



HISTORY'S REAL
“GAME OF THRONES”
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POLITICAL MURDERS, ASSASSINATIONS & EXECUTIONS

The Real “Game of Thrones” Throughout History

DEFINITIONS

Murder: The killing of a person without their consent (as opposed to assisted suicide)

Assassination: The murder of a prominent person for political purposes

Execution: State sanctioned murder

To qualify for this list, the murder must have been (or widely thought to have been) political motivated. Heads of state and pretenders to the throne who died in battle are also listed, as are those who lost decisive battles and chose suicide rather than be captured. Links are provided.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>VICTIM</u>
1336 BC	Amenhotep IV . Pharaoh of Egypt (who renamed himself Akhenaten), likely assassinated by the High Priests of the gods he demoted to positions beneath a one, supreme, invisible God that he named “Aten.” Under his reign the Egyptian empire saw a precipitous decline as he distanced himself from affairs of state to consecrate on establishing his new religion (perhaps another motive for his murder). History records that all mention of the “heretic Pharaoh” was removed from public buildings, and the worship of Aten became punishable by death.
1325 BC	Tutankhaten (renamed Tutankhamun) became Pharaoh at about nine years of age, after the death of his father, Amenhotep IV. He was likely assassinated on becoming of age by his regent and protector Ag, who married his widow and succeeded him as Pharaoh. The young king was killed by blunt force trauma to his head. The official explanation was that he fell off his chariot and hit a rock.
465 BC	Xerxes I , King of Persia, assassinated by his visor and bodyguard, Artabanus, who convinced Artaxerxes, one of Xerxes’ sons, that his elder brother, Darius, committed the deed. Darius was then taken by Artaxerxes and put to death for the murder, thus becoming king himself (historically as Artaxerxes I). Artabanus, hoping to seize the throne, conspired with Megabyzus, a Persian general, to have Artaxerxes killed. Megabyzus, however, switched sides and revealed the plan to Artaxerxes, who then personally executed Artaxerxes (with his own sword) for the murder of Xerxes I, for orchestrating the execution of his brother Darius, and for plotting his own assassination.
338 BC	Artaxerxes III , King of Persia, poisoned by his physician at the urging of Bagoas, vizier to the king. All of Artaxerxes’ sons were also murdered, except the youngest, Arses, who Bagoas put on the throne.
336 BC	Arses , King of Persia, poisoned by Bagoas, who had killed his father two years earlier. Bagoas then put a cousin of Arses on the throne as Darius III. Later, Bagoas tried to also to poison Darius, but Darius was warned and forced Bagoas to drink the tainted wine instead.
336 BC	Philip II , King of Macedon and father of Alexander the Great, assassinated by one of his eight royal bodyguards, Pausanias of Oresti, who was killed by the other guards as he tried to flee. Although his motives were never revealed, history notes that Philip’s wife (and Alexander’s mother), Olympias, publicly showed her gratitude for the murder,

by placing a crown on the assassin's corpse, and ordering annual sacrifices in his memory.

- 330 BC **Darius III**, King of Persia, assassinated by his cousin, Bessus, after his military defeat by Alexander the Great. Bessus then proclaimed himself King of Persia and continued to resist Alexander's advancing army until he was captured and executed for killing his king. History records that Alexander gave Darius an elaborate funeral.
- 321 BC **Perdiccas**, one of the Diadochi (the rival generals and relatives of Alexander the Great who fought for control over his empire after his death in 323 BC) who became regent for Alexander's half brother and intellectually challenged successor, Philip Arridaeus (Philip III). Perdiccas went to war with Ptolemy, another of the Diadochi who had claimed Egypt as his own, but when his invasion of Egypt foundered his soldiers revolted and killed him.
- 317 BC **Philip Arridaeus** (Philip III), half brother of Alexander the Great, was mentally challenged and thought to be easily manipulated in the power struggles that followed Alexander's death. Alexander's mother, Olympias, had him executed to eliminate a possible rival to her son, while his wife was forced to commit suicide.
- 314 BC **Peithon**, one of the bodyguards of Alexander the Great, and among the most powerful of the Diadochi, murdered by Antigonos (another of the Diadochi) who had been an ally of his, but decided that Peithon was too powerful and tricked him into coming to his court where he had him executed.
- 301 BC **Antigonos I Monophthalmus**, a Diadochi and self-proclaimed King of Macedonia (one of five who claimed the title), killed at the Battle of Ipsus while warring with the other Diadochians.
- 284 BC **Agathocles**, executed for treason by his father, Lysimachus, another member of the Diadochi and self-proclaimed King of Macedonia.
- 281 BC **Seleucus I Nicator**, another self-proclaimed King of Macedonia, assassinated by Ptolemy Ceraunus who took the throne.
- 281 BC **Lysimachus**, who became king of Thrace, Asia Minor, and who also claimed to be King of Macedonia after the death of Alexander the Great, killed at the Battle of Corupedium, the last battle between the Diadochi.
- 279 BC **Ptolemy Ceraunus**, member of the Ptolemaic dynasty and briefly king of Macedon after assassinating Seleucus I Nicator, killed in battle against the invading Gauls.
- 48 BC **Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus** (aka Pompey the Great), political rival of Julius Caesar, assassinated in Egypt at the behest of Ptolemy XIII (young co-ruler of Egypt with his older sister, Cleopatra VII), in hopes of pleasing Caesar who was coming to capture him. Caesar was not pleased, and had him killed.
- 44 BC **Gaius Julius Caesar**, Dictator of Rome, stabbed to death for the threat he posed to the Roman Republic by about 20 different conspirators, led by Marcus Junius Brutus, Gaius Cassius Longinus, and Decimus Junius Brutus. The three fled Rome, while up to forty additional men were accused of being involved in the plot and executed.
- 44 BC **Ptolemy XIV Philopator**, younger brother of Ptolemy XIII and co-ruler of Egypt after his death with his older sister, Cleopatra VII. He was probably poisoned by Cleopatra after Caesar's assassination, so as to make her young son by him, Ptolemy XV Caesar (aka Caesarion), her co-ruler.
- 43 BC **Decimus Junius Brutus**, Roman general, distant cousin of Marcus Junius Brutus, and one of the instigators of Julius Caesar's assassination, executed by a Gallic chief loyal to Mark Antony. Decimus had been attempting to reach Macedonia, where Brutus and

