

MEMORY OF NATIONS

Democratic Transition Guide

[The Argentine Experience]



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TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

SOFÍA DEL CARRIL

March 1973	General elections held. Hector J. Cámpora of the Partido Justicialista wins with over 49 % of the vote
July 1973	President Cámpora and Vice President Solano Lima resign. General elections called
September 1973	General elections held. Juan Domingo Perón wins with over 61 % of the vote; María Estela Martínez, his wife, runs as his Vice President. Shortly after, Jose Rucci, a main ally of Perón, is assassinated by Montoneros, although the group does not acknowledge responsibility
November 1973	The <i>Alianza Anticomunista Argentina</i> (known as <i>Triple A</i>), a state-sponsored parapolice group surfaces with a high-profile assassination attempt
July 1974	Juan D. Perón dies. Vice President María Estela Martínez becomes the new head of state
November 6, 1974	President Martínez de Perón establishes the <i>state of siege</i> in the Argentine territory
February 1975	President Martínez de Perón sanctions Decree 265, mandating the armed forces to neutralize or annihilate subversive forces in the northern province of Tucumán. <i>Operativo Independencia</i> is launched, involving national and subnational security forces and targeting PRT-ERP and Montoneros guerrilla groups
October 1975	On October 5, Montoneros attacks a military garrison in Formosa. The next day, decree 2772 extends the mandate of Decree 265 to the entire Argentine territory
December 1975	ERP attacks a military base in Provincia de Buenos Aires
March 24, 1976	Coup d'état. President Martínez de Perón is forced out of government and detained. The Military Junta rises to power, under the command of members of the army, air force and navy
1976–1978	Peak years of the repression with numerous CCD (clandestine centers of detention) active all over the country
September 1979	The Inter American Commission for Human Rights visits Argentina. The Commission receives 5580 complaints. In 1980, the Argentina Report is published
December 1980	Human rights activist Adolfo Perez Esquivel of SERPAJ wins the Nobel Prize
April 2, 1982	Argentina launches a military operation to recover the Falkland Islands
June 14, 1982	Argentine forces surrender the island to UK forces. The Falklands War ends, leaving 649 Argentine soldiers, 255 British soldiers and 3 civilians dead
September 1983	Auto-amnesty law enacted by the Military Junta
October 1983	Democratic elections held in Argentina. Raul Alfonsín of the Union Cívica Radical-UCR wins with 52 % of the vote
December 10, 1983	Alfonsín is inaugurated as president
December 1983	Presidential decrees 157 and 158 order the prosecution of the ERP, Montoneros and the Military Junta's leaders. Subsequently, a new decree creates an extra-judicial entity, the CONADEP, whose mandate is to investigate enforced disappearances
April 1985	The Federal Appeals Court begins the <i>Junta Trials</i>
December 9, 1985	The Federal Appeals Court condemns the former commanders of the Military Junta
December 1986	Congress passes the <i>Ley de Punto Final</i> , which limited the possibility to further investigate crimes
April 1987	Military rebellion to protest and stop prosecutions against military officers
May 1987	Congress enacts the <i>Ley de Obediencia Debida</i> , which protected low-ranking military officers from prosecutions, based on the fact they “received orders” under a military hierarchy
January 1989	Attack by the Movimiento todos por la Patria-MTP to a military garrison in La Tablada
1989	Within a context of acute economic crisis, including hyperinflation, President Alfonsín calls for early general elections

May 1989	Carlos Menem of the Partido Justicialista wins and in July is inaugurated as President
October 1989	President Menem pardons military officers and guerrilla members
1990	Last military uprising. President Menem dictates new decrees pardoning Junta leaders, among others
1991	Congress passes Law 24.034 on reparations for political detainees
1994	Inter American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons approved by the OAS General Assembly. Argentina's constitution is reformed. Congress passes Law 24.411 on reparations for enforced disappearances and assassinations prior to December 10, 1983
1998	The newly autonomous City of Buenos Aires creates the Parque de la Memoria, a memorial of the victims of State terrorism located along the shore of the river
2001	Federal judge declares amnesty laws (<i>Ley de Punto Final</i> and <i>Ley de Obediencia Debida</i>) invalid and unconstitutional
2003	Congress annuls amnesty laws
2004	Congress passes law on reparations to minors affected by the repression, known as <i>Ley de Hijos</i> . Former clandestine detention center ESMA is transformed into the <i>Espacio para la Memoria</i>

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[The Cambodian Experience]



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TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

BERND SCHAEFER

1950	Cambodian communists join forces with Vietnamese against French colonialism
November 9, 1953	Cambodia declares its independence from France
1954	Geneva Conference: France withdraws from all of Indochina
1954–70	Kingdom of Cambodia under Prince, from 1955 Prime Minister Norodom Sihanouk
March 18, 1970	Coup against Prime Minister Norodom Sihanouk
1970–75	The Khmer Republic, General Lon Nol as President; Sihanouk, in exile in China, forms exile government with Cambodian communists ('Khmer Rouge'/KR).
April 17, 1975	KR forces led by Pol Pot defeat Lon Nol army and take the capital Phnom Penh
1975–79	Democratic Kampuchea (DK)
October 1975	Sihanouk returns to Cambodia, nominal Head of State, disappears in house arrest soon after
1976	DK Government is announced with Khieu Samphan as Head of State and Pol Pot as Prime Minister and Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK)
1977	Cambodia launches military attacks across all three of its borders in Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos
1978	Vietnam fights back, occupies Cambodian territory, fully withdraws by March, but returns with full force in December 1978 and defeats Pol Pot forces by January 1979
1979–1989	People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) Heng Samrin President; Prime Ministers Pen Sovan (until 1981), Chan Sy (until 1984), Hun Sen (since 1985)
1989–1993	State of Cambodia (SOC), Hun Sen Prime Minister
1989	First Paris Conference with Cambodian government and opposition factions fails. Vietnamese troops withdraw from Cambodia by December
1990	Formation of the Supreme National Council (SNC), composed of six SOC members and two from each of the three opposition factions, including former DK President Khieu Samphan
October 23, 1991	Paris Agreement on Cambodia signed by all four Cambodian factions and eighteen Foreign Ministers of interested countries
May 23 and 28, 1993	General elections with 90 % turnout, boycotted by KR. Coalition government formed with a First and Second Prime Minister: Prince Norodom Ranariddh (FUNCINPEC Party) with 45.5 % and 58 seats and Hun Sen (Cambodian People's Party/CPP) with 38.2 % and 51 seats
1993 to the Present	Kingdom of Cambodia
June 1993	Norodom Sihanouk becomes Head of State, on 23 September King of Cambodia
1994	KR movement outlawed by Cambodia's National Assembly.
1997/98	Turmoil within KR, defections and struggles, Pol Pot dies in 1998. KR dissolve
July 1997	Power struggle within government, Hun Sen and CPP oust Prince Ranariddh and his allies in a coup, Hun Sen the only Prime Minister, Ranariddh in exile
July 26, 1998	National Assembly Election, CCP gets 41.4 % of vote and 64 seats, FUNCINPEC 31.7 % and 43 seats, the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) 14.3 % and 15 seats, Hun Sen Prime Minister
July 27, 2003	National Assembly Election, CCP gets 47.3 % of vote and 73 seats, FUNCINPEC 20.7 % and 26 seats, the SRP 21.9 % and 24 seats, Hun Sen Prime Minister
July 27, 2008	National Assembly Election, CCP gets 58.1 % of vote and 90 seats, SRP 21.9 % and 26 seats, Hun Sen Prime Minister
July 28, 2013	National Assembly Election, CCP gets 48.8 % of vote and 68 seats, opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) 44.6 % and 55 seats, disputed election until compromise in July 2014, Hun Sen Prime Minister

