**Harry S. Truman Timeline**

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| **1884** | May 8: Harry S. Truman is born in Lamar, Missouri. |
| **1917** | April 4: The U.S. enters World War I as President Wilson declares war on Germany.  November: Bolshevik (Lenin) Revolution in Russia (U.S., British, and French troops will later fight for the White Russian Army in a civil war against Lenin/Red Russian Army) |
| **1918** | July 11: Truman sees combat action shortly before WWI ends (in command of artillery regiment).  November 11: World War I ends. |
| **1932** | November 8: Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected president. |
| **1933** | January 30: Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany. |
| **1934** | May: Truman files as a Democratic candidate for the U. S. Senate.  November 6: Truman elected to the Senate |
| **1939** | September 1: Germany invades Poland. |
| **1940** | August 6: Truman re/elected to the Senate |
| **1941** | December 7: The Japanese attack the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. U.S. enters World  War II. |
| **1944** | November 7: Truman is elected vice president of the United States. |
| **1945** | A map of germany with red and black text  AI-generated content may be incorrect.  <Map retrieved from Truman Library: [http://www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/berlin.htm / map](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/berlin.htm/map)>  Feb 4/11: FDR, Stalin, and Churchill meet at Yalta to work out details in Europe after Germany surrendered. Germany is to be divided in British, French, American, and Soviet sectors. Berlin, in the middle of the Soviet sector, will be similarly divided. Stalin agrees to hold free elections in Eastern European countries under control of his army. Basics of the UN (United Nations) agreed upon – FDR looks to the future UN to deal with his concerns about Stalin in Eastern Europe. |

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|  | April 12: Harry Truman becomes 33 rd president of the U.S. upon the death of FDR. May 7: Germany surrenders to the Allies.  June 26: Truman signs the United Nations Charter in a ceremony at San Francisco  July 17/August 2: Truman attends a conference at **Potsdam** , Germany to discuss the post/ war treatment of Germany with Stalin of Russia and Churchill of Great Britain. Churchill replaced by Attlee on 29 July. Truman learns of first test of the atomic bomb while at the conference.  August 6: dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan by the *Enola Gay* .  Aug. 8: An American B/29 drops the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. WWII ends shortly thereafter. |
| **1946** | Feb 22: Kennan’s telegram about U.S.S.R. sent to Washington – **“ containment**  **policy ”** begins to take shape as the U.S. seeks to block growth of communism throughout the world.  March 5: In a Fulton, Missouri, speech, Winston Churchill warns of an “iron curtain” descending over Eastern Europe  Sep 12: Secretary of Commerce Wallace’s “peace” speech  Sep 20: Wallace fired by Truman for speech (even though speech approved by Truman) |
| **1947** | Use of the term **“ Cold War ”** becomes a common expression for the tension between the  U.S. and the U.S.S.R. (Lippman’s essays/writings criticizing “ **containment policy** ” accomplish this)  March 12: Truman proposes the **Truman Doctrine** – economic and military aid to countries facing possible Communist takeover. (requests $400 million from Congress to fight the spread of communism in Greece and Turkey).  June 5: Secretary of State George C. Marshall announces the **Marshall Plan** at Harvard University commencement (see April, ’48) |
| **1948** | Feb: Communists seize control in Czechoslovakia  April: $5.3 billion dollars approved by Congress – **Marshall Plan** is activated.  July 24: Berlin Crisis begins: Soviet Union blockades all land access to Berlin. Nothing in…nothing out. |

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