Cassius had stationed themselves during the civil war that broke out after Caesar's assassination.

- 42 BC **Marcus Junius Brutus**, Roman senator and the most famous of the assassins of Julius Caesar, committed suicide after loosing the Battle of Philippi against the combined forces of Mark Antony and Octavian, which ended Rome's second civil war.
- 42 BC **Gaius Cassius Longinus**, Roman senator, general, and a leading instigator of the assassination of Caesar, committed suicide after loosing the Battle of Philippi with co-conspirator, Marcus Brutus.
- 30 BC **Marcus Antonius** (aka Mark Antony), Roman politician and general, committed suicide after loosing the Battle of Actium to Octavian's general, Marcus Agrippa, and thus any hopes of ruling over an Eastern Roman Empire with his lover and political ally, Cleopatra VII.
- 30 BC **Cleopatra VII Philopator**, last ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt and earlier mistress of Julius Caesar, committed suicide with the bite of an asp after the suicide of her lover and political ally, Mark Antony, in the wake of their defeat at the Battle of Actium. (Author Diana Preston, in her book "Cleopatra and Antony," presents compelling evidence that the snake she chose to take her life was a cobra, not an asp.)
- 30 BC **Ptolemy XV Caesar** (aka Caesarion), son of Julius Caesar and young co-ruler of Egypt with his mother, Cleopatra XII, killed after her suicide by order of Octavian, who later became the first Roman emperor as Augustus Caesar.
- c. 30 **Yeshua** (aka Jesus) crucified by order of Pontius Pilate, Roman Governor of Judaea, for subverting the nation, opposing the payment of tribute, and claiming to be King of the Jews.
- NOTE:** (From medium.com) "*Jesus, which is the name used by most English-speaking people today, is an English transliteration of a Germanic adaptation, of a Latin transliteration, of a Greek transliteration of an originally Hebrew name, that is simply Yeshua.*"
- 37 **Tiberius Caesar Augustus**, Roman Emperor, smothered to death with a pillow by the Commander of the Praetorian Guard, Naevius Sutorius Macro, at the urging of Caligula, who succeeded Tiberius as Emperor of Rome.
- 41 **Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus** (aka Caligula), insane Roman Emperor, assassinated by his Praetorian Guard, led by its Commander, Cassius Chaerea. As the last adult male of his family, a reluctant Claudius was then put on the throne by the Praetorian Guard, most likely to prevent any attempt to restore the Roman Republic which would have resulted in their disbandment and loss of privilege.
- 54 **Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus**, Roman Emperor, poisoned most likely by his wife, Agrippina, so that Nero, her son by a previous marriage, would succeed him.
- 69 **Servius Galba Caesar Augustus**, Roman Emperor, assassinated by his successor, Marcus Salvius Otho. He was the first to rule during the "Year of the Four Emperors."
- 69 **Marcus Salvius Otho**, Roman Emperor for only three months, committed suicide after his defeat by Aulus Vitellius at the Battle of Bedriacum, who then became emperor.
- 69 **Aulus Vitellius**, Roman Emperor for eight months, executed by solders of Vespasian who succeeded him as the last to reign in the "Year of the four Emperors."
- 192 **Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus**, Roman Emperor, assassinated by his successor, Publius Helvius Pertinax.
- 193 **Publius Helvius Pertinax**, Roman Emperor who ruled for three months before himself

being assassinated by his Praetorian Guard. He was the first to reign during the tumultuous “Year of the Five Emperors.”