June 4, 2017	CNRP wins 43.8 % in Cambodian communal elections with a 90 % turnout, a significant swing away from CPP and towards CNRP
November 16, 2017	Cambodian Constitutional Court bans and dissolves CNRP, its National Assembly seats are distributed to other parties, opposition leaders in exile or under arrest
July 27, 2018	CCP runs basically unopposed and wins 76.9 % of the vote and all 125 National Assembly seats, Hun Sen Prime Minister
November 16, 2018	The Trial Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) sentences surviving KR leaders Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan to life imprisonment in Case 002/02 for genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949

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[The Czech Experience]



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TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

November 17, 1989	Suppression of student demonstration in the centre of the capital city of Prague by communist security forces
November 20, 1989	Creation of opposition political movement named “Civic forum”
November 29, 1989	Federal Parliament removes parts of the Constitution about the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and about Marxism-Leninism being the national ideology
December 1–8, 1989	Members of the communist secret police State Security (StB) destroy tens of thousands of operative files with evidence of their illegal activity
December 10, 1989	Appointment of the Government of National Understanding
December 29, 1989	Election of the opposition leader Václav Havel as the President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
January 23, 1990	Federal Parliament adopts the Constitutional Act on the Removal of Deputies from Representative Bodies and on the Co-option of New Deputies and the Act on Political Parties legalising the existence of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia
February 15, 1990	Federal Minister of the Interior Richard Sacher dismisses central and regional departments of State Security
February 26, 1990	Signature of the intergovernmental agreement between Czechoslovakia and the SSSR about the withdrawal of soviet troops from Czechoslovakia by 30 June 1991
April 23, 1990	Federal Parliament adopts Act No. 119/1990 Sb., on Judicial Rehabilitation
May 21, 1990	Federal Government issues a regulation on the removal of the immovable property in permanent use by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia
June 8–9, 1990	The first free parliamentary elections take place in the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic after the fall of the communist regime
October 2, 1990	Federal Parliament adopts the Act No. 403/1990 Sb., on Mitigating the Consequences of Certain Property Injustices
November 16, 1990	Federal Parliament adopts the Constitutional Act on Property Restitution of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia to the people of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic
January 30, 1991	Federal Parliament adopts Act No. 47/1991 Sb., amending and supplementing the Act No. 119/1990 Sb., on Judicial Rehabilitation
February 21, 1991	Federal Parliament adopts Act No. 87/1991 Sb., on Extra-Judicial Rehabilitations
June 30, 1991	Departure of the last units of the soviet occupation troops
September 2, 1991	Creation of the Department for Documentation and Investigation of State Security Activities under the Federal Ministry of the Interior
October 4, 1991	Federal Parliament adopts Act No. 451/1991 Sb., on Determining Some Further Prerequisites for Certain Positions in State Bodies and Organizations of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic (“large lustration law”)
November 13, 1991	Federal Parliament adopts Act No. 480/1991 Sb., on the Era of Non-Freedom
April 28, 1992	Czech Parliament adopts Act No. 279/1992 Sb., on Some Further Prerequisites for Certain Positions Filled by Appointment or Designation of Officers of the Police of the Czech Republic and Officers of the Penitentiary Service of the Czech Republic (“small lustration law”)
November 1, 1992	Creation of the Office for the Documentation and Investigation of the State Security Activities under the Investigation Office for the Czech Republic
January 1, 1993	Division of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic into the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic
February 10, 1993	Creation of the Coordination Centre for the Documentation and Investigation of Violence against the Czech Nation from 8 May 1975 to 31 December 1989, integrated in the organisational structure of the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Czech Republic

July 9, 1993	Czech Parliament adopts Act No. 198/1993 Sb., on the Unlawfulness of the Communist Regime and Resistance against It
January 1, 1994	Creation of the Centre for Documentation of the Unlawfulness of the Communist Regime of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic
January 1, 1995	Creation of the Office for the Documentation and Investigation of the Crimes of Communism under the Investigation Office for the Czech Republic
April 26, 1996	Czech Parliament adopts Act No. 140/1996 Sb., on Making Publicly Accessible Files Resulting from Activities of the Former State Security Police
June 25, 1997	Czech government issues a regulation on the payment of One-off Compensation to Alleviate some Wrongs Committed by the Communist Regime
March 8, 2002	Czech Parliament adopts Act No. 107/2002 Sb., amending the Act No. 140/1996 Sb., on Making Publicly Accessible Files Resulting from Activities of the Former State Security Police, and some other Acts
June 8, 2007	Czech Parliament adopts Act No. 181/2007 Sb., on the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes and the Security Services Archive, and on amending certain Acts
February 1, 2008	Creation of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes and the Security Services Archive
April 27, 2009	Czech government issues regulation No. 135/2009 Sb., on One-off Contribution to Alleviate Some Wrongs Committed by the Communist Regime
July 20, 2011	Czech Parliament adopts Act No. 262/2011 Sb., on the Participants in Anti-Communist Opposition and Resistance
November 17, 2011	Creation of the Ethics Committee of the Czech Republic for the Appreciation of the Participants in Anticommunist Opposition and Resistance
February 20, 2013	Czech government issues regulation No. 51/2013 Sb., amending the government regulation No. 135/2009 Sb., on One-off Contribution to Alleviate Some Wrongs Committed by the Communist Regime
January 1, 2015	Adoption of Act No. 250/2014 Sb., on Amending Acts related to adoption of Act on State service stipulating that the “large lustration law” does not apply to government Ministers and Minister Deputies

MEMORY OF NATIONS

Democratic Transition Guide

[The Estonian Experience]



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TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

