

1990s

The **1990s**, shortened to **the 90s** or **the nineties**, was a decade that began on January 1, 1990, and ended on December 31, 1999. It saw a rise in the awareness of multiculturalism compared to the 1980s, known as the **Golden Age of Multiculturalism**,^[1] as well as the advance of alternative media. Music movements like grunge, the rave scene, and hip hop became popular with young people worldwide, aided by cable television and the internet. The 1990s saw advances in technology, with the World Wide Web, the first gene therapy trial, cloning, and the first designer babies^[2] all emerging and being improved upon throughout the decade.

A combination of factors—including the continued mass mobilization of capital markets through neoliberalism, the thawing and end of the decades-long Cold War, the beginning of the widespread proliferation of new media such as the Internet, increasing skepticism towards the government, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union—led to a realignment and consolidation of economic and political power across the world. Many countries were economically prosperous during the 1990s. High-income countries experienced steady economic growth for much of the decade during the Great Moderation, while the former Soviet Union GDP decreased as their economies restructured. International trade increased with the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 and forming of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, and the dot-com frenzy resulted in the dot-com bubble of 1997–2000 that brought great wealth to some entrepreneurs before its crash between 2000 and 2001.

New ethnic conflicts emerged in Africa, the Balkans, and the Caucasus, the former two witnessing the Rwandan and Bosnian genocides, respectively. Signs of any resolution of tensions between Israel and the Arab world remained elusive despite the progress of the Oslo Accords. The Troubles in Northern Ireland came to a standstill in 1998 with the Good Friday Agreement following 30 years of violence.^[3]

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From top-left, clockwise: The Hubble Space Telescope orbits the Earth after it was launched in 1990; American F-16s and F-15s fly over burning oil fields in Operation Desert Storm, also known as the 1991 Gulf War; The signing of the Oslo Accords on 13 September 1993; The World Wide Web gains a public face during the start of the decade and as a result gains massive popularity worldwide; Boris Yeltsin and followers stand on a tank in defiance to the August Coup, which leads to the dissolution of the Soviet Union on 26 December 1991; Dolly the sheep is the first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic cell; The funeral procession of Diana, Princess of Wales, who died in 1997 in a car crash in Paris, and was mourned by millions; Hundreds of thousands of Tutsi people are killed in the Rwandan genocide of 1994. This would become a factor in initiating the Second Congo War in 1998

Millennium:	<u>2nd millennium</u>
Centuries:	<u>19th century</u> 20th century <u>21st century</u>
Decades:	<u>1970s</u> <u>1980s</u> 1990s <u>2000s</u> <u>2010s</u>
Years:	<u>1990</u> <u>1991</u> <u>1992</u> <u>1993</u> <u>1994</u> <u>1995</u> <u>1996</u> <u>1997</u> <u>1998</u> <u>1999</u>
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References

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Wars

International wars

- The Congo Wars broke out in the late 1990s.^[4]
 - The First Congo War (October 1996 – May 1997) — resulted in the overthrow of dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, ending 32 years of his rule in Zaire, which was renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
 - The Second Congo War (August 1998 – July 2003) — started in central Africa and involved multiple nearby nations.
- The Gulf War (August 1990 - February 1991) — Iraq was left in severe debt after the 1980s Iran–Iraq War. President Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait of flooding the market with oil and driving down prices. As a result, Iraqi forces invaded and conquered Kuwait. The UN (United Nations) immediately condemned the action, and a coalition force led by the United States was sent to the Persian Gulf. Aerial bombing of Iraq began in January 1991, and a month later, the UN forces drove the Iraqi army from Kuwait in four days.
- The Chechen Wars were fought in the region of Chechnya.
 - The First Chechen War (1994–1996) — was a conflict fought between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria. After the initial campaign of 1994–1995 culminated in the devastating Battle of Grozny, Russian federal forces attempted to seize control of the mountainous area of Chechnya. Despite Russia's overwhelming manpower, weaponry, and air support, it was set back by Chechen guerrilla warfare and raids on the flatlands. The resulting widespread demoralization of federal forces, and the almost universal opposition of the Russian public to the conflict, led Boris Yeltsin's government to declare a ceasefire in 1996 and sign a peace treaty a year later.
 - The Second Chechen War (1999 – 2009) — was started by the Russian Federation in response to the invasion of Dagestan and the Russian apartment bombings which were blamed on the Chechens. Due to this military campaign, Russian forces largely recaptured the separatist region of Chechnya^[5] and the outcome of the First Chechen War—in which the region gained de facto independence as the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria—was largely reversed.
- The Eritrean–Ethiopian War (1998–2000) was started by the invasion of Eritrea into Ethiopia due to a claim over a town.^[6] The conflict resulted in tens of thousands of deaths in both sides^[7] and a peace agreement in December 2000.^[8]
- The Kargil War (1999) — during May, Pakistan sent troops covertly to occupy strategic peaks in Kashmir. A month later, the Kargil War with India resulted in a political fiasco for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, followed by a Pakistani military withdrawal to the Line of Control. The incident leads to a military coup in October, in which Sharif is ousted by Army Chief Pervez Musharraf. This conflict remains the only war fought between two declared nuclear powers.
- The Yugoslav Wars (1991–1995) — the breakup of Yugoslavia, beginning on 25 June 1991, after the republics of Croatia and Slovenia declared independence from Yugoslavia, was followed by the subsequent Yugoslav Wars. These wars would become notorious for numerous war crimes and human rights violations such as ethnic cleansing and genocide, with the overwhelming majority of casualties being Muslim Bosniaks.
 - Ten-Day War (1991) — a brief military conflict between Slovenian TO (Slovenian Territorial Defence) and the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) following Slovenia's declaration of independence.
 - Croatian War of Independence (1991–1995) — a war fought in modern-day Croatia between the Croatian government, having declared independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and both the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and Serb forces, who established the self-proclaimed Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK) within Croatia.
 - Bosnian War (1992–1995) — the war involved several ethnically defined factions within Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats as well as a smaller Bosniak faction led by Fikret Abdić. The Siege of Sarajevo (1992–1995) marked the most violent urban warfare in Europe since World War II at that time as Serb forces bombard and attack Bosniak-controlled and -populated areas of the city. War crimes occur including ethnic cleansing and destruction of civilian property.
 - The final fighting in the Croatian and Bosnian wars ends in 1995 with the success of Croatian military offensives against Serb forces and the mass exodus of Serbs from Croatia in 1995; Serb losses to Croat and Bosniak forces; and finally, the signing of the Dayton Agreement, which internally partitioned Bosnia and Herzegovina into a Republika Srpska and a Bosniak-Croat federation.
- Kosovo War (1998–1999) — The war between Albanian separatists and Yugoslav military and Serb paramilitary forces in Kosovo begins in 1996 and escalated in 1998 with increasing reports of atrocities taking place.
 - In 1999, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) led by the United States launched air attacks against Yugoslavia (then composed of only Serbia and Montenegro) to pressure the Yugoslav government to end its military operations against Albanian separatists in Kosovo. The



The Gulf War.



Executive council building burns after being hit by Bosnian Serb artillery.

intervention lacked UN approval, yet was justified by NATO based on accusations of war crimes being committed by Yugoslav military forces working alongside nationalist Serb paramilitary groups. After months of bombing, Yugoslavia accepted NATO's demands and NATO forces (later UN peacekeeping forces) occupied Kosovo.

- End of the South African Border War (1990) — ending of a border war between Zambia, Angola, and Namibia.

Civil wars and guerrilla wars

- End of the Ethiopian Civil War (1991) — ending over twenty years of internal conflict. The end of the war coincides with the establishment of a coalition government of various factions.
- Algerian Civil War (1991–2002) — caused by a group of high-ranking army officers cancelling the first multi-party elections in Algeria.^[9]
- The Somali Civil War (1991–present) — includes the Battle of Mogadishu.
- 1992 Los Angeles riots — resulted in 53 deaths and 5,500 property fires in a 100-square-mile (260 km²) riot zone. The riots were a result of the state court acquittal of three white and one Hispanic L.A. police officers by an all-white jury in a police brutality case involving motorist Rodney King. In 1993, all four officers were convicted in a federal civil rights case.
- Rwandan genocide (1994) — From 6 April to mid-July 1994, hundreds of thousands of Rwanda's Tutsis and Hutu political moderates are killed by the Hutu-dominated government under the Hutu Power ideology. Over the course of approximately 100 days, at least 500,000 people were killed,^[10] with estimates of the death toll ranging between this number and 1,000,000,^[11] or as much as 20% of the total population of the country. It resulted in serious criticism of the United Nations and major countries for failing to stop the genocide.
- 1993 Russian constitutional crisis — Severe political deadlock between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet (Russia's parliament at this time) result in Yeltsin ordering the controversial shelling of the Russian parliament building by tanks.
- Tajikistani Civil War (1992–1997) — the Tajikistan government is pitted against the United Tajik Opposition, resulting in the death of 50,000 to 100,000 people.
- Zapatista uprising (1994) — A large number of the Zapatista indigenous people of Mexico join the Zapatista Army of National Liberation that began the armed conflict with the Mexican government in 1994 and continued through the 1990s.
- Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (1996–2001) — The Taliban seize control of Afghanistan, lasting for half a decade.
- End of The Troubles in Northern Ireland (1998) — After 30 years of fighting, The Troubles ended on 10 April 1998 when the Good Friday Agreement was signed.
- 1999 East Timorese crisis



Rwandan genocide: Genocide victims in Murambi Technical School. Estimates put the death toll of the Rwandan genocide as high as 800,000 people.

Coups

Terrorist attacks

- The 1993 World Trade Center bombing in the United States — led to awareness in the US of domestic and international terrorism as a potential threat.
- Markale market massacres in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1994) — involving soldiers of the Army of Republika Srpska deliberately targeting Bosniak (then known as "Bosnian Muslims") civilians.
- AMIA bombing (1994) — On 18 July 1994, an unknown terrorist targeting Argentina's Jewish community plants a car-bomb in the AMIA headquarters in Buenos Aires, killing 85 people and injuring hundreds, making it the first ethnically targeted and deadliest bombing in Argentine history.
- Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995) — involving soldiers of the Army of Republika Srpska and members of Serbia's Scorpions paramilitary group committing mass murder of Bosniak civilians.
- Oklahoma City bombing (1995) in the United States — the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killed 168, becoming the deadliest terrorist attack in the United States for that time. Bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh claimed he bombed the building in retaliation for the 1992 Ruby Ridge standoff and the Waco siege a year later.^[12]
- On 15 June 1996, the IRA set off a bomb in Manchester, England. The bomb, placed in a van on Corporation Street in the city center, targeted the city's infrastructure and economy and caused widespread damage, estimated by insurers at £700 million (£1 billion as of 2011). Two hundred and twelve people were injured, but there were no fatalities.
- 1998 United States embassy bombings — After the bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania by Al-Qaeda militants, United States naval military forces launched cruise missile attacks against Al-Qaeda bases in Afghanistan.
- The Omagh bombing in Northern Ireland (1998) — a bombing in Omagh, County Tyrone, that killed 29 civilians and injured hundreds more.
- LAX bombing plot (1999) — Ahmed Ressam, an Islamist militant associated with Al-Qaeda, is arrested when attempting to cross from Canada to the United States at the Canada-United States border on 14 December 1999; it is discovered that he intended to bomb Los Angeles International Airport during millennium celebrations. This is the first major attempted terrorist attack by Al-Qaeda on United States soil since the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and marked the beginning of a series of attempted terrorist attacks by Al-Qaeda against the United States that would continue into the 21st century.



Oklahoma City bombing.

Decolonization and independence

- Independence of Namibia (1990) — The Republic of Namibia gains independence from South Africa on 21 March 1990. Walvis Bay, initially retained by South Africa, joins Namibia in 1994.
- Breakup of Yugoslavia (1991–1992) — The republics of Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia declared independence from Yugoslavia.
- Independence of Eritrea (1993) — Eritrea gains independence from Ethiopia.
- Dissolution of Czechoslovakia (1993) — The Slovak Republic adopts the Declaration of Independence from the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (Czechoslovakia).