- 193 **Marcus Didius Julianus**), Roman Emperor for nine weeks, murdered after being abandoned by the Senate and his Praetorian Guard. He was killed by a soldier in the palace.
- 193 **Gaius Pescennius Niger**, proclaimed Roman Emperor by the legions in Syria after the assassination of Julianus, captured and beheaded while attempting to flee after his defeat at the battle of Issus by a rival claimant to the throne, Lucius Septimius Severus. Severus then became the last of the Roman monarchs to rule during the “Year of the Five Emperors.”
- 197 **Decimus Clodius Albinus**, proclaimed Roman Emperor by the armies in Britain and Gaul after the assassination of Julianus, committed suicide after losing the Battle of Lugdunum to Lucius Septimius Severus.
- 211 **Publius Septimius Geta**, Roman Emperor, assassinated by his brother and Co-Emperor, Caracalla.
- 218 **Macrinus**, Roman Emperor, executed by his successor Elagabalus.
- 222 **Elagabalus**, Roman Emperor, in turn murdered by his Praetorian Guard.
- 235 **Alexander Severus**, Roman Emperor, assassinated at a meeting of his generals.
- 340 **Constantine II** killed in war with his younger brother, Constans, over control of the Roman Empire at the siege of Aquileia, when he was ambushed by Constans’ generals outside the city.
- 453 **Thorismund**, King of the Visigoths, assassinated by his brother and successor, Theoderic II.
- 466 **Theoderic II**, King of the Visigoths, was himself assassinated by his other brother, Euric (sometimes called Euric II).
- 480 **Julius Nepos**, Roman Emperor of the West, murdered, probably at the instigation of the Bishop of Salona, Glycerius, who had been Emperor of the Western Empire until forced to abdicate and retreat into the church six years earlier by Nepos.
- 493 **Odoacer**, King of Italy, assassinated by his successor, Theodoric the Great, after being invited to a banquet to reconcile their differences.
- 616 **Æthelfrith**, King of Northumbria (today the English counties of Northumberland and Durham), killed in battle with Raedwald, King of East Anglia.
- 628 **Chosroes II**, the last Sasanian Shahs of Iran before the arrival of Islam, assassinated by his son and successor, Kavadh II.
- 633 **Edwin**, King of Deira and Bernicia, killed in battle with Cadwallon ap Cadfan, King of Gwynedd, and Penda, King of Mercia, at the Battle of Hatfield Chase.
- 634 **Osric**, King of Deira, killed in battle with Cadwallon ap Cadfan.
- 634 **Eanfrith**, son of Æthelfrith and King of Bernicia, murdered by Cadwallon ap Cadfan, during his ill-fated attempt to negotiate peace.
- 634 **Cadwallon ap Cadfan**, King of Gwynedd, killed at the Battle of Maserfield against Oswald of Bernicia.
- 642 **Oswald**, King of Northumbria (after uniting the kingdoms of Bernicia and Deira), killed at the Battle of Maserfield against Penda, King of Mercia.
- 651 **Oswine**, Son of Osric and King of Deira (after Northumbria was again split in two), betrayed by his friend, Earl Humwald, and delivered to the soldiers of Oswiu, King of Bernicia (with whom Oswine was at war) and killed.

- 655 **Penda**, King of Mercia, killed at the Battle of the Winwaed, against Oswiu, King of Bernicia and brother of Oswald, whom Penda had killed 13 years earlier at the Battle of Maserfield.
- 685 **Ecgrith**, son of Oswiu and King of a (once again) unified Northumbria, killed at the Battle of Nechtansmere (aka the Battle of Dun Nechtain) against Bridei Mac Bili, King of the Pits.
- 711 **Justinian II**, Byzantine Emperor, assassinated by rebels loyal to Philip Bardanes, who succeeded Justinian as Emperor Philippicus.
- 716 **Osred**, King of Northumbria, killed at age 18 under unclear circumstances, possibly by the Pits.
- 759 **Oswulf**, King of Northumbria, murdered by his bodyguards within a year of assuming the throne.
- 788 **Ælfwald**, King of Northumbria, murdered, probably by Sicga, an Anglo-Saxon nobleman.
- 796 **Æthelred**, King of Northumbria, assassinated by a group of conspiring nobles.
- 866 **Ragnar Lodbrok**, legendary Viking hero, captured by Ælla, King of Northumbria and put to death in a pit of snakes.
- 867 **Ælla**, King of Northumbria, had replaced **Osberht** as king when Northumbria was invaded by a coalition of Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish warriors (The Great Heathen Army). The two reconciled their differences and combined forces to meet the invaders. Both kings died in the ensuing battle.
- 935 **Wenceslaus I**, Duke of Bohemia, assassinated by his brother and successor, Boleslaus the Cruel.
- 969 **Nikephoros II Phokas**, Emperor of the Byzantine Empire, assassinated by his nephew and successor, John Tzimiskes.
- 979 **Edward the Martyr**, King of England, murdered at the age of 16 at Corfe Castle under unclear circumstances. (The numbering of English monarchs started after the Norman conquest, which is why Edward the Martyr, who was the second King to be named Edward, is not referred to as Edward II.)
- 1016 **Edmund II**, briefly King of England, from April 23 to his assassination November 30th, stabbed to death while using his toilet.
- 1035 **Jaromír**, Duke of Bohemia, stabbed with a spear from under his toilet seat, while a prisoner of his brother, Oldrich, with whom he had been warring.
- 1040 **Donnchad mac Crinain** (aka Duncan I), King of Scotland. In 1039, Duncan led a large Scots army south to besiege the town of Durham England, but the expedition ended in disaster. Duncan survived, and the following year led an army north into the Province of Moray, Macbeth's domain. There he was killed at the Battle of Bothnagowan, by the men of Moray, led by Macbeth on August 14, 1040. Macbeth succeeded Duncan as king with little opposition. (Contrary to Shakespeare's account, Macbeth didn't murder Duncan in his bed chamber, but defeated him in battle.)
- 1041 **Eadulf III**, Earl of Bernicia, assassinated by his successor, Siward.
- 1057 **Macbeth**, King of Scotland, killed at the Battle of Lumphanan by forces loyal to Malcolm, son of Duncan I. Macbeth was succeeded by his stepson, Lulach.
- 1058 **Lulach mac Gille Coemgáin**, King of Scotland upon the death of his stepfather a year earlier, assassinated by Malcolm, who then ascended the throne as Malcolm III.