November 7, 1917	Bolshevist Revolution in Russia
February 24, 1918	Estonian independence proclamation
February–November 1918	Estonia is occupied by the German Imperial Army
November 1918 – February 1920	Estonian War of Independence against the Soviet Russia
February 2, 1920	Tartu Peace Treaty between Estonia and the Soviet Russia
June 15, 1920	Adoption of the first Constitution
September 1921	Three Baltic States join the League of Nations
October 14–16, 1933	Adoption of the second Constitution
March 12, 1934	Coup d'état by Prime Minister Konstantin Päts
1934–1940	Authoritarian rule in Estonia
July 28, 1937	Adoption of the third Constitution
August 23, 1939	Hitler–Stalin Pact. According to the secret protocol of the pact, Estonia was included in the Soviet sphere of interest
September–October 1939	Soviet Union threatens the Baltic states with military power. Mutual assistance treaties are signed between the Soviet Union and each Baltic state. Soviet military bases are stationed in the territories of the Baltic States
October 1939 – May 1940	Resettlement of the German population (Baltic Germans) from the Baltic states to Germany
June 14–17, 1940	The Soviet Union occupies the Baltic states
July 21, 1940	Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian puppet parliaments established under the control of Soviet legations and special representatives, ask to join the Soviet Union
July 23, 1940	The United States' acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles condemns the occupation by the Soviet Union of the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The beginning of the non-recognition policy of the Western powers
August 2–6, 1940	Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are incorporated into the Soviet Union as Soviet Union republics
Summer 1940 – Summer 1941	Forced Sovietisation and political terror against bearers of statehood and others
June 14, 1941	Deportation of tens of thousands of men, women and children from the Baltic states
July–October 1941	Battles between the Soviet and German armies on Estonian territory
1941–1944	German occupation
September–November 1944	The Soviets return, the Red Army occupies the country
September 18, 1944	Restoration of the Republic of Estonia proclaimed and the government established, but most government ministers were arrested soon after by Soviet State Security
1944–1953	Continuation of forced Sovietisation and political terror. About 35,000 Estonians are sent to Gulag camps, more than 20,000 deported
1948–1950	Stalinist purges in Estonia; former Estonian underground communists and their later fellow travelers in Estonian leadership are replaced by cadres, brought from the Soviet Union
March 25, 1949	Mass deportation of mostly rural population from Estonia and Latvia
Beginning of 1950s	Ceasation of armed resistance (actions of so-called Forest Brothers) against the Soviets
March 5, 1953	The death of Joseph Stalin
1954–1960	Most of the surviving political prisoners and deportees are released and return to Estonia
1956	Suppression of the Hungarian revolution by the Soviets together with the indifference of the West wipes out hope for the termination of the Soviet occupation in Estonia

1968	Suppression of the Prague Spring wipes out the hopes of the younger generation for the human-faced socialism
August 23, 1979	The Baltic Appeal of 45 Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian citizens to the general secretary of the United Nations, Soviet Union, East and West Germany, and signatories of the Atlantic Charter demanding public disclosure of the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939 and its secret protocols
September–October 1980	Youth riots in Tallinn, followed by a public letter of 40 Estonian intellectuals defending the Estonian language and protesting against the recklessness of the government in dealing with youth protests
1985	Mikhail Gorbachov is nominated to secretary general of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and soon begins his reforms under the slogans of perestroika, uskorenie and glasnost
Spring 1987	Mass public protests, especially of the student youth, against the plans of the Soviet central authorities to begin with stripe-mining of phosphates in Estonia; the plans are cancelled
August 23, 1987	The victims of the Hitler-Stalin pact were publicly commemorated in Tallinn and restoration of Estonian independence was demanded
December 1987	Estonian National Heritage Society is founded
1988	A countrywide independence movement, the “Singing revolution” begins
Since Spring 1988	Prohibited blue-black-white national colours are publicly hoisted despite of the ban
April 1988	Establishment of the Popular Front
Summer 1988	Establishment of the pro-Soviet International Movement of Workers in the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic
August 1988	Establishment of the Party of Estonian National Independence
November 16, 1988	The Estonian Sovereignty Declaration is issued by the ESSR Supreme Soviet, asserting Estonia’s sovereignty
December 7, 1988	The ESSR Act on Nonjudicial Mass Repressions in the Soviet Union during the 1940–1950s
February 24, 1989	The blue-black-white Estonian flag is hoisted on the parliament building instead of the ESSR flag on the 71st anniversary of the Republic of Estonia
August 23, 1989	The Baltic Way (Baltic Chain) begins, with approximately two million people from Tallinn to Vilnius, remembering the victims of the Hitler-Stalin pact signed 50 years earlier
November 1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall
February 19, 1990	The ESSR enactment on the rehabilitation of unjudicially repressed and groundlessly sentenced persons
March 11–12, 1990	First session of the Estonian Congress, elected by the persons, who were Estonian citizens on 16 June 1940 and their children
March 18, 1990	Free elections to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet with success of the supporters of independence
March 1990 – October 1992	Transitional period
March 23–25, 1990	The Congress of the Estonian branch of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Party splits into Estonian and Soviet-minded wings. Soon the Estonian members leave the party completely
May 8, 1990	The name of the ESSR is changed to the Republic of Estonia and the national symbols are put into use
March 3, 1991	Independence referendum
April 15, 1991	Pension Act with special provisions for rehabilitated persons
June 13, 1991	Republic of Estonia Principles of Ownership Reform Act
August 19–21, 1991	Unsuccessful coup d’état in Moscow
August 20, 1991	Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia proclaims the restoration of the Republic of Estonia and establishes the Constituent Assembly with 30 members in the Supreme Council and 30 members in the Estonian Congress
September 1991	Baltic states joining the United Nations

October 21, 1991	Estonia joins the UN Convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitations to war crimes and crimes against humanity of 1968
December 1991	Dissolution of the Soviet Union
February 19, 1992	Rehabilitation of Unjudicially Repressed and Groundlessly Sentenced Persons Act
February 26, 1992	The Citizenship Act of 1938 is reinstated
June 20, 1992	Currency reform: the Estonian kroon with a fixed exchange rate to German Mark is introduced
June 28, 1992	New Constitution is approved by referendum
July 8, 1992	Act on the Procedures for Taking Oath with provisions for disqualification for public service of former collaborators of the security services of states that had occupied Estonia
September 20, 1992	Parliamentary Elections (7th composition of Riigikogu)
October 1992	Lennart Meri is elected to President of the Republic; the last acting President of the exile government symbolically hands over powers
August 31, 1994	Last Soviet (Russian) troops leave Estonia according to an agreement between Lennart Meri and Boris Yeltsin
February 6, 1995	Procedure for Registration and Disclosure of Persons who Have Served in or Co-operated with Intelligence or Counter-intelligence Organisations of Security Organisations or Military Forces of States which Have Occupied Estonia Act
June 14, 2001	Statement of the President of the Republic remembering the victims of the Soviet deportation of June 1941
June 18, 2002	Parliament's statement of the crimes committed by the occupation regimes in Estonia
December 17, 2003	Persons Repressed by Occupying Powers Act
2004	Estonia joins the European Union and the NATO
January 1, 2011	Estonia joins the Eurozone
February 14, 2012	Parliament's statement "Paying tribute to the Estonian citizens"
June 14, 2016	Parliament's statement commemorating the victims of the June deportation 75 years earlier
July 1, 2017	Estonian Chairmanship in the EU begins