- Independence of Palau (1994) — Palau gains independence from the United Nations Trusteeship Council.
- Handover of Hong Kong (1997) — The United Kingdom hands sovereignty of Hong Kong (then British Hong Kong) to the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997.
- Independence of East Timorese (1999) — East Timor breaks away from Indonesian occupation, only a year after the fall of Suharto from power, ending a 24-year guerrilla war and genocide with more than 200,000 casualties. The UN deploys a peace keeping force, spearheaded by the Australian armed forces. The United States deploys police officers to serve with the International Police element, to help train and equip an East Timorese police force.
- Handover of Macau (1999) — Portugal hands sovereignty of Macau (Portuguese Macau) to the People's Republic of China on 20 December 1999.
- Dissolution of the Soviet Union (1991) — multiple Soviet Socialist Republics (SSRs) declared independence from the USSR.
 - Armenia — The Armenian SSR became the Republic of Armenia following the Declaration of Independence of Armenia.
 - Azerbaijan — The Azerbaijan SSR became the Republic of Azerbaijan.
 - Belarus — The Byelorussian SSR became the Republic of Belarus following its Declaration of State Sovereignty.
 - Estonia — Estonian SSR became the Republic of Estonia.
 - Georgia — The Georgian SSR became the Republic of Georgia.
 - Kazakhstan — The Kazakh SSR became the Republic of Kazakhstan.
 - Kyrgyzstan — The Kirghiz SSR became the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.
 - Latvia — The Latvian SSR became the Republic of Latvia.
 - Lithuania — The Lithuanian SSR became the Republic of Lithuania
 - Moldova — The Moldavian SSR became the Republic of Moldova.
 - Tajikistan — The Tajik SSR became the Republic of Tajikistan.
 - Turkmenistan — The Turkmen SSR became the Republic of Turkmenistan.
 - Ukraine — The Ukrainian SSR became the Republic of Ukraine
 - Uzbekistan — The Uzbek SSR became the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Prominent political events

- The 1990s was an era of spreading capitalism.^[13] The former countries of the Warsaw Pact moved from single-party socialist states to multi-party states with private sector economies.^[13] The same wave of political liberalization occurred in capitalist and newly industrialized countries, such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. Market reforms made great changes to the economies of socialist countries like China and Vietnam.
- The ethnic tensions and violence in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s create a greater sense of ethnic identity of the nations in the new countries, especially involving increased popularity of nationalism.

Africa

- The release of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela from Robben Island on 11 February 1990 after thirty years of imprisonment for opposing apartheid and white-minority rule in South Africa. This would resolve with the end of Apartheid in South Africa in 1994.^[14]
- Nelson Mandela is elected President of South Africa in 1994, becoming the first democratically elected president in South African history ending a long legacy of apartheid white-rule in the country.^[14]



Nelson Mandela.

North America

The enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on January 1, 1994, creating a North American free-trade zone consisting of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

- Canadian politics is radically altered in the 1993 federal election with the collapse of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, (a major political party in Canada since 1867) from being in government to only two seats and the New Democratic Party collapsing from 44 seats to 9. The Liberal Party of Canada is the only genuine national political party that remains while the regionally-based parties such as the Quebec-based Bloc Québécois and the almost entirely Western Canada-based Reform Party of Canada rise from political insignificance to being major political parties.
- After the collapse of the Meech Lake constitutional accord in 1990, the province of Quebec in Canada experienced a rekindled wave of separatism by Francophone Québécois nationalists, who sought for Quebec to become an independent country. In 1995, during a referendum on Quebec sovereignty, Quebec voters narrowly reject the vote for independence.
- The 1995 Quebec referendum on sovereignty is held in the predominantly francophone province of Quebec in Canada, a majority Anglophone country. If accepted Quebec would become an independent country with an economic association with Canada. The proposal is narrowly rejected by Quebec's voters by 50.4% no, and 49.6% yes.
- Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a former Haitian priest, becomes the first democratically elected President of Haiti in 1990. A proponent of liberation theology, Aristide was appointed to a Roman Catholic parish in Port-au-Prince in 1982 after completing his studies to become a priest of the Salesian order. Aristide was later forced into exile in the Central African Republic and South Africa. He finally returned to Haiti in 2011 after seven years in exile.
- Ernesto Zedillo was elected President of Mexico in the 1994 presidential election, making him the last of the uninterrupted 71-year line of Mexican presidents from the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), after the assassination of the original PRI candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta on March.
- United States President Bill Clinton was a dominant political figure in international affairs during the 1990s known especially for his attempts to negotiate peace in the Middle East and end the ongoing wars occurring in the former Yugoslavia; his promotion of international action to decrease human-created climate change; and his endorsement of advancing free trade in the Americas.
- Lewinsky scandal – US president Bill Clinton was caught in a media-frenzied scandal involving inappropriate relations with a White House intern Monica Lewinsky, first announced on January 21, 1998. After the United States House of Representatives impeached Clinton on December 19, 1998, for perjury under oath, following an investigation by federal prosecutor Kenneth Starr, the Senate acquitted Clinton of the charges on February 12, 1999, and he finished his second term.

During the late 1990s a move was made to oust the American CC president Bill Clinton following the Clinton–Lewinsky scandal. This attempt did not succeed and Clinton continued to serve as the president until the end of his term in January 2001.

- California voters passed Proposition 215 in 1996, to legalize cannabis for medicinal purposes. The debate over legalization of marijuana in the United States goes on today.
- The enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on January 1, 1994, creating a North American free trade zone consisting of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Asia

- In 1990 the ending of the civil war and the return to political normalcy in Lebanon began. With the peace among all factions in Lebanon, the rebuilding of the country and its capital, Beirut, started.
- 1990 Nepalese revolution, a multiparty movement against the one party Panchayat rule in Nepal. It led to the end of absolute monarchy in Nepal and restoration of the democracy.
- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Prime Minister Yasser Arafat agree to the Israeli–Palestinian peace process at the culmination of the Oslo Accords, negotiated by the United States President Bill Clinton on 13 September 1993. By signing the Oslo accords, the Palestine Liberation Organization recognize Israel's right to exist, while Israel permitted the creation of an autonomous Palestinian National Authority consisting of the Gaza Strip and West Bank which was implemented in 1994. Israeli military forces withdraw from the Palestinian territories in compliance with the accord, which marked the end of the First Intifada (a period of violence between Palestinian Arab militants and Israeli armed forces from 1987 to 1993).
- The Palestinian National Authority is created in 1994 in accordance with the Oslo Accords, giving Palestinian Arab people official autonomy over the Gaza Strip and West Bank, though not official independence from Israel.
- In 1994 a peace treaty is signed between Israel and Jordan.
- North Yemen and South Yemen merge to form Yemen in 1991.
- Lee Kuan Yew relinquished prime-ministership of Singapore on 28 November 1990, a position he held since 1959, to Goh Chok Tong. He remained in the cabinet as Senior Minister.
- In July 1994 North Korean leader Kim Il-sung died, having ruled the country since its founding in 1948. His son Kim Jong-il succeeded him, taking over a nation on the brink of complete economic collapse. The famine caused a great number of deaths in the late 1990s, and North Korea would gain a reputation for being a large source of money laundering, counterfeiting, and weapons proliferation. The country's ability to produce and sell nuclear weapons became a focus of concern in the international community.
- Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy in Burma wins a majority of seats in the first free election for 30 years in 1990, yet the SPDC refuses to relinquish power, beginning an ongoing peaceful struggle throughout the 1990s to the present by Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters to demand the end of military rule in the 2010s.
- In the Philippines two Presidents were elected, Fidel V. Ramos in 1992 and Joseph Estrada in 1998, since the People Power Revolution in 1986.
- Indonesian president Suharto resigned after ruling for 32 years (1966–1998), following the fall of Suharto and the reform era.
- In India, Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on 21 May 1991 by the Tamil Tigers, marking an end to over 44 years of socialist protectionist Licence Raj, and the beginning of the economic liberalization was led by Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao.
- South Korea and Taiwan became developed countries since democratic reforms in 1988, neoliberal policies were led by President Lee Teng-hui and Kim Young-sam served through the 1997 Asian financial crisis.
- In Japan has served eight prime ministers during the early years of the Lost Decades, including Morihiro Hosokawa who won the 1993 Japanese general election for 52 years and formed an opposition coalition until 1996.



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, United States President Bill Clinton, and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat during the signing of the Oslo Accords on 13 September 1993.

Europe

- The improvement in relations between the countries of NATO and the former members of the Warsaw Pact ended the Cold War both in Europe and other parts of the world.
- German reunification – Germany reunified on 3 October 1990 as a result of the fall of the Berlin Wall and after integrating the economic structure and provincial governments, focused on modernization of the former communist East. People who were brought up in a socialist culture became integrated with those living in capitalist western Germany.
- Margaret Thatcher, who had been the United Kingdom's Prime Minister since 1979, resigned as Prime Minister on 22 November 1990 after being challenged for the leadership of the Conservative Party by Michael Heseltine. This was because of widespread opposition to the introduction of the controversial Community Charge, and the fact that her key allies such as Nigel Lawson and Geoffrey Howe resigned over the deeply sensitive issues of the Maastricht Treaty and Margaret Thatcher's resistance to Britain joining the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. Less than two years later on the infamous Black Wednesday of September 1992, the pound sterling crashed out of the system after the pound fell below the agreed exchange rate with the Deutsche Mark.
- John Major replaces Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister in 1990.
- The restructuring of the Soviet Union destabilizes, as nationalist and separatist demagogues gain popularity. Boris Yeltsin, then chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, resigns from the Communist Party and becomes the opposition leader against Mikhail Gorbachev. The Communist Party loses its status as the governing force of the country and is banned after a coup attempt by Communist hardliners attempted to revert the effects of Gorbachev's policies. Yeltsin's counter-revolution is victorious on 25 December 1991 with the resignation of Gorbachev from presidency and the dissolution of the USSR. Yeltsin became president of the successor Russian Federation and presided over a period of political unrest, economic crisis, and social anarchy. On 31 December 1999, Yeltsin resigned leaving Vladimir Putin as acting president.
- The European Union forms in 1992 under the Maastricht Treaty.
- The Downing Street Declaration 15 December 1993 by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, John Major, and the Taoiseach of Ireland, Albert Reynolds at the British Prime Minister's office in 10 Downing Street. It affirmed both the right of the people of Ireland to self-determination, and that Northern Ireland would be transferred to the Republic of Ireland from the United Kingdom only if a majority of its population was in favour of such a move. It included, as part of the prospective of the so-called "Irish dimension", the principle of consent that the people of the island of Ireland, had the exclusive right to solve the issues between North and South by mutual consent.^{[15][16]} The latter statement, which later would become one of the points of the Good Friday Agreement,^[17] was key to produce a positive change of attitude by the republicans towards a negotiated settlement. The joint declaration also pledged the governments to seek a peaceful constitutional settlement, and promised that parties linked with paramilitaries (such as Sinn Féin) could take part in the talks, so long as they abandoned violence.^[18]
- The IRA agreed to a truce in 1994. This marked the beginning of the end of 25 years of violence between the IRA and the United Kingdom, and the start of political negotiations.
- Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister in 1997 following the 1997 United Kingdom general election.

- The Belfast Agreement (a.k.a. the Good Friday Agreement) is signed by U.K. and Irish politicians on 10 April 1998, declaring a joint commitment to a peaceful resolution of the territorial dispute between Ireland and the United Kingdom over Northern Ireland. The 1998 Northern Ireland Good Friday Agreement referendum was held on 22 May 1998. There was a large majority of 'Yes'. A total of 1,738 ballots were spoiled. Turnout, at 81.1% was very high for a developed country where voting is not compulsory.^[19] Turnout in the equivalent referendum in the Republic of Ireland was average for a constitutional referendum but returned almost universal approval (94.39%).
- The National Assembly for Wales established following the 1997 Welsh devolution referendum was held on 18 September 1997 in which voters approved the creation of the National Assembly for Wales by a majority of 6,712 votes, or 50.3% of the vote.^[20] The following year the Government of Wales Act was passed by the United Kingdom parliament, establishing the Assembly
- The Scottish Parliament established following a referendum in September 1997, the 1997 Scottish devolution referendum was put to the Scottish electorate and secured a majority in favour of the establishment of a new devolved Scottish Parliament, with tax-varying powers, in Edinburgh.^[21] An election was held on 6 May 1999, and on 1 July of that year power was transferred from Westminster to the new Parliament.^[22]

South America

- Due to the Internal conflict in Peru and the economic crisis, Alberto Fujimori rises to power in Peru and remains in office for eleven years. His administration is marked by economic development but also by numerous human rights violations (La Cantuta massacre, Barrios Altos massacre), and a rampant corruption network set up by Vladimiro Montesinos.
- Carlos Saúl Menem ruled Argentina the whole decade, implemented a free market liberalization program to establish a country chronically plagued by political and economic crises.

