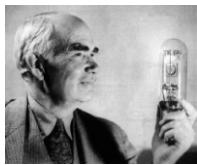


## The Sweep of History in the 20th Century

The eight Porter siblings spanned eleven decades - from our father's birth in October 1901 to Aunt Mildred's death in January 2016. During these times, we H. sapiens extended our horizon from agriculture to artificial intelligence.

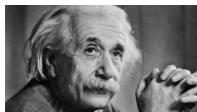
**1903:** A machine flew.



**1910:** Lee de Forest engineered the first live radio broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera House in NY City.



**1914:** Gavrilo Princip assassinated Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, an act that triggered WWI.



**1915:** Albert Einstein wrote E=MC<sup>2</sup> in his notebook and millions of Earthlings realized that the universe is not only interesting, it is also rather perplexing.



**1918:** WWI ended. The Russian Revolution erupted and we were introduced to communism, a corrosive political and social notion that was to hold Russia, Eastern Europe, China and parts of Asia in thrall for the next seven decades.



**1928:** First television broadcast.



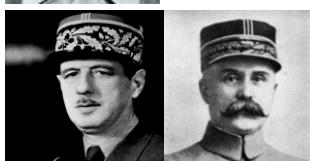
**1929:** Stock markets crumbled ushering in the Great Depression and bringing misery to millions.



**1934 - 1935:** the Long March. The Chinese communist revolutionary base trekked six thousand miles from SE to NW China. Mao Tse Tung became party leader.



**1939:** Nazi Germany invaded Poland, plunged the planet into WWII, and unleashed the Holocaust, during which some 11 million people, mostly Jewish men, women and children, died horribly. By April 1945, some 75 million people, ordinary folks like you and I, were dead.



In the end, lesser men.

**June 16, 1940:** Under blitzkrieg, the French war cabinet sent de Gaulle to seek help from England. He and Churchill proposed an "indissoluble union" between the two nations, an idea spurned by the French war cabinet because "... in three weeks, England will have her neck wrung like a chicken." Speaking to the Canadian Parliament in 1941, Churchill recalled the French reaction, retorting: "Some chicken. Some neck". Marshal Pétain compared such a union to "...a fusion with a corpse."



**June 22, 1940:** While the French capitulated and collaborated, and Adolf Hitler danced a jig, the English corpse made tea and carried on.

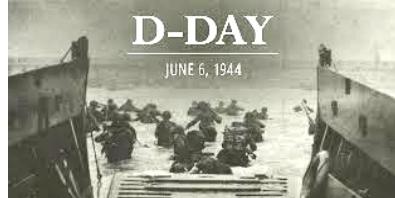


In the end, the greater man.



**December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbour:** On Dec. 8, the United States declared war on Japan, and, on Dec. 11, declared war on Germany and Italy.

**June 6, 1944, D-Day:**  
155,000 allied troops  
11,590 aircraft  
6,939 vessels  
4,413 Allied dead  
~8,000 Germans dead



**August 25, 1944:** General Charles de Gaulle strutted along the Champs Élysées to Notre Dame Cathedral. Gloated he:

*"Paris! Paris outraged! Paris broken! Paris martyred! But Paris liberated! Liberated by itself, liberated by its people with the help of the French armies, with the support and the help of all France, of the France that fights, of the only France, of the real France, of the eternal France!".*

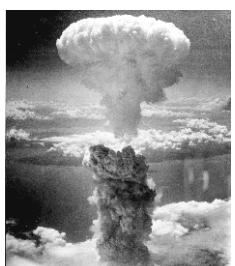
He didn't mention that the Germans surrendered because the U. S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Army had entered Paris that morning. Nor did he mention the Normandy landing 70 days earlier during which four thousand, four hundred and thirteen allied soldiers died. To de Gaulle, August 25, 1944, was all about de Gaulle.



