

## World History: 1961 to 1980

**1961**

Led by Julius Nyerere, Tanganyika achieves independence from Britain.

**1961**

Quincy Jones becomes vice president of Mercury Records, the first black to hold such a high office in a white owned record company.

**1961**

Soprano Leontyne Price debuts at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House in *Il Trovatore*.

**1961**

Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points in a single basketball game.

**1961**

Bob Marley, Bunny Livingston, and Peter Tosh form a group called the Rudeboys.

**1961**

Ossie Davis's play *Purlie Victorious* is produced.

**1961**

LeRoi Jones publishes *Preface to a 20 Volume Suicide Note*.

**1962**

Rwanda and Burundi gain independence.



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**1962**

Robert Hayden publishes *A Ballad of Remembrance*.

**1962**

Charles Perry publishes *Portrait of a Young Man Drowning*.

**1962**

Actors Equity members decide not to perform in segregated theaters.

**1962**

James Meredith is the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi; on the day he enters the university, he is escorted by U.S. marshals.

**1962**

John Coltrane has a recording session with Duke Ellington.

**1963**

Sidney Poitier is the first Black to win an Oscar for Best Actor; he won for *Lilies of the Field*.

**1963**

Under the leadership of Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya achieves independence from Britain.

**1963**

Frantz Fanon publishes *The Wretched of the Earth*.



## World History: 1961 to 1980

**1963**

Poor people in Ethiopia revolt in Bale until 1970.

**1963**

Medgar Evers is murdered by Klansman in Mississippi on June 12th.

**1963**

Nigeria becomes a Republic with Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe as its first President.

**1963**

On September 15th an African American church is bombed in Birmingham, Alabama, killing four girls.

**1963**

W.E.B. DuBois dies in Accra, Ghana.

**1963**

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom draws at least 250,000 demonstrators.

**1963**

In New York, African-American artists including Charles Alston, Romare Bearden, Norman Lewis, and Hale Woodruff, form the group Spiral, dedicated to defining the problems faced by black artists and to linking art with social responsibility.



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The Organization for African Unity is founded in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

**1963**

Queen Mother Moore forms a Reparations Committee of Descendants of enslaved African Americans.

**1963**

Gordon Parks's novel *The Learning Tree* is published.

**1963**

Wole Soyinka's plays *The Lion & the Jewel* and *A Dance in the Forest* are published.

**1963**

James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* is published.

**1963**

Despite Governor George Wallace physically blocking their way, Vivian Malone and James Hood register for classes at the University of Alabama.

**1964**

Al-Hajj Malik Shabazz (Malcolm X) forms the Organization of Afro-American Unity.

**1964**

Louis Armstrong's "Hello Dolly" replaces "I Want to Hold Your Hand" as the number one record on Billboard's Top 40.



## World History: 1961 to 1980

**1964**

Ernest Gaines publishes *Catherine Carmier*.

**1964**

LeRoi Jones' (Amiri Baraka) play *Dutchman* is produced. The play is a kind of exorcism, ridding the "Black mind" of white interference. These themes, as well as reaction to them by African American and non-African American communities, foreshadow issues with which the Black Arts Movement would deal.

**1964**

James Baldwin's civil rights play *Blues for Mister Charlie* opens on Broadway to mixed reviews as many white critics who have supported Baldwin's work feel that he has turned against them.

**1964**

John Coltrane records "A Love Supreme," Part I, II, III, and IV.

**1964**

Freedom Summer brings thousands of Black and White students to Mississippi to work in the Civil Rights Movement.

**1964**

The Civil Rights Act abolishes segregation in public accommodations in the South and bans discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex.



## World History: 1961 to 1980

**1964**

Martin Luther King Jr. accepts the Nobel Peace Prize. He is the second African American to receive the award (Ralph Bunche was the first).

**1964**

Eight African leaders, including Nelson Mandela, are sentenced to life in prison in South Africa.

**1965**

Muhai Richard Abrams founds the Chicago-based Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM).

**1965**

Many student demonstrations occur in the streets of Addis Ababa.

**1965**

Al-Hajj Malik Shabazz (Malcolm X) is murdered in front of his family on February 21st at 3:10 P.M.

