
THE FACTS ON FILE WORLD POLITICAL ALMANAC

T H I R D E D I T I O N



The Facts and Figures of Governments
and Leaders, Political Parties and Constitutions,
Wars and Treaties

Chris Cook

THE FACTS ON FILE WORLD POLITICAL ALMANAC

THIRD EDITION

COMPILED BY
CHRIS COOK

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**THE FACTS ON FILE
WORLD POLITICAL ALMANAC, Third Edition**

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Facts On File, Inc.
460 Park Avenue South
New York NY 10016

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cook, Chris, 1945—

Facts on File world political almanac / compiled by Chris
Cook. — 3rd ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-8160-2838-9

1. World politics—1945— I. Facts on File, Inc. II. Title.
III. Title: World political almanac.

D843.C5797 1995

909.82—dc20

94-5920

Facts On File books are available at special discounts when purchased in bulk quantities for businesses, associations, institutions or sales promotions. Please contact our Special Sales Department in New York at 212/683-2244 or 800/322-8755.

Text design by Ron Monteleone
Printed in the United States of America.

MP VC 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The primary aim of the third edition of the *World Political Almanac* has been to assemble, again within a single one-volume work of reference, as many of the key facts and figures as possible on the major political developments of the postwar world. It is hoped that the information presented here on such topics as international organizations, heads of state, parliaments and constitutions, diplomacy and warfare, as well as elections and political parties, will provide the user with a rich quarry of material. This information, much of it presented in readily accessible tabular or statistical form, has been supplemented by biographical details on figures of world importance and a glossary of political terms. Inevitably, no work of reference of this size can ever attempt to be comprehensive. Rather, the aim has been to concentrate on those countries and events for which the reader is most likely to require information.

Since the appearance of the first edition of this book, the world has seen dramatic changes. Communism has collapsed in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union itself has disintegrated, the Middle East has seen historic moves towards peace. Equally fundamental changes are taking place in South Africa, while both Great Britain and America have new political leaders. The *World Political Almanac* records these changes and much more.

The compilation of this volume was considerably facilitated by the generous assistance provided by a variety of friends and colleagues. For their help with research I am particularly indebted to Harry Harmer, Jane Leonard, and James Robinson.

It is hoped that future editions of this book will update and expand the material presented here. Both author and publishers would welcome suggestions for new sections to be included in the next edition.

Finally, my grateful thanks are due to Susan Schwartz and Drew Silver of Facts On File for their encouragement of this new edition and for their hospitality in London and New York.

Chris Cook

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CHAPTER 1

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

**COMPARATIVE TABLE:
DATES OF FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

	Treaty	Date of Formation
Arab League	—	22 March 1945
Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	—	7 Aug 1967
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)	4 July 1973	1 Aug 1973
Colombo Plan	28 Nov 1950	1 July 1951
Commonwealth	31 Dec 1931	—
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	8 Dec 1991	8 Dec 1991
Council of Europe	5 May 1949	July 1949
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA or COMECON)	—	25 Jan 1949*
Danube Commission	18 Aug 1948	1949**
European Communities (EC) (i) (ECSC)	18 April 1951	—
(ii) (EEC)	25 Mar 1957	—
(iii) (Euratom)	25 Mar 1957	—
European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	20 Nov 1959	3 May 1960
European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)	—	Feb 1973
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)	—	Dec 1949
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	4 April 1949	24 Aug 1949
Organization of African Unity (OAU)	—	25 May 1963

<p style="text-align: center;">COMPARATIVE TABLE: DATES OF FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (CON'T)</p>
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	Treaty	Date of Formation
Organization of American States (OAS)	—	30 April 1948
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	14 Dec 1960	30 Sept 1961
Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC)	—	16 April 1948
Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)	—	May 1971
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	—	14 Nov 1960
South Pacific Commission (SPC)	Feb 1947	July 1948
United Nations	26 June 1945	24 Oct 1945
Warsaw Pact***	—	14 May 1955
West European Union (WEU)	23 Oct 1954	6 May 1955
World Bank	27 Dec 1945	June 1946
World Confederation of Labour (WCL)	—	1968
World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)	—	3 Oct 1945

* Officially dissolved 28 June 1991.

