

MAJOR EUROPEAN LEADERS SINCE WORLD WAR II

Eamon De Valera, Ireland, 1932-48, 1951-1954, 1957-1959, 1959-1973: led Sinn Fein rebels in 1916 Easter Rebellion; nationalist and isolationist, social and cultural conservative who oversaw a period of Irish economic and cultural stagnation

Josep Broz Tito, Yugoslavia, 1943 – 1980: Croatian communist who led Yugoslav partisan resistance during WWII; led non-Stalinist Communist government from 1945 until his death in 1980, minimized Yugoslav nationalistic rivalries with slogan “brotherhood and unity”; leader of Third World Nonaligned nations

Enver Hoxha, Albania, 1943 – 1985: formed Albanian Communist Party; broke with USSR after it renounced Stalinism in 1961 and later adopted repressive Maoist-style Communism

Clement Attlee, UK, 1945 - 1951: first Labour prime minister; nationalized iron, steel, railroads, coal, and health care – founder of “nanny state”

Konrad Adenauer, West Germany, 1949 - 1963: mayor of Cologne; founded Christian Democratic Union; joined NATO and EU; largely responsible for peaceful integration of West Germany into Europe after WWII

Imre Nagy , Hungary, 1953 - 1955, 1956: allowed peasants to leave collective farms; promised free elections; suppressed by Soviets; returned to power briefly in 1956 Hungarian Revolution; executed

Nikita Khrushchev, USSR, 1953 - 1964: Communist Party political leader at Stalingrad during WWII; later battled for power with Malenkov and KGB-head Beria after Stalin’s death; executed Beria; denounced Stalin in 20th Party Congress “Secret Speech”; held “Kitchen Debate” with US Vice-President Richard Nixon in 1959; rivaled JFK in Berlin 1961 and during 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis; perceived as weak by Communist Party and ousted from power

Anthony Eden, UK, 1955 - 1957: resigned after attacking Egypt during the Suez Canal Crisis of 1956, a major blow to British imperialism

Pope John XXIII, Vatican City, 1958 - 1963: called Second Vatican Council, the largest revision to Catholic practices since the Council of Trent; established secretariat for promoting Christian unity; Ecumenical Movement promoted Christian-Jewish dialogue

Charles De Gaulle, France, 1958 - 1969: headed London-based French government-in-exile during WWII; provisional premier 1945 - 1946; appointed by National Assembly to draft new constitution in 1958; negotiated Algerian independence; joined EU; resolved widespread student and worker strikes in 1968

Ludwig Erhard, West Germany, 1963 - 1966: led German economic miracle; member of CDU

Pope Paul VI, Vatican City, 1963 – 1978: presided over most of Second Vatican Council; rebuilt ties with Eastern and Coptic Orthodox churches

Leonid Brezhnev, USSR, 1964 - 1982: developed Brezhnev Doctrine saying communist states can intervene in each other's affairs; detente with US; signed first SALT treaty

Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania, 1965 - 1989: notoriously brutal, repressive, rigidly Stalinist regime, executed with wife Elena on Christmas 1989 after the only violent anti-Communist Revolution of 1989

Alexander Dubcek, Czechoslovakia, 1968 - 1969: initiated reforms of 1968 Prague Spring but expelled from Communist Party when Warsaw Pact forces invaded

Gustav Husak, Czechoslovakia, 1969 - 1987: instituted "normalization", reversing Dubcek's reforms

Willy Brandt, West Germany, 1969 - 1974: mayor West Berlin 1957-66; Social Democrat; won 1971 Nobel Peace Prize for *Ostpolitik* reconciliation of West Germany with East Germany, Poland, and the Soviet Union

Erich Honecker, East Germany, 1971 - 1989: as head of security forces built Berlin Wall 1961; resisted political reforms

Helmut Schmidt, West Germany, 1974 - 1982: Social Democrat; continued the West German Economic Miracle giving Germany Western Europe's strongest and most stable economy; major proponent of European monetary union and central banking

Pope John Paul II "the Great", Vatican City, 1978-2005 : Polish, first non-Italian since 1523; entered seminary in Nazi-occupied Poland; assassination attempt May 13 1981; conservative and well-traveled; strengthened ties with Judaism, the Eastern Orthodox and Anglican Churches, Islam, and Buddhism; credited for the spiritual inspiration to bring about the downfall of Communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe, Latin America; will be canonized in April 2014.

Margaret Thatcher, UK, 1979 - 1990: first woman PM; Conservative leader elected to three terms; anti-trade union leading to year-long standoff with British coal miners; defeated Argentina in Falkland Islands 1982; resisted Irish Republican Army during a renewed "Time of Troubles" in Northern Ireland; opposed full economic integration of Britain in Europe; strengthened close US-UK "special relationship" with US President Ronald Reagan; partially credited with "defeating" Communism; opposed German reunification.

Francois Mitterrand, France, 1981 - 1995: first French Socialist President; nationalized industries but reversed many policies by 1982; died of prostate cancer

Helmut Kohl, West Germany and later reunited Germany, 1982 - 1998: reunified Germany October 1990; elected to four terms as chancellor

Mikhail Gorbachev, USSR, 1985 - 1991 : introduced *perestroika* (restructuring) to revive the stagnant Soviet economy and *glasnost* (openness) to reform the Soviet political system; withdrew troops from Afghanistan in 1989 and announced that USSR would no longer use military force to support Communist Party regimes in Eastern European satellite states; won 1990 Nobel Peace Prize; recognized independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in early 1991; survived 3-day attempted coup in August 1991; recognized that the Soviet Union had dissolved by December 1991

Vaclav Havel, Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic, 1989-2003: playwright (*The Garden Party, The Memorandum*); founded Charter 77 reform movement in favor of human and civil rights; led protests that toppled Communism in peaceful Velvet Revolution; elected Czechoslovakian president 1989 and Czech president 1993; oversaw the peaceful 1993 Velvet Divorce of the Czech Republic and Slovakia

Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslavia/Serbia, 1989- 2000: led Yugoslavia/Serbia during the Yugoslav Wars; supported Bosnian Serbs and pursued a policy of building a "Greater Serbia" through the ethnic cleansing (genocide) of Bosnian Muslims and Croats; signed Dayton Accords; later conducted ethnic cleansing against Muslims in the Serbian province of Kosovo which later gained independence in 2008; tried in The Hague for war crimes and died awaiting sentencing

Franjo Tudjman, Croatia, 1990 - 1999 : leader of Croatian Democratic Union; won independence for Croatia from Yugoslavia; fought Serb-dominated Yugoslav army; signed Dayton Accords

Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1990 - 2001: Muslim leader in Bosnian civil war; won independence for Bosnia from Yugoslavia; signed Dayton Accords

Lech Walesa, Poland, 1990 - 1995: led worker strike in 1980 at Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk; formed Solidarity trade federation; won 1983 Nobel Peace Prize; elected president 1990

John Major, UK, 1990 - 1997: Conservative leader; established dialogue with Irish Republican Army

Boris Yeltsin, Russia, 1991 - 2000: resisted August 1991 hard-line coup; elected Russian president; formed Commonwealth of Independent States; introduced free market reforms; Chechnya rebellion; cooperated with NATO

Silvio Berlusconi, Italy, 1994-1995, 2001-2006, 2008-2011: center-right billionaire media mogul; convicted for tax evasion and frequent criminal defendant for bribery, corruption, and sex scandals; currently barred from holding public office

Jacques Chirac, 1995 -2007: conservative/nationalist Gaullist; Paris mayor 1977 - 1995; appointed prime minister for domestic affairs in 1986 under "cohabitation" arrangement; lowered taxes, privatized businesses, and removed price-controls in state-directed capitalism

Tony Blair, UK, 1997-2007: Labour leader; youngest PM in 200 years; abandoned traditional socialism, accepted capitalism, and adopted "New Labour" policy; met with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams ; allowed Scottish parliament and Welsh and Northern Irish assemblies; strong supporter of US-led War on Terror and the 2003 invasion of Iraq