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[The Georgian Experience]



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TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

DAVID JISHKARIANI

- 1953** Lavrenti Beria was arrested in Moscow. It was followed by a mass cleaning of the state security system from “Beria’s guard”. In 1955–1956 some former officers of the NKVD-MGB were sent under a partly open trial for “mass violation of socialistic orders in 1937–1938”. Some of these trials were held in Tbilisi
- March 1956** Large-scale demonstrations took place in Georgia, following Khrushchev’s criticism of Stalin at the 20th Party Congress. These were the first significant expressions of public protest and civil disobedience in the Soviet Union for decades, and they also bore a clearly nationalistic character
- 1956** The rehabilitation process started. The party apparatus tries to show the brutality of Beria and his Gung
- 1983** A group of young artists hijacked an airplane flying from Tbilisi to Batumi, trying to force the pilots cross the border into Turkey. The airplane’s crew managed to stop them and during the clash there were casualties from both sides, also among the passengers. The airplane returned to Tbilisi airport, where Special Forces attacked it and freed the hostages; during the operation some hijackers and passengers were injured
- April 1989** Soviet internal troops and Special Forces suppressed an Anti-Soviet demonstration in Tbilisi. The demonstrations started as a protest against a movement for separation from the Georgian SSR in Abkhazian ASSR, but very soon it transformed into an Anti-Soviet protest, demanding the independence of the Georgian state. 21 citizens were killed
- September 1990** Close to the first multiparty elections of the supreme council of the Georgian SSR, a group of KGB employees openly expressed their protest against Soviet rule, sending a declaration to the opposition press edition, blaming the center KGB of a destructive agenda, insisting on depoliticization and asking for the support of the future Supreme council of Georgia for a peaceful transition of the Georgian KGB to the State security service of an independent republic of Georgia
- March 31, 1991** An independence referendum was held in the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. It was approved by 99.5 % of voters
- December 1991** A fire in the KGB building destroyed many archival documents, the exact number is still not known
- May 1992** The Ministry of State security of Georgia (formally renamed KGB) was formally abandoned, and the new state security office, “Informative-intelligence service” was founded, but, very soon after, in October 1993, the Ministry of State security was re-established
- 1997** Law “On the Acknowledgment of Citizens of Georgia as Victims of Political Repression and Social Protection of Repressed Persons”
- 2006** Law “On the National Archival Fund and the National Archives”
- 2006** The case against Georgia originating from application no. 7975/06 lodged to the ECHR under the Article 34 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms by Klaus Kiladze and Yuri Kiladze on the 22nd of February 2006 in order to assert their rights for compensation resulting from their status as victims of political repression
- 2007** Public discussion about Lustration organized by Heinrich Böll foundation in Tbilisi, key speaker was Joachim Gauck
- 2011** Freedom Charter adopted
- 2012** Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection
- 2012** Payment for services provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs Archives’. Prices became extremely expensive; one-page copy costs 3 GEL (approx. 1 EURO)
- 2013** Definitions of “Communist Totalitarian Ideology” and “Communist Totalitarian Symbols” adopted
- 2013** Georgian citizen Nodar Mumlauri filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court, stating that Article 9, Paragraph 1, Subparagraphs c) and d) of the Freedom Charter were contrary to the rights guaranteed by the Constitution

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Democratic Transition Guide

[The German Experience]



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TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

September 9, 1989	Founding appeal “Aufbruch 89” (<i>Start 89</i>) and establishing the “Neues Forum” (<i>New Forum</i>) as the first GDR state-wide opposition movement
October 9, 1989	70,000 people peacefully demonstrate in Leipzig against the communist dictatorship and for political changes. The state authorities don’t deploy the troops and policemen assembled in Leipzig
November 9, 1989	Following a misleading press conference led by politburo member Günther Schabowski regarding the new GDR act on travelling, hundreds of thousands enforce that the Berlin Wall checkpoints and the checkpoints along the whole border between East and West Germany are opened
November 28, 1989	Federal Chancellor Kohl presents a “10-point-plan” for German reunification
December 1, 1989	The GDR constitution is changed and the leading role of the state party SED is canceled
December 4, 1989	Civil rights activists occupy the Stasi headquarters in Leipzig in order to stop the destruction of files. Further locations follow
December 7, 1989	Establishment of the Central Round Table according to the Polish example. Here, representatives from the opposition and the civil rights movement negotiate together with government representatives about reforms and democratic transformations of the country as well as about preparing free elections
March 18, 1990	The only free elections in the GDR take place. The parties that promise a fast unification with the Federal Republic of Germany emerge as the winners
May 18, 1990	Agreement concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR about creating a monetary and economic union on July 1st 1990
July 1, 1990	The monetary and economic union becomes effective. From this date, GDR citizens use the Deutsche Mark (or “DM”) as their currency
August 23, 1990	The East German parliament, the Volkskammer declares the accession to the Federal Republic of Germany according to article 23 of the Federal Republic of Germany’s “Grundgesetz” on October 3rd 1990
August 24, 1990	Act on Securing and Storing the Personal Data at the Ministry for State Security/Office for National Security 24. 8. 1990, GBl. d. DDR 1990, p. 11419ff
September 6, 1990	1. Rehabilitation Act of 6. 9. 1990. GBl. d. DDR I, p. 1459
September 12, 1990	Conclusion of the “Two Plus Four Treaty” concluded between the GDR and the Federal Republic of Germany on the one hand and the victorious powers from WWII on the other
October 3, 1990	GDR accession to the Federal Republic of Germany. Germany is reunited again following 41 years
November 14, 1991	The Act on Stasi Documents (<i>Stasi-Unterlagen-Gesetzes</i> , hence the abbreviation <i>StUG</i>) is adopted and the office of the Federal Commissioners for the Records of the State Security Service (<i>der Bundesbeauftragte für die Stasi-Unterlagen</i> , hence the abbreviation <i>BStU-Archiv</i>) is established by the German Parliament
January 1, 1992	The BStU commences its work
March 12, 1992	The German Parliament decides to establish an inquiry commission “For the Reappraisal of History and the impacts of the Socialist Unity Party dictatorship in Germany”
November 4, 1992	Adoption of the 1st Act on Socialist Unity Party Injustice Settlement for criminal law rehabilitation
November 13, 1992	Start of the 1st East German Border Guard Law Suit led against the people responsible for the deaths on the border between East and West Germany and at the Berlin Wall. Altogether, 246 persons were charged in 112 trials, including 10 Socialist Unity Party leadership members such as Erich Honecker, Günter Schabowski and Egon Krenz as well as 42 leading military officials and 80 former border guards. 132 persons are sentenced, most of them being given suspended sentences
November 20, 1992	Establishment of the offices of the State Commissioners for the Records of the State Security Service of the Former German Democratic Republic (<i>der Landesbeauftragte für Unterlagen des Staatssicherheitsdienstes der ehemaligen Deutschen Demokratischen Republik</i>) as a contact partner for the victims and affected persons of the Socialist Unity Party dictatorship at the level of the five East German federal states that the former GDR territory is comprised of

