

2014: The highs and lows of a tumultuous year



January: Niagara Falls

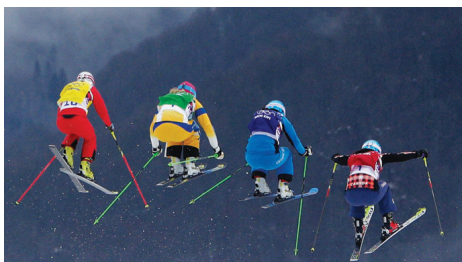


April: Nigeria



May: Ukraine

JAN 6 Temperatures plunge as low as -38C in parts of Canada and the U.S. as an extreme cold front sweeps south from the Arctic



FEB 7 The **Winter Olympics** begin in Sochi, Russia. At \$50bn, they are the costliest ever Games

21 Following violent protests, Ukraine's President **Viktor Yanukovich** flees to Russia

MAR 8 Malaysia Airlines **Flight MH370**, carrying 239 people from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, disappears from radar screens. The search for the plane, thought to have ditched far off course in the southern Indian Ocean, is still ongoing

18 Russia formally annexes **Crimea** after nearly 97% of Crimean voters choose to secede from Ukraine

23 An outbreak of the **Ebola** virus is confirmed in the West African nation of Guinea

APR 14 More than 270 girls are abducted from a school in northeastern Nigeria by the Islamist terrorist group **Boko Haram**



March: West Africa



July: Gaza

16 Over 300 people, mostly teenage students, die when the **Sewol** ferry sinks off the southern coast of South Korea

MAY 2 Ukraine launches an offensive on pro-Russian separatists in the east of the country

12 Narendra Modi becomes prime minister of India after the BJP wins a decisive election victory

22 Thailand's second military coup in eight years ousts the interim government

29 Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, former general who led the ousting of Egypt's President **Mohamed Morsi** in 2013, is elected as president



JUN 2 Felipe VI becomes King of Spain following the abdication of his father, King **Juan Carlos**, after 39 years on the throne

30 The militant group **ISIS** (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) renames itself the **Islamic State** and declares a caliphate in the territory under its control in Syria and Iraq

JUL 8 Israel launches an offensive on the Gaza Strip to stop rocket fire into Israel. The seven-week conflict kills over 2,000 Palestinians, many of them children

13 Germany beats Argentina by 1-0 in the final of the **FIFA World Cup** in Brazil



17 All 298 people on board Malaysia Airlines **Flight MH17** from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur die when it crashes in Eastern Ukraine. Satellite images indicate it was shot down by a Russian-made surface-to-air missile in a region where separatists are battling government forces

AUG 7 The U.S. launches limited airstrikes on IS militant strongholds following the seizure of the Iraqi city of Mosul

9 An unarmed black teenager is shot dead by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, sparking outrage across the U.S.

10 Prime Minister **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** secures a historic win in Turkey's first direct presidential election

19 IS militants behead U.S. photojournalist **James Foley**,

the first of five western hostages to suffer the same fate



SEP 12 South African athlete **Oscar Pistorius** is found guilty of culpable homicide over the shooting death of his girlfriend, **Reeva Steenkamp**

18 Scotland votes to remain part of the United Kingdom in a referendum on independence

26 Protests erupt in Mexico after 43 students are abducted after clashing with police. It is believed they were turned over to a drugs gang and killed



27 Hollywood star **George Clooney** marries Lebanese-British lawyer **Amal Alamuddin** in a lavish ceremony in Venice

29 Ashraf Ghani is sworn in as Afghanistan's new president in the first democratic transfer of power since the Taliban were toppled in 2001

OCT 1 Hong Kong stages huge pro-democracy rallies, demanding that Beijing withdraw plans to vet candidates for Hong Kong's leadership election in 2017



July: Brazil



September: Scotland



November: New York



October: Hong Kong



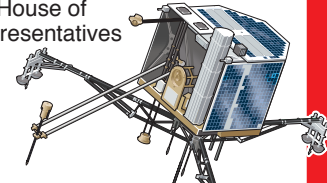
December: Oslo

21 Dilma Rousseff is narrowly re-elected as President of Brazil

31 The Virgin Galactic space plane, **SpaceShipTwo**, breaks up soon after takeoff. One of the two pilots is killed

NOV 3 **One World Trade Centre** opens 13 years after the original twin towers were destroyed in the attacks of September 11, 2001

3 The U.S. midterm elections see the Republicans regain control of the Senate and increase their majority in the House of Representatives



12 The **Rosetta** mission's **Philae** probe becomes the first ever spacecraft to land on a comet

23 Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** wins the Formula 1 championship for the second time in his career

DEC 1 The death toll in the world's worst Ebola outbreak tops 6,000, the worst affected countries being Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

10 Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl shot by the Taliban for demanding education for girls, becomes the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize