



Top News Stories from 1954

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World Events

- [Nasser](#) becomes premier of [Egypt](#) (April 17).
- [Geneva Conference](#) is convened to bring peace to [Vietnam](#) (April to July). The country is divided at the 17th parallel, pending democratic elections.
- [Dien Bien Phu](#), [French](#) military outpost in [Vietnam](#), falls to [Viet Minh](#) army (May 7).
Background: [Vietnam War](#)
- Eight-nation Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (establishing [SEATO](#)) signed at Manila (Sept. 8).
- Paris agreements grant West [Germany](#) sovereignty and admittance to [NATO](#) and [Western European Union](#) (Oct. 23; effective May, 1955).
- [Algerian](#) War of Independence against [France](#) begins (Oct. 31).

World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)[Nobel Peace Prize: Office of U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

U.S. Events

- [Army v. McCarthy inquiry](#) (Apr. 22–June 17); Senate votes in Dec. to condemn Sen. [McCarthy](#) for misconduct.
- In [Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka](#) the [Supreme Court](#) unanimously bans [racial segregation](#) in public schools (May 17).

Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$381.3 billion

Federal spending: \$70.86 billion

Federal debt \$270.8 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$26.9

U.S. Statistics

President: [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)Vice President: [Richard M. Nixon](#)

Population: 163,025,854

Life expectancy: 69.6 years

Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 4.8

[More U.S. Statistics...](#)

Unemployment: 2.9%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.03

[More Economics...](#)

Sports

World Series

NY Giants d. Cleveland (4-0)

NBA Championship

Minneapolis Lakers d. Syracuse

Stanley Cup

Detroit d. Montreal

Wimbledon

Women: Maureen Connolly d. L. Brough (6-2 7-5)

Men: Jaroslav Drobný d. K. Rosewall (13-11 4-6 6-2 9-7)

Kentucky Derby Champion

Determine

NCAA Basketball Championship

La Salle d. Bradley

NCAA Football Champions

Ohio St. (AP, INS) (10-0-0) & UCLA (UP, FW) (9-0-0)

World Cup

W. Germany d. Hungary

Entertainment

Events

- The [World Series](#) is broadcast in color for the first time.
- The revenue for television broadcasters finally surpasses that of radio broadcasters. Gross revenue for television is \$593 million.
- Bill Haley and the Comets begin writing hit songs. As a white band using black-derived forms, they venture into [rock 'n' roll](#).

Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

Entertainment Awards

Pulitzer Prizes

Music: *Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra*, Quincy Porter

Drama: *The Teahouse of the August Moon*, John Patrick

- [Robert Joffrey Ballet](#) debuts.

Movies

- *On the Waterfront, Rear Window, The Caine Mutiny, Sabrina, The High and the Mighty*

Music

- Pierre Boulez, *Le Marteau Sans Maître (The Hammer Without a Master)*

Books

- [Louise Bogan](#), *Collected Poems, 1923–1953*
- [William F. Buckley](#), L. Brent Bozell, *McCarthy and His Enemies*
- [William Golding](#), *Lord of the Flies*
- [Anaïs Nin](#), *A Spy in the House of Love*
- [J. R. R. Tolkien](#), *The Fellowship of the Ring*

Science

- First children receive Dr. [Jonas Salk's polio vaccine](#). Background: [Major U.S. Epidemics](#)
- The USS *Nautilus*, the first atomic [submarine](#), is commissioned at Groton, Connecticut.
- Boeing tests the 707, the first jet-powered transport plane. Background: [Famous Firsts in Aviation](#)

Death

- Lionel Barrymore
- [Henri Matisse](#)

Academy Award, Best Picture: *From Here to Eternity*, Buddy Adler, producer (Columbia)

Nobel Prize for Literature: Ernest Hemingway (US)

Miss America: Evelyn Margaret Ay (PA)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

Nobel Prizes in Science

Chemistry: Linus C. Pauling (US), for study of forces holding together protein and other molecules

Physics: Max Born (UK), for work in quantum mechanics; and Walther Bothe (Germany), for work in cosmic radiation

Physiology or Medicine: John F. Enders, Thomas H. Weller, and Frederick C. Robbins (all US), for work with cultivation of polio virus

[More Nobel Prizes in 1998...](#)

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[Year by Year: 1900-2014](#)

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