

Charles Taylor found guilty

■ **1948:** Born to family of Americo-Liberians, descendants of freed slaves who founded Liberia in 19th century

■ **1977:** Economics degree from Bentley College, Massachusetts

■ **1980:** Returns to Liberia following coup d'état by **Samuel Doe**. Lands plum job in charge of government purchasing

■ **1983:** Doe accuses Taylor of embezzling \$900,000. Taylor flees to U.S. but is arrested on extradition warrant – later escapes from jail

■ **1989:** Launches uprising against Doe regime, with Libyan backing. His forces, which include child soldiers, are noted for brutality in seven-year civil war that kills over 200,000 people

■ **1997:** Elected president – victory attributed to fear that if he lost, civil war would reignite

■ **1999:** Faces uprising by **LURD – Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy**. Launched near border with Guinea, rebellion gradually advances towards capital, Monrovia

■ **Jun 2003:** UN-backed tribunal in Sierra Leone issues warrant for Taylor's arrest for alleged war crimes during Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war

■ **Aug 2003:** Taylor flees into exile in Nigeria after LURD rebels and U.S. President **George W. Bush** demand he resign and leave Liberia



■ **Mar 2006:** Taylor captured trying to flee Nigeria after Liberia requests his extradition. Flown back to Monrovia and then to Sierra Leone to stand trial

■ **Jun 2006:** Moved to The Hague due to fears that trial in Freetown could spark unrest in Sierra Leone or Liberia

■ **Jun 2007:** Trial begins. Taylor, who pleads not guilty to charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, is accused of fuelling Sierra Leone's civil war by arming rebel groups in exchange for "blood diamonds"

■ **Apr 26, 2012:** Taylor convicted of aiding and abetting war crimes during Sierra Leone civil war – he will be sentenced on May 16