Assassinations and attempts

Prominent assassinations, targeted killings, and assassination attempts include:

- September 9, 1990 – Samuel Doe, the President of Liberia, is captured by rebels and is tortured and murdered. The spectacle was videotaped and seen on news reports around the world.
- September 19, 1990 – The Provisional Irish Republican Army tries to assassinate Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry at his home near Stafford, England. Hit by at least nine bullets, the former Governor of Gibraltar survives.
- May 21, 1991 – In Sriperumbudur, India, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is assassinated.
- August 7, 1991 – Shapour Bakhtiari, former prime minister of Iran, is assassinated.
- May 23, 1992 – A remote car bomb causes the death of Italian Judge Giovanni Falcone, a hero in the fight against organized crime. Less than two months later, on July 19, Falcone's co-worker and friend, magistrate Paolo Borsellino was killed by a car bomb in via D'Amelio, Palermo, in front of his mother's house.
- June 29, 1992 – A bodyguard assassinates President Mohamed Boudiaf of Algeria.
- April 1993 – The Kuwaiti government claims to uncover an Iraqi assassination plot against former United States President George H. W. Bush shortly after his visit to Kuwait. Two Iraqi nationals confess to driving a car-bomb into Kuwait on behalf of the Iraqi Intelligence Service.^[23]
- May 1, 1993 – A Tamil Tigers suicide bomber assassinates President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka.
- October 21, 1993 – Burundian President Melchior Ndadaye is killed during an attempted military coup.
- December 2, 1993 – Pablo Escobar also known as "The King of Cocaine" was killed by Members of Colonel Hugo Martínez's Search Bloc in Medellín, Colombia
- March 23, 1994 – Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta was assassinated at a campaign rally in Tijuana during the Mexican Presidential campaign of 1994.
- April 6, 1994 – The airplane carrying Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana and Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira is shot down as it prepared to land in Kigali, Rwanda, sparking the Rwandan genocide and eventually, the First Congo War. The perpetrators have never been identified.
- July 2, 1994 – Colombian football player Andrés Escobar was shot by Humberto Castro Muñoz in Medellín, Colombia
- August 29, 1995 – Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, survives an assassination attempt in Tbilisi.
- November 4, 1995 – Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated at a peace rally in Tel Aviv by a radical Jewish militant who opposed the Oslo Accords.
- March 31, 1995 – Tejano pop singer Selena is shot by fan club president Yolanda Saldívar over financial issues and missing records. Two weeks after death, her birthday is named Selena Day in Texas.
- April 21, 1996 – Dzhokhar Dudayev, the President of Chechnya, is killed by two laser-guided missiles, after his location was detected by a Russian reconnaissance aircraft, which intercepted his phone call.
- October 2, 1996 – The former prime minister of Bulgaria, Andrei Lukanov, is assassinated.
- September 13, 1996 and March 9, 1997 - Popular rap artists Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G. were both shot dead in Las Vegas and Los Angeles respectively at the halcyon of their hip hop careers. Culprits for both of the murders have still been unidentified.
- July 15, 1997 – Gianni Versace was shot dead, aged 50, on the steps of his Miami Beach mansion as he returned from a morning walk on Ocean Drive. He was murdered by Andrew Cunanan, who was also liable in murdering four others including Lee Miglin, a real estate developer and Chicago tycoon two months prior, and used the same gun to commit suicide on a houseboat several days later. Police have said they do not know why Versace was killed.
- February 9, 1998 – Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, survives an assassination attempt in Tbilisi.
- February 16, 1999 – In Uzbekistan, an apparent assassination attempt against President Islam Karimov takes place at government headquarters.
- March 23, 1999 – Gunmen assassinate Paraguay's Vice President Luis María Argaña.
- April 9, 1999 – Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara, president of Niger, is assassinated.



Yitzhak Rabin.

Disasters

Natural disasters

The 1990s saw a trend in increasingly frequent and more devastating natural disasters, breaking many previous records. Although the 1990s was designated by the United Nations as an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction as part of its program to prevent losses due to the disasters, its disasters would go on to cause a record-breaking US\$608 billion worth of damage—more than four past decades combined.^[24]

- The most prominent natural disasters of the decade include: Hurricane Andrew striking South Florida in August 1992, the crippling super storm of March 1993 along the Eastern Seaboard, the devastating 1994 Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles, the Great Hanshin earthquake in Kobe, Japan in January 1995, the Blizzard of 1996 in the eastern United States, the US drought of 1999, the deadly Hurricane Mitch which struck Central America in October 1998, and the destructive Oklahoma tornado outbreak in May 1999, the August 1999 Izmit earthquake in Turkey, and the September 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake in Taiwan.
- A magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit the Philippines on 16 July 1990 and killed around 1000 people in Baguio.
- After 600 years of inactivity the Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted and devastated Zambales and Pampanga in June 1991.
- July 1995 – Midwestern United States heat wave – An unprecedented heat wave strikes the Midwestern United States for most of the month. Temperatures peak at 106 °F (41 °C), and remain above 94 °F (34 °C) in the afternoon for 5 straight days. At least 739 people died in Chicago alone.
- Hurricane Georges made landfall in at least seven different countries (Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and the United States) and Puerto Rico, a Commonwealth of the United States – more than any other hurricane since Hurricane Inez of the 1966 season. The total estimated costs were in the \$60 billion (present day \$100 billion).
- September 1996 – Hurricane Fran made landfall in North Carolina causing significant damage throughout the entire state.
- Hurricane Iniki hits the island of Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands on 11 September 1992, making it one of the costliest hurricanes on record in the eastern Pacific.
- A flood hits the Red River Valley in 1997 becoming the most severe flood since 1826.
- In December 1999 torrential rains and flash floods killed tens of thousands of Venezuelans living in the state of Vargas, in a natural disaster known as the Vargas tragedy.



The 1999 Izmit earthquake which occurred in the northwestern of Turkey killed 17,217 and injured 43,959.



Hurricane Georges downed trees in Key West along the old houseboat row on South Roosevelt Blvd.

Non-natural disasters

- Gulf War oil spill: Resulting from actions taken during the Gulf War in 1991 by the Iraq military, the oil spill caused considerable damage to wildlife in the Persian Gulf especially in areas surrounding Kuwait and Iraq.
- July 11, 1991: A Nationair Douglas DC-8, chartered by Nigeria Airways, caught fire and crashed in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, killing 261 people.
- December 15, 1991: The Egyptian ferry Salem Express sinks in the Red Sea, killing more than 450 people.
- October 4, 1992: El Al Flight 1862, a Boeing 747 cargo airplane heading to Tel Aviv, suffered physical engine separation of both right-wing engines (#3 and #4) just after taking off from Schiphol and crashed into an apartment building in the Bijlmer neighborhood of Amsterdam while attempting to return to the airport. A total of 43 people were killed, including the plane's crew of three and a "non-revenue passenger". Several others were injured.
- July 26, 1993: Asiana Airlines Flight 733 crashed into Mt. Ungeo in Haenam, South Korea killing 68 people.
- April 26, 1994: China Airlines Flight 140, an Airbus A300, crashed just as it was about to land at Nagoya Airfield, Japan, killing 264 and leaving only seven survivors.
- September 8, 1994: USAir Flight 427 crashed near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, killing 132 people.
- September 28, 1994: The car ferry MS Estonia sinks in the Baltic Sea, killing 852 people.
- June 29, 1995: The Sampoong Department Store collapses in Seoul, South Korea, killing 502 people.
- December 20, 1995: American Airlines Flight 965, a Boeing 757, hit a mountain in Colombia at night, killing 159 people.
- July 17, 1996: Trans World Airlines Flight 800, a Boeing 747-131, exploded and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near East Moriches, New York, killing 230.
- November 12, 1996: A Saudia Boeing 747 and a Kazakhstan Airlines Ilyushin Il-76 collided over the town of Charkhi Dadri, outside New Delhi, India, killing 349.
- August 6, 1997: Korean Air Flight 801, a Boeing 747-300, crashed into a hill on the island of Guam, killing 228 people.
- September 26, 1997: Garuda Indonesia Flight 152 crashed in bad weather, killing 234.
- September 2, 1998: Swissair Flight 111, a McDonnell Douglas MD-11, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off Nova Scotia near the towns of Peggys Cove and Bayswater, killing 229.
- October 31, 1999: EgyptAir Flight 990, a Boeing 767, crashed off the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, killing 217.



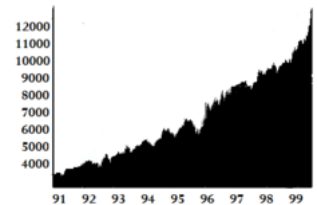
The crash site of El Al Flight 1862 in 1992.

Economics

- Many countries, institutions, companies, and organizations were prosperous during the 1990s. High-income countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and those in Western Europe experienced steady economic growth for much of the decade during the Great Moderation. However, in the former Soviet Union GDP decreased as their economies restructured to produce goods they needed and some capital flight occurred.
- GATT update and creation of the World Trade Organization and other global economic institutions, but opposition by anti-globalization activists showed up in nearly every GATT summit, like the demonstrations in Seattle in December 1999.
- The anti-globalization protests at the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference of 1999 in Seattle began on 30 November 1999. This marked the beginning of a steady increase in anti-globalization protests that occurred in the first decade of the 21st century as well as increasing hostility to neoliberalism.
- U.S. inflation moderated, beginning in 1990 at 5.39%, falling to a low of 1.55% in 1998 and rising slightly to 2.19% in 1999.^[25]

North America

- The decade is seen as a time of great prosperity in the United States and Canada, largely due to the unexpected advent of the Internet and the explosion of technology industries that came with it. The U.S. and Canadian economies experienced their longest period of peacetime economic expansion beginning in 1991. Personal incomes doubled from the recession in 1990, and there was higher productivity overall. The Wall Street stock exchange stayed over the 10,500 mark from 1999 to 2001.
- After the 1992 booming of the US stock market, Alan Greenspan coined the phrase "irrational exuberance".
- The North American Free Trade Agreement, which phases out trade barriers between the United States, Mexico, and Canada, was signed into law by President Bill Clinton.



The Dow Jones Index of the 1990s

Asia

- The government of the People's Republic of China announced major privatization of state-owned industries in September 1997.
- China entered the 1990s in a turbulent period, shunned by much of the world after the Tiananmen Square Massacre and controlled by hard line politicians who reigned in private enterprise and attempted to revive old-fashioned propaganda campaigns. Relations with the United States deteriorated sharply, and the Chinese leadership was further embarrassed by the disintegration of communism in Europe. In 1992 Deng Xiaoping travelled to southern China in his last major public appearance to revitalize faith in market economics and stop the country's slide back into Maoism. Afterwards, China recovered, and would experience explosive economic growth during the rest of the decade. In spite of this, dissent continued to be suppressed, and CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin launched a brutal crackdown against the Falun Gong religious sect in 1999. Deng Xiaoping himself died in 1997 at the age of 93. Relations with the US deteriorated again in 1999 after the bombing of the Chinese embassy during the bombing of Serbia by NATO forces, which caused three deaths, and allegations of Chinese espionage at the Los Alamos Nuclear Facility.
- Financial crisis hits East and Southeast Asian countries between 1997 and 1998 after a long period of phenomenal economic development, which continues by 1999. This crisis begins to be felt by the end of the decade.
- In Japan, after three decades of economic growth put them in second place in the world's economies, the situation worsened after 1993. The recession went on into the early first decade of the 21st century, bringing an end to the seemingly unlimited prosperity that the country had before enjoyed.
- Less affluent nations such as India, Malaysia, and Vietnam also saw tremendous improvements in economic prosperity and quality of life during the 1990s. Restructuring following the end of the Cold War was beginning. However, there was also the continuation of terrorism in Third World regions that were once the "frontlines" for American and Soviet foreign politics, particularly in Asia.

Europe

- By 1990 Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms were causing major inflation and economic chaos. A coup attempt by hard-liners in August 1991 failed, marking the effective end of the Soviet Union. All its constituent republics declared their independence in 1991, and on Christmas, Gorbachev resigned from office. After 73 years, the Soviet Union had ceased to exist. The new Russian Federation was headed by Boris Yeltsin and would face severe economic difficulty. Oligarchs took over Russia's energy and industrial sectors, reducing almost half the country to poverty. With a 3% approval rating, Yeltsin had to buy the support of the oligarchs to win reelection in 1996. Economic turmoil and devaluation of the ruble continued, and with heart and alcohol troubles, Yeltsin stepped down from office on the last day of 1999, handing power to Vladimir Putin.
- Russian financial crisis in the 1990s results in mass hyperinflation and prompts economic intervention from the International Monetary Fund and western countries to help Russia's economy recover.
- The first McDonald's restaurant opens in Moscow in 1990 with then-President of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR and future Russian President Boris Yeltsin attending, symbolizing Russia's transition towards a capitalist free market economy and a move towards adopting elements of western culture.
- Oil and gas were discovered in many countries in the former Soviet bloc, leading to economic growth and wider adoption of trade between nations. These trends were also fueled by inexpensive fossil energy, with low petroleum prices caused by increased production of oil. Political stability and decreased militarization due to the winding down of the Cold War led to economic development and higher standards of living for many citizens.
- Most of Europe enjoyed growing prosperity during the 1990s. However, problems including the massive 1995 general strikes in France following a recession and the difficulties associated with German reunification lead to sluggish growth in these countries. However, both the French and German economies improve in the latter half of the decade. Meanwhile, the economies of particularly Spain, Scandinavia and former Eastern Bloc countries accelerate at rapid speed during the decade although unemployment being mild due to many having experienced a deep recession for the start of the decade.
- After the early 1990s recession, the United Kingdom and Ireland experience rapid economic growth and falling unemployment that continues throughout the decade. Economic growth would continue until the Late 2000s recession marking the longest uninterrupted period of economic growth in history.
- Some Eastern European economies struggled after the fall of communism, but Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania saw economic growth rates in the late 1990s.
- With the creation of the EU there is freedom of movement between member states, such as the 1992 and 1995 free trade agreements.
- The euro is adopted by the European Union on 1 January 1999, which begins a process of phasing out national currencies of EU countries.^[26]



Bush and Gorbachev at the 1990 Helsinki summit.



Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton share a laugh in October 1995.

South America

- The sluggish economies of Brazil, by a new emphasis on free markets for all their citizens, and Mexico, under economist president Ernesto Zedillo elected in 1994, were in their best shape by the late 1990s.