**April 30, 1945:** Shortly after Eva Braun took cyanide, Adolph Hitler, the last Nazi, shot himself.



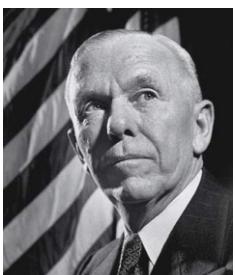
**May 8, 1945: V. E. Day**



**August 6 and 9, 1945:** Hiroshima & Nagasaki. On Aug 15, Japan surrendered. From 1945 to 1951, General MacArthur demobilized Japan's military, restored the economy, and drafted a new constitution. Japan has never looked back.



**August, 1945:** After millennia of war, the United Nations was established to "Foster cooperation among nations to solve economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues". During the following years, the UN decayed into a corrupt and dysfunctional cesspool.



**1947-1948: The Marshall Plan.** U. S. Secretary of State, George C. Marshall (left), outlined the European Recovery Program, a comprehensive plan to rebuild Europe. The Marshall Plan and a related plan to 'contain' Soviet Union expansionist inclinations were largely the work of George Keenan, a long-time stalwart of the U. S. State Department.

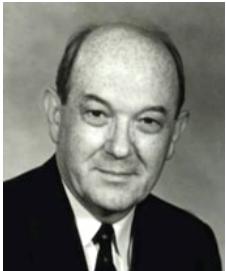




**1948, State of Israel:** On May 14, David Ben-Gurion, head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel. On the same day, American President, Harry Truman, officially recognized Israel, the new nation.



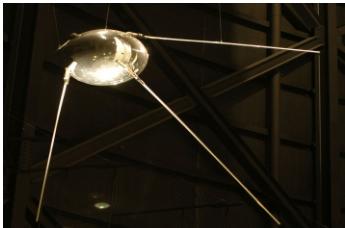
**1949:** The **British Empire** transformed itself into the British Commonwealth of Nations - upon which the sun never sets.



**1949, NATO:** Twelve nations - Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Holland, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, and the United States., founded NATO. In 1966, Charles de Gaulle took France out of NATO and ordered all U. S. troops off French soil. President Lyndon Johnson told Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, to, "... ask him about the cemeteries".



During the following NATO meeting, Secretary Rusk asked de Gaulle if his order to remove all U. S. troops from France included the 60,000 allied soldiers buried in French soil from WW I and WW II. De Gaulle stood, and, without a word, left the room.



**1957:** Russia launched Sputnik, humanity's first artificial Earth satellite.



**1961:** The Berlin Wall closed for business.



**1969:** America flew a crew to the moon, a member of which photographed his footprint in the lunar dust. Europe, Russia and the U. S. have since launched many missions into space, most of which have been remarkably successful. In the 21st century, capitalists entered the space business.

**1976:** Mao Tse Tung died. He, with his master plan, the Great Leap Forward, was, in just a few years, responsible for the deaths of some 45 million Chinese, qualifying him as the greatest mass murderer in history. In 1978, China's new man, Deng Xiaoping, adopted capitalism - the state version.

In 2018, China has the second largest economy on the planet.



**1979:** Margaret Thatcher became England's first woman Prime Minister. The Iron Lady tamed the unions, repaired the UK's crippled economy, and chased Argentina out of the Falklands. She was noted for her pithy observations: "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." Ultimately defeated in a cabinet revolt, she retired in 1992 and was created a life peerage as Baroness Thatcher. Several statues have been crafted in her honour. In 2013, aged 87, she suffered a stroke and died.



**June 1987:** U. S. President Ronald Reagan called on Mikhail Gorbachev to "...tear down this Wall!"

**Dec 1987:** In December, the two men signed the 'Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty'.



**1989:** In November, the Berlin Wall opened for business, and East Germans were free to join their western brethren.



**1990:** The Hubble Space Telescope, a remarkable work of American science and engineering, was launched into Earth orbit.



**1991:** With barely a whimper, the USSR collapsed, and 1 Estonia, 2 Latvia, 3 Lithuania, 4 Belarus, 5 Ukraine, 6 Moldova, 7 Georgia, 8 Armenia, 9 Azerbaijan, 10 Kazakhstan 11 Uzbekistan 12 Turkmenistan 13 Kyrgyzstan 14 Tajikistan reclaimed their independence. Russia was left bereft.

