valentinianus III (West), Marcianus (East)
455 Maximus (West), Avitus (West); Marcianus (East)
456 Avitus (West), Marcianus (East)
457 Majorianus (West), Leo I (East)
461 Severus II (West), Leo I (East)
467 Anthemius (West), Leo I (East)
472 Olybrius (West), Leo I (East)
473 Glycerius (West), Leo I (East)
474 Julius Nepos (West), Leo II (East)
475 Romulus Augustulus (West), Zeno (East)
476 End of Empire in West with deposing of Romulus Augustulus by Germanic chief Odovacar, who proclaimed self king. Odovacar murdered by King Theodoric of Ostrogoths, 493

WORLD EXPLORATION AND GEOGRAPHY

Early Explorers of the Western Hemisphere

Reviewed by G. A. Clark, Ph.D.

In the light of recent discoveries, theories about how and when the first people arrived in the western hemisphere are being reconsidered. Genetic evidence suggests that beginning around 14,000 years before the present (BP), the earliest immigrants crossed a 1,000-km wide “land bridge” between Siberia and Alaska in small groups and spread rapidly south through the Americas, arriving at S America’s southern tip by c. 10,700 BP. Kennewick Man, found in 1996 in Washington’s Columbia River gorge, dates to 9,600-9,200 BP, and Luzia, dating to 11,500 BP from Brazil, are examples of these early arrivals. Modern Native Americans appear to be descended from peoples indigenous to N and central Asia who arrived in subsequent waves of migration. A growing body of genetic, skeletal, and linguistic evidence documents their migration throughout the Americas.

Archaeologists have confirmed evidence of habitation by 12,900 BP at sites located on the shores of ancient lakes at an elevation of 17,400 feet in Chile’s Atacama Desert. There is also growing support for the settlement of Chile’s Monte Verde site, dated to c. 12,500 BP, and eight other 13th millennium sites in Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. One theory on their migration holds that a glacier covered much of N America from c. 20,000 to 13,000 BP, so those who settled in S America might have traveled there in small boats skirting the pack ice along the west coast, or spread from N to S America through a controversial ‘ice-free corridor’ in what today is western Canada. Other theories hold that they arrived before continental glaciation blocked migration from the north, or migrated from Iberia in skin boats. Controversial skeletal evidence from a burial at Santana do Riacho in Brazil (9,460 BP) suggests that some of the early immigrants who came via the land bridge from Siberia may have originated in Africa.

Long before Europeans arrived, the Americas were—for the most part—populated by hunter-gatherers and small-scale horticulturalists. In a few areas (SE U.S., Mesoamerica, coastal Peru and Chile), complex chiefdoms and state-level societies had appeared. Irrigation canals dating to 4,700 BP provide evidence for the origins of large-scale agriculture along the western slopes of Peru’s Andes Mountains. The earliest known state in the Americas occupied a 700-sq. mi. area spanning four river valleys in coastal Peru between 3,500 and 500 BP.

Norsemen (Vikings sailing out of Iceland and Greenland), led by Leif Ericson, are usually credited with having been the first

Europeans to reach America, with at least five voyages occurring about 1000 CE to areas they called Helluland, Markland, and Vinland—possibly what are known today as Baffin Island, Labrador, and either Newfoundland or further S in New England. L’Anse aux Meadows, on the N tip of Newfoundland, is the only documented settlement, with evidence of a small village with a church dating to c. 1000 CE. The Norsemen tried to import farming and herding economies, but these efforts failed after a few centuries, and Greenland and Newfoundland were abandoned by Europeans.

Sustained contact between the hemispheres began with the first voyage of Christopher Columbus (born Cristoforo Colombo, c. 1451, near Genoa, Italy). Columbus made four voyages to the New World while sailing for the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand II and Isabella. He left Palos, Spain, Aug. 3, 1492, with 88 men and landed at San Salvador (Watling Islands, Bahamas), Oct. 12, 1492. His fleet included three vessels, the *Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa María*. He also visited Cuba, Hispaniola, and many smaller Caribbean islands, then populated by the now-extinct Taino Indians. A second expedition left Cadíz, Spain, Sept. 25, 1493, with 17 ships and 1,400 men, reaching the island of Dominica, in the Lesser Antilles, on Nov. 3rd. His third voyage took him from Sanlúcar, Spain (May 30, 1498, with 6 ships), to the island of Trinidad and to the adjacent coast of S America, where he made landfall at the mouth of the Orinoco River. A fourth voyage departed Cadíz on May 9, 1502, and reached the E coast of Mexico, Honduras, Panama, and what he christened Santiago (the present day island of Jamaica). Columbus died in Valladolid, Spain, on May 20, 1506, still convinced he had reached Asia by sailing west.

In N America, John and Sebastian Cabot, Italian explorers sailing for the English crown, reached Newfoundland and possibly Nova Scotia in 1497. John’s second voyage (1498), seeking the fabled Northwest Passage, a new trade route to Asia, resulted in the loss of his entire fleet. For most of the 16th century, exploration of the New World was dominated by the empires of Spain and Portugal.

In 1497 and 1499 Amerigo Vespucci (for whom the Americas are named), an Italian explorer sailing for Spain, passed along the N and E coasts of South America. He was the first to argue that these lands were previously unknown, and not part of Asia.

Other early explorations are listed below.