Technology and science

Technology

The 1990s were a revolutionary decade for digital technology. Between 1990 and 1997 individual personal computer ownership in the US rose from 15% to 35%.^[27] Cell phones of the early-1990s and earlier ones were very large, lacked extra features, and were used by only a few percent of the population of even the wealthiest nations. Only a few million people used online services in 1990, and the World Wide Web, which would have a significant impact on technology for many decades, had only just been invented. The first web browser went online in 1993^[28] and by 2001 more than 50% of some Western countries had Internet access, and more than 25% had cell phone access.

Electronics and communications

- On 6 August 1991, CERN, a pan European organization for particle research, publicized the new World Wide Web project.^[29] Although the basic applications and guidelines that make the Internet possible had existed for almost two decades, the network did not gain a public face until the 1990s.
- Driven by mass adoption, consumer personal computer specifications increased dramatically during the 1990s, from 512 KB RAM 12 MHz Turbo XTs in 1990,^[30] to 25–66 MHz 80486-class processor at the start of the popularization of the World Wide Web mid-decade,^[31] to over 1 GHz CPUs with close to a gigabyte of RAM by 2000.
- Y2K spread fear throughout the United States and eventually the world in the last half of the decade, particularly in 1999, about possible massive computer malfunctions on 1 January 2000. As a result, many people stocked up on supplies for fear of a worldwide disaster. After significant effort to upgrade systems on the part of software engineers, no failures occurred when the clocks rolled over into 2000.
- Advancements in computer modems, ISDN, cable modems, and DSL lead to faster connections to the Internet.
- The first Pentium microprocessor is introduced and developed by the Intel Corporation.
- Email becomes popular; as a result, Microsoft acquires the popular Hotmail webmail service.
- Instant messaging and the buddy list feature becomes popular. AIM and ICQ are two early protocols.
- Businesses start to build e-commerce websites; e-commerce-only companies such as Amazon.com, eBay, AOL, and Yahoo! grow rapidly.
- The introduction of affordable, smaller satellite dishes and the DVB-S standard in the mid-1990s expanded satellite television services that carried up to 500 television channels.
- The first MP3 player, the MPMan, is released in late spring of 1998. It came with 32 MB of flash memory expandable to 64 MB. By the mid-2000s, the MP3 player would overtake the CD player in popularity.
- The first GSM network is launched in Finland in 1991.
- Digital single-lens reflex cameras and regular digital cameras become commercially available. They would replace film cameras by the mid-2000s.
- IBM introduces the 1-inch (25 mm) wide Microdrive hard drive in 170 MB and 340 MB capacities.
- Apple in 1998 introduces the iMac all-in-one computer, initiating a trend in computer design towards translucent plastics and multicolor case design, discontinuing many legacy technologies like serial ports, and beginning a resurgence in the company's fortunes that continues to this day.
- CD burner drives are introduced.
- The CD-ROM drive became standard for most personal computers during the decade.
- The DVD media format is developed and popularized along with a plethora of Flash memory card standards in 1994.
- Pagers are initially popular but ultimately are replaced by mobile phones by the early-2000s.
- Hand-held satellite phones are introduced towards the end of the decade.
- The 24-hour news cycle becomes popular with the Gulf War between late 1990 and early 1991 and CNN's coverage of Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Though CNN had been running 24-hour newscasts since 1980, it was not until the Gulf War that the general public took large notice and others imitated CNN's non-stop news approach.^[32]
- Portable CD players, introduced during the late 1980s, became very popular and had a profound impact on the music industry and youth culture during the 1990s.



The logo created by
The President's
Council on the Year
2000 Conversion,
for use on Y2K.gov



A typical early 1990s Personal Computer.



An early portable CD player, a Sony Discman model D121.



Mobile phones gained massive popularity worldwide during the decade.



Pagers became widely popular.

Software

- Microsoft Windows operating systems become virtually ubiquitous on IBM PC compatibles.
- Microsoft introduces Windows 3.1, Windows 95, and Windows 98 to the market, which gain immediate popularity.
- Macintosh System 7 was released in 1991. For much of the decade, Apple would struggle to develop a next-generation graphical operating system, starting with Copland and culminating in its December 1996 buyout of NeXT and the 1999 release of Mac OS X Server 1.0.
- The development of web browsers such as Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer makes surfing the World Wide Web easier and more user friendly.
- The Java programming language is developed by Sun Microsystems (Acquired by Oracle in 2009–2010).
- In 1991 development of the free Linux kernel is started by 21 year old Linus Torvalds in Finland.

Rail transportation

The opening of the Channel Tunnel between France and the United Kingdom saw the commencement by the three national railway companies of Belgium, France and the United Kingdom, respectively SNCB/NMBS, SNCF and British Rail of the joint Eurostar service.

On 14 November 1994 Eurostar services began between Waterloo International station in London, Gare du Nord in Paris and Brussels South in Brussels.^{[33][34][35]} In 1995 Eurostar was achieving an average end-to-end speed of 171.5 km/h (106.6 mph) between London and Paris.^[36] On 8 January 1996 Eurostar launched services from a second railway station in the UK when Ashford International was opened.^[37] Journey times between London and Brussels were reduced by the opening of the High Speed 1 line on 14 December 1997.



Eurostar logo 1994–2011

Automobiles

The 1990s began with another recession that dampened car sales. General Motors suffered huge losses thanks to an inefficient structure, stale designs, and poor quality. Sales improved with the economy by the mid-1990s, but GM's US market share gradually declined to less than 40% (from a peak of 50% in the 1970s). While the new Saturn division fared well, Oldsmobile fell sharply and attempts to remake the division as a European-style luxury car were unsuccessful.

Cars in the 1990s had a rounder, more streamlined shape than those from the 1970s and 1980s; this style would continue early into the 2000s and to a lesser extent later on.



A pair of Eurostar trains at the former Waterloo International since moved to St Pancras International

Chrysler ran into financial troubles again as the 1990s started. Like GM, the company too had a stale model lineup (except for the best-selling minivans) that was largely based on the aging K-car platform. In 1992, chairman Lee Iacocca retired, and the company began a remarkable revival, introducing the new LH platform and "Cab-Forward" styling, along with a highly successful redesign of the full-sized Dodge Ram in 1994. Chrysler's minivans continued to dominate the market despite increasing competition. In 1998, Daimler-Benz (the parent company of Mercedes-Benz) merged with Chrysler. The following year, it was decided to retire Plymouth, which had been on a long decline since the 1970s. Ford continued to fare well in the 1990s, with the second and third generations of the Ford Taurus being named the best selling car in the United States from 1992 to 1996. However, the Taurus would be outsold and dethroned by the Toyota Camry starting in 1997, which became the best-selling car in the United States for the rest of the decade and into the 2000s. Ford also introduced the Ford Explorer, 1991 being the first model year. Fords Explorer became the best-selling SUV on the market; outselling both the Chevy Blazer and Jeep Cherokee.

Japanese cars continued to be highly successful during the decade. The Honda Accord vied with the Taurus most years for being the best-selling car in the United States during the early part of the decade. Although launched in 1989, the luxury brands Lexus and Infiniti began car sales of 1990 model year vehicles and saw great success. Lexus would go on to outsell Mercedes-Benz and BMW in the United States by 1991, and would outsell Cadillac and Lincoln by the end of the decade. SUVs and trucks became hugely popular during the economic boom in the second half of the decade. Many makes that had never built a truck before started selling SUVs. Car styling during the 1990s became gradually more round and ovoid, the third-generation Taurus and Mercury Sable being some of the more extreme examples. Safety features such as airbags and shoulder belts became mandatory equipment on new cars.

Science

- Physicists develop M-theory.
- Detection of extrasolar planets orbiting stars other than the sun.
- In the United Kingdom, the first cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep was confirmed by the Roslin Institute, and was reported by global media on 26 February 1997. Dolly would trigger a raging controversy on cloning and bioethical concerns regarding possible human cloning continue to this day.^[38]
- Human Genome Project begins under the lead of Francis Collins.
- DNA identification of individuals finds wide application in criminal law.
- Hubble Space Telescope was launched in 1990 and revolutionized astronomy. Unfortunately, a flaw in its main mirror caused it to produce fuzzy, distorted images. This was corrected by a shuttle repair mission in 1993.
- Protease inhibitors introduced allowing HAART therapy against HIV; drastically reduces AIDS mortality.
- NASA's spacecraft Pathfinder lands on Mars and deploys a small roving vehicle, Sojourner, which analyzes the planet's geology and atmosphere.
- The Hale-Bopp comet swings past the sun for the first time in 4,200 years in April 1997.
- Development of biodegradable products, replacing products made from polystyrene foam; advances in methods for recycling of waste products (such as paper, glass, and aluminum).
- Genetically engineered crops are developed for commercial use.
- Discovery of dark matter, dark energy, brown dwarfs, and first confirmation of black holes.
- The Galileo probe orbits Jupiter, studying the planet and its moons extensively.
- Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 (formally designated D/1993 F2, nicknamed String of Pearls for its appearance) was a comet that broke apart and collided with Jupiter in July 1994, providing the first direct observation of an extraterrestrial collision of solar system objects..
- The Global Positioning System (GPS) becomes fully operational.
- Proof of Fermat's Last Theorem is discovered by Andrew Wiles.
- Construction started in 1998 on the International Space Station.



Dolly the sheep is the first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic cell.



Hubble Space Telescope.

Environment

At the beginning of the decade, sustainable development and environmental protection became serious issues for governments and the international community. In 1987, the publication of the Brundtland Report by the United Nations had paved the way to establish an environmental governance. In 1992 the Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, in which several countries committed to protect the environment, signing a Convention on Biological Diversity.

The prevention of the destruction of the tropical rainforests of the world is a major environmental cause that first came into wide public concern in the early 1990s, and has continued and accelerated.

The Chernobyl disaster had significant impact on public opinion at the end of the 1980s, and the fallout was still causing cancer deaths well into the 1990s and possibly even into the 21st century.^[39] All along the 1990s, several environmental NGOs helped improve environmental awareness among public opinion and governments. The most famous of these organizations during this decade was Greenpeace, which did not hesitate to lead illegal actions in the name of environmental preservation. These organizations also drew attention on the large deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest during the period.

Global warming as an aspect of climate change also became a major concern, and the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) after the Earth Summit helped coordinate efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere. From 1995, the UNFCCC held annual summits on climate change, leading to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in December 1997, a binding agreement signed by several developed countries.^[40]

Society

The 1990s represented continuing social liberalization in most countries, though coupled with an increase in the influence of capitalism, which would continue until the Great Recession of the late 2000s/early 2010s.

Youth culture in the 1990s responded to this by embracing *both* environmentalism and entrepreneurship. Western world fashions reflected this by often turning highly individualistic and/or counter-cultural, which was influenced by Generation X and early millennials: tattoos and body piercing gained popularity, and "retro" styles inspired by fashions of the 1960s and 1970s were also prevalent. Some young people became increasingly involved in extreme sports and outdoor activities that combined embracing athletics with the appreciation of nature.

Those born from 1990 to 1996 are generally considered part of the Millennial Generation, along with those born in the 1980s, while those born from 1997 onward are often considered part of Generation Z, the post-Millennial generation.^[41]

In 1990 the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of diseases.^[42] Increasing acceptance of homosexuality occurred in the western world, slowly starting in the early 1990s.^[43]

Third-wave feminism

- Anita Hill and other women testify before the United States Congress on being sexually harassed by Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Thomas was narrowly confirmed by the United States Senate, but Hill's testimony, and the testimony of other harassed women, begins a national debate on the issue.
- Record numbers of women are elected to high office in the United States in 1992, the "Year of the Woman."
- Violence against women takes center stage as an important issue internationally. In the United States the Violence Against Women Act was passed, which greatly affected the world community through the United Nations. The law's author, Joe Biden, and UN Ambassador and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Hillary Clinton (see below) become vocal advocates of action against violence against women.
- Women reach great heights of power in the United States government. Hillary Clinton, leading policy proposals, traveling abroad as a State Department representative to 82 nations, advising her husband, and being elected a Senator (in 2000), is the most openly empowered and politically powerful First Lady in American history; Madeleine Albright and Janet Reno take two of the cabinet's top jobs as United States Secretary of State (#1), and United States Attorney General (#4), respectively. Sheila Widnall becomes head and Secretary of the Air Force and Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins Sandra Day O'Connor as the second woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.
- More nations than ever before are led by elected women Presidents and Prime Ministers. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's 1988 victory in Pakistan makes women leaders in Muslim states unextraordinary. In Turkey, Tansu Çiller became the first female prime minister in 1993 (till 1996).
- In popular culture, British pop group the Spice Girls also played a part in the feminist movement, boosting popularity with their slogan "Girl Power!", while country music superstar Shania Twain declared female supremacy in her 1995 hit song "Any Man of Mine."



Women's rights demonstration in Paris, November 1995

Additional significant worldwide events

- Worldwide New Year's Eve celebrations on December 31, 1999, welcoming the year 2000.