- 1066 **Harold Godwinson** (aka Harold II), last Anglo-Saxon King of England, died at the Battle of Hastings, fighting the Norman invaders led by William the Conqueror during the Norman Conquest of England.
- 1076 **Godfrey IV**, Duke of Lower Lorraine, assassinated with a spear while sitting on his toilet. At the time, he had been warring against Dirk V, Duke of Holland and Robert I, Duke of Flanders, on behalf of the Bishop of Utrecht.
- 1100 **William II** (aka William Rufus), King of England, shot through the lung with an arrow by nobleman, Walter Tirel while hunting with the monarch. History recorded it as an accident, but the fact that the nobles with him at the time left the body unattended (to be found later by a peasant) indicates that, at the very least, they didn't mourn the death of their monarch and most likely murdered him.
- 1103 **Magnus III** (aka Magnus Barefoot) of Norway is killed while attempting to invade Ireland, when his army is ambushed by a large number of Irish defenders.
- 1138 **David I of Scotland** invades England on behalf of Matilda, and is defeated at the Battle of the Standards.
- 1150 **Marcabru**, one of the earliest troubadours whose poems are known, put to death by the lords of Gascony, whom he often criticized.
- 1155 **Arnold of Brescia**, Republican ruler of Rome and ardent critic of the papacy, exiled three times after continuing to call on the Church to renounce property ownership, and participating in a people's revolt in 1144. He was eventually arrested and hanged, his body burned, and his ashes thrown into the Tiber River.
- 1160 **Eric IX**, King of Sweden (aka Eric the Saint), accosted by Danish prince Magnus Henriksson, who had a claim to the throne, and his allies. Eric was pulled from his horse and then beheaded.
- 1170 **Thomas Becket**, Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered by four knights who believed they were acting at the behest of King Henry II. Henry is said to have uttered words interpreted by his men as wishing Becket killed. The exact wording is in doubt and several versions were reported. The most commonly quoted is, "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" This seems to be an early example of "Plausible Deniability."
- 1183 **Alexios II Komnenos**, young Byzantine Emperor strangled with a bow-string at age 14 on orders from Andronikos I, his protector and successor to the throne.
- 1203 **Arthur I**, Duke of Brittany, assassinated by order of his uncle, John, who then took the throne as King John of England, after the death of Richard I (aka Richard the Lionheart). Arthur had been designated heir to the throne of England by Richard, who choose his nephew over his brother John to succeed him. (Arthur was the son of Geoffrey. Geoffrey was King Henry II's illegitimate son by an unknown woman, while Richard and John were sons of King Henry and Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine.)
- 1305 **William Wallace**, Scottish knight and leader of the First War of Scottish Independence, drawn and quartered for high treason against King Edward I (aka Edward Longshanks).
- 1306 **Wenceslaus III**, King of Bohemia and Poland, murdered with a spear. His assassin was never identified.
- 1327 **Edward II**, King of England, assassinated at Berkeley Castle after being deposed by Parliament. A jury concluded in 1331 that Sir Thomas Gurney and William Ockley were responsible, acting on behalf of the new regime.
- 1393 **John of Nepomuk** (aka Saint John of Bohemia), drowned in the Vltava River at the behest of Wenceslaus I, King of Bohemia. Accounts state that he was the confessor of the queen and refused to divulge to her husband any secrets he may have learned,

becoming the first martyr of the “Seal of the Confessional,” the doctrine that priests have the absolute duty not to disclose anything they learn during confession.

- 1400 **Richard II**, deposed King of England, assassinated on orders of his successor, Henry IV (aka Henry Bolingbroke).
- 1437 **James I**, King of Scotland, assassinated by Sir Robert Graham, aided by co-conspirators William Stewart, Earl of Atholl, and his grandson, Robert Stewart.
- 1440 **William, 6th Earl of Douglas** (age 16) along with his younger brother, David (both members of the Black Douglas Clan), murdered after being invited to dine with the young Scottish king, James II (age 10 at the time), by William’s great-uncle James Douglas, the Earl of Avondale. James feared that the Black Douglas Clan was growing too powerful. (There was also a Red Douglas Clan.) At the end of what has become known as “The Black Dinner,” the two guests were suddenly taken out and beheaded after a mock trial for treason, over the objections of the horrified young king.
NOTE: R.R. Martin (author of “*A Song of Ice and Fire*”) was **quoted as saying** that the inspiration for the Red Wedding” episode of Game of Thrones were two dark events in Scottish history: the “Black Dinner” of 1440 and the “Massacre of Glencoe” in 1692.
- 1471 **Henry VI**, King of England, murdered in the Tower of London by his successor, Edward IV.
- 1483 **Edward V**, King of England (age 12) and **Richard of Shrewsbury**, Duke of York (age 9), murdered in the Tower of London, most likely on orders of their Lord Protector, Richard, Duke of Gloucester (crowned as King Richard III). Bones belonging to two children were discovered in 1674 by workmen rebuilding a stairway in the Tower. On the orders of King Charles II, these were subsequently placed in Westminster Abbey, in an urn bearing the names of Edward and Richard.
- 1485 **Richard III**, King of England, killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field when one-third of his army betrayed him by either leaving the battlefield before the fighting began, or switching sides shortly afterwards. The battle marked the end of the “War of the Roses,” and the rise of the Tudor line of English Kings.
- 1488 **James III** of Scotland, died at the Battle of Sauchieburn against rebel lords warring against him.
- 1495 **William Stanley**, Lord Chamberlain to King Henry VII of England, executed for complicity in Perkin Warbeck’s attempt to seize the throne.
- 1499 **Perkin Warbeck**, pretender to the English throne, tried for treason and executed by Henry VII.
- 1500 **Alfonso of Aragon**, King of Naples and second husband of Lucrezia Borgia, assassinated, allegedly by Lucrezia’s brother, Cesare, who had recently allied himself (through marriage) with France against Naples.
- 1513 **Edmund de la Pole**, Earl of Suffolk and Yorkist claimant to the English throne, executed by King Henry VIII.
- 1521 **Edward Stafford**, Duke of Buckingham and potential claimant to the English throne, tried for treason and executed by Henry VIII.
- 1535 **Thomas More**, English lawyer, social philosopher, author, statesman, noted Renaissance humanist, and staunch Catholic, tried for treason and executed for refusing to take the “Oath of Supremacy,” which stated that Henry VIII was Supreme Governor of the Church of England.
- 1535 **Ippolito de Medici**, Italian cardinal and one of the pawns in the civil strife of Florence in the 1520s and 1530s, poisoned by Giovanni Andrea, presumably at the instigation of

