

How 1968 Rocked the World

January

North Korean patrol boats capture the USS Pueblo, a US Navy intelligence ship
The North Vietnamese launch the Tet offensive; Battle of Hue begins
First US adult heart transplant performed at Stanford
The 10,000th US airplane is lost over Vietnam
Eldridge Cleaver becomes the Peace and Freedom Party presidential candidate
B-52 carrying a hydrogen bomb crashes in Greenland
Evel Knievel fails his attempt to jump the Caesar's Palace Fountain in Las Vegas
The Beatles' *Magical Mystery Tour* is #1 album
Jacques Cousteau's first undersea special is aired on US network TV
Green Bay Packers win the second Super Bowl
Rowan and Martin's Laugh In premieres on NBC
Indiana University loses the Rose Bowl to University of Southern California, 14-3
AT&T announces its designation of 911 as national emergency number

February

Police Chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan is photographed executing a Viet Cong prisoner
A Delta Airlines jet is hijacked to Cuba, the first of 12 hijacked in 1968
Cesar Chavez, the United Farm Workers Union leader, begins his fast for nonviolence
Kerner Commission warns that US is moving towards 2 societies, one black, one white
Richard Nixon declares his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination
Gallup poll shows 50% of Americans disapprove of Johnson's management of the war
Walter Cronkite, recently returned from Vietnam, predicts war to end in stalemate
Elvis Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie, is born
1968 Winter Olympics -- Peggy Fleming wins women's figure skating gold medal
George Harrison and John Lennon visit Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in India
First 911 emergency system inaugurated in Alabama
Federal minimum wage increased to \$1.60 per hour
Soul on Ice is published by Eldridge Cleaver
US National Security Council abolishes graduate student draft deferments
Garbage collectors strike in NYC, with refuse piling up at rate of 10,000 tons a day

March

Soldiers from Charlie Company kill more than 500 Vietnamese civilians in My Lai
Police and students clash in Poland in demonstrations for greater freedom
President Lyndon Johnson announces he will not seek reelection
Ferry capsizes in the harbor of Wellington, New Zealand, killing 200
Fillmore East opens in New York City
Polish students arrested in protests, resulting in larger protests
Polish government closes parts of Warsaw University
Robert F. Kennedy declares candidacy for Democratic presidential nomination

US Congress repeals requirement for gold backing the dollar
Robert McNamara becomes Secretary of Defense
Johnny Cash marries June Carter

April

Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee
Twelve TWA flight attendants file sex discrimination complaint with EEOC
Protesting students at Columbia University take over 5 buildings, 630 arrested
Student Mobilization Committee holds largest student strike against the war
Thousands of protesters march in San Francisco and New York
President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968 into law
Pierre Trudeau becomes prime minister of Canada
Black Panthers start Free Breakfast for Children program
London Bridge is sold with plans to rebuild it in Arizona
“Hair” opens at Biltmore Theater in New York City
Largest ever US H-bomb is exploded 3,800 feet below ground in Nevada

May

"Bloody Monday" marks one of the most violent days of the Parisian student protests
Turkish students in Istanbul University declare anti-NATO campaign week
Beatles launch Apple Corps
Gold rises to \$41.37 per ounce
Belgian students protest, occupying the Free University of Belgium
Strikes and student riots in France
William Styron wins Pulitzer Prize
The Rolling Stones release “Jumping Jack Flash”
Topping out ceremony celebrates John Hancock Center as the world’s tallest building
Midwest and Mississippi Valley are raked by tornadoes, killing 70 people
US nuclear sub *Scorpion* is lost somewhere in Atlantic

June

After winning the California primary Robert Kennedy is fatally shot
50,000 march on Washington to support the Poor People’s Campaign
First baby boomers (born in 1946) graduate from college
“Mrs. Robinson” by Simon & Garfunkel is the #1 song on the pop singles chart
Basque separatist group ETA kills Civil Guard José Pardines Arcay, their first killing
Johnny Cash performs at Folsom Prison
Daniel Ellsberg indicted for leaking the Pentagon Papers
Brazilian students at the University of Rio de Janeiro protest
Helen Keller dies
Andy Warhol shot by Valerie Solanas at his workplace
Earl Warren resigns as Chief Justice of Supreme Court

July

European Common Market countries remove their last customs barriers
The US and 60 other countries sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
Intel Corporation is founded

Black Panthers sponsor “Free Huey” rally in front of Alameda County Courthouse
Billie Jean King and Rod Laver win Wimbledon
The Beatles’ movie *Yellow Submarine* premieres in London
Pope issues encyclical, *Humanae vitae*, against birth control
Saddam Hussein assumes control of Iraqi internal security forces
Aeroflot and Pan Am initiate first direct air service between US and USSR
“The Prisoner” starring Patrick McGoohan premieres

August

Soviet Union invades Czechoslovakia with over 200,000 Warsaw Pact troops
Hubert Humphrey is nominated for president amidst protest in the streets in Chicago
France becomes the world’s 5th thermonuclear power
Ronald Reagan announces his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination
Final assault in Nigeria’s war against Biafra
1,000 meet in front of UN to pray for food aid to Biafra
First papal visit to Latin America
The Beatles record “Hey Jude”
Detroit newspapers resume publication after 267-day strike

September

Hong Kong Flu arrives in US, approximately 33,800 Americans will die from the flu
Earthquake in Iran kills 30,000, injures 17,000, and leaves 100,000 homeless
Women's Liberation groups protest the Miss America Beauty Contest in Atlantic City
Swaziland, the last British colony in Africa, becomes independent
The epidural is introduced as a way to manage pain in childbirth
Arthur Ashe wins US Open
“60 Minutes” premieres on CBS
France vetoes U.K. admission to the European Common Market
McDonald’s Big Mac is created in Pittsburgh
Tiger Denny McLain becomes first pitcher to win 30 games since 1934
“Funny Girl” with Barbara Streisand premieres
First Boeing 747 is rolled out

October

Mexico City Summer Olympics boycotted by 32 African nations
Tlatelolco massacre in Mexico City
Tommie Smith and John Carlos suspended from Olympics for Black Power Salute
Catholic civil rights marchers protest against ruling Protestants in Northern Ireland
Jacqueline Kennedy marries Aristotle Onassis
Night of the Living Dead premieres in Pittsburgh
Marcel Duchamp dies at age 81
Panamanian president Arnulfo Arias is overthrown by Gen. Omar Torrijos in a coup
California’s Redwood National Park is created
Motion Picture Association of America adopts new film rating system

November

Richard Nixon wins the presidential election
Shirley Chisholm becomes the first Black woman elected to US Congress
National Turn in Your Draft Card Day observed with rallies on college campuses
Peace talks between the US and North Vietnam in Paris
Student riots in Prague and Berlin
President Johnson halts bombings in Vietnam
Yale University announces it will go co-ed
The Beatles' "White Album" is released
John Lennon and Yoko Ono plead guilty to marijuana charges
Novelist and reformer Upton Sinclair dies at age 90
Stuart Brand publishes the first Whole Earth Catalog
More than 200 women convene for first national Women's Liberation Conference
Half-back O. J. Simpson wins Heisman Trophy

December

The unemployment rate is 3.3 percent, the lowest it has been in 15 years
The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine founded
The launch of Apollo 8 begins the first US mission to orbit the Moon
Computer mouse is first demonstrated to the public by its inventor Douglas Engelbart
US deaths in Vietnam top 16,000
John Steinbeck dies at age 66
Henry Kissinger is named Nixon's national security advisor
Elvis Presley makes his first TV appearance in 8 years