Europe

- 1991 – January Events (Lithuania) - Soviet Union military troops attack Lithuanian independence supporters in Vilnius, killing 14 people and wounding 1000.
- In Paris, Diana, Princess of Wales and her friend, Dodi Al-Fayed, were killed in a car accident in August 1997, when their chauffeured, hired Mercedes-Benz S-Class crashed in the Pont de l'Alma tunnel. The chauffeur, Henri Paul died at the scene, as did Al-Fayed. Diana and an Al-Fayed bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones, survived the accident. The Princess of Wales died at a Paris hospital hours later. The bodyguard, Rees-Jones, is the sole survivor of the now infamous accident.^[44]
- Mother Teresa, the Roman Catholic nun who won the Nobel Peace Prize, dies at age 87.^[45]
- The birth of the "Second Republic" in Italy, with the Mani Pulite investigations of 1994.
- The Channel Tunnel across the English Channel opens in 1994, connecting France and England. As of 2021 it is the third-longest rail tunnel in the world, but with the undersea section of 37.9 km (23.5 mi) being the longest undersea tunnel in the world.
- The resignation of President Boris Yeltsin on 31 December 1999 resulting in Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's succession to the position.



Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, 1997.

North America

- O. J. Simpson murder case – O. J. Simpson's trial, described in the American media as the "trial of the century" and enormous United States media attention is focused on the trial. On October 3, 1995, Simpson was found "not guilty" of double-murder of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman.
- With help from clinical fertility drugs, an Iowa mother, Bobbie McCaughey, gave birth to the first surviving septuplets in 1997. There followed a media frenzy and widespread support for the family.
- John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette and sister-in-law Lauren Bessette are killed when Kennedy's private plane crashes off the coast of Martha's Vineyard in July 1999.
- Debate on assisted suicide highly publicized by Michigan doctor Jack Kevorkian, charged with multiple counts of homicide of his terminally ill patients through the decade.
- Beer keg registration becomes popular public policy in United States.

- The 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the Americas in 1992 was popularly observed in the United States, despite controversy and protests against the victimization of Native Americans by Columbus' expeditions. The holiday was labeled by some as racist, in view of Native American experiences of colonialism, slavery, genocide, and cultural destruction.
- Matthew Shepard is murdered near the University of Wyoming for being gay. This sparks intense national and international media attention and outrage. He becomes a major symbol in the LGBT rights movement and the fight against homophobia.
- Shanda Sharer was murdered on January 11, 1992. She was lured away from her house and held captive by a group of teenage girls. She was tortured for hours and burned alive. She died from smoke inhalation. Those that were found guilty and sentenced to prison were Melinda Loveless, Laurie Tackett, Hope Rippey, and Toni Lawrence. According to Melinda, she was jealous of the relationship that her former partner Amanda Heavrin had with Shanda Sharer.
- Karla Homolka was arrested with her husband, Paul Bernardo in 1993. Both sexually tortured and killed their victims. Their first victim was Karla's 15-year-old sister Tammy Homolka. The second and third victims were Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French. Karla told the investigators that she reluctantly did what Paul told her to do because he was abusive and was given a deal. She was sentenced to only 12 years in prison (10 years for Mahaffy and French but only two years for Tammy). Later, investigators discovered videotapes of the crimes which proved that Karla was a willing participant. But by that time the deal had already been made. In 1995, Paul was sentenced to life in prison. Karla was released from prison in 2005.
- Polly Klaas (January 3, 1981 – October 1993) was kidnapped by Richard Allen Davis from her home during a slumber party. She was later strangled to death. After her death, her father, Marc Klaas, established the KlaasKids Foundation.
- Jonbenet Ramsey (August 6, 1990 – December 25, 1996) was a child beauty pageant contestant who was missing and found dead in her Boulder, Colorado, home. The crime terrified the nation and the world. Her parents were initially considered to be suspects in her death but were cleared in 2003 when DNA from her clothes were tested. To this day, her murderer has not been found and brought to justice.
- Lorena Bobbitt was charged with malicious wounding for severing husband John Bobbitt's penis after she was repeatedly sexually assaulted by Bobbitt, for which he was charged. Both parties were acquitted of their respective charges.
- American singer-songwriter, guitarist, and actor John Denver died in a plane crash in Monterey Bay near Pacific Grove in October 12 1997.
- Scandal rocked the sport of figure skating when skater Nancy Kerrigan was attacked during practice by an assailant hired by Jeff Gillooly, former husband of skater Tonya Harding. The attack was carried out in an attempt to injure Kerrigan's leg to the point of being unable to compete in the upcoming 1994 Winter Olympics, thereby securing Harding a better spot to win a gold medal.
- Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold kill 13 people then themselves in the Columbine High School shooting in April 1999, which would lead to inspiring many future school shooters, which have become a uniquely American phenomenon, with more than 230 school shootings occurring since Columbine.

Asia

- Massive immigration wave of Jews from the Commonwealth of Independent States to Israel – With the end of the Soviet Union, Israel faced a mass influx of Russian Jews, many of whom had high expectations the country was unable to meet. Israel also came under Iraqi missile attack during the Gulf War, but acquiesced to US pressure not to retaliate militarily, which could have disrupted the US-Arab alliance. The US and Netherlands then rushed anti-missile batteries to Israel to defend the country against missile attacks.
- Vizconde massacre – On 30 June 1991 three members of the Vizconde Family: Estrellita, Carmela and Jennifer were found dead inside of their house in BF Homes, Parañaque, Metro Manila, Philippines. it was described in the Philippines as the "trial of the century". in 2010 Hubert Webb and his men were later acquitted by the Supreme Court for failure of the prosecution to prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt.
- The Spratly Islands issue became one of the most controversial in Southeast Asia.
- The closing Mass of the X World Youth Day 1995 was held in Rizal Park on 15 January 1995, attended by more than 5 million people. This is the record gathering of the Roman Catholic Church.
- The Philippines celebrates the 100-year anniversary of Philippine Independence in 1998 with its theme: "Kalayaan: Kayamanan ng Bayan".

Popular culture



Seinfeld was the most popular show of the 1990s.



The Super Nintendo was a hit in the 1990s.



The European PAL version of the Mega Drive launched in 1990, later becoming the highest-selling fourth-gen console in Europe.



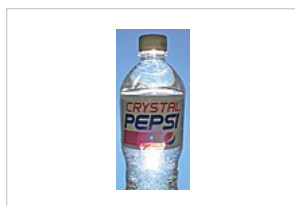
Grunge styles were popular in the 1990s, as modeled here by Kurt Cobain of the band Nirvana, one of the most famous musicians of the decade.



The internet was created and in its infancy in the 1990s.



The Nintendo 64 released in 1996. Super Mario 64 was the best selling game of the decade.



Crystal Pepsi was a popular drink in the 1990s, which was re-released in 2016.



Rugrats and other cartoons like Beavis & Butthead, The Simpsons, and Ren & Stimpy were popular in the 1990s.



A VHS-C tape as would be used in the 1990s.

One of the sets used in the television show *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, which was popular in the 1990s.

Film

Dogme 95 becomes an important European artistic motion picture movement by the end of the decade. The first full-length CGI movie, Pixar's *Toy Story*, is released, revolutionizing animated films. *Titanic* becomes a cultural phenomenon throughout the world, and eventually becomes the highest-grossing film of all time, grossing over \$1.8 billion worldwide. It would hold this record for over a decade until 2010 when director James Cameron had another one of his films take the title, that being *Avatar*.^[46]

Family animated feature films began to gain popularity during the decade, though the late-1990s (1997, 1998, and 1999) were more known. Don Bluth's animation studio released a number of underperforming family animated films such as *Rock-a-Doodle*, *Thumbelina* and *The Pebble and the Penguin* and closed down in 1995. In 1994 former Disney employee Jeffrey Katzenberg founded DreamWorks SKG which would produce its first two animated films: *The Prince of Egypt* and *Antz* which were both aimed more at adults than children and were both critical and commercially successful. Meanwhile, films by Walt Disney Feature Animation became popular once more when the studio returned to making family traditionally animated musical classic films, most notable films were *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *The Lion King*. This era was known as the Disney Renaissance. Other significant animated films have also gained cult status such as *The Jetsons Movie*, *The Princess and the Goblin*, *Happily Ever After*, *An American Tail: Fievel Goes West*, *Ferngully: The Last Rainforest*, *Tom and Jerry: The Movie*, *The Thief and the Cobbler*, *Once Upon a Forest*, *We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story*, *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm*, *Felidae*, *The Swan Princess*, *Balto*, *Beavis and Butt-Head Do America*, *Cats Don't Dance*, *Anastasia*, *Quest for Camelot*, *The Rugrats Movie*, *Kirikou and the Sorceress*, *The King and I*, *South Park: Bigger, Longer, Uncut* and *The Iron Giant*.



The highest-grossing film of the decade was *Titanic* (1997)

Live-action films featuring computer-animated characters became popular with films such as *Casper*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Men in Black*, *Small Soldiers* and *Stuart Little*, although live-action/traditional cel animated film featuring traditional characters like *Cool World*, *The Pagemaster* and *Space Jam* were also prevalent.

Japanese anime films continued in the 1990s as Studio Ghibli's continued to dominate with films such as *Only Yesterday*, *Porco Rosso*, *Pom Poko*, *Whisper of the Heart*, *Princess Mononoke* (which became the highest-grossing anime film at the time) and *My Neighbors the Yamadas*. Other significant anime films which gained cult status include *Roujin Z*, *Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama*, *Patlabor 2: The Movie*, *Ninja Scroll*, *Street Fighter II: The Animated Movie*, *Ghost in the Shell*, *Memories*, *The End of Evangelion*, *Perfect Blue*, *Jin-Roh: The Wolf Brigade*, and the *Pokémon* film series which started with the first two entries *Pokémon: The First Movie* and *Pokémon: The Movie 2000*.

Award winners

Award	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Academy Award for Best Picture winners	<i>Dances with Wolves</i> ^[47]	<i>The Silence of the Lambs</i> ^[48]	<i>Unforgiven</i> ^[49]	<i>Schindler's List</i> ^[50]	<i>Forrest Gump</i> ^[51]	<i>Braveheart</i> ^[52]	<i>The English Patient</i> ^[53]	<i>Titanic</i> ^[54]	<i>Shakespeare in Love</i> ^[55]	<i>American Beauty</i> ^[56]
Palme d'Or winners at the Cannes Film Festival	<i>Wild at Heart</i> ^[57]	<i>Barton Fink</i> ^[58]	<i>The Best Intentions</i> ^[59]	<i>Farewell My Concubine</i> and <i>The Piano</i> ^[60]	<i>Pulp Fiction</i> ^[61]	<i>Underground</i> ^[62]	<i>Secrets & Lies</i> ^[63]	<i>Taste of Cherry</i> and <i>The Eel</i> ^[64]	<i>Eternity and a Day</i> ^[65]	<i>Rosetta</i> ^[66]
César Award for Best Film winners	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>	<i>Tous les matins du monde</i>	<i>Savage Nights</i>	<i>Smoking/No Smoking</i>	<i>Wild Reeds</i>	<i>La haine</i>	<i>Ridicule</i>	<i>Same Old Song</i>	<i>The Dreamlife of Angels</i>	<i>Venus Beauty Institute</i>
Golden Lion winners at the Venice Film Festival	<i>Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead</i>	<i>Close to Eden</i>	<i>The Story of Qiu Ju</i>	<i>Short Cuts</i> and <i>Three Colours: Blue</i>	<i>Vive L'Amour</i> and <i>Before the Rain</i>	<i>Cyclo</i>	<i>Michael Collins</i>	<i>Fireworks</i>	<i>The Way We Laughed</i>	<i>Not One Less</i>

Highest-grossing

The 25 highest-grossing films of the decade are:^[67]

Films by worldwide box office

No.	Title	Year	Box office
1	<i>Titanic</i>	1997	\$1,850,197,130
2	<i>Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace</i>	1999	\$924,305,084
3	<i>Jurassic Park</i>	1993	\$912,667,947
4	<i>Independence Day</i>	1996	\$817,400,891
5	<i>The Lion King</i>	1994	\$763,455,561
6	<i>Forrest Gump</i>	1994	\$677,387,716
7	<i>The Sixth Sense</i>	1999	\$672,806,292
8	<i>The Lost World: Jurassic Park</i>	1997	\$618,638,999
9	<i>Men in Black</i>	1997	\$589,390,539
10	<i>Armageddon</i>	1998	\$553,709,788
11	<i>Terminator 2: Judgment Day</i>	1991	\$516,950,043
12	<i>Ghost</i>	1990	\$505,702,588
13	<i>Aladdin</i>	1992	\$504,050,219
14	<i>Twister</i>	1996	\$494,471,524
15	<i>Toy Story 2</i>	1999	\$487,059,677
16	<i>Saving Private Ryan</i>	1998	\$481,840,909
17	<i>Home Alone</i>	1990	\$476,684,675
18	<i>The Matrix</i>	1999	\$463,517,383
19	<i>Pretty Woman</i>	1990	\$463,406,268
20	<i>Mission: Impossible</i>	1996	\$457,696,391
21	<i>Tarzan</i>	1999	\$448,191,819
22	<i>Mrs. Doubtfire</i>	1993	\$441,286,195
23	<i>Dances with Wolves</i>	1990	\$424,208,848
24	<i>The Mummy</i>	1999	\$415,933,406
25	<i>The Bodyguard</i>	1992	\$410,945,720

Music



Spice Girls, pictured here in 1997, became one of the biggest global pop acts of the decade.