Year	Explorer	Nationality (sponsor, if different)	Area reached or explored
1497-98	Vasco da Gama	Portuguese	Cape of Good Hope (Africa), India
1499	Alonso de Ojeda	Spanish	N South American coast, Venezuela
1500, Feb.	Vicente Yañez Pinzon	Spanish	S American coast, Amazon R.
1500, Apr.	Pedro Álvarez Cabral	Portuguese	Brazil
1501	Rodrigo de Bastidas	Spanish	Central America
1513	Vasco Núñez de Balboa	Spanish	Panama, Pacific Ocean
1513	Juan Ponce de León	Spanish	Florida, Yucatán Peninsula
1515	Juan de Solís	Spanish	Río de la Plata
1519	Alonso de Pineda	Spanish	Mouth of Mississippi R.
1519	Hernán Cortés	Spanish	Mexico
1519-20	Ferdinand Magellan	Portuguese (Spanish)	Straits of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego
1524	Giovanni da Verrazano	Italian (French)	Atlantic coast, incl. New York harbor
1528	Cabeza de Vaca	Spanish	Texas coast and interior
1532	Francisco Pizarro	Spanish	Peru
1534	Jacques Cartier	French	Canada, Gulf of St. Lawrence
1536	Pedro de Mendoza	Spanish	Buenos Aires
1539	Francisco de Ulloa	Spanish	California coast
1539-41	Hernando de Soto	Spanish	Mississippi R., near Memphis, TN
1539	Marcos de Niza	Italian (Spanish)	SW United States
1540	Francisco de Coronado	Spanish	SW United States
1540	Hernando Alarcon	Spanish	Colorado R.
1540	Garcia de Lopez Cardenas	Spanish	Colorado, Grand Canyon
1541	Francisco de Orellana	Spanish	Amazon R.
1542	Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo	Portuguese (Spanish)	W Mexico, San Diego harbor
1565	Pedro Menéndez de Aviles	Spanish	St. Augustine, FL
1576	Sir Martin Frobisher	English	Frobisher Bay, Canada
1577-80	Sir Francis Drake	English	California coast
1582	Antonio de Espejo	Spanish	Southwest U.S. (New Mexico)
1584	Amadas & Barlow (for Raleigh)	English	Virginia
1585-87	Sir Walter Raleigh’s men	English	Roanoke Isl., NC
1595	Sir Walter Raleigh	English	Orinoco R.
1603-09	Samuel de Champlain	French	Canadian interior, Lake Champlain
1607	Capt. John Smith	English	Atlantic coast
1609-10	Henry Hudson	English (Dutch)	Hudson R., Hudson Bay
1634	Jean Nicolet	French	Lake Michigan, Wisconsin
1673	Jacques Marquette, Louis Jolliet	French	Mississippi R., S to Arkansas
1682	Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle	French	Mississippi R., S to Gulf of Mexico
1727-29	Vitus Bering	Danish (Russian)	Bering Strait and Alaska
1789	Sir Alexander Mackenzie	Canadian	NW Canada
1804-06	Meriwether Lewis and William Clark	American	Missouri R., Rocky Mts., Columbia R.

Notable Deserts of the World

Deserts are defined as regions of the Earth receiving less than 10 in. of precipitation annually, usually in combination with an evaporation rate exceeding precipitation.

In addition to areas listed below, the continent of Antarctica, with an area of about 5.4 mil square miles (roughly doubled by ice in winter), is generally considered a desert. Annual precipitation averages 8 in. along the coast and far less in the deep interior; however, there is little evaporation.

- Arabian (Eastern)**, 70,000 sq mi in Egypt between the Nile R. and Red Sea, extending southward into Sudan
- Atacama**, 600-mi-long area rich in nitrate and copper deposits in N Chile
- Chihuahuan**, 140,000 sq mi in TX, NM, AZ, and Mexico
- Dasht-e Kaurir**, approx. 300 mi long by approx. 100 mi wide in N central Iran
- Dasht-e Lut**, 20,000 sq mi in E Iran
- Death Valley**, 3,300 sq mi in CA and NV
- Gibson**, 120,000 sq mi in the interior of W Australia
- Gobi**, 500,000 sq mi in Mongolia and China
- Great Sandy**, 150,000 sq mi in W Australia
- Great Victoria**, 150,000 sq mi in SW Australia
- Kalahari**, 225,000 sq mi in S Africa
- Kara Kum**, 120,000 sq mi in Turkmenistan
- Kyzyl Kum**, 100,000 sq mi in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- Libyan**, 450,000 sq mi in the Sahara, extending from Libya through SW Egypt into Sudan

- Mojave**, 15,000 sq mi in southern CA
- Namib**, long narrow area (varies from 30-100 mi wide) extending 800 mi along SW coast of Africa
- Nubian**, 100,000 sq mi in the Sahara in NE Sudan
- Painted Desert**, section of high plateau in northern AZ extending 150 mi
- Patagonia**, 300,000 sq mi in S Argentina
- Rub al-Khali (Empty Quarter)**, 250,000 sq mi in the S Arabian Peninsula
- Sahara**, 3,500,000 sq mi in N Africa, extending westward to the Atlantic. Largest desert in the world.
- Sonoran**, 70,000 sq mi in southwestern AZ and southeastern CA extending into NW Mexico
- Syrian**, 100,000-sq-mi area extending over much of N Saudi Arabia, E Jordan, S Syria, and W Iraq
- Taklimakan**, 140,000 sq mi in Xinjiang Prov., China
- Thar (Great Indian)**, 100,000-sq-mi arid area extending 400 mi along India-Pakistan border

Areas and Average Depths of Oceans, Seas, and Gulfs

Geographers and mapmakers recognize at least 4 major bodies of water: the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, and Arctic oceans. The Atlantic and Pacific oceans are considered divided at the equator into the N and S Atlantic and the N and S Pacific. The Arctic Ocean is the name for waters N of the continental landmasses in the region of the Arctic Circle. The International Hydrographic Organization delimited a fifth world ocean in 2000. The Southern Ocean extends from the coast of Antarctica north to 60° south latitude, encompassing portions of the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific oceans.