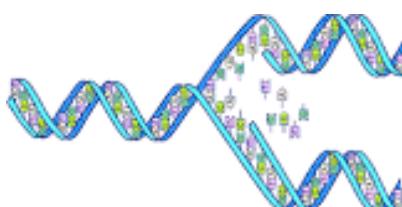


**1993:** In response to prodding by the U. S., Europeans began a process to unite their sundry nations and end centuries of internecine wars. Thus, in 1957, arose the ECC from which, in 1993, evolved the EU, which now, in 2017, has a population of some 500 million encumbered by a burdensome bureaucracy. In June 2016, the U. K. voted to leave the EU, an act that would return the English to their roots. Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland consider their options. In April 2017, to bolster England's chances of a successful Brexit vote, PM Theresa May called a general election. She lost 13 seats and is now in a bit of a pickle. As of May 18, 2018, Brexit is stalled because the House of Lords is opposed.



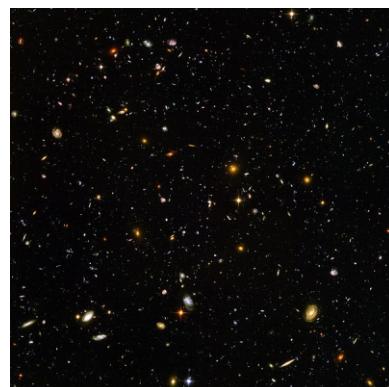
**Sept. 11, 2001:** Islam made a statement. U. S. President George Bush ordered a jet liner to pick up members of the bin Laden family from several U. S. cities and fly them to Saudi Arabia.

**2001:** America launched its Space Shuttle, complete with the Shuttle Remote Manipulator System, aka the Canadarm. After 135 missions, the three remaining Shuttles (Columbia and Challenger crashed) retired from service when Atlantis made the final launch on July 21, 2011.



**2003:** The Human Genome Project, an international program to sequence *H. sapiens* genetic structure, the genes that make us what we are, was initiated.

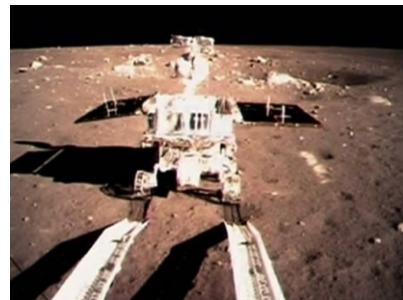
**2003/2004:** The Hubble telescope examined a tiny patch of universe as it was between 400 and 800 million years after the Big Bang, an event that occurred some 13.78 billion years ago.





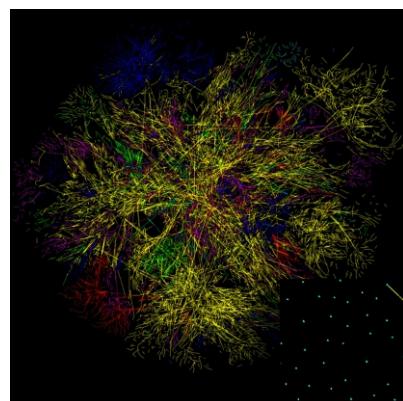
**2011:** ... by a team of U. S. Navy Seals.

**2013:** China landed Yutu - Jade Rover - on the Moon.



**2015-2017:** Several million Muslim migrants surge into Europe from Africa and the Middle East. Europeans are assessing their future and are, one suspects, keeping a stiff upper lip.

**2017:** Internet: From modest beginnings in the U.S. in the 1960s, through many phases of research and development in the 1980s, the internet is now used by some 3.5 billion people - perhaps half the folks on the planet.



#### **2018 and Beyond**

Artificial Intelligence is knocking on our front door. I suggest we let our imagination run rampant.

(<http://business.financialpost.com/technology/robots-will-take-your-job-yes-you-with-the-university-degree-for-real-its-going-to-happen>)