

Timeline of political events in Central and Eastern Europe, 1917–1923

1917

Feb 18

First major strike of the Russian February Revolution starts at Putilov Factory in Petrograd, Russia

Mar 8

International Women's Day and riots in Sankt Petersburg, Russia

Mar 15

Last Russian Tsar Nicholas II (1868–1918) abdicates and nominates his brother Grand Duke Michail (1878–1918) to succeed him

Sep 18–22

Wilna Conference: Lithuanian politicians demand an independent, democratic state of Lithuania

Nov 7

Vladimir I. Lenin (1870–1924) and the Bolsheviks seize power and overthrow the provisional government in Russia

Dec 6

The Finnish Parliament declares the independence of Finland

Dec 25

Declaration of the Ukrainian People's Republic of the Soviets in Kharkiv, Ukraine

1918

Jan 8

US President Woodrow Wilson outlines his 'Fourteen Points' for peace after the Great War before Congress

Jan 16

Strikes in Austria and Germany

Jan 22

Historian and politician Mychajlo Hrushevskyj (1866–1934) proclaims Ukraine a free republic, giving birth to the Ukrainian People's Republic (Ukrajinska Narodnja Respublika, UNR)

Jan 25

Russia declared a Republic of Soviets

Feb 9

The Central Powers and the Ukrainian People's Republic sign the so-called 'Bread Peace' in Brest-Litovsk

Feb 1

Russia adopts the Gregorian calendar

In Finland, General Carl Gustav von Mannerheim (1867–1951) gathers the 'White Guard' to mount a counter revolution against the Bolsheviks

Feb 16

Lithuania declares independence from Russia and Germany

Feb 24

Estonia declares independence from Russia

Mar 4

First recorded case of Spanish flu (at Funston Army Camp, Kansas)

Mar 7

Finnish-German alliance

Mar 9

Russian Bolshevik Party becomes the Communist Party

1918

Mar 11

Moscow capital of Soviet Russia

Mar 13

Trotsky gains control of the Red Army

Mar 25

The Belarussian People's Republic is established

Mar 27

Bessarabia joins Romania

Apr 9

Latvia proclaims independence

Apr 29

Pavlo Skoropadsky (1873-1945) becomes Hetman of Ukraine

May 26

Georgian Social Democratic Republic declares independence from Russia

Armenia defeats the Ottoman Army at Sardarapat

May 28

Azerbaijan gains independence and declares itself a Democratic Republic

Armenia declares independence from Russia

Jun 29

Provisional government opposed to the Bolsheviks established at Vladivostok

Jul 4

Ottoman Sultan Mehmed VI (1861-1926) ascends the throne

Jul 10

Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic (RSFSR) was formed

Jul 17

Execution of the Romanov family in Yekaterinburg, Siberia

Sep 1

US troops land in Vladivostok, Siberia (until 1920)

Oct 3

Boris III (1894-1943) becomes king of Bulgaria, abdication of Tsar Ferdinand I (1861-1948)

Max von Baden (1867-1929) becomes chancellor of the German Empire and

1918

supports an armistice with the Entente powers

Oct 16

Declaration 'To my faithful Austrian peoples!' (Völkermanifest) by Emperor Karl I of Austria-Hungary offering equal rights to all nations of the Habsburg Empire, in a federal state

Oct 17

German Emperor Wilhelm II (1859-1941) flees to the headquarters at Spa in occupied Belgium

Oct 18

Czechoslovakia declares independence from Austria-Hungary

Oct 19

Declaration of the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs in Zagreb

Formation of the Ukrainian National Council

Formation of the National Council of the Teschen Silesia

Oct 26

Resignation of Germany's supreme commander Erich Ludendorff (1865-1937)

Oct 28

Czechoslovakia gains independence

Oct 29

The Croatian Parliament at Zagreb declares itself independent from Austria-Hungary; foundation of the Republic of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

Oct 30

Slovak National Council asks for creation of a Czechoslovak state

Oct 31

Proclamation of independence of Hungary from the Habsburg Monarchy; victory of the Aster revolution in Budapest, formation of Mihály Károlyi's (1875-1955) national government

Nov 3

Austro-Hungarian Empire dissolves

Poland proclaims independence from Russia after World War I

1918

Revolt of German sailors and marines at Kiel

Nov 6

Republic of Poland proclaimed

Nov 7

Formation of a revolutionary government at Munich; the independent socialist politician Kurt Eisner (1867–1919) proclaims the Free State of Bavaria