Alessandro de' Medici, the duke of Florence. Ippolito had been sent by a group of Florentine exiles to petition Charles V (the Holy Roman Emperor) to remove Alessandro as Florence's head of state because of his tyrannical rule. Andrea, escaped to Florence and the protection of Alessandro's palace but later, on a visit to his hometown of Borgo San Sepolcro, was seized by the populace and stoned to death.

- 1536 **John of Leiden**, anabaptist leader of the failed Münster Rebellion, tortured to death in the town's central marketplace on orders of the Prince-Bishop of Münster, Germany, Franz von Waldeck.
- 1537 **Robert Aske**, leader of a rebellion in Yorkshire, tried for treason on order of Henry VIII and executed.
- 1540 **Thomas Cromwell**, lawyer, statesman, and Chief Minister to King Henry VIII until he was beheaded on orders of the king after an argument. Henry later expressed regret at having lost his Chief Minister.
- 1567 **Shane O'Neill**, Irish rebel of the O'Neill clan, killed by the Clan MacDonald of Dunnyveg. A year earlier, the English gave military support to the O'Donnell Clan against the O'Neills, who were regarded as a destabilizing and anti-English power in the north of Ireland. O'Neill was able to force the English out, but the new O'Donnell chieftain, Hugh O'Donnell, took the opportunity to assert his independence and raided O'Neill's lands at Strabane. In response, O'Neill mustered his armed forces and marched into O'Donnell territory. O'Neill was defeated at the Battle of Farsetmore, but escaped making his way to Dunnyveg, where he was killed during an argument while negotiating possible military aid to renew his war with O'Donnell.
- 1568 **Lamoral**, Count of Egmont, Prince of Gavere, general and statesman of the Spanish Netherlands, and **Philip de Montmorency**, the Count of Horn, both beheaded on orders of King Philip II of Spain, for their opposition to Spanish rule, and to the establishment of the inquisition in the Netherlands.
- 1570 **James Stewart**, 1st Earl of Moray and Regent of Scotland, shot with a carbine by James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh, a supporter of deposed Mary, Queen of Scots. He was the first head of state to be assassinated by a firearm.
- 1572 **Thomas Howard**, fourth Duke of Norfolk and supporter of Mary, Queen of Scots, tried for treason and executed by Elizabeth I, Queen of England.
- 1572 **Thomas Percy**, 7th Earl of Northumberland, executed for leading the "Revolt of the Northern Earls" that tried to depose Queen Elizabeth.
- 1578 **Sebastian**, King of Portugal, killed at the battle of Alcácer Quibir, against the Saadians of Morocco, as he tried to invade.
- 1582 **Oda Nobunaga**, the "Great Unifier" and ruler of Japan, betrayed by his general, Akechi Mitsuhide, and forced to commit seppuku (ritual suicide by disembowelment).
- 1584 **Francis Throgmorton**, arrested and executed for his plot to depose Queen Elizabeth I of England and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots.
- 1584 **William**, Prince of Orange, main leader of the Dutch revolt against the Spanish Habsburgs, shot in the chest at close range by Balthasar Gérard, after Philip II of Spain declared William an outlaw and offered a reward of 25,000 crowns for his assassination.
- 1585 **William Parry**, Welsh courtier, tried and executed for plotting to assassinate Elizabeth I of England on behalf of Mary, Queen of Scots (but without her knowledge).
- 1586 **Anthony Babington**, executed for his plot to assassinate Elizabeth I and put recently imprisoned Mary, Queen of Scots on the English throne.

