

Pakistan's fragile democracy



1979: Following Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, U.S. builds Pakistan into frontline state, backing **Mujahideen** resistance fighters, including **Osama bin Laden**, against Soviets

1985: U.S. Congress passes **Pressler Amendment** allowing sanctions on Pakistan to stop its nuclear weapons programme. Reagan administration fails to apply sanctions

1987: Pakistan successfully builds nuclear bomb but does not test it

1988: Death of Pakistan's military dictator General **Zia ul Haq** in air crash leads to return to civilian rule after 11 years. **Benazir Bhutto** becomes first woman prime minister of an Islamic state



1990: U.S. President **George H.W. Bush** applies economic sanctions over nuclear weapons programme

1998: Pakistan conducts nuclear test after India runs its own tests. U.S. President **Bill Clinton** imposes additional sanctions

1999: General **Pervez Musharraf** seizes power in bloodless coup



2001: Following 9/11 attacks, administration of **George W. Bush** threatens to bomb Pakistan "**back to the stone age**" unless Musharraf supports U.S. invasion of Afghanistan

2003: Musharraf deploys Pakistani troops to tribal areas to fight militants

Jul 2007: Musharraf orders army to storm **Red Mosque** in Islamabad to crush Taliban-style movement

Oct: Bhutto survives assassination attempt in Karachi – 139 people killed

Nov 3-Dec 15: Pakistan moves to brink of civil war. Musharraf declares nationwide state of emergency

Dec 27: **Benazir Bhutto** is assassinated in city of Rawalpindi