**1965**

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* is published.

**1965**

Elijah Muhammad publishes *Message to the Blackman in America*.



## World History: 1961 to 1980

**1965**

Racial rebellion in the Watts district of L.A. results in over \$225 million in property damage.

**1965**

A White regime declares Rhodesia independent, civil war begins and does not end until 1979.

**1965**

The Voting Rights Act provides guarantees for Blacks voting in the South.

**1965**

Claude Brown publishes *Manchild in the Promised Land*.

**1965**

Leroi Jones publishes *The System of Dante's Hell*.

**1965**

Melvin Toldson publishes *Harlem Gallery*.

**1965**

Larry Neal publishes "The Cultural Front."

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**1965**

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**1966**

The Black Panther Party is founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale.

**1966**

The first of seven coups in Nigeria occur in January; many leaders are murdered.



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**1966**

Melvin Toldson publishes *Selected Poems*.

**1966**

LeRoi Jones publishes *Home*.

**1966**

Margert Walker publishes *Jubilee*.

**1966**

While away visiting China, Kwame Nkrumah is overthrown on February 24th.

**1967**

Community Control of Schools Movement initiated at Harlem PS. 201.

**1967**

*The Black Panther*, the newspaper of the Black Panther Party, is founded.

**1967**

John Coltrane opens The Olatumji Center of African Culture in Harlem, New York on March 27th.

**1967**

Eastern Nigeria claims independence as the Republic of Biafra and this act leads to civil war.



## World History: 1961 to 1980

**1967**

John William Coltrane dies in Huntington, Long Island on July 17th.

**1967**

A Black Power Conference is held in Newark, New Jersey.

**1967**

Charles Fuller publishes "Black Writing is A Socio Political Act."

**1967**

The Jimi Hendrix Experience's debut album, *Are You Experienced?*, is a success in America and Europe; Hendrix becomes an influence in rock music.

**1967**

Leroi Jones publishes *Tales*.

**1967**

Ishmael Reed publishes *The Free Lance Pall Bearers*.

**1968**

A Black Power Conference is held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**1968**

Eldridge Cleaver's *Soul on Ice* is published. The autobiographical book is a scatological rationalization of the writer's decision to become a "native son." Cleaver's book is wildly successful among white liberals.



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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee; riots occur in 125 cities.

**1968**

Ernest Gaines publishes *Bloodline*.

**1968**

Nikki Giovanni publishes *Black Feeling, Black Talk*.

**1968**

Andre Lourde publishes *The First Cities*.

**1969**

Black Panther leader Fred Hampton is killed by Chicago police.

**1969**

The Jackson Five's first single for Motown, "I Want You Back," goes to the top of the charts. The Gary, Indiana group goes on to make a number of hugely successful albums.

**1969**

A Black Power Conference is held in Bermuda, West Indies.

**1969**

Gwendolyn Brooks becomes Poet Laureate of Illinois.



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**1969**

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that school districts must end racial segregation at once.

**1969**

Arthur Mitchell co-founds Dance Theater of Harlem

**1969**

The Ford Foundation gives \$1 million to Morgan State University, Howard University, and Yale University to help prepare faculty members to teach courses in African American Studies.

**1970**

Maya Angeles published *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

**1970**

The Congress of African People meets in Atlanta, Georgia.

**1970**

Charles Gordone wins Pulitzer Prize for his play *No Place To Be Somebody*.

**1970**

Cecil Brown publishes *The Life and Loves of Mr. Jiveass Nigger*.

**1970**

Mari Evans publishes *I Am a Black Woman*.



## World History: 1961 to 1980

1970

John Edgar Wideman publishes *Hurry Home*.

1971

Toni Morrison publishes *The Bluest Eye*.

1971

Melvin Van Peebles' controversial independent film "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song" is released. The film foreshadows a renaissance in Black Film making.

1971

Rev. Jesse Jackson forms PUSH, People United to Save Humanity.

1971

Ernest J. Gaines's novel *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* is published.

1971

Dr. Yosef A.A. ben-Jochannan publishes *Africa Mother of Western Civilization*.