- 1587 **Mary, Queen of Scots**, executed on the reluctant order of Queen Elizabeth I of England, after being convicted of treason by the English Parliament and sentenced to die.
- 1588 **Henry I**, Duke of Guise, and his brother **Louis II**, Cardinal of Guise, both members of the Catholic League that controlled most of France, murdered on orders of King Henry III, a Protestant sympathizer, as he watched.
- 1589 **Henry III**, King of France, stabbed by Jacques Clément, an ardent partisan of the Catholic League, for his support of Protestants in France (the Huguenots and Calvinists).
- 1601 **Robert Devereux**, 2nd Earl of Essex, tried and executed for treason against Elizabeth I of England.
- 1601 **Michael**, Prince of Moldavia, assassinated on orders of General Giorgio Basta, at the behest of Holy Roman Emperor, Rudolf II.
- 1605 **Fyodor II**, Tsar of Russia, at age 16 strangled (along with his mother) by nobles allied with “False” Dmitriy Ivanovich, historically the most successful of three imposters claiming to be the son of Ivan the Terrible, and thereby rightful heir to the throne.
- 1606 **“False” Dmitriy Ivanovich**, Tsar of Russia, publicly murdered by nobles in support of Prince Vasili Shuisky, who was then elected Tsar.
- 1606 **Guy Fawkes**, executed for conspiring to blow up the English Parliament (the Gunpowder Plot).
- 1610 **Henry IV**, King of France and a Protestant, stabbed by François Ravallac, a Catholic fanatic.
- 1618 **Walter Raleigh**, English writer, poet, soldier, politician, courtier, spy and explorer, executed by King James I for ransacking a Spanish outpost during his second expedition to the New World in search of the fabled city of El Dorado, thereby breaking the treaty of 1604 between England and Spain.
- 1621 **Pompeius von Planta**, a leader of the Spanish-Austrian Party during a conflict that lasted 21 years in the canton of the Grisons, Switzerland, between local Catholics and their Protestant overlords, murdered in the presence of his daughter at Rietberg Castle in Domleschg by Jörg Jenatsch, a Protestant political figure and leader of the Grisons.
- 1634 **Albrecht von Wallenstein**, Bohemian military leader and statesman, assassinated by senior Scottish and Irish officers in his army, acting on orders from Holy Roman Emperor, Ferdinand II, to bring him to Vienna under arrest for treason, “dead or alive.”
- 1639 **Jörg Jenatsch**, a Protestant political figure during the Thirty Years War and leader of the Grisons, assassinated, most likely by Rudolf von Planta, son of Pompeius von Planta, whom Jenatsch had brutally murdered eighteen years earlier.
- 1641 **Thomas Wentworth**, 1st Earl of Stratford and chief adviser to Charles I, King of England, executed after being condemned to death by the English Parliament in its political fight with the king.
- 1647 **Tommaso Aniello** (aka Masaniello), Italian fisherman who led a revolt against the rule of Habsburg Spain in Naples, assassinated by the nobles of Naples.
- 1649 **Charles I**, King of England, convicted of treason by the English Parliament and beheaded. The monarchy was then abolished and the Commonwealth of England established as a republic, until 1660 when the monarchy was restored to Charles's son, Charles II.
- 1649 **Ibrahim**, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, assassinated by strangulation when the

sheikh, ul-Islam, issued a “fatwā,” sanctioning Ibrahim's murder because of widespread discontent with his rule. Ibrahim's six-year old son, Mehmed, was made Sultan as Mehmed IV.

- 1650 **James Graham**, 1st Marquess of Montrose, Scottish nobleman, poet, soldier, lord lieutenant (and later viceroy), and captain general of Scotland, tried by the Scottish Parliament for treason and hanged after his defeat at the Battle of Carbisdale, while fighting on behalf of Charles I, King of England.
- 1660 **George II Rákoczy**, Prince of Transylvania, died of wounds received at the battle of Gilău against the Turks.
- 1671 **Stepan Timofeyevich Razin** (aka Stenka Razi), leader of the Cossack and peasant rebellion against the excesses of the Tzars of Russia, captured and executed.
- 1685 **James Scott**, 1st Duke of Monmouth and 1st Duke of Buccleuch, beheaded for his rebellion against James II (as King of England), aka James VII (as King of Scotland).
- 1692 **The Massacre of Glencoe**, 38 members and associates of Clan MacDonald of Glencoe (Scotland) were killed by government forces, allegedly for failing to pledge allegiance to the new monarchs, William III of Scotland and Mary II, Queen of England, Scotland, and Ireland, even though the signed pledges were delivered (albeit a few days late). The Secretary of State and the person charged with collecting the pledges was John Dalrymple, who hated the MacDonald and used their tardiness as an excuse to label them traitors and murder them. 120 men under the command of Captain Robert Campbell, with instructions from Dalrymple to "put all to the sword under seventy," sought shelter at the MacDonald's compound in Glencoe. As was the custom, the MacDonalds offered their hospitality. After a night of playing cards, and after all had retired to their bed chambers, the soldiers rose up and massacred as many MacDonalds as they could. The slaughter was considered particularly offensive because it was done “under trust.”
- 1717 **Abdul Aziz Hotak**, second ruler of the Ghilji Hotak dynasty of Kandahar, Afghanistan, murdered by his nephew Mahmud Hotak (who succeeded him on the throne), because of the overtures of peace Abdul was making to the Persians.
- 1718 **Alexei Petrovich**, heir to the throne of Russia, condemned to death by the Senate for conspiring rebellion against his father the Tsar, Peter the Great, who tortured him to death hoping to learn of other co-conspirators.
- 1718 **Charles XII**, King of Sweden, shot in the head and killed during the siege of Fredriksten while attempting to invade Norway.
- 1725 **Mahmud Hotak**, third ruler of the Afghan Hotak dynasty that overthrew the Safavid dynasty of Iran to briefly become the Shah of Persia, murdered by his cousin, Ashraf Hotak, after he was released from prison by a group of rebellious officers who then put him on the throne.
- 1730 **Ashraf Hotak**, fourth ruler of the Afghan Hotak dynasty, murdered by Mir Muhabbat Khan Baloch, while trying to escape to Afghanistan after losing the Battle of Damghan.
- 1747 **Nadir Shah**, King of Afghanistan, assassinated during a rebellion. Because of his military prowess, as evidenced by his many battlefield victories, historians have called him the Napoleon of Persia.
- 1757 **Robert-François Damiens**, a domestic servant, executed by Louis XV, King of France, after attempting to assassinate him. He was the last person to be executed in France by drawing and quartering, the traditional form of death penalty reserved for who

would murder their sovereign.