Nov 8

Proclamation of the 'People's State of Bavaria' in Munich, Germany

Nov 9

German Prime Minister Max von Baden (1867–1929) announces the abdication of Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany and transfers the governmental responsibilities to Friedrich Ebert (1871–1925)

Parallel proclamation of the German Republic at Berlin by the social democrat Philipp Scheidemann (1865–1939) and the Socialist Republic of Germany by Karl Liebknecht (1871–1919)

Nov 10

Formation of a German Council of the People's Deputies by Friedrich Ebert (1871–1925, social democrat) and Hugo Haase (1863–1919, independent social democrat)

Nov 11

Austrian Emperor Karl I of Habsburg (1887–1922) de facto abdicates

Proclamation of the Polish Republic at Warsaw

Romania announces that it had unilaterally abrogated the Treaty of Bucharest and re-entered the war

Nov 12

Proclamation of the German-Austrian Republic at Vienna

Nov 13

King Friedrich August III of Saxony (1865–1932) abdicates

Stahlhelm forms as an anti-communist, anti-French and anti-Polish paramilitary unit in Magdeburg

1918

Nov 14

Proclamation of the Czechoslovak Republic

Nov 16

Hungarian People's Republic proclaimed

Nov 18

Latvia declares independence from Soviet Russia with Prime Minister Kārlis Ulmanis (1877–1942)

Nov 22

Józef Piłsudski becomes chief of state in Poland

Polish forces attack the Jewish community of L'viv/Lwów/Lemberg

Nov 24

Béla Kun (1886–1938) forms Hungarian Communist Party

Nov 26

The Podgorica Assembly votes for the 'union of the people', declaring assimilation with the Kingdom of Serbia

Nov 28

The General Congress of Bucovina votes for the union with Romania

Nov 29

Serbia annexes Montenegro

King Wilhelm II of Württemberg (1848–1921) abdicates as the last German sovereign

Dec 1

Serbian-Croatian-Slovene Kingdom ('SHS State') proclaimed at Belgrade

At Alba Iulia/Karlsburg/Gyulafehérvár, the Romanians living in the Kingdom of Hungary declare the adhesion of Transylvania, the Banat and other former Hungarian regions to Greater Romania

Dec 14

Pavlo Skoropadsky abdicates as Hetman of Ukraine

Dec 16

German troops evacuate Finland

Dec 17

Power in Germany seized by the First German Congress of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils

1918

Dec 20

Landing of Allied troops in Crimea and in Latvia

Dec 27

Greater Poland Uprising in Grand Duchy of Posen against the German rule

1919

Jan 1

Belorussian Soviet Republic established

Pressburg/Bratislava annexed by Czechoslovak troops

Jan 5–12

Uprising of German Spartacus organisation in Berlin brutally suppressed by German troops

Jan 11

Romania annexes Transylvania

Hungary's National Council recognized Mihály Károlyi (1875–1955) as Prime Minister

Jan 15

Socialist politicians Rosa Luxemburg (1871–1919) and Karl Liebknecht tortured and murdered by Freikorps members in Berlin

Jan 18

Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860–1941) becomes Polish Prime Minister

Jan 19

National elections in Germany to form a National Constituent Assembly

Jan 23–30

Czechoslovak-Polish border conflict over Teschen Silesia

Jan 25

Founding of the League of Nations

Feb 6

Opening of the German Constituent Assembly at Weimar

Feb 11

Friedrich Ebert (SPD) elected President of Germany by the German Constituent Assembly

Feb 21

German National Assembly accepts incorporation of Austria

Bavarian prime minister Kurt Eisner (1867–1919) assassinated in Munich, Germany

Feb 23

Foundation of the Fascist Party in Italy by Benito Mussolini (1883–1945)

1919

Mar 2

First Congress of Communist International opens at Moscow

Mar 3–11

General strike in Germany, organised by Communist Party (KPD)

Mar 4

Foundation of the Comintern at Moscow as a federation of all communist parties

Elections for the Austrian National Assembly

Demonstrations of members of the German minority in Czechoslovakia violently dissolved