December 31, 1992	Closure of the Central Registration Office of the State Judiciary Administrations in the town of Salzgitter that documented more than 40,000 violent crimes in the GDR and at the Berlin Wall and along the rest of the border between East and West Germany
June 23, 1994	Adoption of the 2nd Act on Socialist Unity Party Injustice Settlement for professional and administrative legal rehabilitation
June 22, 1995	Establishment of the 2nd inquiry commission “For overcoming the Socialist Unity Party Dictatorship within the process of German unity”
April 2, 1998	Adoption of the Act on the Federal Foundation for the study of communist dictatorship
July 24, 1999	Adoption of the memorial concept for memorial places of national and international importance
December 31, 2005	End of the criminal reappraisal of injustice in the Soviet Occupation Zone and in the GDR; end of the last legal processes against the former perpetrators
August 29, 2007	Adoption of the 3rd Act on Socialist Unity Party Injustice Settlement, “Act on Special Allowance for victims of imprisonment”, the so-called “victim’s pension” amounting to € 250 per month for prisoners that have spent more than 180 days in prison due to political reasons and who can prove their neediness
November 5, 2010	Prolongation of the rehabilitation period until 31. 12. 2019
December 22, 2014	5th Amendment to the Criminal Law Rehabilitation Acts and increasing the pension to € 300 per month

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Democratic Transition Guide

[The Polish Experience]



TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

February 1, 1988	Government implements drastic rise in prices
April 25, 1988	Strikes in Bydgoszcz and Inowrocław
April 25 – May 5, 1988	Strikes in Bydgoszcz, Inowrocław, at the Nowa Huta ironworks in Kraków, and the ironworks in Stalowa Wola
April 29, 1988	Gen. Kiszczak orders preparations for martial law
May 1, 1988	Anti-government rallies in Łódź, Kraków, Płock, Poznań, Warszawa, Gdańsk, Wrocław, Bielsko-Biała, and Dąbrowa Górnicza
May 2–10, 1988	Strike in the Gdańsk shipyard
May 3, 1988	Andrzej Wielowieyski, council of Solidarność leadership, is informed by the central committee PZPR members, Józef Czyrek and Stanisław Ciosek that Gen. Jaruzelski agrees to negotiate with Lech Wałęsa
May 5, 1988	Strikes and rallies in Szczecin, Wrocław, Bełchatów, Katowice, and Gdańsk; students' rallies in Lublin, Warszawa, and Kraków
June 3, 1988	St. Ciosek suggests to Rev. A. Orszulik (speaker of the Episcopal Conference of Poland) about forming a new government with the democratic opposition
June 22, 1988	Public transport strike in Szczecin
July 11–16, 1988	M. Gorbachev visits Poland; Warsaw Pact summit
July 13, 1988	Ironworks strike in Stalowa Wola
July 21, 1988	Lech Wałęsa passes secret letter to Gen. Kiszczak agreeing to the talk's proposal
August 15 – September 3, 1988	Second wave of strikes in numerous coal mines in Upper Silesia, strikes in the port and factories in Szczecin, the ironworks in Stalowa Wola, shipyards in Gdańsk, and the Nowa Huta ironworks in Kraków; rallies in numerous towns
August 20, 1988	Committee for the country's defence (Komitet Obrony Kraju, KOK, commanding military and security body) orders the start of preparations for martial law
August 22, 1988	Televised speech of Gen. Kiszczak issuing threats against striking workers
August 25, 1988	Statement of opposition leaders promising a cessation of strike action in return for free trade unions
August 26, 1988	Gen Kiszczak, in a televised speech, proposes talks with the opposition; strike committees in Gdańsk, Jastrzębie-Zdrój, Szczecin and Stalowa Wola authorize Lech Wałęsa to negotiate with authorities
August 27–28, 1988	Meeting of the PZPR central committee
August 31, 1988	Gen. Kiszczak meets Lech Wałęsa. Wałęsa issues statement calling for an end to strike action, announces talks at the Round Table with authorities about cooperation for economic, politic, and social reforms
September 10, 1988	The Solidarność organizational committees announce support for Lech Wałęsa as the Solidarność leader for talks concerning Round Table
September 15–16, 1988	Talks in Warszawa and Magdalena to prepare the scope and character of the Round Table negotiations
September 19, 1988	Zbigniew Messner's government resigns
September 27, 1988	Mieczysław Rakowski appointed prime minister
October 3–11, 1988	Rallies in universities in Warszawa, Kraków, Wrocław, Gdańsk, Poznań, Katowice
October 19, 1988	Authorities issue objections about the participation of several opposition leaders in the Round Table talks
November 1, 1988	Rakowski decides to liquidate the shipyard "Lenin" in Gdańsk
November 11, 1988	Rallies commemorating the Independence Day of 1918