	Area (sq mi)	Avg. depth (ft)		Area (sq mi)	Avg. depth (ft)
Pacific Ocean	60,060,869	14,040	Sea of Japan	391,100	5,468
Atlantic Ocean	29,637,962	11,810	Hudson Bay	281,900	305
Indian Ocean	26,469,609	12,800	East China Sea	256,600	620
Southern Ocean	7,848,295	14,450	Andaman Sea	218,100	3,667
Arctic Ocean	5,427,050	4,300	Black Sea	196,100	3,906
South China Sea	1,148,500	4,802	Red Sea	174,900	1,764
Caribbean Sea	971,400	8,448	North Sea	164,900	308
Mediterranean Sea	969,100	4,926	Baltic Sea	147,500	180
Bering Sea	873,000	4,893	Yellow Sea	113,500	121
Gulf of Mexico	582,100	5,297	Persian Gulf	88,800	328
Sea of Okhotsk	537,500	3,192	Gulf of California	59,100	2,375

Principal Ocean Depths

Source: National Imagery and Mapping Agency, U.S. Dept. of Defense

Name of area	Location		Depth (meters)	Depth	
	(lat.)	(long.)		(fathoms)	(ft)
Pacific Ocean					
Marianas Trench	11°22' N	142°36' E	10,924	5,973	35,840
Tonga Trench	23°16' S	174°44' W	10,800	5,906	35,433
Philippine Trench	10°38' N	126°36' E	10,057	5,499	32,995
Kermadec Trench	31°53' S	177°21' W	10,047	5,494	32,963
Bonin Trench	24°30' N	143°24' E	9,994	5,464	32,788
Kuril Trench	44°15' N	150°34' E	9,750	5,331	31,988
Izu Trench	31°05' N	142°10' E	9,695	5,301	31,808
New Britain Trench	06°19' S	153°45' E	8,940	4,888	29,331
Yap Trench	08°33' N	138°02' E	8,527	4,663	27,976
Japan Trench	36°08' N	142°43' E	8,412	4,600	27,599
Peru-Chile Trench	23°18' S	71°14' W	8,064	4,409	26,457
Palau Trench	07°52' N	134°56' E	8,054	4,404	26,424
Aleutian Trench	50°51' N	177°11' E	7,679	4,199	25,194
New Hebrides Trench	20°36' S	168°37' E	7,570	4,139	24,836
North Ryukyu Trench	24°00' N	126°48' E	7,181	3,927	23,560
Mid. America Trench	14°02' N	93°39' W	6,662	3,643	21,857
Atlantic Ocean					
Puerto Rico Trench	19°55' N	65°27' W	8,605	4,705	28,232
S Sandwich Trench	55°42' S	25°56' W	8,325	4,552	27,313
Romanche Gap	0°13' S	18°26' W	7,728	4,226	25,354
Cayman Trench	19°12' N	80°00' W	7,535	4,120	24,721
Brazil Basin	09°10' S	23°02' W	6,119	3,346	20,076
Indian Ocean					
Java Trench	10°19' S	109°58' E	7,125	3,896	23,376
Ob' Trench	09°45' S	67°18' E	6,874	3,759	22,553
Diamantina Trench	35°50' S	105°14' E	6,602	3,610	21,660
Vema Trench	09°08' S	67°15' E	6,402	3,501	21,004
Agulhas Basin	45°20' S	26°50' E	6,195	3,387	20,325
Arctic Ocean					
Eurasia Basin	82°23' N	19°31' E	5,450	2,980	17,881
Mediterranean Sea					
Ionian Basin	36°32' N	21°06' E	5,150	2,816	16,896

Note: Greater depths have been reported in some areas but are not officially confirmed by research vessels.

NATIONS OF THE WORLD

World Population Growth

Although the population of the world in ancient times can only be very roughly estimated, it is believed that there were perhaps 50 mil people in the world in 1000 BCE. The United Nations Population Division estimates a figure of 300 mil for 1 CE; this chart shows estimated population growth from that time onward as estimated by the UN.

While figures for other centuries vary depending on source, all sources indicate that world population began growing more rapidly in the 18th and 19th centuries and grew much more rapidly in the 20th century. According to UN estimates, the world population reached 1 bil in 1804; rose to 2 bil 123 years later, in 1927; to 3 bil 33 years after that, in 1960; to 4 bil in 1974; to 5 bil in 1987; and to 6 bil in 1999. **The UN estimated the total world population in mid-2008 was about 6.75 bil.**



Area and Population of the Continents

Source: International Data Base, International Programs Center, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; *The 2008 World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency

Continent or region	AREA ¹ (sq km)	AREA ¹ (sq mi)	% of Earth	POPULATION (est., mid-year)					
				2008	% of world, 2008	1950	1975	2000	2025 ²
Asia	30,947,538	11,948,911	21.4	4,053,868,153	60.4	1,436,631,509	2,411,912,250	3,678,483,540	4,813,550,076
Africa	29,805,695	11,508,043	20.6	972,752,366	14.5	227,939,046	416,226,720	810,431,700	1,377,411,189
Europe	22,832,065	8,815,510	15.8	729,553,228	10.9	547,104,810	678,324,033	731,385,659	712,173,665
N. America	21,327,514	8,234,599	14.7	527,831,687	7.9	220,437,787	345,557,771	484,996,328	618,261,076
S. America	17,433,220	6,731,004	12.0	388,619,456	5.8	111,359,374	215,785,425	348,973,550	464,140,184
Oceania, incl. Australia	8,426,635	3,253,542	5.8	34,368,042	0.5	12,476,128	21,220,574	30,636,819	41,954,001
Antarctica ³	14,000,000	5,405,430	9.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
WORLD	144,772,667	55,897,039	100.0	6,706,992,932	100.0	2,555,948,654	4,089,026,773	6,084,907,596	8,027,490,191

NA = Not applicable. (1) Areas are those used by the U.S. Census Bureau. Figures may not add to totals because of rounding. (2) Projected. (3) Antarctica has no indigenous inhabitants; researchers stay for various periods of time.

Current Population and Projections for All Countries and Territories

Source: International Data Base, International Programs Center, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; *The 2008 World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency

(mid-year figures)

Country/area	2008	2025	2050	Country/area	2008	2025	2050
Afghanistan	32,738,376	50,252,227	81,933,479	Cayman Islands	47,862	67,661	91,118
Albania	3,619,778	3,944,360	4,016,945	Central African Republic	4,444,330	5,503,035	6,523,563
Algeria	33,769,669	40,290,081	44,163,403	Chad	10,111,337	13,914,726	20,473,601
American Samoa	64,827	79,477	98,269	Chile	16,454,143	18,585,122	19,386,517
Andorra	82,627	85,112	74,765	China ¹	1,330,044,605	1,453,123,817	1,424,161,948
Angola	12,531,357	17,418,643	24,746,652	Colombia	45,013,674	55,270,899	64,977,344
Anguilla	14,108	19,739	26,955	Comoros	731,775	1,128,278	1,837,671
Antigua and Barbuda	84,522	103,830	122,930	Congo, Dem. Rep. of	66,514,506	109,674,758	189,310,849
Argentina	40,481,998	47,164,630	53,511,279	Congo Rep.	3,903,318	6,165,891	9,618,358
Armenia	2,968,586	3,044,164	2,943,441	Cook Islands	12,271	7,621	5,460
Aruba	101,541	126,130	150,730	Costa Rica	4,195,914	5,086,916	5,737,397
Australia	21,007,310	25,053,669	29,012,740	Côte d'Ivoire	20,179,602	27,651,498	37,111,782
Austria	8,205,533	8,189,560	7,520,950	Croatia	4,491,543	4,374,007	3,864,201
Azerbaijan	8,177,717	9,352,531	9,955,428	Cuba	11,423,952	11,649,747	10,540,567
The Bahamas	307,451	327,317	324,052	Cyprus	792,604	851,733	841,102
Bahrain	718,306	865,890	973,412	Czech Republic	10,220,911	9,844,275	8,540,221
Bangladesh	153,546,901	204,538,715	279,955,405	Denmark	5,484,723	5,697,913	5,575,147
Barbados	281,968	293,744	274,523	Djibouti	506,221	681,030	993,011
Belarus	9,685,768	9,033,301	7,738,613	Dominica	72,514	74,374	64,772
Belgium	10,403,951	10,453,261	9,882,599	Dominican Rep.	9,507,133	11,922,144	14,657,962
Belize	301,270	411,007	543,690	Ecuador	13,927,650	17,099,305	20,332,088
Benin	8,532,547	13,564,964	22,118,545	Egypt	81,713,517	103,573,056	127,563,256
Bermuda	66,536	70,683	66,025	El Salvador	7,066,403	9,135,049	12,110,592
Bhutan	682,321	820,143	951,873	Equatorial Guinea	616,459	935,553	1,428,139
Bolivia	9,247,816	11,369,857	13,772,819	Eritrea	5,502,026	7,987,458	11,381,250
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,535,296	3,891,669	4,535,296	Estonia	1,307,605	1,149,245	861,913
Botswana	2,165,143	2,385,685	2,165,143	Ethiopia	82,544,838	140,139,507	278,283,137
Brazil	231,886,946	260,692,493	231,886,946	Faroe Islands	48,668	53,200	57,112
Brunei	498,756	638,157	498,756	Fiji	931,741	1,153,311	1,449,492
Bulgaria	6,257,716	4,651,477	6,257,716	Finland	5,244,749	5,251,272	4,819,615
Burkina Faso	25,384,628	47,429,509	25,384,628	France	64,057,790	68,481,838	69,768,223
Burundi	13,912,642	22,852,556	13,912,642	French Polynesia	283,019	344,920	393,533
Cambodia	14,241,640	18,966,883	23,965,562	Gabon	1,485,832	2,063,339	3,229,741
Cameroon	18,467,692	25,522,447	34,908,839	The Gambia	1,735,464	2,624,964	4,068,861
Canada	33,212,696	37,558,781	41,135,648	Gaza Strip	1,500,202	2,350,255	3,392,849
Cape Verde	426,998	453,544	387,962	Georgia	4,630,841	4,341,061	3,784,724

Refugees and Asylum Seekers, 2007

Source: *World Refugee Survey 2008*, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

These estimates are conservative and have been rounded. Totals include individuals granted asylum and those with pending asylum claims as of year-end 2007. Figures generally do not include those who have achieved permanent resettlement. They also do not include Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

(As of Dec. 31, 2007; only countries estimated to host 50,000 or more refugees and asylum seekers are shown below. Region totals include those in countries not listed. Countries of origin are listed in descending order by numbers of refugees and asylum seekers.)