1971

Activist George Jackson is murdered on August 21st.

1971

John O. Killens publishes *The Cotillion or, One Good Bull is Half the Herd*.



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1972

Frank Wills, an African American security guard, discovers the Watergate Break-in.

1972

Some 8,000 Blacks attend the first National Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana.

1972

Toni Cade Bambara publishes a collection of short stories called *Gorilla, My Love*.

1972

*The Man Died: Prison Notes* of Wole Soyinka, is published.

1972

On April 27th, Kwame Nkrumah dies in Bucharest.

1972

Ishmael Reed publishes *Mumbo Jumbo*.

1973

Alice Walker publishes *Revolutionary Petunias and Other Poems*.

1973

Soprano Kathleen Battle debuts at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, singing the role of the shepherd in *Tannhauser*.



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The Association of Black Journalists is established in Philadelphia. It is the predecessor to National Association of Black Journalist.

1973

John Edgar Wideman publishes *The Lynchers*.

1973

Ayi Kwei Armah publishes *Two Thousand Seasons*.

1973

Emperor Haile Selassie is overthrown by a military coup on September 12th.

1973

Scott Joplin's music featured in the film *The Sting*.

1973

Bernice Reagon forms the group *Sweet Honey in the Rock*.

1974

Hazel Garland, editor-in-chief of Pittsburgh Courier newspaper, becomes first African American female head of a Black newspaper chain circulated nationally in United States.

1974

Ethiopian peasants revolt against feudal exploiters.



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**1974**

Maya Angelou publishes *Gather Together in My Name*.

**1974**

Romare Bearden paints his *Of The Blues* series.

**1975**

The Vietnam War ends.

**1975**

National Association of Black Journalists founded in Washington, DC by 44 African American news reporters.

**1975**

Arthur Ashe wins the Wimbledon singles title.

**1975**

Emperor Haile Selasie is killed in August and buried under one of his palaces.

**1975**

Another Nigerian coup occurs. The new leader is Brigadier Murtala Muhammed.

**1975**

Donna Summer's "Love to Love You Baby" helps launch the disco craze.



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Herbie Hancock's "Headhunters," a "crossover" success, sells more copies than any other jazz album in history.

1975

Maya Angelou publishes *Oh Pray My Wings are Gonna Fit Me Well*.

1975

Robert Hayden publishes *Angle of Ascent*.

1975

Gayl Jones publishes *Corregidora*.

1976

Paul Robeson dies on January 23rd.

1975

Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf* opens at Public Theater, and later plays on Broadway.

1976

Maya Angelou publishes *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas*.

1976

Negro History Week becomes Black History Month.



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**1976**

Abortive Nigerian coup, Brigadier Murtala Muhammed is assassinated.

**1976**

Police fire on school children in Soweto, South Africa.

**1976**

Alex Haley's novel *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* is published.

**1976**

Gayle Jones publishes *Eva's Man*.

**1977**

Alex Haley's epic tale of African Americans, "Roots," is televised.

**1977**

Toni Cade Bambara publishes *The Sea-Birds are Still Alive*.

**1977**

Gayl Jones publishes *White Rat*.

**1978**

*National Black Consciousness Day (Zumbi Day)* is established in Brazil on November 20th



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**1978**

Muhammad Ali wins the heavyweight boxing championship for a record third time

**1978**

James A. McPherson receives the Pulitzer Prize for his short story collection *Elbow Room*.

**1978**

The Bakke Supreme Court decision challenges constitutionality of affirmative action.

**1978**

Ernest Gaines publishes *In My Father's House*.

**1979**

Multi-party elections are held in Nigeria, and Alhaji Shehu Shagari becomes President.

**1979**

The Sugar Hill Gang's "Rapper's Delight" is the first commercially successful rap song and marks beginning of Hip Hop culture.

**1980**

African Freedom fighters destroy Rhodesia; the Republic of Zimbabwe is reestablished.



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**1980**

Toni Cade Bambara publishes *The Salt- Eaters*.

**1980**

Robert Johnson establishes Black Entertainment Television with a \$15,000 loan.