They were two of the highest-selling musical artists of the decade respectively.

The 1990s were a decade that saw marketing become more segmented, as MTV gradually shifted away from music videos beginning in 1992 and radio splintered into narrower formats aimed at various niches.^{[68][69][70][71]} However, they are perhaps best known for grunge, gangsta rap, R&B, teen pop; eurodance, electronic dance music, the renewed popularity of punk rock mainly because of the band Green Day (which would also help create a new genre pop punk) and for being the decade that alternative rock became mainstream. U2 was one of the most popular 1990s bands, their groundbreaking Zoo TV and PopMart tours were the top selling tours of 1992 and 1997. Glam metal dies out through its own accord in the music mainstream by 1991.^[72] Grunge became popular in the early 1990s due to the success

of Nirvana's *Nevermind*, Pearl Jam's *Ten*, Alice in Chains' *Dirt* and Soundgarden's *Badmotorfinger*.^[73] Pop punk also becomes popular with such artists as Green Day, Blink-182, Weezer, Social Distortion, the Offspring, Bad Religion, NOFX and Rancid.^[74] Other successful alternative acts included Red Hot Chili Peppers, R.E.M., Nickelback, Creed, Radiohead, Gin Blossoms, Soul Asylum, Third Eye Blind, Stone Temple Pilots, Faith No More, the Smashing Pumpkins, Live, Everclear, Bush, Screaming Trees and Ween.^[75]

Dr. Dre's 1992 album *The Chronic* provided a template for modern gangsta rap, and gave rise to other emerging artists of the genre, including Snoop Dogg.^[76] Due to the success of Death Row Records and Tupac Shakur, West Coast gangsta rap commercially dominated hip hop during the early-to-mid 1990s, along with Bad Boy Records and the Notorious B.I.G. on the East Coast.^[77] Hip hop

became the best selling music genre by the mid-1990s.^{[78][79]}

In the United Kingdom, the uniquely British alternative rock Britpop genre emerged as part of the more general Cool Britannia culture, with Oasis, Blur, Pulp, Suede, Supergrass and Elastica. The impact of boy band pop sensation Take That lead to the formation of other boy bands in the UK and Ireland such as East 17 and Boyzone. Female pop icons Spice Girls took the world by storm, becoming the most commercially successful British group since the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin.^{[80][81]} Also, R&B has Des'Ree, Mark Morrison and Sade. Their global success brought about a widespread scene of teen pop acts around the world^{[82][83]} such as All Saints, Backstreet Boys, Hanson, NSYNC, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera who came to prominence into the new millennium.^[84] 1991 also saw the death of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury from AIDS-related pneumonia.

Most musicians from Canada (Snow, Celine Dion, The Barenaked Ladies, Shania Twain, Len, Sarah McLachlan, and Alanis Morissette) became known worldwide.



Blink-182 performing in 1995.



rious B.I.G., two significant cultural figures through the history of gangsta rap.

Contemporary R&B and quiet storm continued in popularity among adult audiences, which began during the 1980s. Popular African-American contemporary R&B artists included Mariah Carey, D'Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Whitney Houston, Brandy, En Vogue, TLC, Destiny's Child, Toni Braxton, Boyz II Men, Dru Hill and Vanessa Williams.

The Tibetan Freedom Concert brought 120,000 people together in the interest of increased human rights and autonomy for Tibet from China. Freddie Mercury, Kurt Cobain, Selena, Tupac Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G. are the most publicized music-related deaths of the decade, in 1991, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997 respectively.

Richey Edwards of Manic Street Preachers was publicized in the media in 1991 following an incident involving Steve Lamacq backstage after a live show, in which Edwards carved '4 Real' into his arm. Edwards disappeared in 1995, which was highly publicized. He is still missing, but was presumed dead in 2008.

Controversy surrounded the Prodigy with the release of the track "Smack My Bitch Up". The National Organization for Women (NOW) claimed that the track was "advocating violence against women" due to the lyrics of that song. The music video (directed by Jonas Åkerlund) featured a first-person POV of someone going clubbing, indulging in drugs and alcohol, getting into fist fights, abusing women and picking up a prostitute. At the end of the video the camera pans over to a mirror, revealing the subject to be a woman.

1994 became a breakthrough year for punk rock in California, with the success of bands like Bad Religion, Social Distortion, Blink-182, Green Day, the Offspring, Rancid and similar groups following. This success would continue to grow over the next decade, the 2000s. The 1990s also became the most important decade for ska punk/reggae rock, with the success of many bands like Smash Mouth, Buck-O-Nine, Goldfinger, Less Than Jake, the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Murphy's Law, No Doubt, Reel Big Fish, Save Ferris, Sublime and Sugar Ray.

The rave movement that emerged in the late 1980s rose. Rave spawned genres such as Intelligent dance music and Drum and bass. The latter is an offshoot of jungle techno and breakbeat. Popular artists included Moby, Fatboy Slim, Björk, Aphex Twin, Orbital, the Orb, the Chemical Brothers, Basement Jaxx, Todd Terry, 808 State, Primal Scream, the Shamen, the KLF and the Prodigy.

The rise of industrial music, somewhat a fusion of synthpop and heavy metal, rose to worldwide popularity with bands like Godflesh, Nine Inch Nails, Rammstein, Ministry and Marilyn Manson. Groove metal was born through the efforts of Pantera, whose seventh studio album *Far Beyond Driven* (1994) was notable for going number one on Billboard 200. Another heavy metal sub-genre called nu metal, which mixed metal with hip hop influences, becomes popular with bands like Korn, Slipknot and Limp Bizkit selling millions of albums worldwide. Metallica's 1991 eponymous album *Metallica* is the best-selling album of the SoundScan era, while extreme metal acts such as Death, Mayhem, Darkthrone, Emperor, Cannibal Corpse and others experienced popularity throughout the decade.

In the 1990s, country music became a worldwide phenomenon thanks to Billy Ray Cyrus, Shania Twain and Garth Brooks.^{[85][86][87]} The latter enjoyed one of the most successful careers in popular music history, breaking records for both sales and concert attendance throughout the decade. The RIAA has certified his recordings at a combined (128× platinum), denoting roughly 113 million United States shipments.^[88] Other artists that experienced success during this time included Clint Black, Sammy Kershaw, Aaron Tippin, Travis Tritt, Suzy Bogguss, Alan Jackson, Lorrie Morgan and the newly formed duo of Brooks & Dunn; George Strait, whose career began in the 1980s, also continued to have widespread success in this decade and beyond. Female artists such as Reba McEntire, Faith Hill, Martina McBride, Deana Carter, LeAnn Rimes and Mary Chapin Carpenter all released platinum selling albums in the 1990s. The Dixie Chicks became one of the most popular country bands in the 1990s and early 2000s. Their 1998 debut album *Wide Open Spaces* went on to become certified 12× platinum while their 1999 album *Fly* went on to become 10× platinum.

Television

TV shows, mostly sitcoms, were popular with the American audience. Series such as *Roseanne*, *Coach*, *Empty Nest*, *Mr. Belvedere*, *227*, *Cheers*, *The Cosby Show*, *Growing Pains*, *Night Court*, *The Hogan Family*, *A Different World*, *Amen*, *ALF*, *Perfect Strangers*, *Family Matters*, *Charles in Charge*, *Saved by the Bell*, *My Two Dads*, *Newhart*, *Dear John*, *Designing Women*, *The Golden Girls*, *Who's the Boss?*, *Head of the Class*, and *Seinfeld*, which premiered in the eighties, and *Frasier*, a spin-off of the 1980s hit *Cheers* were viewed throughout the 1990s. These sitcoms, along with *Friends*, *That '70s Show*, *Ellen*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Full House*, *Nurses*, *Murphy Brown*, *The Wonder Years*, *Living Single*, *Step by Step*, *NewsRadio*, *Blossom*, *The King of Queens*, *Major Dad*, *Fired Up*, *Jesse*, *Parker Lewis Can't Lose*, *For Your Love*, *The Steve Harvey Show*, *The Larry Sanders Show*, *Sex and the City*, *Arliss*, *Dream On*, *Grace Under Fire*, *Mad About You*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, *The Naked Truth*, *The Jeff Foxworthy Show*, *The Jamie Foxx Show*, *Smart Guy*, *The Wayans Bros.*, *Malcolm & Eddie*, *Clueless*, *Moesha*, *The Parent 'Hood*, *Unhappily Ever After*, *Roc*, *Martin*, *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*, *In Living Color*, *Sister, Sister*, *Boy Meets World*, *Ned and Stacey*, *Becker*, *Veronica's Closet*, *Two Guys and a Girl*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *Wings*, *The John Larroquette Show*, *Caroline in the City*, *Sports Night*, *Home Improvement*, *Will & Grace*, *Married... with Children*, *Evening Shade*, *Cosby*, *Spin City*, *The Nanny*, *3rd Rock from the Sun*, *Suddenly Susan*, *Cybill*, *Just Shoot Me!*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and *Dharma and Greg* turned TV in new directions and defined the humor of the decade. Furthermore, *Saturday Night Live* experienced a new era of success during the 1990s, launching the careers of popular comedians and actors such as Chris Farley, Dana Carvey, Phil Hartman, Adam Sandler, Will Ferrell, Molly Shannon, Mike Myers, Chris Rock, Norm McDonald, David Spade, Cheri Oteri and others.



Seinfeld premiered on NBC in 1989, becoming a commercial success and cultural phenomenon by 1993.

In early 1993, one of the last westerns ever to air on television was *Walker, Texas Ranger*, a crime drama which also starred Chuck Norris as the title character. Lasting for nine seasons, the show tackled a wide variety of subjects, and was one of the few shows ever to perform karate.

1993 also saw its debut of the medical–mystery drama, *Diagnosis Murder*, a comeback vehicle for Dick Van Dyke, who guest-starred on an episode of its sequel, *Jake and The Fatman*, where the show got off to a rocky start, and became one of television's long-running mysteries, that lasted until its cancellation in 2001.

Medical dramas started to come into television in the 1990s. One show stood out as a critical and ratings success for NBC. In 1994, *ER*, which starred Anthony Edwards, Noah Wyle and George Clooney, was a domestic and international success, lasting until 2009 and spawning series such as *Grey's Anatomy* (2005–present). It made NBC the most watched channel in the United States. This show launched the career of George Clooney. That same year, *Chicago Hope*, that starred Héctor Elizondo, Mandy Patinkin and Adam Arkin, was also a popular series for CBS, lasting between 1994 and 2000.



Friends which premiered on NBC in 1994 became one of the most popular sitcoms of all time.

Beverly Hills, 90210 ran on Fox from 1990 to 2000. It established the teen soap genre paving the way for *Dawson's Creek*, *Felicity*, *Party of Five*, and other shows airing later in the decade. The show was then remade and renamed simply *90210* and premiered in 2008. *Beverly Hills, 90210* spun-off *Melrose Place*, a popular TV show that dominated throughout the 1990s as well. *Baywatch*, a popular TV show that dominated throughout the 1990s, became the most watched TV show in history and influenced pop culture.

Sex and the City's straight portrayal of relationships and sexuality caused controversy and acclaim, leading to a new generation of sexually progressive television shows that would be seen in the 2000s.

The fantasy and science fiction was popular on television, with NBC airing *seaQuest DSV* beginning in 1993. This series is a Steven Spielberg production, made Jonathan Brandis popular teen idol, but after three seasons it was canceled. *Touched By an Angel*, broadcast by CBS in 1994. The series was intended as the comeback vehicle of Della Reese, and also launched the career of Roma Downey. It wasn't an immediate hit, and was canceled the following year, but revived the following year, thanks to die hard fans who approached a letter-writing campaign, where it ran for eight more seasons.

Crime drama and police detective shows returned after soap-operas died down. After the successful debuts of *Law & Order*, *NYPD Blue* {Homicide: Life on the Street} Plus Fox Also Had The Debut Of The Police-Hip-Hop Crime Drama *New York Undercover* Which Star Malik Yoba And Micheal Delorenzo Also Notable For

Feature Two People Of Color In The Starring Roles , Nash Bridges, a comeback vehicle for *Don Johnson*, lasting six seasons (1996–2001) which also dealt with escapist entertainment, rather than tackling issues.^[89]

Reality television began on MTV; this would grow in importance in the Western world into the next decade.

During the mid-1990s, two of the biggest professional wrestling companies: *World Championship Wrestling* and *World Wrestling Federation* were in a ratings battle that was called the Monday Night Wars (1995–2001). Each company fought to draw more viewers to their respective Monday night wrestling show. The "War" ended in 2001 when *WWE* bought *WCW*. In November 2001, there was a Winner Takes All match with both companies in a Pay-Per-View called *Survivor Series*. *WWF* won the match; putting a final end to *WCW*.

As an animated sitcom, *The Simpsons*, premiered on Fox in December 1989, became a domestic and international success in the 1990s. The show has aired more than 600 episodes and has become an institution of pop culture. It has spawned the adult-oriented animated sitcom genre, inspiring racier shows such as *Beavis and Butt-head* (1993–1997), *Daria* (1997–2001), along with *South Park* and *Family Guy*, the latter two of which began in 1997 and 1999 respectively and continue to air new episodes through the 2000s and into the 2020s.