Mar 12

Austrian National Assembly affirms incorporation into Germany

Mar 19

US Senate rejects the League of Nations

Mar 21

Foundation of the Hungarian Soviet Republic at Budapest, President Mihály Károlyi abdicates

Mar 23

8th Congress of the Russian Communist Party re-establishes a five-member Politburo (Vladimir I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Josef Stalin, Lev Kamenev, Nikolai Krestinskij)

Apr 3

Austria expels all Habsburgs

Apr 7

The Central Council and the Revolutionary Workers' Council in Munich proclaimed the Soviet Republic Bavaria, while the legitimate government of Prime Minister Johannes Hofmann (1867–1930) flees from Munich to Bamberg

Apr 20

King Nikola of Montenegro (1841–1921) abdicates

May 19–

Turkish War of Independence

Jun 20

Philipp Scheidemann resigns as chancellor of the German Republic

1919

Jul 17

Finland adopts constitution

Jul 31

Weimar Constitution adopted, establishing the German Republic

Aug 11

The German Constituent Assembly at Weimar votes a democratic-parliamentary constitution

Aug 17

First Silesian Uprising in Upper Silesia against Germany

Sep 12

Italian poet and right-wing agitator Gabriele D'Annunzio takes Fiume/Rijeka for Italy

Adolf Hitler (1889–1945) joins the Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (DAP) as its seventh member

Oct 6

Aleksandar Stamboliyski (1879–1923) becomes Prime Minister of Bulgaria

Nov 27

Ignacy Jan Paderewski resigns as Polish Prime Minister

Dec 10

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to US President Woodrow Wilson

Dec 15

Fiume/Rijeka declares its independence

1920

Jan 16

Georgia declares independence

Feb 2

Estonia declares its independence, recognised by the RSFSR (Dorpat Peace)

Feb 10

General Józef Haller (1873–1960) performs symbolic ‘wedding of Poland to the sea’

The Kingdom of Serbia-Croatia-Slovenia admitted to League of Nations

Plebiscite in Schleswig: North Schleswig ceded from Germany to Denmark

Feb 24

Formation of the NSDAP at Munich

Mar 1

Miklós Horthy elected Regent of Hungary by the Hungarian National Assembly at Budapest

Mar 13–17

Unsuccessful military group plot in Germany led by the state officer Wolfgang Kapp (1858–1922); in response, Red Ruhr Army activities in the Ruhr Industrial Area

Mar 28

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk elected President of Czechoslovakia

Apr 20

Balfour Declaration makes Palestine a British Mandate

Apr 23

The Turkish Grand National Assembly at Ankara denounces the government of Sultan Mehmed VI and announces a temporary constitution

Apr 27

Ukraine declares independence

May 7

RSFSR recognises Georgian independence

Jun 6

First parliamentary elections in Germany; losses for the ‘Weimar coalition’

1920

Jul 28

Duchy of Teschen divided between Czechoslovakia and Poland along the Olza River

Aug 20

Beginning of the Second Uprising in Upper Silesia

Sep 8

Gabriele d’Annunzio (1863–1938) proclaims the Italian Regency of Carnaro at Fiume

Oct 10

Plebiscite in Carinthia: South Carinthia in favour of Austria

Oct 17

First parliamentary elections in Austria: victory of the Christian Social Party

Carinthian plebiscite, most of Carinthia remains part of the Austrian Republic

Nov 15

Danzig/Gdańsk declared ‘Free Town’ under mandate of the League of Nations

1921

Jan 20

Daghestan Republic formed inside the RSFSR

Republic of Turkey declared

Mar 1–17

Sailors' revolt at Kronstadt, Russia, bloodily repressed by Bolshevik troops

Mar 17

Vladimir I. Lenin proclaims New Economic Politics (NEP)

The Second Republic of Poland adopts the March Constitution

Mar 17–Apr 1

'March fights' in Germany under influence of Comintern

Mar 20

Plebiscite in Upper Silesia under the auspices of the League of Nations

Mar 23

Germany declares it will be unable to meet its reparation payments

Mar 26–Apr 6

First restoration crisis in Hungary after Karl von Habsburg crosses the Hungarian border

Apr 11

Turkestan ASSR forms in RSFSR

May 2

Third Silesian Uprising against Germany

May 23

Battle of Annaberg in Upper Silesia, German Freikorps and Selbstschutz troops against Polish insurgents and troops with an armistice under Allied supervision on July 5