Gerhard Schroeder, Germany, 1998-2005: Social Democratic Party; coalition with Green Parties; closed nuclear power plants, opposed US-invasion of Iraq

Vladimir Putin, 1999-present: led Russia against Chechnya; re-established authoritarianism; re-assertive Russian foreign policy; overseen Russian dominance in energy market

Nicolas Sarkozy, France, 2007-2012: center-right political leader who reestablished closer relations with the United States, faced late 2000s Great Recession and the 2010 Arab Spring

Angela Merkel, Germany, 2005-present: center-right Christian Democratic Union leader; has played a central role in the ongoing European financial crisis which started in 2008; de facto leader of the European Union; named 2nd most powerful person in the world in 2012, the highest rank ever held by a woman

Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine, 2010-2014: pro-Russian president whose overthrow in the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution in favor of pro-European president Oleksandr Turchynov resulted in the Russian invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea followed by a prolonged civil war in the pro-Russian eastern Donbass region of Ukraine

Pope Francis, Vatican City, 2016-present: Argentinian Jesuit elected as the first non-European pope since ancient times

Theresa May, UK, 2016-present: Conservative British Prime Minister overseeing Brexit negotiations

Emmanuel Macron, France, 2017-present: centrist neoliberal founder of La République En Marche! (The Republic Onwards/Forwards/On the Move!) Party who won contentious election against far right National Front leader Marine le Pen; youngest French president at age 39

MAJOR EUROPEAN LEADERS SINCE WORLD WAR II BY COUNTRY

Albania

- Enver Hoxha, 1943 – 1985

Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic

- Alexander Dubcek, 1968 - 1969
- Gustav Husak, 1969 - 1987
- Vaclav Havel, 1989-2003

France

- Charles De Gaulle, 1958 - 1969
- Francois Mitterrand, 1981 - 1995
- Jacques Chirac, 1995 -2007
- Nicolas Sarkozy, 2007-2012
- Emmanuel Macron, 2017-present

Germany

- Konrad Adenauer, West Germany, 1949 - 1963
- Ludwig Erhard, West Germany, 1963 - 1966
- Willy Brandt, West Germany, 1969 - 1974
- Erich Honecker, East Germany, 1971 - 1989
- Helmut Schmidt, West Germany, 1974 – 1982
- Helmut Kohl, West Germany and later reunited Germany, 1982 - 1998
- Gerhard Schroeder, Germany, 1998-2005
- Angela Merkel, Germany, 2005-present

Hungary

- Imre Nagy, 1953 - 1955, 1956

Italy and Vatican City

- Pope John XXIII, 1958 - 1963
- Pope Paul VI, 1963 – 1978
- Pope John Paul II “the Great”, Vatican City, 1978-2005
- Silvio Berlusconi, Italy, 1994-1995, 2001-2006, 2008-2011
- Pope Francis, Vatican City, 2016-present:

Ireland

- Eamon De Valera, 1932-48, 1951-1954, 1957-1959, 1959-1973

Poland

- Lech Walesa, 1990 - 1995

Romania

- Nicolae Ceausescu, 1965 - 1989

Soviet Union and former Soviet Union

- Nikita Khrushchev, USSR, 1953 - 1964
- Leonid Brezhnev, USSR, 1964 - 1982
- Mikhail Gorbachev, USSR, 1985 - 1991
- Boris Yeltsin, Russia, 1991 - 2000
- Vladimir Putin, Russia, 1999-present
- Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine, 2010-2014

United Kingdom of Great Britain

- Clement Attlee, 1945 - 1951
- Anthony Eden, 1955 - 1957
- Margaret Thatcher, 1979 - 1990
- John Major, 1990 - 1997
- Tony Blair, 1997-2007
- Theresa May, 2016-present

Yugoslavia and former Yugoslavia

- Josep Broz Tito, Yugoslavia, 1943 – 1980
- Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslavia/Serbia, 1989-2000
- Franjo Tudjman, Croatia, 1990 - 1999
- Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1990 - 2001