Japanese anime was popular in the 1980s, and expanded to a worldwide audience by the 1990s for its expansive spectrum of story subjects and themes not limited to comedy and superhero action found in the US, and well produced, and well written, visual and story content that came to showcase animation's potential for emotional and intellectual depth and integrity on par with live action media to its viewers, and which also expanded to older and adult ages in the medium of animation. TV shows such as *Sailor Moon*, *Digimon*, *Pokémon*, *Tenchi Muyo!*, *Detective Conan*, *Dragon Ball Z*, *Gundam Wing*, *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, *Ranma ½*, *Yu Yu Hakusho*, *Slayers*, *Rurouni Kenshin*, *Initial D*, *Gunsmith Cats*, *Outlaw Star*, to anime movies such as *Akira*, *Vampire Hunter D*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Castle in the Sky*, *The Castle of Cagliostro*, and imports by various distributors such as Viz, AnimEigo, Central Park Media, A.D. Vision, Pioneer Entertainment, Media Blasters, Manga Entertainment, and Celebrity, helped begin the mid to late 1990s and turn of the millennium introductory anime craze in the US, and the Cartoon Network anime block *Toonami* in 1997.

American animated children's programs went through a renaissance during the decade with studios producing many critically acclaimed shows. Specifically Warner Bros-animated shows like *Tiny Toon Adventures*, *Animaniacs*, *Batman: The Animated Series*, and *Superman: The Animated Series*, as well as syndicated shows like *Phantom 2040*. Nickelodeon's first animated series (*Doug*, *Rugrats*, *The Ren & Stimpy Show*) premiered in 1991.

The late 1990s also saw the evolution of a new TV genre: primetime game shows, popularized by the game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, hosted by Regis Philbin on ABC, as well as other first-run game shows aired in primetime on the newly launched *Game Show Network*.

Fashion and body modification

Significant fashion trends of the 1990s include:

- Earth and jewel tones, as well as an array of minimalist style and design influences, characterize the 1990s, a stark contrast to the camp and bombast seen in the brightly colored fashion and design trends of the 1980s.
- The Rachel, Jennifer Aniston's hairstyle on the hit TV show *Friends*, became a cultural phenomenon with millions of women copying it worldwide.
- The Hi-top fade was very popular among African-Americans in the early 1990s.
- The Curtained Haircut increased in popularity in fashion and culture among teenage boys and young men in the 1990s, mainly after it was popularized in the film *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* by the actor Edward Furlong.
- The model 1300 Wonderbra style has a resurgence of popularity in Europe in 1992 which kicks off a multinational media sensation, the 1994 return of "The Wonderbra" brand, and a spike in push-up, plunge bras around the world.
- Additional fashion trends of the 1990s include the Tamagotchi, Rollerblades, Pogs and Dr. Martens shoes.
- Bleached blond hair became very popular in the late 1990s, as was men with short hair with the bangs "flipped up".
- The 1990s also saw the return of the 1970s teenage female fashion with long, straight hair and denim hot pants.
- Beverly Hills, 90210* sideburns also became popular in the early and mid-1990s.
- Slap bracelets were a popular fad among children, preteens and teenagers in the early 1990s and were available in a wide variety of patterns and colors. Also, popular among children were light-up sneakers, jelly shoes, and shoelace hair clips.
- The Grunge hype at the beginning of the decade popularized flannel shirts among both genders during the 1990s.
- Grunge and hip-hop inspired anti-fashion saw an expansion of the slouchy, casual styles of past decades, mostly seen in baggy and/or distressed jeans, cargo shorts and pants, baseball caps (often worn backwards), chunky sneakers, over-sized sweatshirts, and loose-fitting tees with grandiloquent graphics and logos.
- Y2K fashion became popular in the late 1990s and early 2000s, as the new millennium began. This was marked by darker, slinkier, and more futuristic-looking clothing in the late 1990s.



Grunge-style flannel shirt and curtained hair

- Ironically, tattoos and piercings will hit the mainstream. American model Christy Turlington revealed her belly button piercing at a fashion show in London in 1993. In the late 1990s, most females were getting lower back tattoos.



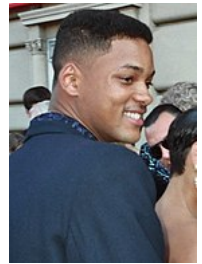
The handheld digital pet device Tamagotchi became an especially popular game among children around the world during the decade



Pogs was an especially popular game around the world during the decade



In the 1990s, Dr. Martens shoes became a popular fashionable item heavily influenced by the grunge scene and the prominent grunge musicians who wore them



Will Smith dons a Hi-top fade in 1993

Video games

Video game consoles released in this decade included the Super Nintendo Entertainment System, Neo Geo, Atari Jaguar, 3DO, Sega Saturn, PlayStation, Nintendo 64 and Dreamcast; while portable video game consoles included Game Gear, Atari Lynx and Game Boy Color. *Super Mario World* was the decade's best selling console video game, while *Pokémon Red and Blue* was the decade's best-selling portable video game; *Super Mario 64* was the decade's best-selling fifth-generation video game, while *Street Fighter II* was the decade's highest-grossing arcade video game.

Mario as Nintendo's mascot finds a rival in Sega's Sonic the Hedgehog with the release of *Sonic the Hedgehog* on the Mega Drive/Genesis in 1991. *Sonic* would go on to become one of the most successful video game franchises of the decade and of all time.

Notable video games of the 1990s include: *Super Metroid*, *Metal Gear Solid*, *Super Mario World*, *Doom*, *Donkey Kong Country*, *Donkey Kong 64*, *Pokémon Red and Blue Versions*, *Pokémon Yellow Version*, *GoldenEye 007*, *Super Mario 64*, *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*, *Gran Turismo*, *Mario Kart 64*, *Half-Life*, *Super Mario Kart*, *Radiant Silvergun*, *Rayman*, *Gunstar Heroes*, *Banjo-Kazooie*, *Soulcalibur*, *Star Fox* series, *Tomb Raider* series, *Final Fantasy*, *Sonic the Hedgehog* series, *Story of Seasons* series, *Tony Hawk's* series, *Crash Bandicoot* series, *Metal Slug* series, *Resident Evil* series, *Street Fighter II*, *Spyro the Dragon* series, *Commander Keen* series, *Test Drive* series, *Dance Dance Revolution* series, *Monkey Island* series, *Dune* series, *Mortal Kombat* series, *Warcraft* series, *Duke Nukem 3D*, *Tekken* series, *EarthBound*, *Fallout: A Post Nuclear Role Playing Game*, and *StarCraft*.

Sony's PlayStation becomes the top-selling game console and changes the standard media storage type from cartridges to compact discs in consoles. *Crash Bandicoot* is released on September 9, 1996, becoming one of the most successful platforming series for the Sony PlayStation. *Spyro The Dragon* released on September 9, 1998, also became a successful platforming series from the console. *Tomb Raider's* (PlayStation) *Lara Croft* became a video game sex symbol, becoming a recognizable figure in the entertainment industry throughout the late 1990s.

3-D graphics become the standard by end of decade. Although FPS's had long since seen the transition to full 3D, other genres begin to copy this trend by the end of the decade. Most notable first shooter games in the 1990s are *GoldenEye 007* and *Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six*.

The console wars, primarily between Sega (Mega Drive, marketed as the Sega Genesis in North America, introduced in 1988) and Nintendo (Super NES, introduced in 1990), sees the entrance of Sony with the PlayStation in 1994, which becomes the first successful CD-based console (as opposed to cartridges). By the end of the decade, Sega's hold on the market becomes tenuous after the end of the Saturn in 1999 and the Dreamcast in 2002.

Arcade games rapidly decrease in popularity, mainly due to handheld and home consoles.^[90]

Fighting games like Capcom's *Street Fighter II*, Sega's futuristic *Virtua Fighter*, and especially the more violent *Mortal Kombat* from Midway prompted the video game industry to accept a game rating system. Hundreds of knock-offs are widely popular in the mid-to-late 1990s. *Doom* (1993) bursts onto the world scene, and instantly popularizes the FPS genre. *Half-Life* (1998) features the next evolutionary step in the genre with continual progression of the game (no levels in the traditional sense) and an entirely in-person view, and becomes one of the most popular computer games in history.

The real-time strategy (RTS) genre is introduced in 1992 with the release of *Dune II*. *Warcraft: Orcs & Humans* (1994) popularizing the genre, and *Command & Conquer* and *Warcraft II: Tides of Darkness* in 1995, setting up the first major real-time strategy competition and popularizing multiplayer capabilities in RTS games. *StarCraft* in 1998 becomes the second best-selling computer game of all time. It remains among the most popular multiplayer RTS games to this day, especially in South Korea. *Homeworld* in 1999 becomes the first successful 3D RTS game. The rise of the RTS genre is often credited with the fall of the turn-based strategy (TBS) genre, popularized with *Civilization* in 1991. *Final Fantasy* was introduced (in North America) in 1990 for the NES, and remains among the most popular video game franchises, with many new titles to date and more in development, plus numerous spin-offs, sequels, films and related titles. *Final Fantasy VII*, released in 1997, especially popularized the series.

Massively multiplayer online role-playing games (MMORPGs) see their entrance into the computer game world with *Ultima Online* in 1997, although they never gain widespread popularity until *EverQuest* and *Asheron's Call* in 1999. MMORPGs go on to become among the most popular genres in the first decade of the 21st century.

Pokémon enters the world scene with the release of the original Game Boy *Pokémon Red* and *Pokémon Green* games in Japan in 1996, later changed to *Pokémon Red* and *Pokémon Blue* for worldwide release in 1998. It soon becomes popular in the United States, spurring the term Pokémonia and is adapted into a popular anime series and trading card game, among other media forms.

Resident Evil is released in 1996. It becomes the most popular survival-horror series in video gaming well into the next decade and inspires several films.

Crash Bandicoot and *Spyro The Dragon* become an innovative platformer for the PlayStation.

The best selling games of the 1990s were as follows (note that some sources disagree on particular years):

- 1990: Super Mario World^[91]
- 1991: Sonic the Hedgehog^[91]
- 1992: Super Mario Land 2: 6 Golden Coins^[91]
- 1993: Super Mario All-Stars^[91]
- 1994: Donkey Kong Country^[91]
- 1995: Super Mario World 2: Yoshi's Island^[91] or Mortal Kombat III^[92]
- 1996: Pokémon Red and Blue^[91] or Super Mario 64^[92]
- 1997: Gran Turismo^[91] or Mario Kart 64^[92]
- 1998: Pokémon Yellow^[91] or The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time^[92]
- 1999: Pokémon Gold and Silver^[91] or Donkey Kong 64^[92]



Nintendo's **Game Boy** was a popular handheld game console during the 1990s.

The **PlayStation** was released in the mid-1990s and became the best-selling gaming console of its time.

The game **Tomb Raider**, launched in 1996, became particularly popular during the decade and as a result Lara Croft's character eventually became a cultural icon in the video game industry

Private **LAN parties** were at the peak of their popularity in the late 1990s and early 2000s when broadband Internet access was unavailable or too expensive for most people

Internet

- **Prominent websites / apps launched during the decade:** IMDb (1993), EBay (1995), Amazon (1994), GeoCities (1994), Netscape (1994), Yahoo! (1995), AltaVista (1995), AIM (1997), ICQ (1996), Hotn
- The pioneering peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing internet service **Napster**, which was first launched in Fall 1999, was the first peer-to-peer software to become massively popular. While at the time it was possible to share files in other ways via the Internet (such as IRC and USENET), Napster was the first software to focus exclusively on sharing MP3 files. Napster was eventually forced to shutdown in July 2001 to prevent further copyright violations.

Architecture

- The Petronas Twin Towers became two of the tallest man-made structures ever built after they officially opened on August 31, 1999.



The Petronas Twin Towers were the world's tallest buildings when completed in 1999.

