

Adolph Hitler, the most bigoted racist leader of modern times, was furious. He left the stands rather than watch Owens and other African Americans receive their medals.





Eighteen Liberty ships were named for African Americans.





In the Merchant Marine, 24,000 African Americans served in mixed crews, some commanded by black officers.

Under Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the 332nd Fighter Group, all black, flew more than 3,000 missions in Europe.

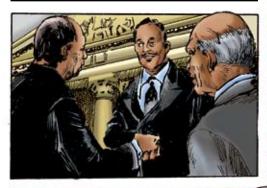


By executive order, Truman ended segregation in the armed forces and federal government. But his effort to push stronger civil rights laws through Congress were defeated by southern Democrats and conservative Republicans.

The next civil rights milestone came from the Supreme Court on May 17, 1954.

In the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently inequal!

George Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, and James Nabrit Jr., black lawyers who led the fight against school integration, congratulated each other.



Governor
Byrnes of South
Carolina gave
a Southern
reaction.

I am shocked. I
urge all our people,
white and colored,
to exercise restraint
and preserve order.



Between 1954 and 1956, several hundred school districts throughout the country abandoned racially segregated classes.

On September 3, 1957, a court-approved desegration plan was to go into effect in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The NAACP doesn't like this plan—the admission of only a few black children to one senior high school.



But the night before, Governor Faubus made a surprise television address.

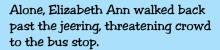


It will not be possible to restore or to maintain order if forcible integration is carried out tomorrow.

I am therefore posting National Guardsmen outside Central High, to act not as segregationists or integrationists, but as soldiers.

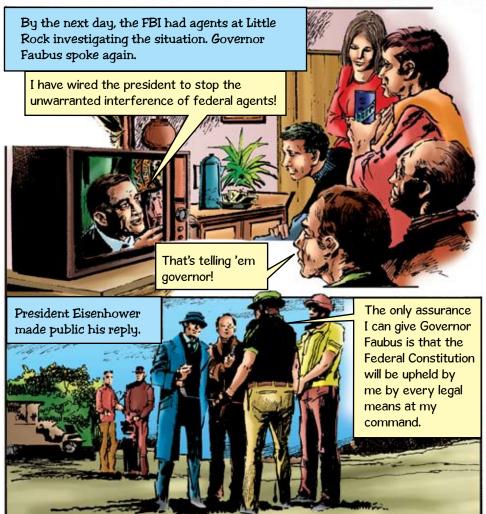






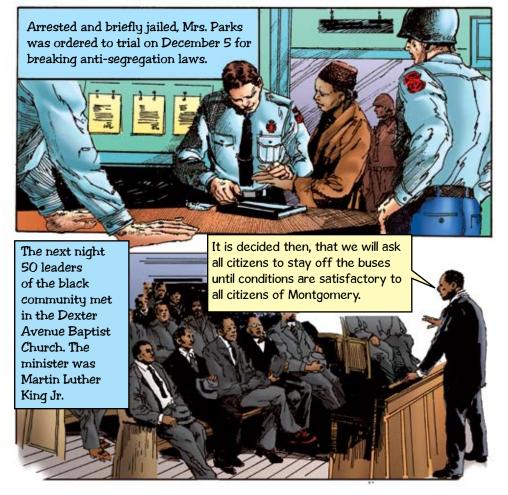


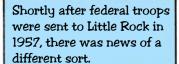










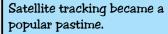


The Soviet Union announced that it successfully launched a manmade satellite into space yesterday.

They're making history!

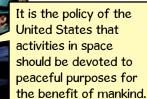
Can we see it?

In 1958, Congress set up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.





Imagine, 500 miles up! And traveling at 18,000 miles per hour. It's hard to believe!

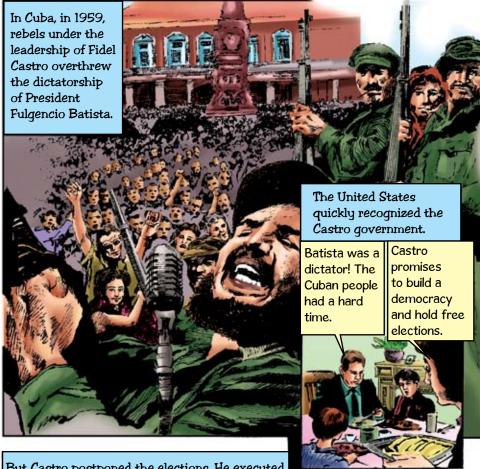


But it was more than a competition in space travel.

