



# Top News Stories from 1963

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## World Events

- [France](#) and West [Germany](#) sign treaty of cooperation ending four centuries of conflict (Jan. 22).
- [Pope John XXIII](#) dies (June 3), and is succeeded June 21 by Cardinal Montini, who becomes [Paul VI](#).
- British Secretary of War John [Profumo](#) resigns in the wake of an affair with Christine Keeler, a teenage showgirl who was also involved with the Soviet naval attaché (June).
- Washington-to-Moscow "hot line" communications link opens, designed to reduce risk of accidental war (Aug. 30). Background: [cold war](#)
- [Kenya](#) achieves independence.
- There are 15,000 US military advisers in South [Vietnam](#). Background: [Vietnam War](#)
- 32 independent African nations establish the [Organization for African Unity](#).

### World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)[Nobel Peace Prize: Intl. Comm. of Red Cross; League of Red Cross Societies \(both Geneva\)](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

## U.S. Events

- [Michael E. De Bakey](#) implants artificial heart in human for first time at Houston hospital (April 21).
- [US Supreme Court](#) rules no locality may require recitation of Lord's Prayer or Bible verses in public schools (June 17). Background: [Church and State](#)
- "March on Washington," civil rights rally held by 200,000 blacks and whites in [Washington](#),

### U.S. Statistics

President: [John F. Kennedy](#)Vice President: [Lyndon B. Johnson](#)

Population: 189,241,798

Life expectancy: 69.9 years

Violent Crime Rate (per 1,000): 21.8

Property Crime Rate (per 1,000) 20.1

D.C.; [Martin Luther King](#) delivers "I have a dream" speech (Aug. 28).

- President [Kennedy](#) shot and killed in Dallas, Tex. [Lyndon B. Johnson](#) becomes President same day (Nov. 22). Background: [Timeline of Kennedy tragedies](#)
- [Lee Harvey Oswald](#), accused Kennedy assassin, is shot and killed by Jack Ruby (Nov. 24).

**Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 4.9**

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

## Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$617.4 billion

Federal spending: \$111.32 billion

Federal debt \$310.3 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$30.6

Unemployment: 5.5%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.04 (\$0.05 as of 1/7/63)

[More Economics...](#)

## Sports

### World Series

LA Dodgers d. NY Yankees (4-0)

### NBA Championship

Boston d. LA Lakers

### Stanley Cup

Toronto d. Detroit

### Wimbledon

**Women:** Margaret Smith d. B.J. Moffitt (6-3 6-4)

**Men:** Chuck McKinley d. F. Stolle (9-7 6-1 6-4)

### Kentucky Derby Champion

Chateaugay

### NCAA Basketball Championship

Loyola-IL d. Cincinnati

### NCAA Football Champions

Texas (11-0-0)

## Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

# Entertainment

## Events

- Viewers tuned into NBC witness Jack Ruby shoot [Lee Harvey Oswald](#) on camera – the first live telecast of a murder.
- Beatlemania hits the U.K. The [Beatles](#), a British band composed of John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney, take Britain by storm.
- The [Rolling Stones](#) emerge as the anti-Beatles, with an aggressive, blues-derived style.
- *The French Chef* with [Julia Child](#) debuts on educational television.

## Movies

- *Tom Jones, Lilies of the Field, America, America*

## Books

- [James Baldwin](#), *The Fire Next Time*
- [e e cummings](#), *73 Poems*
- [Betty Friedan](#), *The Feminine Mystique*
- [Sylvia Plath](#), *The Bell Jar*
- [Thomas Pynchon](#), *V*
- John Rechy, *City of Night*
- [Charles M. Schulz](#), *Happiness is a Warm Puppy*
- [John Updike](#), *The Centaur*
- [Kurt Vonnegut](#), *Cat's Cradle*

## Science

- [Quasars](#) are discovered by Marten Schmidt (US).
- The first liver transplant is performed by F.D. Moore and T.E. Starzl. Background: [Health & Nutrition](#)

## Entertainment Awards

### Pulitzer Prizes

#### Fiction:

*The Reivers*, William Faulkner

Music: *Piano Concerto No. 1*, Samuel Barber

Academy Award, Best Picture: *Lawrence of Arabia*, Sam Spiegel, producer (Columbia)

Nobel Prize for Literature: Giorgios Seferis (Seferiades) (Greece)

Record of the Year: "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," Tony Bennett

Album of the Year: *The First Family*, Vaughn Meader (Cadence)

Song of the Year: "What Kind of Fool Am I," Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, songwriters

Miss America: Jacquelyn Mayer (OH)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

## Nobel Prizes in Science

**Chemistry:** Carl Ziegler (Germany) and Giulio Natta (Italy), for work in uniting simple hydrocarbons into large molecule substances

- The first commercial nuclear reactor goes online at the Jersey Central Power Company. Background: [nuclear energy](#)
- The [sedative](#) Valium (chlordiazepoxide) is developed by Roche labs.

## Death

- [John Fitzgerald Kennedy](#) 11/22/1963
- [W.E.B. Du Bois](#)
- [Robert Frost](#)
- [Rogers Hornsby](#)
- [Aldous Huxley](#)

**Physics:** Eugene Paul Wigner, Maria Goeppert Mayer (both US), and J. Hans D. Jensen (Germany), for research on structure of atom and its nucleus

**Physiology or Medicine:** Alan Lloyd Hodgkin, Andrew Fielding Huxley (both UK), and Sir John Carew Eccles (Australia), for research on nerve cells

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

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