- 1762 **Peter III** Emperor of all the Russias, assassinated shortly after he was taken prisoner and forced to abdicate by his wife Catherine (who succeeded him as Catherine II, Empress of Russia) and her lover, Grigory Grigoryevich Orlov.
- 1764 **Ivan VI**, Tsar of Russia, deposed a year after he was proclaimed emperor (when he was only two years old), and imprisoned for over twenty years, until he was murdered by his guards when some army officers attempted to free him.
- 1772 **Johann Friedrich Struensee**, German physician, philosopher and statesman, became royal physician to the mentally ill King Christian VII of Denmark and a minister in the Danish government, rising in power to a position of "de facto" regent of the country. His affair with Queen Caroline Matilda ("Caroline Mathilde") caused a scandal, especially after the birth of a daughter, Princess Louise Augusta, and was the catalyst for the intrigues and power plays that resulted in his trial for treason and subsequent execution.
- 1792 **Gustav III**, King of Sweden, assassinated at a masquerade ball by Jacob Johan Anckarström, one of several nobles involved in the plot, unhappy with the king for his war against Russia and proposed legislation that would have increased his hold on power.
- 1793 **Louis XVI** and **Marie Antoinette**, King and Queen of France, beheaded after the monarchy was abolished in the wake of the French Revolution, first Louis on January 21st and then Marie on October 16th.
- 1793 **Jean-Paul Marat**, journalist and politician during the French Revolution, stabbed to death on July 13th by Charlotte Corday, a Girondin sympathizer (a competing political faction), while taking a medicinal bath for his debilitating skin condition.
- 1794 **Georges Danton** and **Camille Desmoulins**, politicians during the French "Reign of Terror," beheaded in Paris.
- 1794 **Maximilien Robespierre** and his close friend and trusted ally, **Louis Antoine de Saint-Just**, guillotined in Paris, victims of the "Reign of Terror" they both helped to create.
- 1801 **Paul I**, Tsar of Russia, assassinated by a group of discharged army officers angered by his reforms that resulted in greater rights for the peasantry.
- 1803 **Robert Emmet**, leader of the Irish "July Rebellion" against English rule, executed.
- 1810 **Andreas Hofer**, Austrian freedom fighter against Napoleon, executed at Mantua.
- 1812 **Claude Francois Malet**, French general, executed for conspiring against Napoleon while he was campaigning in Russia, in an attempt to end the war and install Louis XVIII as king.
- 1815 **Michel Ney**, French military commander, executed for aiding Napoleon at Waterloo.
- 1815 **Joachim Murat**, named King of Naples by Napoleon, executed after being defeated by general Frederick Bianchi at the Battle of Tolentino, while trying to strengthen his rule in Italy by warring against Austria.
- 1820 **Charles Ferdinand**, Duke de Berry and heir presumptive to the French throne, assassinated. The murderer was a saddle maker named Louis Pierre Louvel, a Bonapartist opposed to the monarchy.
- 1820 **Cato Street Conspirators** hanged (then beheaded) for plotting to murder Prime Minister Lord Liverpool and all the British cabinet ministers. Arthur Thistlewood, Richard Tidd, James Ings, William Davidson and John Brunt were hanged at Newgate

- Prison in front of a crowd of many thousands, some having paid as much as three guineas for a good vantage point from the windows of houses overlooking the scaffold.
- 1831 **Nat Turner**, leader of a slave revolt in Virginia (known as the Southampton Rebellion) that killed 65 people, including women and children, before being put down. Turner was later captured then hanged, dissected and flayed, his skin used to make purses as souvenirs.
- 1848 **Pellegrino Rossi**, Minister of Justice in the government of the Papal States under Pope Pius IX, assassinated at the opening of Parliament by a stab wound to the neck. The murder caused the Pope to flee Rome, and created a series of events that led to the proclamation of the Roman Republic. Gabriele Constantini was convicted of the crime and executed in 1854.
- 1858 **Felice Orsini**, Italian revolutionary, executed for attempting to assassinate Emperor Napoleon III of France.
- 1865 **Abraham Lincoln**, US President, shot while watching a performance of “Our American Cousin” at Ford’s Theater in Washington DC by John Wilkes Booth, a supporter of the defeated Confederacy in America’s civil war.
- 1867 **Maximilian I**, Austrian archduke who reigned as the only Emperor of the Second Mexican Empire, executed after Napoleon III of France withdrew support for his rule.
- 1878 **Emil Max Hödel**, plumber, executed for attempting to shoot William I, Emperor of Germany.
- 1890 **Sitting Bull**, Chief of the Hunkpapa Lakota tribe who led his people during years of resistance against the US war on the America Indian, and later became famous throughout white man’s America, traveling with Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show. He was killed by Indian agency police on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation during an attempt to arrest him, at a time when authorities feared that he would join the Ghost Dance movement. Practitioners of the dance believed that it would summon the spirits of their dead ancestors to fight and end American’s westward expansion, bring peace, prosperity, and unity to Native American peoples throughout the region.
- 1894 **Marie François Sadi Carnot**, fourth president of the French Republic who died from his wounds after being stabbed by an Italian anarchist named Sante Geronimo Caserio. Caserio said that the assassination was a political act. He was executed two months later.