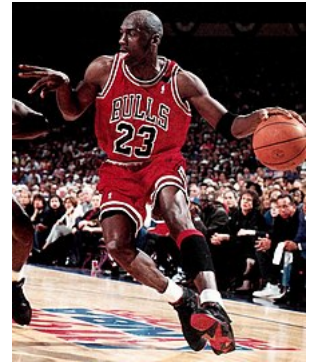
Sports

- The 1992 Summer Olympics are held in Barcelona, Spain.
- Major League Baseball players went on strike on August 12, 1994, thus ending the season and canceling the World Series for the first time in 90 years. The players' strike ended on March 29, 1995, when players and team owners came to an agreement.
- The 1991 World Series pitted the Atlanta Braves and the Minnesota Twins, two teams who finished last place in their respective divisions the previous season. The series would go all seven games won by the home teams that concluded in dramatic fashion with the Minnesota Twins claiming their second World Series title.
- American NBA basketball player Michael Jordan became a major sports and pop culture icon idolized by millions worldwide. He revolutionized sports marketing through deals with companies such as Gatorade, Hanes, McDonald's and Nike. His Chicago Bulls team won six NBA titles during the decade (1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 1998). He was loved outside basketball thanks to his self-portrayal in the film Space Jam with the Looney Tune characters.
- The National Hockey League would expand from 21 to 30 teams. During the expansion years, several teams would relocate to new cities: the Winnipeg Jets moved to Phoenix, Arizona and became the Phoenix Coyotes, the Quebec Nordiques moved to Denver and became the Colorado Avalanche, the Hartford Whalers moved to Raleigh, North Carolina and became the Carolina Hurricanes, and the Minnesota North Stars moved to Dallas and became the Dallas Stars.
- The NHL's 1990s expansion saw new teams in cities that previously never had NHL hockey: San Jose (San Jose Sharks), Anaheim (Mighty Ducks of Anaheim), Nashville (Nashville Predators), Miami (Florida Panthers), and Tampa (Tampa Bay Lightning). The NHL also returned to Atlanta with the expansion Atlanta Thrashers.
- Two of the NHL's Original Six teams, the New York Rangers and the Detroit Red Wings would end long Stanley Cup championship droughts; the Rangers in 1994 after 54 years, and the Red Wings would win back to back Cups in 1997 and 1998 after 42 years.
- Canadian hockey star Mario Lemieux led the Pittsburgh Penguins, one of the original NHL expansion teams, to back-to-back Stanley Cup championships in 1991 and 1992.
- In addition to the Pittsburgh Penguins, three other NHL expansion teams went on to earn their first Stanley Cup championships: the New Jersey Devils in 1995, the Colorado Avalanche in 1996, and the Dallas Stars in 1999.



Fireworks in the SkyDome after Joe Carter's World Series-winning home run, as the Canadian Toronto Blue Jays won their second straight World Series title in 1993 against the US' Philadelphia Phillies.

- Canadian hockey star Wayne Gretzky announced his retirement from the NHL in 1999. Upon his final game on April 18, he held 40 regular-season records, 15 playoff records, and six All-Star records. He is the leading point-scorer in NHL history, as well as the only NHL player to total over 200 points in one season – a feat he accomplished four times. In addition, he tallied over 100 points in 16 professional seasons, 14 of them consecutive. He played for four teams during his NHL career: the Edmonton Oilers, the Los Angeles Kings, the St. Louis Blues, and the New York Rangers.
- American cyclist Lance Armstrong won his first Tour de France in 1999, less than two years after battling testicular cancer.
- In professional wrestling, the boom period of the WWF from the late 1980s continued until 1993, led by such stars as Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior. A second boom period of the decade was introduced during the Monday Night Wars between the WWF and WCW from the middle of the decade to spawn the WWF's Attitude Era, home to some of the biggest names in Wrestling history such as The Undertaker, who would go on to have an undefeated streak at WrestleMania that would go on until WrestleMania XXX in April 2014, Stone Cold Steve Austin and The Rock and the highly popular nWo group, along with Sting and Goldberg who brought WCW major success.
- Manchester United won an unprecedented treble of the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League after defeating Bayern Munich 2–1 in May 1999.
- The United States hosted the 15th staging of the World Cup in 1994. To this day, it holds the record for largest attendance per game during the World Cup finals (even after the tournament's expansion to 32 teams and 64 matches). Additionally, this led to the creation of the MLS.
- In motor racing, triple Formula One World Champion Ayrton Senna is fatally injured in a crash at San Marino in 1994. Michael Schumacher enters into the sport – winning his first two championships in 1994 and 1995. Dale Earnhardt wins the 1998 Daytona 500 and the NASCAR Winston Cup championship in 1990, 1991, 1993, and 1994. Indy Car racing delves into an organizational "Split".
- In the NFL, the San Francisco 49ers and the Washington Redskins showed promise of continuing their '80s glory by each team winning another Super Bowl at the beginning of the decade; but it was the Dallas Cowboys who made a gradual return to dynasty status, winning three Super Bowls (1992, 1993 and 1995) in a four-year span after a 14-year NFL championship drought. The Denver Broncos also won their first two Super Bowls after having lost four, winning consecutive championships of the 1997 and 1998 seasons.
- Florida State, 1987–2000 – At the height of Bobby Bowden's dominance, the Florida State Seminoles went 152–19–1, won nine ACC championships (1992–2000), two national championships (1993 and 1999), played for three more national championships (1996, 1998, and 2000), were ranked #1 in the pre-season AP poll 5 times (1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1999), never lost the #1 AP ranking during 1999, produced 20 1st round NFL draft picks (including the 1997 offensive and defensive rookies of the year), won at least 10 games every year, and never finished a season ranked lower than fourth in the AP poll. Quarterbacks Charlie Ward and Chris Weinke won Heisman Trophies.^[93]
- The Nebraska Cornhuskers led by head coach Tom Osborne won three national championships in college football in a four-year span (1994, 1995, 1997)
- Led by head coach Jim Tressel, The Youngstown State Penguins claimed to be the "team of the '90s" by winning four national championships (1991, 1993, 1994, 1997) in division I-AA college football^[94]
- The Ultimate Fighting Championship (1993) and Pride Fighting Championship (1997) debut and evolve into the modern sport of Mixed Martial Arts.
- Major League Baseball added four teams, Miami Marlins (as Florida Marlins), Colorado Rockies, Tampa Bay Rays (as Tampa Bay Devil Rays), and the Arizona Diamondbacks, and moved one (Milwaukee Brewers) into the National League. The Florida Marlins would win the World Series in 1997 and 2003; the Arizona Diamondbacks would win the World Series in 2001, becoming the fastest expansion team to win a major championship for any major sport; the Colorado Rockies and Tampa Bay Rays would appear in the World Series in 2007 and 2008 respectively.
- In 1998 Canada wins gold metals for the first time in Disc ultimate at the WFDF World Ultimate Championship in Open, Mixed, and Masters.
- In the 1996 Summer Olympics, the Women's Gymnastics team won the first team gold medal for the US in Olympic Gymnastics history.



Michael Jordan, the most popular NBA player of the 1990s.

Literature

- The hugely successful *Harry Potter* series by J. K. Rowling was introduced in 1997. The series, with only seven main novels, would go on to become the best-selling book series in world history and adapted into a film series in 2001.
- John Grisham was the bestselling author in the United States in the 1990s, with over 60 million copies sold of novels such as The Pelican Brief, The Client, and The Firm.^[95]
- Other successful authors of the 1990s include Stephen King, Danielle Steel, Michael Crichton, and Tom Clancy.^[95]
- Goosebumps* by R. L. Stine, the second highest-grossing book series in the world, was introduced in 1992 and remained a dominant player in children's literature throughout and after the decade, but became a television series which aired on Fox Kids alongside a film version that released in 2015.

People

Actors & Entertainers

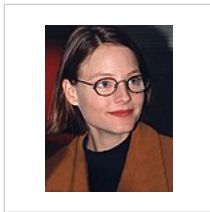
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| ▪ <u>Jason Alexander</u> | ▪ <u>Elizabeth Berkley</u> | ▪ <u>Jackie Chan</u> |
| ▪ <u>Tim Allen</u> | ▪ <u>Sandra Bernhard</u> | ▪ <u>Dave Chappelle</u> |
| ▪ <u>Gillian Anderson</u> | ▪ <u>Halle Berry</u> | ▪ <u>George Clooney</u> |
| ▪ <u>Pamela Anderson</u> | ▪ <u>Pierce Brosnan</u> | ▪ <u>Kevin Costner</u> |
| ▪ <u>Jennifer Aniston</u> | ▪ <u>Sandra Bullock</u> | ▪ <u>Courteney Cox</u> |
| ▪ <u>Christina Applegate</u> | ▪ <u>Brett Butler</u> | ▪ <u>Marcia Cross</u> |
| ▪ <u>Kevin Bacon</u> | ▪ <u>Nicolas Cage</u> | ▪ <u>Tom Cruise</u> |
| ▪ <u>Alec Baldwin</u> | ▪ <u>Dean Cain</u> | ▪ <u>Billy Crystal</u> |
| ▪ <u>Antonio Banderas</u> | ▪ <u>Neve Campbell</u> | ▪ <u>Macaulay Culkin</u> |
| ▪ <u>Roseanne Barr</u> | ▪ <u>Drew Carey</u> | ▪ <u>Matt Damon</u> |
| ▪ <u>Drew Barrymore</u> | ▪ <u>George Carlin</u> | ▪ <u>Ellen DeGeneres</u> |
| ▪ <u>Kim Basinger</u> | ▪ <u>Jim Carrey</u> | ▪ <u>Robert De Niro</u> |
| ▪ <u>Candice Bergen</u> | ▪ <u>Dana Carvey</u> | ▪ <u>Johnny Depp</u> |

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- [Fran Drescher](#)
- [David Duchovny](#)
- [Anthony Edwards](#)
- [Chris Farley](#)
- [David Faustino](#)
- [Will Ferrell](#)
- [Laurence Fishburne](#)
- [Calista Flockhart](#)
- [Harrison Ford](#)
- [Jodie Foster](#)
- [Dennis Franz](#)
- [Morgan Freeman](#)
- [Janeane Garofalo](#)
- [Jennie Garth](#)
- [Sarah Michelle Gellar](#)
- [Mel Gibson](#)
- [Kathie Lee Gifford](#)
- [Peri Gilpin](#)
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- [Mark-Paul Gosselaar](#)
- [Kelsey Grammer](#)
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- [Mitch Hedberg](#)
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- [David Letterman](#)
- [Heather Locklear](#)
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- [Ian Ziering](#)

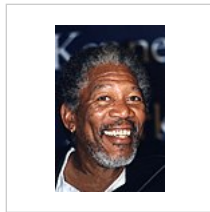
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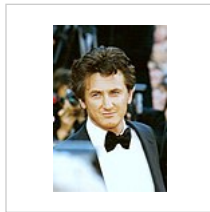
[Johnny Depp](#)



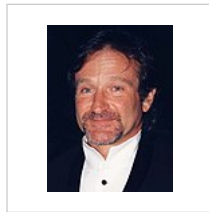
[Jodie Foster](#)



[Morgan Freeman](#)



[Sean Penn](#)



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Athletes

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- [Grant Hill](#)
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- [Jaromir Jagr](#)
- [Derek Jeter](#)
- [Randy Johnson](#)
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- [Michael Jordan](#)
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- [Mario Lemieux](#)
- [Greg LeMond](#)
- [Greg Maddux](#)
- [Karl Malone](#)
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- [Alonzo Mourning](#)
- [Hakeem Olajuwon](#)
- [Shaquille O'Neal](#)
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- [Brendan Shanahan](#)
- [Kelly Slater](#)

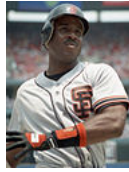
- [Emmitt Smith](#)
- [John Smoltz](#)
- [John Stockton](#)
- [Steve Yzerman](#)



[Michael Jordan](#)



[Wayne Gretzky](#)



[Barry Bonds](#)



[Dale Earnhardt](#)

Musicians

- [Aaliyah](#)
- [Aerosmith](#)
- [Alan Jackson](#)
- [Alanis Morissette](#)
- [Alice In Chains](#)
- [A Tribe Called Quest](#)
- [Backstreet Boys](#)
- [Beck](#)
- [Blind Melon](#)
- [Blur](#)
- [Bon Jovi](#)
- [Boyz II Men](#)
- [Britney Spears](#)
- [Bryan Adams](#)
- [Busta Rhymes](#)
- [Celine Dion](#)
- [Clint Black](#)
- [Cocteau Twins](#)
- [Collective Soul](#)
- [The Cranberries](#)
- [Daft Punk](#)
- [Dave Matthews Band](#)
- [Deftones](#)
- [Depeche Mode](#)
- [DMX](#)
- [Dr. Dre](#)
- [Eazy-E](#)
- [Elliott Smith](#)
- [Eminem](#)

- [Everclear](#)
- [Fiona Apple](#)
- [Foo Fighters](#)
- [Fugees](#)
- [Garth Brooks](#)
- [Gloria Estefan](#)
- [Goo Goo Dolls](#)
- [Green Day](#)
- [Hootie and the Blowfish](#)
- [Ice Cube](#)
- [Incubus](#)
- [Janet Jackson](#)
- [Jay-Z](#)
- [Korn](#)
- [Lenny Kravitz](#)
- [Madonna](#)
- [Mariah Carey](#)
- [Marilyn Manson](#)
- [Melissa Etheridge](#)
- [Metallica](#)
- [Michael Jackson](#)
- [The Mighty Mighty Bosstones](#)
- [Nas](#)
- [Nightwish](#)
- [Nine Inch Nails](#)
- [Nirvana](#)
- [No Doubt](#)
- [The Notorious B.I.G.](#)
- [NSYNC](#)

- [Oasis](#)
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- [Radiohead](#)
- [Rage Against the Machine](#)
- [Red Hot Chili Peppers](#)
- [Sean Combs](#)
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[Nine Inch Nails](#)



[The Cranberries](#)



[Red Hot Chili Peppers](#)

See also

- [1990s in music](#)
- [1990s in fashion](#)
- [1990s in television](#)
- [1990s in science and technology](#)

- 1990s in video gaming
- 1990s in literature

Timeline

The following articles contain brief timelines which list the most prominent events of the decade:

1990 • 1991 • 1992 • 1993 • 1994 • 1995 • 1996 • 1997 • 1998 • 1999

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