



Top News Stories from 1956

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World Events

- [Nikita Khrushchev](#), First Secretary of USSR Communist Party, denounces Stalin's excesses (Feb. 24).
- [Morocco](#) gains independence from [France](#) (March 1) and [Spain](#) (April 7).
- Workers' uprising against Communist rule in [Poland](#) is crushed (June 28-30).
- [Egypt](#) takes control of Suez Canal (July 26). [Israel](#) launches attack on Egypt's Sinai peninsula and drives toward Suez Canal (Oct. 29). [British](#) and [French](#) invade Egypt at Port Said (Nov. 5). Cease-fire forced by US pressure stops British, French, and Israeli advance (Nov. 6). Background: [Arab-Israeli Wars](#)
- Soviet troops and tanks crush anti-Communist uprisings in [Hungary](#) (November).

World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

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

U.S. Events

- Autherine Lucy, the [first black student](#) at the [University of Alabama](#), is suspended after riots (March 1).
- U.S. tests the first aerial [hydrogen bomb](#) over Namu islet, Bikini Atoll with the force of 10 million tons TNT (May 21). Background: [nuclear weapons](#)

U.S. Statistics

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

Population: 168,903,031

Life expectancy: 69.7 years

Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 4.6

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

Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$438 billion

Federal spending: \$70.64 billion

Federal debt \$272.7 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$27.2

Unemployment: 4.4%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.03

[More Economics...](#)

Sports

World Series

NY Yankees d. Brooklyn Dodgers (4-3)

NBA Championship

Philadelphia Warriors d. Ft. Wayne Pistons

Stanley Cup

Montreal d. Detroit

Wimbledon

Women: Shirley Fry d. A. Buxton (6-3 6-1)

Men: Lew Hoad d. K. Rosewall (6-2 4-6 7-5 6-4)

Kentucky Derby Champion

Needles

NCAA Basketball Championship

San Francisco d. Iowa

NCAA Football Champions

Oklahoma (10-0-0) [1956 Summer Olympics](#)

Entertainment

Events

- With many hit singles (including "Heartbreak Hotel"), [Elvis Presley](#) emerges as one of the world's first rock stars. The gyrating rocker enjoys fame on the stages of the [Milton Berle](#), [Steve Allen](#) and [Ed Sullivan](#) shows, as well as in the first of his many movies, *Love Me Tender*.
- Kay Thompson's *Eloise*, the Plaza Hotel's most famous guest, is a bestseller.
- Grace Metalious's steamy *Peyton Place* is a bestseller.

Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

Entertainment Awards

Pulitzer Prizes

Fiction:

***Andersonville*, MacKinlay Kantor**

Music: *Symphony No. 3*, Ernst Toch

Drama: *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

Academy Award, Best Picture: *Marty*, Harold Hecht, producer (United Artists)

- *The Wizard of Oz* has its first airing on TV.

Movies

- *The Seventh Seal*, *Giant*, *The Searchers*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *The King and I*, *Friendly Persuasion*

Music

- Woody Guthrie, "This Land is Your Land"

Books

- [John Barth](#), *The Floating Opera*
- [James Baldwin](#), *Giovanni's Room*
- [Allen Ginsburg](#), *Howl*
- [John F. Kennedy](#), *Profiles in Courage*
- [Lewis Mumford](#), *The Transformations of Man*
- [William Styron](#), *The Long March*

Science

- Felix Wankel (Germany) develops the [rotary internal combustion engine](#).
- The [DNA](#) molecule is first photographed.
Background: [genetic engineering](#)
- The [neutrino](#) is first observed at Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Death

- [Tommy Dorsey](#)
- [Connie Mack](#)
- [Jackson Pollock](#)

Nobel Prize for Literature: Juan Ramón Jiménez (Spain)

Miss America: Sharon Ritchie (CO)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

Nobel Prizes in Science

Chemistry: Sir Cyril Hinshelwood (UK) and Nikolai N. Semenov (USSR), for parallel research on chemical reaction kinetics

Physics: William Shockley, Walter H. Brattain, and John Bardeen (all US), for developing electronic transistor

Physiology or Medicine: Dickinson W. Richards, Jr., André F. Cournand (both US), and Werner Forssmann (Germany), for new techniques in treating heart disease

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

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

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