



Top News Stories from 1955

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World Events

- [Nikolai A. Bulganin](#) becomes Soviet premier, replacing [Malenkov](#) (Feb. 8). Background: [Rulers of Russia since 1533](#)
- [Churchill](#) resigns (April 5); [Anthony Eden](#) succeeds him (April 6).
- Federal Republic of West [Germany](#) becomes a sovereign state (May 5).
- The [Soviet Union](#) and seven East European countries sign the [Warsaw Pact](#), a mutual defense treaty (May 14).
- [Argentina](#) ousts dictator [Juan Perón](#) (Sept. 19).
- US starts sending \$216 million in aid to [Vietnam](#).
- The US, UK, USSR, and [France](#) meet at a summit in [Geneva](#).

World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

U.S. Events

- [President Eisenhower](#) suffers [coronary thrombosis](#) in Denver (Sept. 24).
- [Rosa Parks](#) refuses to sit at the back of the bus, breaking Montgomery, Ala., segregated seating law (Dec. 1). [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), leads 381-day [black boycott of Montgomery bus system](#); desegregated service begins Dec. 21, 1956. Background: [Civil Rights](#)
- AFL and CIO merge to become the [AFL-CIO](#) (Dec. 5).

U.S. Statistics

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

Population: 165,931,202

Life expectancy: 69.6 years

Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 4.5

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

Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$415.1 billion

Federal spending: \$68.44 billion

Federal debt \$274.4 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$26.8

Unemployment: 5.5%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.03

[More Economics...](#)

Sports

World Series

Brooklyn Dodgers d. NY Yankees

NBA Championship

Syracuse d. Ft. Wayne Pistons

Stanley Cup

Detroit d. Montreal

Wimbledon

Women: Louise Brough d. B. Fleitz (7-5 8-6)

Men: Tony Trabert d. K. Nielsen (6-3 7-5 6-1)

Kentucky Derby Champion

Swaps

NCAA Basketball Championship

San Francisco d. La Salle

NCAA Football Champions

Oklahoma (11-0-0)

Entertainment

Events

- *On the Waterfront* nearly sweeps the [1954 Academy Awards](#), winning Best Picture, Best Actor ([Marlon Brando](#)), Best Supporting Actress ([Eva Maria Saint](#)), and Best Director ([Elia Kazan](#)).

Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

Entertainment Awards

Pulitzer Prizes

Fiction:

A Fable, William Faulkner

- [Gunsmoke](#) debuts on CBS, and will go on to be television's longest-running western.
- 70mm film is introduced with *Oklahoma!*
- [James Dean](#) dies in a car accident at age 26.

Movies

- *Rebel without a Cause*, *Marty*, *East of Eden*, *Bad Day at Black Rock*, *Picnic*

Books

- [James Baldwin](#), *Notes of a Native Son*
- [Lawrence Ferlinghetti](#), *Pictures of a Gone World*
- [William Gaddis](#), *The Recognitions*
- [Mary McCarthy](#), *A Charmed Life*
- [Vladimir Nabokov](#), *Lolita*
- [Flannery O'Connor](#), *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*
- [Isaac Bashevis Singer](#), *Satan in Goray*

Science

- Narinder Kapany (England) develops [fiber optics](#).
- Owen Chamberlain and Emilio Segrè discover the antiproton, a form of [antimatter](#).
- The [corticosteroid](#) prednisone is developed.
- Severo Ochoa at NYU synthesizes [DNA-](#) and [RNA-](#)like molecules. Background: [genetic engineering](#)

Death

- [Albert Einstein](#)
- [Alexander Fleming](#)
- [Thomas Mann](#)
- [Carmen Miranda](#)
- [Charlie Parker](#)

Music: *The Saint of Bleecker Street*, Gian Carlo Menotti

Drama: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Tennessee Williams

Academy Award, Best Picture: *On the Waterfront*, Sam Spiegel, producer (Columbia)

Nobel Prize for Literature: Halldór Kiljan Laxness (Iceland)

Miss America: Lee Meriwether (CA)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

Nobel Prizes in Science

Chemistry: Vincent du Vigneaud (US), for work on pituitary hormones

Physics: Polykarp Kusch and Willis E. Lamb, Jr. (US), for atomic measurements

Physiology or Medicine: Hugo Theorell (Sweden), for work on oxidation enzymes

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

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

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