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The Annual Register

World Events



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"One of the great merits of the Annual Register is that it records events and people that soon vanish from the historical memory. This is crucial in an age such as ours which is increasingly dominated by instant pop celebrities of mediocre—if that—significance... The best summary of this invaluable book is that it maintains the high standards it has inherited. For breadth of coverage, for depth of analysis, for reasonable objectivity, and for clarity of writing, the 2007 Annual Register retains the position it has held for well over two centuries, that is, the best one-volume work of reference on the world today."

—Praise for The Annual Register in print form, from Richard Mullen in *The Contemporary Review*



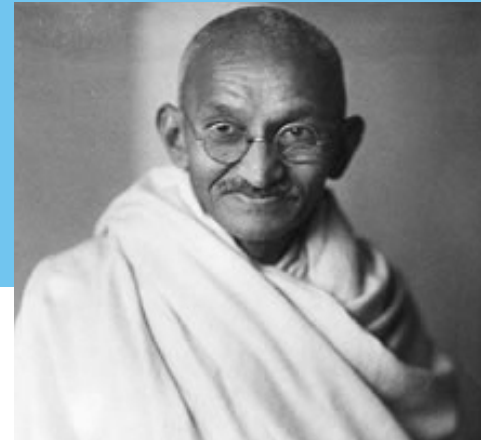


Start here for accounts of historical events written by people who were there at the time.

The Annual Register World Events

The Annual Register is a renowned reference work that provides a year-by-year record of the major and minor world events back to 1758. It's a valuable resource of contemporary opinion, historical context, and biographical and primary source information for both historians and students. From James Cook's landing on the shores of Australia to George W. Bush's visit to Mongolia, The Annual Register offers an unparalleled look at history through vividly written first-hand accounts, and crisply written country-by-country summaries.

Since its earlier days in book form, The Annual Register has long been considered as essential reading by journalists, politicians, historians, and anyone with an interest in current affairs. For example, as a young officer serving in India in 1897, Winston Churchill asked his mother to send him the last 27 volumes of The Annual Register, so he could study the accounts of British politics as preparation for standing as an MP. Within two years he was appearing in its pages himself, and when he died in 1965 the Register devoted a special preface to him.



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In addition to the big stories of the day, The Annual Register documents even the smallest details including weather conditions at the time, dates of public holidays, accounts of celebrity weddings, and more.

The Annual Register chronicles unusual events

such as this 1861 account of a fire in Southwark, London.



The inhabitants of the metropolis and of all the adjacent districts were witnesses of a conflagration without a parallel in the history of their city since the Great Fire of London in 1666.... In this building, between 4 and 5 o'clock, as the business of the day was about to be closed, an alarm was raised that smoke was issuing from some jute stowed on the third floor. Several of the labourers entered the place with buckets of water, in the hope of extinguishing the fire; but the smoke was so dense and suffocating, that they were compelled to retreat.... Shortly before 6 o'clock the fire burst forth with awful fury, and the whole of the main building from the basement to the roof became enveloped in flames.... Never since the fire of 1666 had such a scene been witnessed. The whole south bank of the river, from London-bridge to below the Custom-house, seemed one stupendous pile of fire, glowing at its core with an intensity painful to look at, and casting a ruddy glare above on everything far and near.

Excerpt from The Annual Register, 1861



1769 review of fashion statements includes facial hair



1929 coverage of the stock market panic in the U.S. extends to impact abroad



1980 obituaries finds John Lennon paired with John McCormack, Marshall McLuhan, and Steve McQueen