

**November 8, 1942**

Operation Torch; U.S. and Britain invade  
Vichy French Northwest Africa

**July 10, 1943**

Allies invade Sicily

**June 6, 1944**

Allies invade Normandy

**May 13, 1943**

Axis forces in North Africa surrender

**November 20–23, 1943**

Battle of Tarawa

**February 19–March 26, 1945**

Battle of Iwo Jima

**October 20, 1944**

U.S. invades the  
Japanese-held Philippines

**April 1, 1945**

U.S. invades Okinawa

**December 16, 1944–February 3, 1945**

Battle of the Bulge

**May 8, 1945**

Germany surrenders

**August 9, 1945**

U.S. drops atomic bomb  
on Nagasaki

**June 24, 1948–May 11, 1949**

Berlin blockade and airlift

**August 6, 1945**

U.S. drops first atomic  
bomb on Hiroshima

**September 2, 1945**

Japan surrenders, ending World War II

**August 2–7, 1964**

Gulf of Tonkin Incidents and Resolution

**June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953**

Korean War

**November 11–14, 1965**

Battle of Ia Drang

**October 16–29, 1962**

Cuban Missile Crisis

**January 27, 1973**

Paris Peace Accords signed,  
ending the U.S. war in Vietnam

**August 2, 1990**

Iraq invades Kuwait

**April–May 1970**

Cambodian Incursion

**1989–1991**

Cold War ends

**October 7, 2001**

U.S. and NATO forces  
invade Afghanistan

**January 17–March 3, 1991**

Persian Gulf War

**March 20, 2003**

U.S. and "coalition of the willing"  
invade Iraq

**September 11, 2001**

Al Qaeda terrorists hijack  
four airliners, crash them into  
several targets, kill 2,973 people