Place of asylum	Origin of most refugees and asylum seekers	Number
AFRICA		2,799,500
Cameroon	Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria	97,400
Chad	Sudan, Central African Republic	294,100
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Angola, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Sudan	177,500
Ethiopia	Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea	201,700
Kenya	Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Uganda, Eritrea, Burundi	319,400
Rwanda	Congo (Dem. Rep.), Burundi	54,200
South Africa	Zimbabwe, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Somalia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, Uganda, Congo Republic, Tanzania	144,700
Sudan	Eritrea, Chad, Ethiopia, Central African Republic	310,500
Tanzania	Burundi, Congo (Dem. Rep.)	432,500
Uganda	Sudan, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Rwanda, Somalia, Burundi	235,800
Zambia	Congo (Dem. Rep.), Angola, Rwanda	113,200
AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN		787,800
Canada	Mexico, Colombia, Haiti, China, Afghanistan	54,500
Ecuador	Colombia	272,700
United States	China, Haiti, Cuba, Somalia, Colombia, Russia, Liberia, Iran, Guatemala, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Ukraine, Venezuela, India, Nicaragua, Myanmar (Burma), Sudan	151,200
Venezuela	Colombia	252,200
EUROPE		527,900
Russia	Afghanistan, Georgia	159,500
Serbia	Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina	97,800
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA		6,380,200
Algeria	Morocco, Former Palestine	95,700
Egypt	Iraq, Former Palestine, Sudan, Somalia	165,100
Gaza Strip	Former Palestine	1,047,200
Iran	Afghanistan, Iraq	1,003,100
Jordan	Iraq, Former Palestine	617,100
Kuwait	Iraq, Former Palestine	51,000
Lebanon	Former Palestine, Iraq, Sudan	325,800
Saudi Arabia	Former Palestine	288,000
Syria	Iraq, Former Palestine, Somalia	1,852,300
West Bank	Former Palestine	745,000
Yemen	Somalia, Iraq	124,600
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		934,700
Thailand	Myanmar (Burma), Laos	406,000
China	Vietnam, North Korea	323,600
Malaysia	Philippines, Myanmar (Burma), Indonesia	164,400
SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA		2,617,200
Bangladesh	Myanmar (Burma)	177,600
India	China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bhutan	420,400
Nepal	Bhutan, China	130,000
Pakistan	Afghanistan	1,877,800
TOTAL		14,047,300

Internally Displaced Persons

Source: *Global Overview of Trends and Developments*, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Norwegian Refugee Council

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are people who have been forced to flee their homes due to armed conflict or human rights violations but who have not crossed the border into another country. As such, they are not protected by international refugee law and legally remain under the protection of their home country.

(estimates as of Dec. 31, 2007)

Country	IDPs	Country	IDPs	Country	IDPs
Afghanistan	132,000	Georgia	128,703	Russia	187-137,000
Algeria	NA	Guatemala	NA	Rwanda	NA
Angola	19,566	India	600,000+	Senegal	10-70,000
Armenia	8,400	Indonesia	150-250,000	Serbia	247,500
Azerbaijan	572,531	Iraq ³	2.8 mil	Somalia	1.1 mil
Bangladesh	500,000	Israel	150-420,000	Sri Lanka	500,000+
Bosnia and Herzegovina	124,958	Kenya	181-200,000	Sudan	6.0 mil
Burundi	100,000	Lebanon	90-390,000	Syria	433,000
Central African Republic	197,000	Liberia ⁴	NA	Timor-Leste	100,000
Chad	185,901	Macedonia	790	Togo	1,500
Colombia ¹	2.0-3.9 mil	Mexico	5,500	Turkey	1.0-1.2 mil
Congo, Dem. Rep. of the	1.3 mil	Myanmar (Burma)	503,000	Turkmenistan	NA
Congo, Rep. of the	7,800	Nepal	50-70,000	Uganda	944,262
Côte d'Ivoire	709,000	Nigeria	NA	Uzbekistan	3,400
Croatia	2,900	Occup. Palestinian Terr. ⁵	25-115,000	Yemen	25-35,000
Cyprus ²	NA	Pakistan	NA	Zimbabwe ⁶	570,000
Eritrea	32,000	Peru	150,000	Total⁷	26,000,000
Ethiopia	200,000	Philippines	380,000+		

NA = Not available. (1) Bottom of range is cumulative since 1994; top is cumulative since 1985. (2) Est. 200,000 Greek and Turkish Cypriots displaced in 1974. (3) Cumulative. (4) Est. 23,000 possibly remaining in former IDP camps. (5) Higher figure cumulative since 1967. (6) Est. made homeless by forced evictions and demolitions in 2005. (7) Est. based on available figures (from the UN, governments, and other agencies) and additional information on displacement and return trends.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

The International Criminal Court was created when 120 nations signed the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998. Its mission is to try individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, or other crimes against humanity, as has been undertaken in the past by temporary tribunals. The statute came into force July 1, 2002, 60 days after the 60th nation ratified it. As of July 18, 2008, 108 nations were members of the ICC. China, Russia, and the U.S. have not yet joined. The U.S. expressed opposition to some provisions of the ICC, mainly regarding liability of its military in peacekeeping situations.

The ICC, unlike the World Court, is not part of the UN, but an independent international agency with its own budget and administration. It consists of 18 judges elected by member nations. An absolute majority of these 18 judges elect three from among themselves to serve as president, first vice

president, and second vice president in three-year, renewable terms. A Registry handles the nonjudicial aspects of administration. The Office of the Prosecutor reviews, investigates, and prosecutes cases referred to it by a state or by the UN Security Council.

Four situations are currently under investigation by the ICC prosecutor: the situation in the Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Uganda, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

Though jurisdiction is limited to member nations, the ICC is a court of last resort. It may also initiate cases involving non-member nations if it deems the country's authorities have not taken steps to investigate or prosecute a case. The ICC is based in The Hague, Netherlands, though it may sit elsewhere. **Website:** www.icc-cpi.int

Geneva Conventions

The Geneva Conventions are four international treaties governing the protection of civilians in time of war, the treatment of prisoners of war, and the care of the wounded and sick in the armed forces. The first convention, covering the sick and wounded in war, was concluded in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1864; it was amended and expanded in 1906. In 1929, two more conventions covering the wounded and prisoners of war were signed. Outrage at the treatment of prisoners and civilians during WWII by some belligerents, notably Germany and Japan, prompted the conclusion, in Aug. 1949, of four new conventions. Three of these restated and strengthened the previous conventions, and the fourth codified general principles of international law governing the treatment of civilians in wartime.

The 1949 convention for civilians provided for special safeguards for wounded persons, children under 15 years of

age, pregnant women, and the elderly. Discrimination on racial, religious, national, or political grounds was forbidden. Torture, collective punishment, reprisals, unwarranted destruction of property, and forced use of civilians for an occupier's armed forces were also prohibited. Also included was a pledge to treat prisoners humanely, feed them adequately, and deliver relief supplies to them. They were not to be forced to disclose more than minimal information. Two additional protocols were adopted in June 1977 dealing with the protection of victims, especially civilians, in international and non-international armed conflicts.

Most countries have formally accepted all or most of the humanitarian conventions as binding. As of 2006, all of the then 194 nations had signed onto the 1949 Conventions. However, there is no permanent international machinery in place to enforce these treaties.

Genocide

Reviewed by Aram A. Schvey, former Crowley Fellow and Adjunct Professor at Fordham University School of Law

Source: Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, United Nations Treaty Series 277; Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

The term "genocide" (literally "murder of a race") was coined by Prof. Raphael Lemkin (1900-59) in 1944 and refers to the intentional destruction or attempted destruction of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, whether in wartime or peacetime. Genocide is defined as killing members of the group, causing serious bodily harm to members of the group, or otherwise attempting to bring about its destruction, including preventing births or transferring children away from the group. Although the legal definition of genocide does not extend to political groups, the term is often used colloquially to refer to large-scale political violence.

The prohibition against genocide is part of customary international law and is codified in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide ("Genocide Convention"), entered into force on Jan. 12, 1951. Today, more than 130 nations, including the U.S.,

are parties to it. Genocide is also prohibited by the domestic laws of many nations.

The first modern trials for genocide were conducted by the Allies after WWII. Although the charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal (the international court set up to try Nazi war criminals) did not use the term "genocide," its definition of "crimes against humanity" included persecution on racial or religious grounds. More recently, the UN Security Council created ad hoc tribunals to try those responsible for genocide and other serious crimes in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda. The International Criminal Court (ICC), which began functioning July 1, 2002, also has jurisdiction to try perpetrators of genocide. In Mar. 2005, the Security Council referred the situation in Darfur, Sudan, to the ICC prosecutor. In July 2008, the prosecutor formally accused Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and requested a warrant for his arrest.

Examples of Genocides Since 1900

Year	Event	Location	Est. deaths
1915	Extermination of Armenians by the Young Turks	Turkey/Ottoman Empire	1,000,000+
1930s	Intentional infliction of famine on Ukraine	Soviet Union (Ukraine)	6,000,000-7,000,000
1933-45	Attempted destruction of European Jewry (Holocaust)	Europe	6,000,000
1975-79	Khmer Rouge campaign of extermination under Pol Pot	Cambodia	1,500,000-2,000,000
1988	Anfal Campaign (named by the Iraqi government) against Iraqi Kurds	Iraq	100,000-200,000
1992-95	Ethnic killings during the breakup of Yugoslavia, chiefly Serbs against Bosnian Muslims	Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia	200,000
1994	Hutu massacre of Tutsis	Rwanda	800,000
2003-present	Rebel group and government-backed Arab militia attacks on non-Arab southern tribes, black population ¹	Darfur region, Sudan	200,000-400,000

Note: Estimates based on historical evidence. The legal definition of "genocide" does not include politically motivated mass killings. Therefore, instances of mass violence against political or class enemies, such as Josef Stalin's purges in the 1930s, which killed some 20 mil Soviets, and Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, which killed several mil Chinese, are not included. The mass killings of an estimated 1.7 mil during Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime are often spoken of as genocide, despite the fact that many of the murders were politically or class motivated. (1) In 2005, a UN commission concluded that although the "international offenses ... that have been committed in Darfur may be no less serious and heinous than genocide," it did not term the situation there a genocide.

NATIONS OF THE WORLD: PROFILES

As of mid-2008, there were **195 nations** in the world. This number includes three nations that are not members of the United Nations—Kosovo, Taiwan, and Vatican City (the Holy See). The 195 nations are profiled below, in alphabetical order. Certain regions and territories that are not independent nations can be found under the entry for the governing nation. For comparative statistics, information on international organizations, and other information about nations, see pp. 715-728.

