

■ **Mar 11, 1931:** **Keith Rupert Murdoch** is born in Melbourne, Australia, to **Keith Murdoch**, reporter turned newspaper publisher, and his wife, **Elisabeth**



THE A-BOMB GOES UP

Second big blast soon
THE atomic weapon

■ **1952:** 21-year-old Rupert inherits **The News** – Murdoch-family tabloid – “foundation stone” of **News Limited** and **News Corp.**

■ **1967:** Murdoch divorces **Patricia Booker**, mother of his daughter **Prudence**. He marries **Anna Torv**, with whom he has three children, **Elisabeth**, **Lachlan** and **James**

■ **1969:** News Limited buys **News of The World** – Britain’s biggest-selling weekly. Murdoch soon also purchases **The Sun**, building it into UK’s most influential tabloid



■ **1973:** Murdoch expands into U.S., buying **San Antonio Express** and **San Antonio News**. Over next five years he adds other U.S. titles, including **New York Post**

THE SUNDAY TIMES



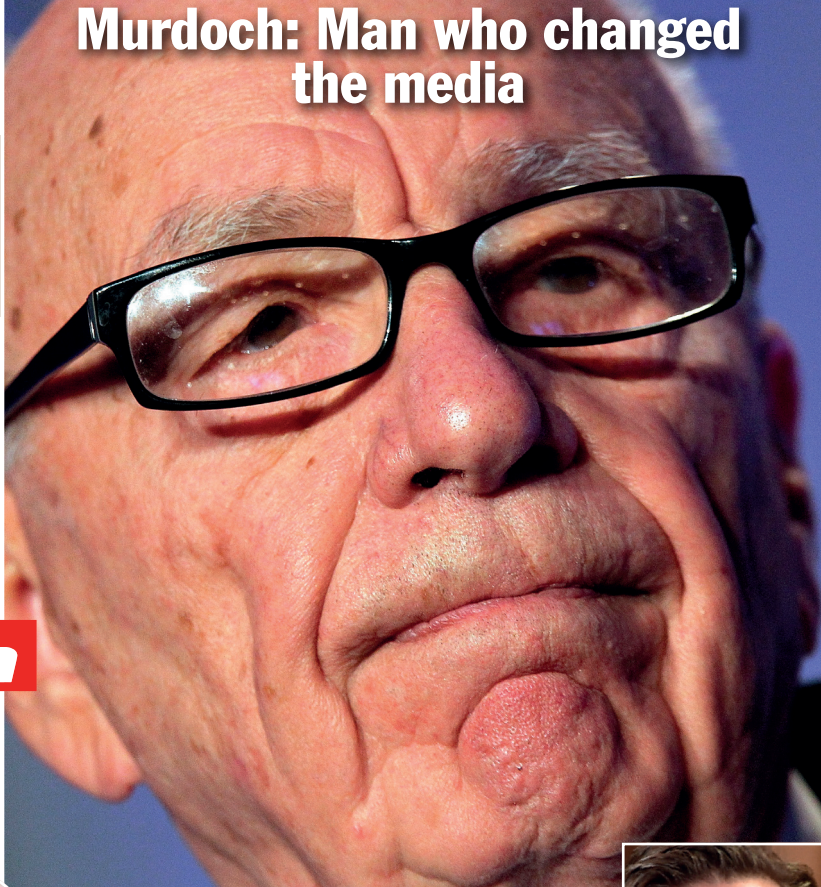
■ **1981:** Murdoch buys biggest-selling British quality weekly, **The Sunday Times**, and its stablemate, **The Times**. Deal has support of Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher** (inset) – who enables purchase to avoid Monopolies and Mergers Commission, even though Murdoch already owns two national newspapers



■ **1983:** Purchases **Hitler Diaries**. Sunday Times runs six pages before diaries are found to be fake

■ **1986-87:** Computers installed at new newspaper production site in Wapping, enabling direct input of copy by journalists. Print unions call nearly 6,000 members out on strike. Backed by sympathetic Thatcher government, Murdoch sacks them all. Power of print unions is broken throughout industry

Murdoch: Man who changed the media



■ **1989:** Launch of **Sky News** creates UK’s first 24-hour news television channel but nearly bankrupts Murdoch.

Sky News goes on to run live rolling coverage of Nelson Mandela’s release and fall of Berlin Wall

■ **1993:** Buys **Star TV**, pan-Asian TV service based in Hong Kong, for \$1 billion. Plan to gain access to mainland China is blocked by Communist Party’s control over media



■ **1996:** Murdoch launches **Fox News Channel** in U.S. Within four years, News Corp.-owned TV channel is available in 56 million homes nationwide



■ **1999:** Divorces Anna, marries **Wendi Deng**

■ **2000:** Lachlan, Murdoch’s elder son, becomes deputy chief operating officer of News Corp. Younger son James (right), becomes chair of Star TV, moving to Sky in 2003



■ **2005:** Lachlan quits News Corp after conflicts with senior executives



■ **2007:** News Corp purchases **Dow Jones**, publisher of **The Wall Street Journal**. James moves to UK to run News International



■ **2011-12:** News International phone hacking scandal targets celebrities, politicians, and members of British royal family. Scandal prompts Murdoch to close News of the World. James resigns as chair of News International

■ **2013:** Murdoch splits News Corp from 21st Century Fox. 14-year marriage to Wendi Deng ends

■ **2016:** Media mogul marries U.S. model and actress **Jerry Hall**. Marriage lasts until 2022 – his fourth marriage and divorce

■ **2019:** Walt Disney Company buys most of 21st Century Fox’s entertainment assets for \$54.2 billion



■ **Apr 2023:** Fox News reaches \$787 million settlement with **Dominion Voting Systems** to end two-year legal battle after falsely claiming voting machine company rigged 2020 presidential election results

■ **Sep 21, 2023:** Rupert Murdoch steps down as chair of Fox and News Corp, handing leadership to Lachlan (right). Murdoch will remain chairman emeritus of both companies