November 18–19, 1988	Meetings between Wałęsa and Gen. Kiszczak. Authorities object to restoration of the Solidarność trade union
November 30, 1988	Televised debate between Wałęsa and Alfred Miodowicz, leader of communist-controlled OPZZ trade union. Public opinion polls show 63 % support for Wałęsa
December 7, 1988	Government decree liberalizing passport laws
December 13, 1988	Massive rallies in Wrocław, Warszawa, Kraków, Lublin, Jastrzębie-Zdrój, Łódź, Płock, Poznań, Toruń, Wałbrzych on anniversary of the 1981 martial law, clash with the MO
December 18, 1988	Komitet Obywatelski przy przewodniczącym NSZZ “Solidarność”, Citizens’ Committee for “Solidarity” Chairman formed
December 23, 1988	Act for economic activity allowing free trade and private enterprises
January 1989	Talks by PZPR representatives with RC Church representatives concerning political reform
January 16–18, 1989	Meeting of the political bureau of the PZPR’s central committee; bureau agrees to legalize “Solidarność”
January 27, 1989	Meeting in Magdalenka, Gen. Kiszczak, Wałęsa, Bronisław Geremek, Tadeusz Mazowiecki discuss terms of the Round Table negotiations
January 31, 1989	Liberal banking law passed
February 6, 1989	Round Table negotiations begin
February 25, 1989	Meeting of opposition organizations protesting the Round Table in Jastrzębie-Zdrój thwarted by the SB, 120 people detained
March 15, 1989	Law concerning foreign currencies trade passed
March 17, 1989	Conflict on the electoral law project; authorities intended to pass the electoral code before agreeing on election matters at the Round Table
March–April 1989	Numerous rallies clash with riot police
April 5, 1989	Agreements by the Round Table signed
April 7, 1989	Series of acts concerning partially free elections, trade unions, and freedom of associations passed
April 13, 1989	Rada Państwa (state’s council) establishes the dates of elections
April 17, 1989	Registration of the Solidarność trade union
April 18, 1989	Gen. Kiszczak and Wałęsa form the Komitet Porozumiewawczy (connection committee) controlling the execution of the Round Table agreements
April 20, 1989	Registration for the farmers’ Solidarność trade union
April 23, 1989	Komitet Obywatelski designates Solidarność candidates to the chambers of parliament
May 1, 1989	Mass rallies by Solidarność, clash with riot police in Gdańsk and Wrocław
May 6–10, 1989	Strike in copper mines in Lower Silesia
May 8, 1989	First issue of “Gazeta Wyborcza”
May 9, 1989	First TV program of the Solidarność election broadcasting team
May 12, 1989	Gen. Jaruzelski announces presidential bid
May 16–18, 1989	Clashes with riot police in Kraków
May 17, 1989	Acts concerning freedom of conscience and the legal status of Roman Catholic Church passed
May 23–24, 1989	Rallies protesting the rejection of the registration of the independent students’ union
May 28–29, 1989	Academics strike in 28 universities
June 1, 1989	The Biuro “W” MSW (postal control unit) absorbed by Departament II MSW (counterintelligence unit)
June 2, 1989	First issue of the renewed weekly newspaper “Tygodnik Solidarność”
June 4, 1989	First round of parliamentary election, landslide victory for Solidarność; 160 seats in lower chamber and 92 in upper chamber taken by Solidarność candidates

June 12, 1989	Act concerning the 2nd round of parliamentary election passed
June 18, 1989	Second round of parliamentary elections; communist block gets 296 seats in lower chamber of parliament. Solidarność has 161 MPs and 99 senators, the PZPR, 173 MPs, the ZSL, 76 MPs, the SD, 27 MPs, and minor regime-block organizations, 23 MPs
June 30, 1989	Rally in Warszawa against Jaruzelski's presidential bid, clashes with riot police
July 19, 1989	National assembly (upper and lower chambers of parliament) elect Gen. Jaruzelski as president of the PRL (votes: 270 "pro", 233 "contra", 34 "withheld", 7 "void")
July 29, 1989	Gen. Jaruzelski resigns as 1st secretary of the central committee of communist party; Rakowski ascends
August 1989	Start of preparations for the mass weeding of the SB and PZPR documents
August 1, 1989	Rakowski resigns as prime minister
August 2, 1989	Lower chamber of parliament appoints Gen. Kiszczak as prime minister; forms the extraordinary committee for examination of dealings of ministry of internal affairs
August 7, 1989	Wałęsa proposes the ZSL and the SD to form a government with Solidarność
August 16, 1989	The SD and the ZSL exit the communist block and agree to form a government with Solidarność
August 19, 1989	Gen. Kiszczak resigns as prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki appointed
August 24, 1989	Gen. Kiszczak, acting as minister of internal affairs, orders the reorganization of the security service SB
August 24, 1989	Lower chamber of parliament appoints Tadeusz Mazowiecki as prime minister
September 1, 1989	Departments III, IV, V, VI, general inspectorate of industry protection and Biuro Studiów MSW are reorganized as Departament Ochrony Konstytucyjnego Porządku Państwa, Departament Ochrony Gospodarki, and Departament Studiów i Analiz
September 1, 1989	The Wydział XI Departamentu I MSW (11th division of 1st department, unit in charge of invigilation and disintegration of Polish organizations abroad) dismissed
September 15, 1989	Biuro RKW MSW (SIGINT unit) absorbed by Biuro "A" MSW (communications HQ)
September 22, 1989	Independent students' union NYS registered
October 1, 1989	The security service academy WSO in Legionowo absorbed by the MSW's academy ASW
November 21, 1989	The Zarząd Polityczno-Wychowawczy MSW (political supervision service) dismissed
November 23, 1989	Acts abolishing the ORMO volunteer police force and office for the affairs of religious communities passed
December 1989	Military main political directorate dismissed
December 29, 1989	Parliamentary act changing the constitution; restoration of the Republic of Poland
September 1989 – January 1990	Mass weeding of documents of security services
January 23, 1990	Government issues decree concerning the seizure of PZPR assets
January 28–29, 1990	The communist party PZPR dismisses itself; anti-communist rally clash with riot police
January 31, 1990	Gen. Kiszczak orders a stop to the weeding of SB documents
January–March 1990	A series of rallies demanding the seizure of PZPR assets and the dismissal of the SB
February 15, 1990	Zarząd Ochrony Funkcjonariuszy MSW (internal control service of MSW) dismissed
March 8, 1990	Act concerning local government passed
April 6, 1990	Acts concerning the police, the ministry of internal affairs, and the state protection agency UOP, and abolishing the SB security service passed
April 11, 1990	Act abolishing the censorship office passed
April 18, 1990	The Internal military service, WSW, dismissed by order of the minister of national defence
May 10, 1990	The security service, SB, activities cease
May 21, 1990	The military political academy, WAP, dismissed