Sources: Intl. Data Base, U.S. Census Bureau; *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency; *International Energy Annual*, Energy Information Admin., U.S. Dept. of Energy; *Oil & Gas Journal*, PennWell Corp.; U.S. Dept. of State; United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Org. (UNESCO); FAO Statistical Database and *Yearbook of Fishery Statistics*, Food and Agriculture Org. of the UN; *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, UNAIDS and World Health Org.; *Intl. Financial Statistics*, Intl. Monetary Fund (IMF); Intl. Telecommunication Union; *World Population Prospects and World Urbanization Prospects*, Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Population Division; *Statistical Yearbook*, UN Statistics Division; World Tourism Org.; *The Military Balance*, Intl. Institute for Strategic Studies.

Note: Because of rounding or incomplete enumeration, some percentages may not add to 100%. FY = Fiscal year. **Population** figures are mid-2008 estimates, unless otherwise noted. Estimated percentage of **urban** population is for 2005. Population figures for **capitals** and **cities (urban aggr.)**, i.e., whole metropolitan areas, are 2007 estimates. Where indicated, the latest available population of the city proper is also given. **Defense budget** and **active troops** figures are from mid-2007 unless otherwise noted. **Crude oil reserves** are Jan. 1, 2007, estimates unless otherwise noted. **Livestock** figures are for 2007 unless otherwise noted. **Fish catch** figures, which include the capture and farming of fish, mollusks, and crustaceans, are for 2006. **Electricity prod.** numbers are for 2005 unless otherwise noted. **GDP** figures are 2007 estimates unless otherwise noted; figures are based on purchasing power parity calculations, involving use of intl. dollar price weights applied to quantities of goods and services produced. **Imports** and **exports** estimates are from 2007, and trade partners are from 2006 unless otherwise noted. **Tourism** figures are latest available and represent receipts from international tourism. **Budget** figures are for expenditures and are 2007 estimates unless otherwise noted. Figures for **intl. reserves less gold, gold**, and changes in **consumer prices** are from 2007, unless otherwise noted. **Railroad** and **motor vehicle** statistics are latest available; comm. (commercial) vehicles include trucks and buses. **Civil aviation** statistics are latest available. Airport figures include total number with paved runways as of 2007. **TV sets, radios, and daily newspaper circ.** figures are latest available. **Telephone lines** and **Internet** data are for 2007 unless otherwise noted. **Life expect.** is at birth for persons born in 2008. **Natural inc.** is the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths, in 2008. **Infant mortality** measures the probability of a child dying between birth and exact age 1, in 2008. **HIV rate** is the estimated number of adults, ages 15-49, living with HIV in 2007, divided by the total 2007 population aged 15-49. **Education** figures and **literacy** rates are latest available. Literacy rates, of adults ages 15 or over, generally measure the percent of population able to read and write simple statements on everyday life, not the (smaller) percent able to read and write to carry out effectively activities within the community. **Embassy** addresses are for Wash., DC, area code (202), unless otherwise noted.

For further details and later information on developments around the world, see the Chronology of the Year's Events. See pages 457-472 for full-color maps and flags of all nations.

Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

People: Population: 32,738,376. **Age distrib. (%)**: <15: 44.6; 65+: 2.4. **Pop. density:** 131 per sq mi, 50.6 per sq km. **Urban:** 22.9%. **Ethnic groups:** Pashtun 42%, Tajik 27%, Hazara 9%, Uzbek 9%. **Principal languages:** Dari, or Afghan Persian (official), Pashto (official), Turkic (Uzbek, Turkmen), Balochi, Pashai, many others. **Chief religion:** Muslim (official; Sunni 80%, Shi'a 19%).

Geography: Total area: 250,001 sq mi, 647,500 sq km; **Land area:** 250,001 sq mi, 647,500 sq km. **Location:** In SW Asia, NW of the Indian subcontinent. **Neighbors:** Pakistan on E, S; Iran on W; Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan on N. The NE tip touches China. **Topography:** The country is landlocked and mountainous, much of it over 4,000 ft. above sea level. The Hindu Kush Mts. tower 16,000 ft. above Kabul and reach a height of 25,000 ft. to the E. Trade with Pakistan flows through the 35-mi-long Khyber Pass. The climate is dry, with extreme temperatures, and there are large desert regions. **Capital:** Kabul, 3,277,000.

Government: Type: Islamic republic. **Head of state and gov.:** Pres. Hamid Karzai; b. Dec. 24, 1957; in office: June 19, 2002. **Local divisions:** 32 provinces. **Defense budget:** NA. **Active troops:** 51,400.

Economy: Industries: textiles, soap, furniture, shoes. **Chief crops:** opium, wheat, fruits, nuts. **Natural resources:** nat. gas, oil, coal, copper, chromite, talc, barite, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, salt, gems. **Arable land:** 12%. **Livestock:** cattle: 4.5 mil; chickens: 8.4 mil; goats: 6.5 mil; sheep: 10 mil. **Fish catch:** 1,000 metric tons. **Electricity prod.:** 0.75 bil kWh. **Labor force** (2004 est.): agric. 80%, industry 10%, services 10%.

