

NON-WESTERN EVENTS

1945–

In Africa, the transformation of Europe's African colonies into independent states, ruled by Africans, 1950–1970; riots in Johannesburg against apartheid, 1950; Organization of African Unity (OAS), 1963; in Ghana, Africa's best-known woman writer, Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*, a novel, 1977; in Ivory Coast, the opening of Our Lady of Peace, the tallest church in Christendom, designed by Pierre Fakhoury and modeled after St. Peter's in Rome, 1989; in Kenya, *A Grain of Wheat*, a novel by Ngugi wa Thiong, 1967; in Lagos, Antonio Olinto, *The Water House*, 1981; the woman writer Buchi Emecheta, *The Rape of Shavi*, a novel, 1986; in Nigeria, *People of the City*, a novel by Cyprian Ekwenski, 1954; *Things Fall Apart*, a novel by Chinua Achebe, 1958; Tutuola, b. 1920, storyteller, *Palm Wine Drinkard*, 1952; the woman writer, Zaynab Alkali, *The Stillborn*, a novel, 1984; Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize for literature, 1986; in Senegal, "Chaka," a poem by Leopold Sedar Senghor, 1956; *O Pays, Mon Beau Peuple*, and *Xala*, novels by Sembene Ousmane, 1957 and 1976, respectively; in South Africa, *Sarafina*, a stage musical by Mbongeni Ngema, 1987; *The Wanderers*, a novel by Es'kia Mphahlele, 1971; Fugard, Kani, Ntshona write plays on treatment of blacks; Nadine Gordimer, Nobel Prize for literature, 1991; Albert John Luthuli, Nobel Peace Prize, 1960; Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize, 1984; F. W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, Nobel Peace Prize, 1993

In Caribbean, in Cuba, *Paradise*, a novel by José Lezama Lima, 1966; in Jamaica, "I Shot the Sheriff," a popular song by reggae composer-performer, Robert Nesta "Bob" Marley, 1973; in St. Lucia, *Omeros*, an epic poem modeled on Homer, by Derek Walcott, 1990; Derek Walcott, Nobel Prize for literature, 1992; in Trinidad, the novelist V. S. Naipaul, b. 1932, author of the novel *A House for Mr. Biswas*, 1961

In Central America, in Costa Rica, *The President*, a novel by Miguel Asturias, 1946; Oscar Arias Sanchez, Nobel Peace Prize, 1987; in Guatemala, Rigoberta Menchu, Nobel Peace Prize, 1992

In China, republic, 1912–1949; civil war with Communists victorious; Nationalists flee to Taiwan after defeat; Communist government led by Mao Zedong, 1949–1976; Great Leap Forward virtually eliminated houseflies, mosquitoes, rats, and bedbugs over wide areas, 1957; cultural revolution of the 1960s had disastrous impact on traditional Chinese culture; "Quotations of Chairman Mao," 1966; China exploded a hydrogen bomb, 1967; rapprochement with United States, 1971; ascendancy of Deng Xiaoping, a pragmatic leader, 1976–1989; economic reform and political retrenchment since about 1978; Beijing's Fragrant Hills Hotel, designed by Chinese-American I. M. Pei opened, 1982; "Massacre of Tiananmen Square," Beijing, 1989; resurgence of hard-liners, 1989–

In Himalaya region, Malla dynasty, 1768–present; Gurkhali-style architecture, mixing archaic with French and Italian influence; in Tibet, Lamaistic state, about 1450 to 1950s, when Chinese rule began; the Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace Prize, 1989

In Hong Kong, the Bank of China Building, designed by the Chinese American I. M. Pei, 1989; transfer of Hong Kong to China, July 1, 1997

In India, end of British raj, 1947; partition of India into modern countries of India and Pakistan (East and West); war between the two Pakistans led to a separation into two states, Pakistan and Bangladesh, 1971; the age-old “untouchability” caste (15 percent of the population) outlawed, though vestiges remain, 1946; *Aparajito*, a film by Satyajit Ray, 1956; *The Middleman and Other Stories* by Bharati Mukherjee, 1988; Anita Desai’s *Fire on the Mountain*, a novel dealing with the plight of women in India, 1977; Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*, a novel about Hindu-Muslim identity, 1980; U. R. Anantha Murthy’s *Samskara*, a novel in the Kannada language that explores the passing of the Brahman tradition, 1965; Zubin Mehta, Indian-born conductor, chosen to lead the New York Philharmonic, 1978; Ravi Shankar, b. 1920, sitar player; Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Nobel Peace Prize, 1979

In Indochina, in Myanmar (Burma), Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize, 1991