May 27, 1990	Elections of local governing bodies
July 6, 1990	Dismissal of Gen. Kiszczak as minister of internal affairs, and Gen. Florian Siwicki as minister of national defence
July 28, 1990	Act on political parties passed
July 31, 1990	The security service, SB, liquidated, the UOP is formed
September 1, 1990	The Żandarmeria Wojskowa (military police) and the Zarząd II Wywiadu i Kontrwywiadu SG WP (military intelligence and counterintelligence agency) formed
September 10, 1990	Decree abolishing the MSW academy ASW passed
September 27, 1990	Parliamentary act shortens the presidential term
October 12, 1990	Act abolishing the border protection troops, WOP, passed
November 9, 1990	Act concerning the seizure of PZPR assets passed
November 25, 1990	First round of presidential election
November 29, 1990	Act concerning passport laws passed
December 9, 1990	Second round of presidential election, Lech Wałęsa succeeds
March 22, 1991	Law concerning stock exchange passed
March 31, 1991	The ASW academy liquidated
May 10, 1991	New election code passed
May 16, 1991	The dismissal of the border protection troops, WOP; the state border protection agency Straż Graniczna formed
May 23, 1991	New law concerning trade unions passed
August 22, 1991	The military intelligence and counterintelligence agency, WSI, formed
September 28, 1991	Act concerning fiscal control (i.a. matters of fiscal intelligence) passed
October 25, 1991	Act concerning national defence, military intelligence and counterintelligence agency WSI, and military police ŻW matters, passed
May 28, 1992	Act demanding the release of information about the SB's secret collaborators holding public posts passed
June 4, 1992	Minister of internal affairs Antoni Macierewicz releases the list containing former SB records concerning members of both chambers of parliament and government members; governments demise
June 19, 1992	Constitutional court finds the 28th of May act unconstitutional
July 1992	The "Macierewicz's List" published by press
April 27, 1995	Permanent parliamentary committee for the supervision of the security services formed
December 1995	The "Olin" affair
April 11, 1997	Lustration act passed
June 18, 1998	Parliamentary resolution condemning communist totalitarianism
December 18, 1998	Act forming the Institute of National Remembrance passed
May 24, 2002	Act abolishing the UOP and forming the foreign intelligence and state security agencies (AW, ABW) passed
July 9, 2003	Act concerning the WSI passed
January 2005	The electronic inventory of SB informants and functionaries leaked from the IPN
June 9, 2006	Acts concerning the dismissal of the WSI and the forming of the military foreign intelligence and counterintelligence agencies (SWW, SKW), and the forming of the anti-corruption service CBA passed
February 16, 2007	Publication of the report on WSI activities

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Democratic Transition Guide

[The Romanian Experience]



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TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

November 20–24, 1989	14th congress of the Romanian Communist Party in Bucharest. Despite the peaceful collapse of communist regimes throughout Eastern Europe, Nicolae Ceaușescu turns down general expectation of internal change and promises to maintain the leading role of the Party
December 2–3, 1989	Summit in Malta between US President George Bush and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Although the fate of the increasingly isolated Romanian communist was not in the agenda of the meeting, according to available evidence, Romanian intelligence informed Ceaușescu of a plan orchestrated by the great powers to get rid of him
December 4, 1989	Last Gorbachev–Ceaușescu meeting in Moscow. The Soviet leader urges his Romanian counterpart to launch reforms resembling those undertaken in the Soviet Union and the rest of the Eastern Bloc
December 14, 1989	Rumours of an aborted anti-regime meeting in Iași
December 15–16, 1989	Ethnic Hungarian Reformed priest László Tőkés speaks out publicly against Ceaușescu in Timișoara. More and more citizens of all faiths back him amid the attempt of the authorities to forcibly remove him. First clashes between the riot police and groups of young protesters
December 17, 1989	A huge crowd marched on the communist headquarters at city hall in Timișoara. Portraits of Ceaușescu are burned and thrown from the building. The army intervenes against the anti-regime protesters on Ceaușescu's order before he leaves for Iran on a previously planned official visit. More than sixty people are killed, their dead bodies brought to Bucharest to be cremated
December 18–20, 1989	The revolt extends to other cities in Western and Central Romania. After returning home from Iran, Ceaușescu proclaims martial law during a television speech and blames Hungarian irredentism for the turmoil
December 21, 1989	The protest reaches Bucharest while Ceaușescu addresses the crowd in a live broadcast outdoor speech. The army and the special security forces commit further bloodshed in Cluj, Sibiu, Brașov and other cities. During the night, December 21 to 22, bloodshed is perpetrated in Bucharest, leaving over 150 victims and hundreds of injured
December 22, 1989	More demonstrators reassemble early in the morning and huge crowds of workers march to downtown Bucharest from the industrial platforms and are locked in a standoff with the army in the main square of Bucharest. Ceaușescu tries to speak from a balcony, but is shouted down. The presidential couple flees the capital by helicopter. A National Salvation Front is appointed to handle the chaotic situation of the victorious revolution. Heavy fighting erupts throughout the country until December 25 amid rumours of terrorist groups activity, most probably members of the still loyal Special Antiterror Unit (USLA)
December 25, 1989	Ceaușescu and his wife Elena are put on trial and executed. Armed fight abruptly ends after their lifeless bodies are shown on TV
December 27, 1989	The entire executive power is assumed by the Council of the National Salvation Front (CNSF), supported by the Army and all "healthy forces". Former communist. Ion Iliescu is elected president of the CNSF
December 30, 1989	Repressive security services (<i>Departamentul Securității Statului</i>) are dissolved via decree by the CNSF. In reality, officers continue to receive their salary and many of them perform operative duties at the service of the new power structure
January 12, 1990	The Romanian Communist Party is outlawed by decree of the CNSF
January 18, 1990	All party properties are nationalized by decree of the CNSF
January 29, 1990	The post-communist CNSF calls for miners from the Jiu Valley to attack political rivals amid growing internal tensions
February 6, 1990	The National Salvation Front becomes a political party and decides to run for the first democratic elections
February 18, 1990	Second violent visit of the Jiu Valley organized by miners to Bucharest
March 11, 1990	The Proclamation of Timișoara is publically presented on the 11 in a mass rally assembly in Opera Square of Timișoara. The 13-point document calls for total lustration in the spirit of the 1989 anti-communist revolt