Finance: Monetary unit: Afghani (AFN) (Sept. 2008: 46.66 = \$1 U.S.). **GDP:** \$35 bil; **per capita GDP:** \$1,000; **GDP growth:** 12.4%. **Imports** (2006): \$3.8 bil; partners: Pakistan 38.8%, U.S. 12.3%, Germany 7.4%, India 5.2%, Turkmenistan 4%. **Exports** (2006): \$274 mil (not incl. illicit exports); partners: India 22.1%, Pakistan 21.1%, U.S. 14.7%, UK 6.3%, Denmark 5.5%, Finland 4.3%. **Tourism:** NA. **Budget:** \$2.6 bil (not incl. \$273 mil received from Reconstruction Trust Fund, \$63 mil from Law and Order Trust Fund).

Transport: Motor vehicles: 41,000 pass. cars; 100,000 comm. vehicles. **Civil aviation:** 88.9 mil pass.-mi; 12 airports. **Chief ports:** Kheyraabad, Shir Khan.

Communications: TV sets: 14 per 1,000 pop. **Radios:** 136 per 1,000 pop. **Telephone lines:** 81,200. **Daily newspaper circ.:** NA. **Internet:** 580,000 users.

Health: Life expect.: 44 male; 44.4 female. **Births** (per 1,000 pop.): 45.8. **Deaths** (per 1,000 pop.): 19.6. **Natural inc.:** 2.63%. **Infant mortality** (per 1,000 live births): 154.7. **HIV rate:** NA.

Education: Compulsory: ages 6-15. **Literacy:** 28%.

Major intl. organizations: UN (FAO, IBRD, ILO, IMF, WHO).

Embassy: 2341 Wyoming Ave. NW 20008; 483-6410.

Website: www.president.gov.af

Afghanistan, occupying a favored invasion route since antiquity, has been variously known as Ariana or Bactria (in ancient times) and Khorasan (in the Middle Ages). Foreign empires alternated rule with local emirs and kings until the 18th cent., when a unified kingdom was established. In 1973, a military coup ushered in a republic.

Pro-Soviet leftists took power in a bloody 1978 coup and concluded an economic and military treaty with the USSR. In Dec. 1979 the USSR began a massive airlift into Kabul and backed a new coup, leading to installation of a more pro-Soviet leader. Sovi-

et troops fanned out over Afghanistan and waged a protracted guerrilla war with Muslim rebels, in which some 15,000 Soviet troops reportedly died.

A UN-mediated agreement was signed Apr. 14, 1988, providing for withdrawal of Soviet troops, a neutral Afghan state, and repatriation of refugees. Afghan rebels rejected the pact. The Soviets completed their troop withdrawal Feb. 15, 1989; fighting between Afghan rebels and government forces ensued. Communist Pres. Najibullah resigned Apr. 16, 1992, as competing guerrilla forces advanced on Kabul. The rebels achieved power Apr. 28, ending 14 years of Soviet-backed regimes. More than 2 mil Afghans had been killed and 6 mil had left the country since 1979.

Following the rebel victory there were clashes between moderates and Islamic fundamentalist forces. Burhanuddin Rabbani, a guerrilla leader, became president June 28, 1992, but fierce fighting continued around Kabul and elsewhere. The Taliban, an insurgent Islamic radical faction, captured Kabul in Sept. 1996. The Taliban executed former Pres. Najibullah and empowered Islamic religious police to enforce codes of dress and behavior that were especially restrictive to women. Rabbani and other ousted leaders fled to the north.

Victories in the northern cities of Mazar-e Sharif, Aug. 8, 1998, and Taloqan, Aug. 8-11, gave the Taliban control over more than 90% of the country. On Aug. 20, U.S. cruise missiles struck southeast of Kabul, hitting facilities the U.S. said were terrorist training camps run by a wealthy Saudi, Osama bin Laden. The UN imposed sanctions Nov. 14, 1999, when Afghanistan refused to turn over bin Laden to the U.S. for prosecution; a UN ban on all military aid to the Taliban took effect Jan. 19, 2001.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the U.S., blaming bin Laden, demanded that the Taliban surrender him and shut down his al-Qaeda terrorist network. When the Taliban refused, the U.S., with British assistance, began bombing Afghanistan Oct. 7, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Supported by the U.S., the opposition Northern Alliance recaptured Mazar-e Sharif Nov. 9 and took Kabul 4 days later; the Taliban forces abandoned Kandahar, their last stronghold, to southern tribesmen Dec. 7. A power-sharing agreement signed by 4 anti-Taliban factions, including the Northern Alliance, provided for an interim government headed by Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun tribal leader. The UN authorized Dec. 20 a multinational security force. Meanwhile, U.S. and allied forces continued to hunt for bin Laden and other top al-Qaeda and Taliban officials.

Meeting June 13, 2002, in Kabul, a traditional council (*loya jirga*) chose Karzai to head a new transitional government. The U.S. announced the end of major combat operations in Afghanistan, May 1, 2003, but resistance continued, with relief and reconstruction workers targeted. NATO officially assumed control of peacekeeping forces (ISAF) Aug. 11.

A new constitution took effect Jan. 26, 2004. Pres. Karzai won reelection Oct. 9 with 55.4% of the vote. During the campaign, insurgents attempted to kill Pres. Karzai, Sept. 16. U.S. troops launched a new offensive, Dec. 11, but were unable to suppress the insurgency. Violence continued to rise in the run-up to elections Sept. 18, 2005, for a 249-seat national assembly. Millions defied threats of violence to vote; at least 14 people were killed in more than 20 attacks by insurgents.

The most intense fighting in more than 4 years erupted Mar. 2006 with a new wave of suicide bombings, rocket and mortar attacks, and other strikes by Taliban insurgents against military and civilian targets. Erosion of government authority led to an increase