

AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ TIMELINES

2001–2019

Note: Entries represent local time where the event occurred, unless otherwise noted.

AFGHANISTAN (Operation Enduring Freedom)	IRAQ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)	CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY
2001		
OCTOBER	FEBRUARY	JANUARY
<p>7 Operation Enduring Freedom begins as American and British forces attack Afghanistan</p>	<p>16-17 British and U.S. conduct air strikes against radar and air defense centers near Baghdad</p>	<p>20 George W. Bush sworn in as 43rd U.S. President</p>
<p>14 White House rejects Taliban offer to send Osama bin Laden to a third country for trial if U.S. provides evidence of involvement in 9/11 attacks</p>	AUGUST	FEBRUARY
<p>19 First U.S. combat ground actions</p>	<p>27 Iraq claims to shoot down an unmanned U.S. Predator drone near Basra</p>	<p>15 The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve approve guidelines to reaffirm the correct name of the Church</p>
<p>26 Britain deploys 4,200 soldiers to Afghanistan</p>	SEPTEMBER	JULY
NOVEMBER	<p>11 Saddam Hussein declares his government played no part in the 9/11 attacks</p>	<p>16 Sino-Russian Friendship Treaty signed</p>
<p>13 Fall of Kabul to U.S. and coalition forces</p>	AUGUST	AUGUST
DECEMBER	<p>21 NATO sends peace-keeping force to Macedonia</p>	<p>21 NATO sends peace-keeping force to Macedonia</p>
<p>2-5 Bonn Conference creates Afghan Interim Authority, outlines process for creating a new government</p>	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER
<p>9 Last Taliban stronghold surrenders in Zabol province, near Pakistan; al-Qaeda fighters hide in mountain caves</p>	<p>11 Terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93</p>	<p>11 Terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93</p>
	OCTOBER	OCTOBER
	<p>8 Office of Homeland Security created</p>	<p>8 Office of Homeland Security created</p>

AFGHANISTAN

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

10 Afghanistan officially activates .AF Internet domain

28 UN Security Council extends assistance mission in Afghanistan for another year

APRIL

16 NATO unanimously agrees to take command of ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) in Afghanistan—first time in NATO history for a mission outside the North Atlantic area

22 Afghanistan-Pakistan talks held regarding borders, trade, and terrorism

MAY

1 Afghanistan joins the International Criminal Court

23 Afghan Ministry of Health begins polio vaccination campaign

JUNE

6 Pres. Hamid Karzi receives honorary British knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II

NOVEMBER

27 President George W. Bush makes surprise visit to visit U.S. troops in Afghanistan

IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

14 UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix reports to UN Security Council that no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq

MARCH

17 President George W. Bush issues ultimatum to Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq in forty-eight hours or face military action

19 U.S. and coalition forces begin military actions against Iraq

APRIL

9 Coalition forces take Baghdad

MAY

1 President Bush declares end to “major combat operations”

22 UN Security Council approves resolution acknowledging the U.S. and UK’s right to occupy Iraq

DECEMBER

13 Saddam Hussein is captured in Tikrit, Iraq

CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

FEBRUARY

1 Space Shuttle *Columbia* disintegrates on reentry, killing all seven astronauts

26 Fighting in Darfur, Sudan, begins

APRIL

14 Human Genome Project completed

AUGUST

27 U.S., Russia, China, Japan, South Korea, and North Korea begin talks on North Korea’s nuclear weapons program

2004

JANUARY

Afghanistan passes a new constitution by consensus

APRIL

Abu Ghraib prison abuse is brought to light

JUNE

28 U.S.-led coalition hands over sovereignty to interim Iraqi government

JANUARY

Church membership passes twelve million

AFGHANISTAN
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**CHURCH AND
WORLD HISTORY**

2007

FEBRUARY

15 President Bush calls on NATO to increase troops in Afghanistan

27 Suicide bomber blows up at Bagram Air Base checkpoint, killing more than twenty

MAY

11 Taliban top commander, Mullah Dadullah, killed in U.S.-led coalition operation

JANUARY

10 U.S. troop surge begins, sending additional soldiers to Iraq

SEPTEMBER

3 British troops withdraw from Basra

APRIL

16 Virginia Tech shooting occurs; thirty-two dead and seventeen wounded

JUNE

24 Church membership reaches thirteen million

2008

JULY

19 Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama visits Afghanistan

DECEMBER

15 President Bush makes surprise visit to Afghanistan

JULY

10 General David Petraeus confirmed as commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM)

16 U.S. troop surge officially ends

DECEMBER

4 Iraqi Presidential Council approves security agreement for U.S. to withdraw from Iraq by 2011

JANUARY

27 President Gordon B. Hinckley dies

FEBRUARY

3 Thomas S. Monson becomes Church president

17 Kosovo declares independence from Serbia

NOVEMBER

4 Barack Obama elected U.S. president

DECEMBER

27 Israel invades the Gaza Strip

2009

FEBRUARY

17 President Obama approves 17,000-troop increase

JANUARY

1 U.S. hands over control of Baghdad's Green Zone to Iraqi authorities

JANUARY

Three-week war between Israel and Gaza

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**CHURCH AND
WORLD HISTORY**