** Effectively ceased to exist by 1990.

*** Effectively moribund as a military organization since 1990. Officially dissolved 1 July 1991.

ARAB LEAGUE (LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES)

Date of Formation 22 March 1945

Headquarters

Until 1979 Cairo (Egypt)
1979–1990 Tunis (Tunisia)
Since 1990 Cairo (Egypt)

Aims

- a) To foster cultural, economic and communications links between member states.
- b) To mediate in disputes between Arab states.
- c) To represent Arab states in international negotiations.
- d) To coordinate the economic and diplomatic offensive against Israel.

History

In the early part of the 20th century the Arab world was largely divided into British and French spheres of influence. By 1943, however, seven states had substantially achieved independence. After a meeting in autumn 1944 they drew up the Alexandria Protocol, which committed them to the formation of a league rather than a unitary state or federation. The covenant was signed in Cairo in 1945. The League is regarded as a regional organization within the United Nations and has observer status at the United Nations General Assembly. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 placed major strains on the organization.

Structure

Council meets in any one of the Arab capitals, presided over by member states in turn. It meets twice a year with the main function of mediating disputes. Each member has one vote.

Political Committee consists of foreign ministers of member states.

Secretariat consists of administrative and financial offices and was moved to Tunis from Cairo in 1979 when Egypt was suspended from the League because of a bilateral treaty with Israel. The Secretariat returned to Cairo in 1990.

Secretary-General Since May 1991 Esmet Abdel Meguid (Egypt)

Past Secretaries-General

Mar 1945–Sept 1952 Abdul Azzem (Egypt)
Sept 1952–June 1972 Abdul Hassouna (Egypt)
June 1972–Mar 1979 Mahmoud Riad (Egypt)
June 1979–Aug 1990 Chedli Klibi (Tunisia)
Aug 1990–May 1991 vacant

Members

Algeria (joined 1962)	Lebanon
Bahrain (joined 1971)	Libya (joined 1953)
Djibouti (joined 1977)	Mauritania (joined 1973)
Egypt (suspended 1979, readmitted May 1989)	Morocco (joined 1958)
Iraq	Oman (joined 1971)
Jordan	Palestine*
Kuwait (joined 1961)	Qatar (joined 1971)
	Saudi Arabia

* Not recognized as a sovereign state outside the Arab world.

Somalia (joined 1974)
Sudan (joined 1956)
Syria
Tunisia (joined 1958)

United Arab Emirates (joined
1971)
Yemen

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

Date of Formation 8 August 1967

Headquarters Jakarta (Indonesia)

Aims

- a) To promote political, economic, social and cultural cooperation among the non-Communist states of Southeast Asia.
- b) To increase trade between ASEAN countries and with the rest of the world.

History

The foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand met in Bangkok to discuss a regional organization, and as a result signed the Bangkok Declaration. The first summit meeting was held in February 1976.

Structure

Heads of Government Meeting takes place whenever necessary.

Annual Ministerial Meeting of foreign ministers takes place in member countries on an alphabetical rotation.

Standing Committee consisting of the foreign minister of the host country and the ambassadors of the others carries on the business between meetings.

Secretariat was established in Jakarta in 1967. The post of secretary-general revolves in alphabetical order every two years, while other officers remain for three years.

There are also five economic committees and three noneconomic committees.

Secretary-General Since July 1991 Ajit Singh (Malaysia)

Past Secretaries-General

Feb 1976–Feb 1978 Hartono Dharsono (Indonesia)

Feb–July 1978 Umarjadi Njotowijona (Indonesia)

July 1978–July 1980	Datuk Ali bin Abdullah (Malaysia)
July 1980–July 1982	Narciso Reyes (Philippines)
July 1982–July 1984	Chan Kai Yau (Singapore)
July 1984–July 1989	Phan Wannamethee (Thailand)
July 1989–July 1991	Rusli Noor (Indonesia)

Members*

Brunei (joined 1984)	Malaysia	Singapore
Indonesia	Philippines	Thailand

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

Date of Formation Treaty, 4 July 1973; in force, 1 August 1973

Headquarters Georgetown (Guyana)

Aims

- Economic cooperation throughout the Caribbean Common Market.
- Coordination of foreign policy of member countries.
- Cooperation in areas such as education, health and tax administration.