We've given priorities to long-range bombers. But if the Soviet Union can build such powerful rockets, she can launch missiles to reach the United States. We'd best get on with our intercontinental missile program.



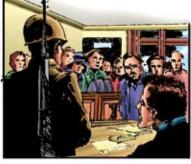
The race to put a man on the moon was on.



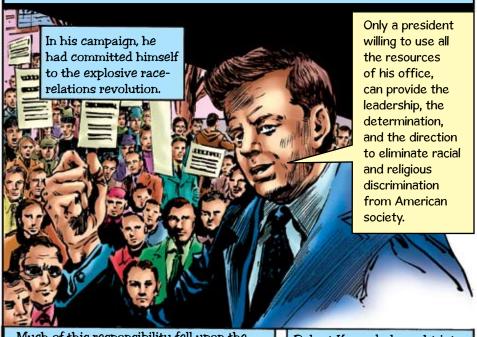
But Castro postponed the elections. He executed hundreds of his enemies. And he became increasingly dependent upon the Soviet Union.



Many thousands of refugees fled from Cuba to Florida.



Kennedy asked Congress to extend unemployment insurance, especially in areas like Appalachia where jobs had been scarce for a long time; to increase the minimum wage; for federal aid to education; more public housing; aid to farmers; and for medical insurance for people over 65.



Much of this responsibility fell upon the attorney general, the president's brother, Robert Kennedy.

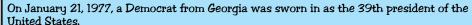


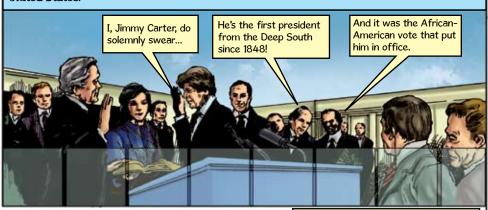
Robert Kennedy brought into the Justice Department a strong staff, including Burke Marshall.









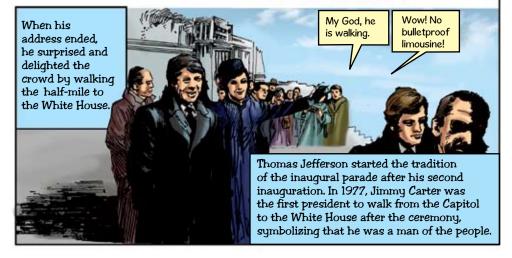


His first remarks were addressed to the former president, Gerald Ford, and cheered by the crowd.



The American dream endures. We must once again have full faith in our country—and in one another. I believe America can be better.





The Middle East was a volatile region. Israel occupied territories of other Middle Eastern countries. There was also the problem of Palestinian refugees.



As president, Carter wanted peace in the Middle East. He found that for peace to work, Israel had to withdraw from the territories that it occupied. Carter began work to create a peace plan.

During the autumn of 1978, the president invited Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin, and Equpt's president, Anwar Sadat, to the United States to work out a peace plan.



The leaders met at Camp David, the presidential retreat outside Washington. Thirteen days of secret negotiations followed.



Finally, on September 17, 1978, the leaders of Egypt and Israel reached an agreement. The agreement came to be known as the Camp David Accords.



Late in 1979, a band of students took over the American embassy in Tehran, the capital city of Iran. Many Americans became hostages.



Although several of the hostages were released during 1980, 52 others remained in Iran.



Meanwhile, in 1980, Ronald Reagan, the former governor of California, was elected president.



As preparations for Reagan's inauguration were being made, plans for releasing the hostages were nearing completion.

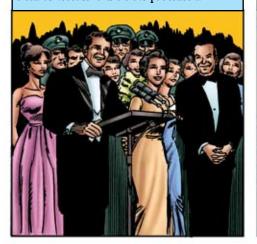


Finally, on January 20, 1981, Ronald Reagan became the 40th president of the United States. At the same time, planes carrying the 52 hostages, took off from an airfield in Iran.



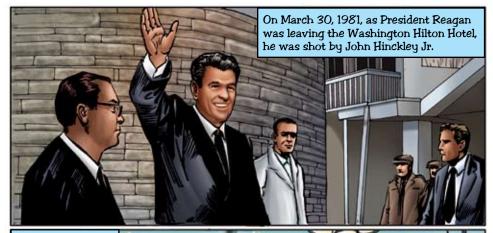


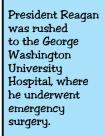
A great air of rejoicing swept the country. In Washington, D.C., great parties were held to welcome the new president.



