

# QUEEN ELIZABETH II: A LIFE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Head of State of the United Kingdom and 14 Commonwealth realms

Head of the Armed Forces, Judiciary, Civil Service and Church of England

State visits to 117 countries – travelling more than one million miles

Her Majesty was Patron of over 600 organisations throughout her reign

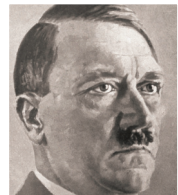
The Queen met 12 of the 13 U.S. presidents since her coronation

Weekly audiences with 15 British Prime Ministers, from Churchill to Truss



■ **1926, Apr 21: Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary** born at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, London, first child of **Duke and Duchess of York**. Younger sister **Princess Margaret** born four years later

■ **1929: Wall Street Crash** triggers Great Depression of 1930s



■ **1933: Rise to power of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.** Suppression of Jews begins in Germany under **Third Reich**



■ **1934: Mao Tse Tung** leads thousands of Chinese on **Long March**, from which he emerges as undisputed Communist Party leader in China

■ **1936: Abdication crisis** in Britain. Elizabeth's father becomes **King George VI**. Princess Elizabeth is now first in line to throne



■ **1939: World War II** begins when Hitler invades Poland – Britain and France declare war on Germany



■ **1940: Winston Churchill** becomes British Prime Minister. Nation suffers its darkest hours – Battle of Britain and Blitz on major cities

■ **1945, May 8: German surrender** ends war in Europe.

■ **Aug 14: Second World War ends** with Japanese surrender following atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

■ **1946: Churchill's Iron Curtain** speech marks onset of **Cold War**

■ **1947: British rule in India ends.** **Nov 20: Princess Elizabeth** marries Lieutenant **Philip Mountbatten** at Westminster Abbey



■ **1948: New state of Israel** proclaimed in Palestine. London hosts Olympic Games for second time. First wave of Jamaican immigrants starts new life in UK. **Prince Charles** born

■ **1950: Princess Anne** born

■ **1952, Feb 6: King George VI dies.** Princess Elizabeth, on safari in Kenya, becomes Queen.

World's first commercial jet service flies from London to Johannesburg



Pictures: Getty Images, NASA, Newscom



■ **1953: Hillary and Tenzing** conquer Mount Everest. News reaches Britain one day before **Queen Elizabeth II** is crowned on June 2

■ **1954: Elvis Presley** releases his first record, *That's All Right*, signalling birth of rock 'n' roll. **Roger Bannister** becomes first man to run mile in under four minutes



■ **1956: Suez Crisis** – UN forces Britain and France to withdraw troops from Egypt

■ **1957: France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg** sign *Treaty of Rome* to create **European Common Market**

■ **1960: Prince Andrew** born

■ **1962: Cuban Missile Crisis.** U.S. President **John F. Kennedy** imposes blockade until Soviets dismantle nuclear weapons on Cuba

■ **1963: Kennedy** assassinated in Dallas, Texas

■ **1964: Prince Edward** born. Black activist **Nelson Mandela** jailed for life in South Africa



■ **1965: U.S. troops** sent into combat in Vietnam

■ **1966: At height of Swinging Sixties,** England football team beats West Germany to win **World Cup**

■ **1969: British Army** deployed to keep peace in Northern Ireland. *Concorde* makes maiden test flight. **Neil Armstrong** walks on moon – Queen's message of congratulations to **Apollo 11** astronauts is micro-filmed and left on moon in metal container



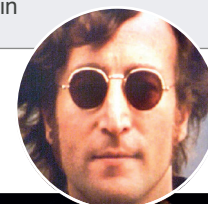
■ **1972: Britain** joins *European Economic Community*. Eleven members of Israeli team killed by Arab terrorists at Munich **Olympic Games**

■ **1973: Vietnam War** ends

■ **1977: Silver Jubilee** celebrations mark Queen's first 25 years on throne

■ **1979: Margaret Thatcher** becomes Britain's first female Prime Minister. Queen's cousin, **Lord Mountbatten**, killed in IRA bomb attack

■ **1980: John Lennon** shot dead outside his home in New York



■ **1981: First cases of AIDS** reported in America's gay community



■ **Jul 29: Marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer** watched by 700 million TV viewers worldwide



■ **1982: Prime Minister Thatcher** declares war on Argentina. Grandson **Prince William** born

■ **1985: Mikhail Gorbachev** becomes leader of Soviet Union

■ **1986: Chernobyl** nuclear disaster

■ **1988: Bomb on Pan Am flight 103** over Lockerbie kills 270 people

■ **1989: Fall of Berlin Wall**

■ **1990: Nelson Mandela** released after 27 years in prison



■ **1991: Gulf War** – allies evict Iraq from Kuwait. Collapse of Soviet Union

■ **1992: "Annus horribilis"** – marriage breakdowns of three of Queen's children, and fire at Windsor Castle

■ **1994: Channel Tunnel** opens

■ **1996: Charles and Diana** divorce

■ **1997: Dolly the sheep** becomes world's first cloned animal.

**Aug 31: Princess Diana** killed in car crash in Paris

■ **1998: Good Friday Agreement** in Northern Ireland



■ **2001, Sep 11: Terrorist attacks** on United States. Britain joins U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan

■ **2002: Princess Margaret and Queen Mother** die at start of Queen's Golden Jubilee year



■ **2003: U.S.-led invasion** of Iraq

■ **2005, Apr: Prince Charles** marries **Camilla Parker Bowles**. **Jul: Suicide attacks** in London kill 56 people

■ **2008: Global financial crisis**

■ **2011, Apr 29: Prince William** marries **Catherine Middleton**. **May: Queen** makes first state visit to Ireland by reigning British monarch since before independence

■ **2012: Queen's Diamond Jubilee.** London hosts Olympic Games

■ **2015: Queen becomes Britain's longest reigning monarch**

■ **2016: Queen** turns 90 – overseas travel and some patronages delegated to family members. **Jun: Britain** votes to leave EU

■ **2018: Grandson Prince Harry** marries **Meghan Markle**

■ **2020 Queen and Prince Philip** relocate to Windsor Castle due to pandemic. **Nov: Joe Biden** wins U.S election



■ **Apr 9, 2021: Prince Philip** dies at age 99 after 73 years of marriage

■ **Feb 6, 2022: 70th anniversary** of Queen's accession marks start of Platinum Jubilee year



■ **Sep 8, 2022: Queen Elizabeth II** dies peacefully at Balmoral Castle, aged 96



Research: Julie Mullins Sources: The Royal Family, Council on Foreign Relations © GRAPHIC NEWS