History

The Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Caribbean Community and replaced the Caribbean Free Trade Association (founded in 1965), was signed by the prime ministers of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago on 4 July 1973. It also set up a common external tariff for members of the Caribbean Common Market.

Structure

Heads of Government Conference is the main decision-making body. Its meeting in November 1982 was the first for seven years, but since then it has met annually. Decisions are made unanimously.

Common Market Council consists of a minister of government of each member.

Secretariat is led by a secretary-general elected by the conference for five-yearly renewable terms.

There are also numerous institutions where each state is represented by the appropriate minister, e.g., health, foreign affairs and labor.

* In July 1992 Vietnam and Laos took the first steps to full membership.

Secretary-General

Edwin Carrington

Deputy Secretary-General Louis Wiltshire (Trinidad and Tobago)

Past Secretaries-General

1974–Aug 1977 Alister McIntyre (Grenada)

Aug 1977–Aug 1978 Joseph Tyndall (Guyana) (acting)

Nov 1978–Sept 1983 Kurleigh King (Barbados)

After Sept 1983– Roderick Rainford (Jamaica)

Members

Antigua and Barbuda (joined
1974)

Bahamas (joined 1983)

Barbados (joined Community, but
not Common Market, in 1983)

Belize (joined 1974)

Dominica (joined 1974)

Grenada (joined 1974)

Guyana

Haiti

Jamaica

Montserrat (joined 1974)

St. Kitts-Nevis (joined 1974)

St. Lucia (joined 1974)

St. Vincent and the
Grenadines (joined 1974)

Trinidad and Tobago

Turks and Caicos Islands (associ-
ate member)

Observers

Anguilla, Dominican Republic, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Venezuela

COLOMBO PLAN

Date of Formation Treaty, 28 November 1950; in force 1 July 1951

Headquarters Colombo (Sri Lanka)

Aims

- a) To promote the development of member countries in Asia.
- b) To review economic and social progress and help accelerate this through cooperative effort.
- c) To encourage development aid both to and within the area.

History

The original Plan was set up by seven Commonwealth countries and was intended to last six years. Its life was extended by five-yearly intervals until 1980, when it was given an indefinite span.

Although the Plan endeavors to deal with development in a coordinated multilateral way, negotiations for assistance take place in a direct bilateral fashion between donor and recipient countries.

Structure

Consultative Committee of ministers meets once every two years, preceded by a meeting of senior officials.

Colombo Plan Council meets three or four times a year in Colombo to review progress.

Colombo Plan Bureau is the permanent servicing, research and information disseminating organ. Since 1973 it has been operating a drug advisory program.

Colombo Plan Staff College exists to help members with technical education.

Director Since July 1986— Gilbert H. Sheinbaum (U.S.)

Past Directors

Aug 1951–Sept 1953	G. M. Wilson (U.K.)
Sept 1953–Feb 1956	P. W. E. Curtin (Australia)
April 1956–Aug 1957	N. Keyitz (Canada)
Aug 1957–July 1959	R. H. Wade (New Zealand)
July 1959–Dec 1961	J. K. Thompson (U.K.)
Jan 1962–Mar 1964	S. Matsui (Japan)
Jan 1964–Mar 1966	J. L. Allen (Australia)
Mar 1966–June 1969	D. Alan Strachan (U.S.)
June 1969–Aug 1973	A. B. Connelly (Canada)
Aug 1973–Dec 1975	I. K. McGregor (New Zealand)
Jan 1976–Jan 1979	L. E. T. Storar (U.K.)
Jan 1979–Jan 1982	Noboru Yabata (Japan)
Jan 1982–Feb 1985	Erik Ingevics (Australia)
Feb 1985–Jan 1986	Donald R. Toussaint (U.S.)