SEPTEMBER

18 Afghan parliamentary elections are held

DECEMBER

3 President Obama visits Afghanistan

NOVEMBER

28 WikiLeaks publishes 250,000 classified U.S. documents

DECEMBER

17 Self-immolation of Tunisian street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi triggers the Arab Spring

2011

MAY

2 Navy Seals kill Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan

JUNE

22 President Obama announces U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan will end by 2014

JULY

13 First U.S. soldiers leave Afghanistan

AUGUST

10 Mullah Mohibullah, Taliban leader, is killed

MAY

22 Last British military forces in Iraq withdraw

OCTOBER

17 U.S. and Iraq unable to reach agreement regarding legal immunity for remaining U.S. troops

DECEMBER

15 U.S. military mission in Iraq ends

18 Last U.S. troops in Iraq cross into Kuwait

FEBRUARY

11 Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resigns

15 Libyan Civil War begins

MARCH

11 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit Japan

15 Syrian government kills hundreds of protesters, sparking civil war

JULY

21 NASA's space shuttle program ends

OCTOBER

20 Muammar Gaddafi is killed, ending Libyan civil war

2012

FEBRUARY

21 Violent protests in Afghanistan over false reports that copies of the Koran were burned at a U.S. military base

Widespread and frequent violence throughout Iraq

FEBRUARY

12 Turkish warplane attack sites in northern Iraq

JULY

30 Worst blackout in history—620 million people without power in India

SEPTEMBER

11 U.S. ambassador Christopher Stephens is killed in Benghazi, Libya

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**CHURCH AND
WORLD HISTORY**

DECEMBER

28 U.S. and NATO end combat mission in Afghanistan

AUGUST

8 U.S. begins air campaign against ISIS

SEPTEMBER

22 U.S. begins air campaign against Syrian government

2015

Taliban resurgence across Afghanistan

MAY

21 ISIS captures Palmyra, Syria
22 ISIS controls half of Syria and all the Iraq/Syria border crossings

JULY

20 U.S. and Cuba reestablish full diplomatic relations

SEPTEMBER

30 Russia begins air strikes against Syrian rebels

NOVEMBER

13 ISIS attacks in Paris (130 killed)

2016

Numerous Taliban attacks and bombings across Afghanistan

FEBRUARY

9 Iraqi forces retake Ramadi from ISIS

JUNE

26 Iraqi forces retake Fallujah from ISIS

FEBRUARY

7 North Korea launches rocket into space

JUNE

23 Britain votes to leave the European Union

JULY

14 Terrorist truck attack in Nice, France (eighty-six killed)

SEPTEMBER

9 North Korea conducts fifth nuclear test

NOVEMBER

8 Donald Trump is elected U.S. president

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**CHURCH AND
WORLD HISTORY****2017****APRIL**

13 U.S. drops largest non-nuclear weapon on ISIS base in Afghanistan

JULY

10 Mosul liberated from ISIS

OCTOBER

17 Raqqa, Syria, liberated from ISIS

DECEMBER

9 Iraqi military announces ISIS removed from Iraq

FEBRUARY

11 North Korea fires missile across the Sea of Japan

APRIL

6 U.S. launches fifty-nine cruise missiles at Syrian air base in response to chemical weapons attack

JUNE

1 U.S. announces decision to withdraw from Paris Climate Agreement

AUGUST

25 Hurricane Harvey strikes U.S. (costliest natural disaster in U.S. history)

SEPTEMBER

3 North Korea conducts sixth nuclear test

OCTOBER

1 Las Vegas shooting (58 killed, 851 injured)

DECEMBER

6 U.S. recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital

2018**OCTOBER**

12 U.S. and Taliban hold initial round of peace talks in Qatar

DECEMBER

19 President Trump declares ISIS defeated in Iraq and Syria; announces withdrawal of some U.S. forces from Syria

MARCH

11 China's government grants Xi Jinping status of president for life

31 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints restructures elders quorums and high priest groups

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**CHURCH AND
WORLD HISTORY**

NOVEMBER

14-16 Round two of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in Qatar

DECEMBER

17 Round three of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in United Arab Emirates

APRIL

1 President Russell M. Nelson announces the end of home and visiting teaching and the beginning of ministering

14 U.S., UK, and France bomb Syrian bases

MAY

8 U.S. withdraws from Iranian nuclear deal

DECEMBER

14 Latter-day Saint leaders announced Atonic Priesthood and Young Women changes for eleven-year-olds

2019

JANUARY

8 Round four of U.S.–Taliban peace talks are canceled

FEBRUARY

27 Round five of U.S.–Taliban peace talks begin in Qatar

MARCH

12 Round five of U.S.–Taliban peace talks end

MAY

1-9 Round six of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in Qatar

JUNE

23 Round seven of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in Doha

AUGUST

3 Round eight of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in Doha

22 Round nine of U.S.–Taliban peace talks begin in Qatar

JANUARY

1 Two-hour Church services and the *Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families* resource began for Latter-day Saints

MARCH

9 President Russell M. Nelson meets with Pope Francis

10 Rome Italy Temple dedicated