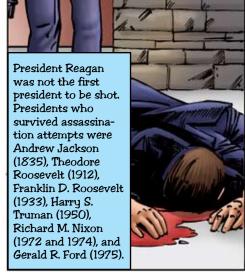
And a few days afterward, the joy was complete when 52 smiling ex-hostages arrived home.









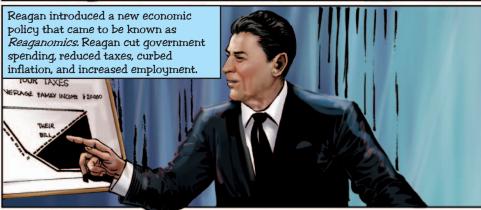


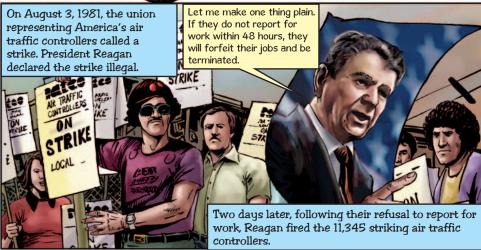


Four United States presidents were assassinated: Abraham Lincoln (1865), James Garfield (1881), William McKinley (1901), and John F. Kennedy (1963).

Reagan became president during a period of high inflation and unemployment. Reagan had promised to lower taxes and reduce government spending during his election campaign.









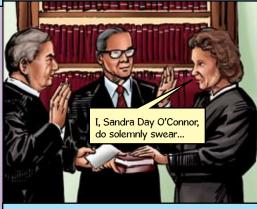
President Reagan had made a pledge during the election campaign that he would appoint a woman to the Supreme Court of the United States.



Sandra Day O'Connor graduated from Stanford Law School and was a former state senator and assistant attorney general of Arizona. She was a trial judge for five years and in 1979 was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. On September 25, 1981, O'Connor was sworn in as the 102nd justice of the Supreme Court. She became the first woman associate justice of the Supreme Court in American history. As a judge, she was a key figure in court decisions.



The Senate confirmed O'Connor's nomination by a vote of 99-0.



On July 1, 2005, O'Connor announced her retirement. She retired on January 31, after serving for 24 years.



During the early 1980s, as many as 150,000 people became infected with HIV each year. Scientists didn't know what people could do to protect themselves.



It took scientists several years to develop a blood test for the virus.

worldwide.



Finally, scientists were able to identify a type of chimpanzee in West Africa as the source of the HIV virus. Over several years, the virus slowly spread across Africa and into other parts of the world.



'cure" for AIDS.

The Lebanese population was mostly made up of Christians and Muslims in the 1980s. There were many disagreements between Muslims and Christians over who should rule Lebanon.



In the early 1980s, armed conflict broke out between the Christian government and a number of Muslim groups. Reagan supported the Christians and sent marines to Lebanon to strengthen the Lebanese government.



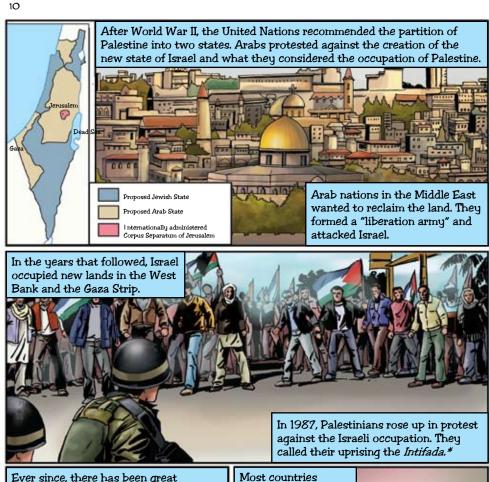
On May 17, 1983, the United States, Lebanon, and Israel signed an agreement for withdrawal of Israeli troops on the condition that Syria would also withdraw its troops.



Then in October 1983, a suicide bomber killed nearly 250 marines and other Americans at their Beirut headquarters. On March 5, 1984, the Lebanese government canceled the May 17 agreement.



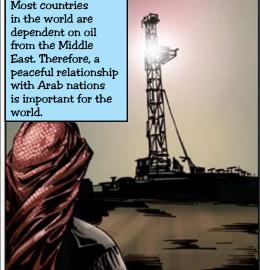
Our marines departed a few weeks later.



Ever since, there has been great hostility between Israel and its Arab neighbors.



Both Arabs and Israelis have accused each other of human rights violations. This hostility has made the Middle East a volatile region.



^{*}an Arabic word which means "to shake off."