Members

Afghanistan (joined 1963)	Malaysia (joined 1957)
Australia	Maldives (joined 1963)
Bangladesh (joined 1972)	Myanmar (Burma) (joined 1952)
Bhutan (joined 1962)	Nepal (joined 1952)
Cambodia (joined 1951)	New Zealand
Canada	Pakistan
Fiji (joined 1972)	Papua New Guinea (joined 1973)
India	Philippines (joined 1954)
Indonesia (joined 1953)	Singapore (joined 1959)
Iran (joined 1966)	Sri Lanka
Japan (joined 1954)	Thailand (joined 1954)
Republic of Korea (joined 1962)	United Kingdom
Laos (joined 1951)	United States (joined 1951)

THE COMMONWEALTH

Date of Formation 31 December 1931 ([U.K.] Statute of Westminster); redefined 1949

Headquarters London (England)

Aims

Cooperation, consultation and mutual assistance among countries that accept "the Queen as the symbol of the free association of independent member nations and as such the Head of the Commonwealth."

History

Following resolutions at Imperial Conferences of 1926 and 1930, the Statute of Westminster affirmed that dominions are "autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status. . . . united by a common allegiance to the Crown and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations." This definition was modified in 1949 when member countries accepted India's intention of becoming a republic while at the same time remaining a full member of the Commonwealth. There are now 17 Queen's realms, 30 republics and 4 indigenous monarchies within the Commonwealth.

Structure

Commonwealth Secretariat was established in 1965 to serve all members. It has observer status at the United Nations, disseminates information, organizes meetings, coordinates activities and provides expert technical assistance.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings are held biennially. Until 1946, prime ministers' meetings were attended by Great Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. As countries became independent they began to attend, and in 1971 the meetings were renamed as delegations and were often led by executive presidents.

Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meetings are held annually.

Secretary-General Since June 1990 Emeka Anyaoku (Nigeria)

Past Secretaries-General*

July 1965–July 1975 Arnold Smith (Canada)

Aug 1975–June 1990 Sir Shridath Ramphal (Guyana)

* Prior to 1965 Commonwealth Affairs were the purview of the British Foreign Office.

Members

Antigua and Barbuda (joined 1981)

Australia

Bahamas (joined 1973)

Bangladesh (joined 1972)

Barbados (joined 1966)

Belize (joined 1981)

Botswana (joined 1966)

Brunei (joined 1984)

Canada

Cyprus (joined 1961)

Dominica (joined 1978)

The Gambia (joined 1965)

Ghana (joined 1957)

Grenada (joined 1974)

Guyana (joined 1966)

India (joined 1947)

Jamaica (joined 1962)

Kenya (joined 1963)

Kiribati (joined 1979)

Lesotho (joined 1966)

Malawi (joined 1964)

Malaysia (joined 1957)

Maldives (joined 1982)

Malta (joined 1964)

Mauritius (joined 1968)

Namibia (joined 1990)

Nauru (joined 1968)

New Zealand

Nigeria (joined 1960)

Pakistan (rejoined 1990)

Papua New Guinea (joined 1975)

St. Kitts-Nevis (joined 1983)

St. Lucia (joined 1979)

St. Vincent and the

Grenadines (joined 1979)

Seychelles (joined 1976)

Sierra Leone (joined 1965)

Singapore (joined 1965)

Solomon Islands (joined 1978)

South Africa (rejoined 1994)

Sri Lanka (joined 1948)

Swaziland (joined 1968)

Tanzania (joined 1961)

Tonga (joined 1970)

Trinidad and Tobago (joined 1962)

Tuvalu (joined 1978)

Uganda (joined 1962)

United Kingdom

Vanuatu (joined 1980)

Western Samoa (joined 1970)

Zambia (joined 1964)

Zimbabwe (joined 1980)

Former Members

Fiji left 1987

Ireland left 1949

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

Date of Formation Treaty of Alma-Ata, 21 December 1991, following the earlier Declaration of Minsk (8 December 1991, by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine).

Headquarters Minsk (Belarus)

Aims

Its founding declaration committed its members to recognize the independence and sovereignty of other members, to respect human rights including those of national minorities and to the observance of existing boundaries. It was agreed to endorse the principle of unitary control of strategic nuclear arms and the concept of a "single economic space."

