

# Review of the Year 2011

## January

**11** Widespread protests in Tunisia launch the **Arab Spring** revolts that spread rapidly through the Middle East and North Africa



**12** Devastating floods inundate most of the Australian state of Queensland, leaving at least 35 dead

**28** Tanks surround Cairo's Tahrir Square after mass protests in Egypt – within days **President Hosni Mubarak** bows to pressure and steps down



## February



**02/14** The Arab Spring revolution spreads to Yemen and Bahrain

**17** Security forces in Libya crack down on protesters in Benghazi demanding the removal of **Colonel Muammar Gaddafi**



**28** An earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, kills 181 people and causes widespread structural damage

## March

**11** Japan is struck by a 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that kills up to 20,000 people and triggers a major nuclear crisis



**18** Major demonstrations in Syria oppose the regime of **President Bashar al-Assad**

**19** European and U.S. forces launch attacks on Libyan air defences to impose a UN-sanctioned no-fly zone aimed at preventing a massacre in Libya



## April

**11** Former Ivory Coast **President Laurent Gbagbo** is captured after a four-month standoff triggered when he refused to accept election defeat

**27** Over 200 tornadoes sweep through the southern U.S. amid a four-day outbreak that kills 346 people across six states



**29** Up to two billion worldwide watch Britain's **Prince William** marry **Catherine Middleton**

## May

**2** Al Qaeda leader **Osama bin Laden** is shot dead by U.S. special forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan



**14** IMF chief **Dominique Strauss-Kahn** is arrested in New York on sexual assault charges. He resigns; the charges are later dropped



**28** Barcelona beat Manchester United at Wembley to win the UEFA Champions League Final for a record fourth time



## June

**3** **President Saleh** of Yemen barely survives an attempted assassination as many troops defect to the tribal uprising



**4** Chinese tennis star **Li Na** wins at Roland Garros, becoming the first ever Asian player to win a Grand Slam singles crown



**5** A rare strain of toxic E. coli kills 45 people in northern Germany

## July

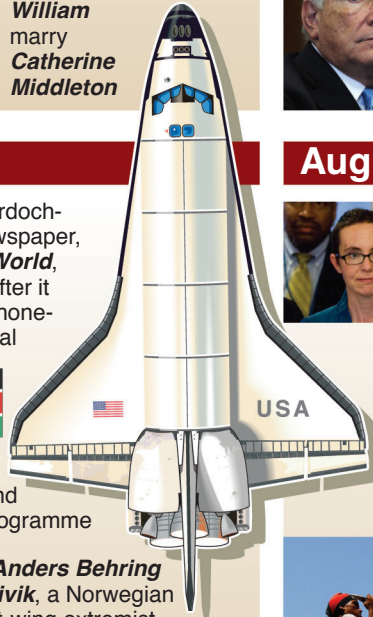


**7** A Rupert Murdoch-owned UK newspaper, **News of the World**, is shut down after it is mired in a phone-hacking scandal

**9** South Sudan becomes the world's newest nation



**21** The shuttle **Atlantis** lands in Florida at the end of the 135th and final flight of the space shuttle programme



**22** **Anders Behring Breivik**, a Norwegian right-wing extremist, murders 77 people in two attacks in central Oslo and at a political youth camp on the island of Utoeya

## August



**2** The U.S. Congress reaches an 11th-hour deal to prevent a national default. Arizona Rep. **Gabrielle Giffords** votes for the first time since being critically injured in a shooting in January

**6** Rioting breaks out in London and soon spreads to other English cities, leaving five dead and £200m worth of property damage



**23** Libyan rebels seize the capital, Tripoli, but Gaddafi and his network of underground tunnels

## September



**11** America marks the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on Washington that killed almost 3,000 people in 2001

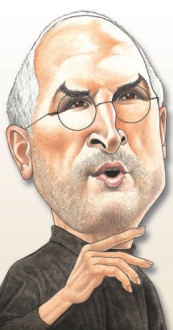


**6** East Africa's worst drought in 60 years leaves 13 million needing aid



**23** Palestinian president **Mahmoud Abbas** makes bid for statehood at the United Nations

## October



**5** **Steve Jobs**, visionary co-founder of Apple, dies at age 56 after an eight-year battle with pancreatic cancer



**17** The **Occupy** movement – a protest against economic and social inequality – spreads to cities worldwide



**20** Muammar Gaddafi, brutal ruler of Libya for 42 years, is captured and killed by revolutionaries in his home town of Sirte

## November



**12** Prime Minister **Silvio Berlusconi** resigns over Italy's deepening economic crisis; he follows Greece's **George Papandreu** to the exit door



**29** A Los Angeles court jails **Dr Conrad Murray** for four years for the involuntary manslaughter of pop king **Michael Jackson** in 2009



**12** The Arab League votes to suspend Syria over its violent suppression of the Syrian uprising – up to 5,000 are now feared dead

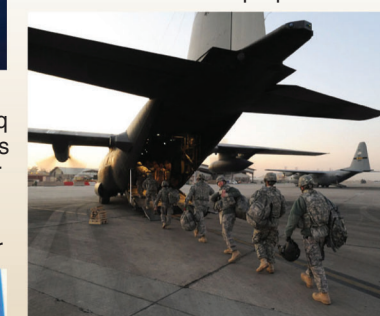
## December



**18** The last U.S. troops pull out of Iraq as military operations end eight years after the invasion to remove **Saddam Hussein** from power



**5** Eurozone crisis talks led by **"Merkozy"** call for treaty changes to strengthen budget discipline – but Britain vetoes the proposal



**19** South Korea put its military on an emergency footing following the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il