March 15–21, 1990	Interethnic clashes in Târgu Mureş between Romanians and Hungarians leave several casualties and hundreds of injured
March 26, 1990	The Romanian Intelligence Service is established formally as the new independent security agency. According to independent estimates, its staff is overwhelmingly composed by higher officers from the dismantled Securitate
May 20, 1990	The National Salvation Front wins a landslide victory in national elections, receiving more than two-thirds of all votes cast, and NSF leader Ion Iliescu is elected President of Romania for a two-year term with 85 percent of the vote. The NSF victory over the anticommunist opposition makes it impossible to start any lustration procedure in the following period
November 21, 1991	A new Constitution is adopted by the Romanian parliament and then approved by popular referendum. The text defines Romania as a “national, sovereign, independent, unitary, and indivisible state”; and enshrined the return to multiparty democracy and the rule of law. However, the structure of powers and the collective mentality inherited from the communist period prevent the application of the declared principle of the separation of executive, legislative and judicial powers
December 7, 1993	The chairman of the Association of Former Political Prisoners, senator Constantin Ticu Dumitrescu introduces a motion on secret informants that amounts to a lustration proposal. Although the text only refers to part-time (non professional) informants and excludes officers, the Romanian Parliament does not support the motion
December 7, 1999	The Romanian Parliament adopts Law No. 187/1999 on Access to the Securitate Files and the Unveiling of the Securitate as a Political Police. The Law covers 1) the right of any Romanian citizen to see his/her own files and to find out the identity of the Securitate agents and collaborators who created and offered information present in that file; 2) the right of any Romanian citizen, Romanian public institution or NGO to know if those already appointed, or running for certain public offices are agents or collaborators of the former Securitate, and the obligation of all candidates for the named positions to give a certified declaration of whether she/he worked as an agent or a collaborator for the Securitate. The law prescribes the creation of the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives (CNSAS), set up as an independent public institution, controlled by the Romanian Parliament, and mandated to investigate the past of public officials and electoral candidates based on the secret files
December 18, 2006	The Presidential Commission for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania, formed in April 2006 as a panel headed by political scientist Vladimir Tismăneanu and focused on examining the activity of institutions that enforced the communist dictatorship, presents its final report to Parliament. The 660-page text is adopted as an official document of the Romanian Presidency and published on its website. The report made Romania the third former Eastern Bloc country, after the Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, to officially condemn its Communist regime
January 31, 2008	A major crisis affects the activity of CNSAS after the Constitutional Courts ruled that Law No. 187/1989 on lustration was unconstitutional, since the CNSAS College has been given the status of parallel judicial structure and simultaneously performs the double function of prosecutor and judge. The governments allows the CNSAS to continue its operation through two Emergency Governmental Ordinances
November 14, 2008	Law No. 293/2008 establishes a new comprehensive frame for the activity of CNSAS
July 7, 2008	The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania officially launches the first high school curricula, and later text book, on the History of the Romanian Communist regime
February 28, 2012	The Romanian Parliament gives the final vote on the Lustration Law
March 7, 2012	The Constitutional Court, petitioned by the professional organizations of judges and prosecutors, finds the Lustration Law unconstitutional and the project is dropped
July 23, 2015	Alexandru Vişinescu, a communist-era Romanian prison commander is convicted of crimes against humanity for the deaths of 12 inmates, is sentenced to 20 years in prison, in the country’s first such trial. It is considered a historic sentence because any crimes committed in the communist era can also be condemned. Vişinescu case is initiated and documented by the Institute for Investigation of Communist Crimes and Memory of Romanian Exile (IICCMRE)
June 1, 2017	Following the success of the Vişinescu’s case, IICCMRE files a denunciation to the Prosecutor’s Office for the inhuman maltreatment of children admitted to foster homes during the communist regime in Romania. The case mainly refers to the sick or disabled children who used to be admitted in the hospital foster homes in Cighid, Pastrăveni and Sighetu Marmăţiei, where over 10,000 children were subjected to inhuman treatment and aggression

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TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS

March 11, 1985	Mikhail Gorbachev took the office of the CC CPSS General Secretary
February 1986	M. Gorbachev declares a policy of glasnost at the 17th Communist Party Congress, which marked the beginning of the restoration of freedom of speech and the mass media as well as the reduction of censorship
June 1988	The 19th CPSS Conference decided on the democratization of the political system and holding competitive elections to the new parliaments of the Soviet Union and the Russian Republic (RSFSR) – the Congress of People’s Deputies
January 16, 1989	The Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on additional measures to restore justice for the victims of the Stalin period repressions. The verdicts of Stalin-era quasi-judiciary repressive bodies were annulled
January 1989	The Memorial society was founded
March–May 1989	Elections of the USSR People’s Deputies
October 27, 1989	The Constitutional reform in the RSFSR. The Congress of the RSFSR People’s Deputies became the supreme state body elected by the universal, equal, and direct suffrage and secret ballot
February 1990	Foundation of the Democratic Russia Election Bloc
March 14, 1990	Article 6 of the USSR Constitution on the “leading and guiding power” of the Soviet Communist Party in the state and society was changed. A multi-party system was proclaimed
March 1990	The competitive elections of the RSFSR People’s Deputies, Moscow and Leningrad city council deputies were held
May 29, 1990	Boris Yeltsin was elected the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet
June 12, 1990	The RSFSR Supreme Soviet passed the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the RSFSR
October 9, 1990	The USSR law on public associations legalizing a multi-party system was adopted
March 17, 1991	The Referendum on the preservation of the USSR and holding the election of the RSFSR president
April 26, 1991	The RSFSR law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples was adopted
June 12, 1991	The first election of the RSFSR president was held. Boris Yeltsin won it. At the same time regional elections were held too, as well as a referendum on restoring the original name of Leningrad
July 20, 1991	President Yeltsin’s decree on the legal prohibition of the activities and influence of the party in governmental bodies, institutions and organizations
August 19–22, 1991	The coup d’etat in the USSR and its failure
August 22, 1991	The replacement of the RSFSR red flag with the Russian historical flag (white-blue-red)
August 23, 1991	Yeltsin suspended the activity of the RSFSR Communist Party
August 24, 1991	President Yeltsin’s decrees on transferring the CPSS and KGB archives to the public archive storage
September 1991	The restoration of the historical names of Leningrad and Sverdlovsk cities
November 6, 1991	The CPSS was prohibited in the territory of Russia
August–December 1991	Dissolution and winding up of KGB
October 18, 1991	The RSFSR law on the rehabilitation of the victims of political repressions was adopted
October 24, 1991	The concept of the RSFSR judicial reform was passed
December 1991	The complete collapse of the USSR and the establishment of Russia as the successor of the USSR in international relations
December 25, 1991	Renaming the RSFSR as the Russian Federation
May–November 1992	The CPSS case in the Russian Constitutional court
March 29, 1993	The failure to impeach President Yeltsin

April 25, 1993	The referendum on confidence in President Yeltsin and the need of early presidential and parliamentary elections
June–July 1993	Constitutional meeting
September 21, 1993	President Yeltsin’s decree on the gradual constitutional reform which terminated the activity of the Congress of People’s Deputies and the new parliamentary elections to the State Duma were scheduled
September 22, 1993	The Supreme Soviet dismissed President Yeltsin from office
October 3–4, 1993	The armed confrontation between President Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet in Moscow. The actual dissolution of the Supreme Soviet and arrests of its leaders
October 10, 1993	Opening of the first memorial sign on the former NKVD training area in Butovo, Moscow region
December 12, 1993	The referendum on adopting the draft RF Constitution, elections of the State Duma deputies and members of the Federation Council
February 23, 1994	Newly elected State Duma announced political and economic amnesty applied, in particular, to the participants of the 1991 Coup and the supporters of the Supreme Soviet
December 1994	A war in Chechnya broke out
November 7, 1996	Declaring the day of the October Revolution the Day of Accord and Reconciliation
July 17, 1998	The reburial of the remains of Tsar Nicholas II and his family
July–September 2000	Opening of the memorial complexes in the burial places of killed Polish prisoners of war in Katyń and Mednoye
2001	Opening of the GULAG Museum in Moscow
2004	The transfer of the funding powers for the reparations to the victims of political repressions under the benefits monetization policy
October 29, 2007	The first event of Restoring names in Lubyanskaya square in Moscow
April 2011	The preparation and publication of the program to commemorate the victims of political repressions and reach national reconciliation
2014	The launch of the Final address program
2015	Shutting down the Perm-36 Museum under the pressure of the authorities