History

The CIS is a voluntary association of eleven (formerly 12) states formed when the Soviet Union disintegrated. Its history to date suggests it is little more than a forum to keep alive some vague form of cooperation after the demise of the old USSR. Early "agreements" were made at Minsk (14 February 1992, on strategic forces), Kiev (20 March 1992, on state frontiers) and Tashkent (15 May 1992, on collective security). By 1993 the Asian states were drifting away from the CIS.

Structure

The supreme organ of the CIS is a Council of Heads of States. Associated with the work of this Council is a Council of Heads of Government. Its common affairs are regulated by multilateral agreement rather than by central institutions.

Members

Armenia	Russia
Azerbaijan (joined 1993)	Tajikistan
Belarus	Turkmenistan
Georgia (joined 1993)	Ukraine
Kazakhstan	Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzstan	

Former Member

Moldova (withdrew August 1993)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Date of Formation Treaty, 5 May 1949; in force, July 1949

Headquarters Strasbourg (France)

Aims

To achieve greater unity among members and to safeguard and realize the ideals and principles which are their common heritage.

History

A conference of representatives of 26 European countries at The Hague in 1948 called for the creation of a united Europe, including a European Assembly. Following discussions by the Ministerial Council of the Brussels Treaty powers and a conference of ambassadors, the Statute of Council was signed in London in May 1949. Since then a complex system of structures and committees has been developed, which was streamlined to some extent in 1966. One hundred and fifteen conventions have been concluded.

Structure

Committee of Ministers meets in May and December, usually attended by foreign ministers.

Parliamentary Assembly meets in ordinary session three times a year for about one week. It consists of 170 parliamentarians elected or appointed by their national parliaments.

There are numerous standing committees of experts and commissions, the foremost of which is the European Commission. This investigates violations of the European Convention of Human Rights (1950) and where necessary refers cases to the European Court of Human Rights, set up in 1959.

Secretary-General Since May 1989 Catherine Lalumière (France)

Past Secretaries-General

Aug 1949–July 1953	Jacques Camille-Paris (France)
July 1953–May 1957	Léon Marchal (France)
May 1957–Jan 1964	Ludovico Benvenuti (Italy)
Jan 1964–May 1969	Peter Smithers (UK)
May 1969–May 1974	Lujo Toncic-Sorinj (Austria)
May 1974–May 1979	Georg Kahn-Ackermann (Federal Republic of Germany)
May 1979–May 1984	Franz Karasek (Austria)
May 1984–May 1989	Marcelino Oreja Aguirre (Spain)

Members

Austria (joined 1956)	France
Belgium	Germany (1951)
Bulgaria (1992)	Greece (joined 1949, withdrew 1969, rejoined 1974)
Cyprus (joined 1961)	Hungary (1991)
Czech Republic (1993)	Iceland (joined 1950)
Denmark	

Ireland
Italy
Liechtenstein (joined 1978)
Luxembourg
Malta (joined 1965)
Netherlands
Norway
Poland (1991)

Portugal (joined 1976)
San Marino (1992)
Spain (joined 1977)
Sweden
Switzerland (joined 1963)
Turkey (joined 1949)
United Kingdom

COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (CMEA or COMECON)

Date of Formation 25 January 1949

Headquarters Moscow (USSR)

Aims

- a) To assist the economic development of member states through sharing of resources and coordination of effort.
- b) To encourage the development of socialist economic integration.

History

The organization was originally formed in response to the Marshall Plan. Its early years were dominated by the Stalinist drive to self-sufficiency but during the 1950s there was an attempt to increase discussion on long-term coordination of effort. In 1962 Khrushchev attempted to convert CMEA into a supranational authority, but this failed, largely as a result of Romanian opposition. With the adoption of policies leading to market economies in Eastern Europe after the 1989 revolutions, by the end of 1990 Comecon had effectively ceased to function. It was formally dissolved on 28 June 1991. The final act of Comecon was to vote to establish a new body, the Organization for International Economic Cooperation.

Structure

Session was the supreme authority. It was held in members' capitals under the chairmanship of the host country. Delegations were led by prime ministers; all countries had to be present and decisions had to be unanimous. The meeting in June 1984 was the first since 1969, and a further meeting took place in Warsaw in June 1985.

Executive Committee met every three months at deputy premier level.

There were numerous committees and seven standing conferences.