Jun 28

New constitution for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes ('Vidovdan Constitution')

Aug 16

King Petar I of SHS (1844–1921) dies, Aleksandar I (1888–1934) becomes new king

1921

Aug 14–20

Declaration of the 'Serb Hungarian Republic of Baranja-Baja' from Hungary fails due to lacking support from Belgrade

Aug 26

Former German minister of finances Mathias Erzberger (1875–1921) assassinated

Oct 20–Nov 6

Second restoration crisis in Hungary with Karl von Habsburg attempting again to seize power in Budapest; the Hungarian parliament bans the Habsburg from Hungarian territory

Dec 14–16

Plebiscite at Sopron/Ödenburg and in the Burgenland, Sopron remains to Hungary

1922

Jan 2

Crimea declares independence

Jan 8

Elections in the Wilna area with a strong majority for the pro-Polish forces

Mar 3

Italian fascists occupy Fiume/Rijeka

Apr 3

Josef Stalin (1878–1953) is appointed General Secretary of the Russian Communist Party

Apr 7

Constitution for the Burgenland, the former West Hungarian territories in Austria

Apr 22

South Ossetian Autonomous Region forms in Georgian SSR

May 15

Germany turns over East Upper Silesia to Poland

May 28–June 2

Parliamentary elections in Hungary

June 24

German foreign minister Walther Rathenau (1867–1922) assassinated

July 5

Introduction of the Nansen passport for stateless refugees, on the initiative of the Norwegian polar expert and diplomat Fridtjof Nansen (1861–1930)

Sep 16

Turkish troops chase Greeks out of Asia

Oct 4

Protocols of Geneva between Austria, Great Britain, France, Italy and Czechoslovakia

Oct 6

The Great Powers withdraw from Istanbul

Oct 10–11

Elections to the first Sejm in Lithuania: the Christian Conservatives and the Agrarians gain a majority

Oct 28

Italian fascists conduct the March on Rome

1922

Nov 1

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881–1938) takes Constantinople from the last Ottoman sultan, Mehmed VI, and proclaims the Republic of Turkey

Dec 1

Polish state chief Marshal Józef Piłsudski resigns

Dec 9

Polish-Swiss hydroelectric engineer and politician Gabriel Narutowicz (1865–1922) elected President of the Republic of Poland

Dec 10

Fridtjof Nansen granted the Nobel Peace Prize

Dec 16

Polish President Gabriel Narutowicz assassinated by a nationalist

Dec 20

Polish parliament elects socialist politician Stanisław Wojciechowski (1869–1953) as President

Dec 30

Creation of the USSR as a federation of RSFSR, Ukrainian SSR, Belorussian SSR and Transcaucasian SSR

1923

Jan 9–16

Lithuania seizes and annexes the Memelland, accepted by the Allies on February 16

Jan 11

Occupation of the German Ruhr Industrial Area by French and Belgian troops

Feb 18

Czechoslovak finance minister Alois Rašín (1867–1923) assassinated by an anarchist

Apr 18

Poland annexes Central Lithuania

May 12–13

Elections to the Second Sejm in Lithuania: Christian Democrats gain a majority

Jun 9

Bulgarian Prime Minister Aleksandar Stamboliyski (1879–1923) and King Boris III overthrown by soldiers under the command of general Ivan Valkov (1875–1962)

Jun 14

Bulgarian Prime Minister Aleksandar Stamboliyski assassinated

Aug 6

Gustav Stresemann (1878–1929) named chancellor and foreign minister of Germany

Sep 26

End of the passive resistance in the Ruhr industrial area proclaimed

Oct 24

General Otto von Lossow (1868–1938) calls Reichswehr to Berlin to form a dictatorship

Oct 29

Republic of Turkey declares independence

Nov 2–27

Street fights in Aachen, Germany, lead to establishment of the Rhenish Republic, with its seat at Koblenz, Germany

1923

Nov 8–9

Adolf Hitler and Erich von Ludendorff stage the 'Beer Hall Putsch' in Munich

Nov 12

Adolf Hitler arrested for attempt to seize power

Nov 23

German army commander General Hans von Seeckt (1866–1936) with special mandate bans NSDAP and KPD

Nov 30

Wilhelm Marx (1863–1946) becomes German chancellor