In Japan, Showa period, 1926–1989; Western-style constitution, 1946; women gained the right to vote, 1946; land reform, tenant farmers declined from nearly one-half to one-tenth the population, 1946; Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, the “Japanese Reagan,” two terms in the 1980s; “The Idiot,” a short story by Ango Sakaguchi, 1946; *The Setting Sun*, a novel by Osamu Dazai about the decline of aristocratic life, 1947; *Confessions of a Mask*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Yukio Mishima, 1948; “No Consultation Today,” a short story by Masuji Ibuse, 1949; Junji Kinoshita, b. 1914, author of the drama *Twilight Crane*, 1949; NHK, Japanese television, began broadcasting, 1953; *The Sound of the Mountain*, a novel by Yasunari Kawabata, 1954; Yasunari Kawabata, Nobel Prize for literature, 1968; *The Crucified Lovers*, a film by Kenji Mizoguchi, 1954; *Gate of Hell*, a film by Teinosuke Kinugasa, 1954; *Throne of Blood*, a film by Akira Kurosawa, 1957;

Yuichi Inoue: *Fish*, a painting, 1959; Josaku Maeda, *Mystagogie d’espace*, a painting, 1965; Tsugouharu Foujita, painter, 1899–1968; Kenzo Tange, b. 1913, architect and town planner, designer of Peace Center, Hiroshima, 1955; *The Waiting Years*, by Enchi Fumiko (1905–1986) who continued Japan’s tradition of outstanding women writers; *Chushingura*, a film by Hiroshi Imagaki, 1962; *Woman in the Dunes*, a film by Hiroshi Teshigahara, 1964, based on the novel of the same name by Kobo Abe, 1962; Japan became the free world’s second strongest economic power, in 1968; Yasunari Kawabata, 1899–1972, author of the novel *Snow Country*, 1948 and recipient of Nobel Prize for literature, 1968; Minoru Takeyama, architect designer of Tokyo department store; Tange Kenzo,

designer of the Ehime Convention Hall and the building complex at Hiroshima; *Double Suicide*, a film by Masahiro Shinoda, 1969; *Shogun Assassin*, a film by Kenji Misumi, 1981; Metropolitan Teien Art Museum opened, 1983; *A Taxing Woman*, a film by Juzo Itami, 1988. Heisei period, 1989–present; Socialist party headed by a woman, Takako Doi, 1989; *The Japan That Can Say No*, a political analysis by Shinaro Ishihara and Sony founder Akio Morita, 1990; Tokyo's City Hall, designed by Tange Kenz-o, 1990; Eisaku Sata, co-winner, Nobel Peace Prize, 1974; Kenzaburo Oe, Nobel Prize for literature, 1994

In Korea, division into two states, North and South Korea, 1948; Korean War, 1950–53; Sun Myung Moon founded the Unification Church, 1954 In Mexico, David Siqueiros, muralist, 1897–1974; Carlos Chávez, composer, 1899–1978; Alfonso Garcia Robles, co-winner Nobel Peace Prize, 1982; Octavio Paz, Nobel Prize for literature, 1990

In the Muslim world, Arab League founded, 1945; in Egypt, *The Beginning and the End*, a novel by Naquib Mahfouz, 1949; in Morocco, *The Sacred Night*, a novel by Tahar Ben Jelloun, 1987; OPEC “oil crisis,” 1974; Anwar el-Sadat, co-winner, Nobel Peace Prize, 1978; Naquib Mahfouz, Nobel Prize for literature, 1988

In New Zealand, *Sweetie*, a film by Jane Campion, 1990, and *The Piano*, 1993

In North Vietnam, Le Duc Tho, co-winner, Nobel Peace Prize, 1973

In South America, in Argentina, the semiabstract painter, Aquiles Badi, 1893–1976; *Hopscotch*, a novel by Julio Cortazar, 1963; *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, a novel by Manuel Puig 1976; Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize, 1980; in Brazil, Oscar Niemeyer, the architect, designer of the city of Brasilia, 1956–1963; Brasilia became new capital, 1960; Pelé's soccer career, 1956–74; in Chile, the poet Pablo Neruda (1904–73) won Nobel Prize for literature, 1971; in Columbia, Gabriel García Márquez, Nobel Prize for literature, 1982; in Peru, *The War at the End of the World*, a novel by Mario Vargas Llosa, 1984; in Uruguay, *The Short Life*, a novel by Juan Carlos Onetti, 1950

World's population in August 1999 was 6 billion; China 1.24 billion, India 1 billion, the USA 272 million, Indonesia 216 million, Brazil 171 million, Russia 146 million, Pakistan 138 million, Bangladesh 127 million, Japan 126 million, and Nigeria 113 million; the largest cities, exclusive of environs, were Seoul 10.2 million, São Paulo 10 million, Bombay 9.9 million, Jakarta 9.1 million, Moscow 8.3 million, Istanbul 8.2 million, Mexico City 8.2 million, Shanghai 8.2 million, Tokyo 7.9 million, and New York City 7.3 million

World's most livable countries as ranked by the U.N., in descending order, were Canada, Norway, United States, Japan, Belgium, Sweden, Australia, Netherlands, Iceland, and United Kingdom, in 1999

World's least livable countries as ranked by the U.N., in ascending order, were Sierra Leone, Niger, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Eritrea, Mali, and Central African Republic, in 1999