NOTE: Because so many political murders throughout history are recorded as having been committed by “anarchists,” I feel it is important to give a brief history of the definition of that word and the evolution of Anarchist philosophy. In spite of the fact that Anarchy is often defined as “*A state of disorder due to a lack of authority or other controlling systems,*” no rational being has ever advocated political chaos as a desirable state of affairs. Some dictionaries still quote the original definition of Anarchism as “*A political theory advocating the abolition of hierarchical government [i.e. monarchies] and the organization of society on a voluntary, cooperative basis without recourse to force or compulsion [i.e. democratic principles].*” Later Emma Goldman, a renowned lecturer of her time and historically considered the founder of anarchist philosophy, would alter that definition to include all governments when she wrote in 1910, “*Anarchism, then, really stands for the liberation of the human mind from the dominion of religion [i.e. theocracies]; the liberation of the human body from the dominion of property [i.e. Capitalism]; liberation from the shackles and restraint of government. Anarchism stands for a social order based on the free grouping of individuals for the purpose of producing real social wealth; an order that will guarantee*

to every human being free access to the earth and full enjoyment of the necessities of life, according to individual desires, tastes, and inclinations [i.e. Socialism?].” Goldman was very critical of Capitalism, which she saw as preventing the rise of workers rights. Her opposition to government in general (not just monarchies) was based on her belief that all governments were servants of capitalists, and not of the people.

- 1895 **Myeongseong**, Queen of Korea and last ruler of the Joseon dynasty, assassinated with Japanese help.
- 1896 **Nasr-ed-Din**, Shah of Persia, assassinated. A modernist, he allowed the establishment of newspapers in the country and made use of modern forms of technology such as telegraphs and photography. His tax reforms, however, were abused by people in power, and the government was viewed as corrupt and unable to protect commoners from abuse by the upper class. This led to increasing anti-governmental sentiments, and eventually his murder.
- 1898 **Elizabeth**, Empress of Austria, murdered by an Italian anarchist in Geneva who was quoted as saying, *“I am an anarchist by conviction . . . I came to Geneva to kill a sovereign, with object of giving an example to those who suffer, and those who do nothing to improve their social position. It did not matter to me who the sovereign was whom I should kill . . . It was not a woman I struck, but an Empress; it was a crown that I had in view.”*
- 1900 **Umberto I**, King of Italy, murdered by anarchist Gaetano Bresci, who claimed he wanted to avenge the people killed in Milan during the suppression of the food riots of May 1898 when, according to government sources, at least 80 demonstrators were killed and 450 wounded. The suppression of these demonstrations marked the height of popular discontent with the military and the monarchy.
- 1901 **William McKinley**, US President, shot twice at close range while greeting the public at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York by self-avowed anarchist, Leon Frank Czolgosz. The President died of his injuries nine days later. Czolgosz, when interrogated, said he had been inspired to act after attending a speech by Emma Goldman. (See Note for year 1894.)
- 1903 **Aleksandar Obrenović** (aka Alexander I), King of Serbia, and his wife, Queen **Draga Mašin**, assassinated by a group of Royal Serbian Army officers, led by Captain Dragutin Dimitrijević. A secret society called The Black Hand, formed to unite all of the territories with a South Slavic majority, has been linked historically to the assassination of the king and queen. It would later be implicated in the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, which is largely regarded as precipitating World War I.
- 1904 **Viacheslav Plehve**, Minister of the Interior to Nicholas II, the last Tsar of Russia, assassinated when a bomb was thrown into his horse-drawn carriage by Igor Sazonov, a member of the Socialist Revolutionary Party.
- 1911 **Peter Stolypin**, Prime Minister of Russian, died four days after being shot by Dmitry Bogrov, a leftist revolutionary, while attending a performance of the Kiev Opera. The judicial investigation that followed was halted by order of the Tsar, giving rise to suggestions that the assassination was planned not by leftists, but by conservative monarchists opposed to Stolypin's reforms and his influence with the Tsar.
- 1914 **Franz Ferdinand**, Archduke and heir apparent to the throne of Austria-Hungary, shot dead (along with his wife) while riding in a motorcade in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb and member of “Young Bosnia,” which sought an end to Austro-Hungarian rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ferdinand’s assassination set into motion a series of events that led to World War I.

- 1914 **Jean Jaurès**, pacifist and leader of the French Socialist Party, shot and killed at a restaurant in Paris, by French Nationalist, Raoul Villain. Jaurès had been due to attend an international conference in an attempt to dissuade Russia and Germany from going to war.
- 1916 **Roger David Casement**, diplomat and Irish nationalist, lands in Ireland, is arrested and executed.
- 1916 **Karl von Stürgkh**, 24th Minister-President of Cisleithania, shot and killed by Social Democratic politician, Friedrich Adler.
- 1916 **Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin**, Russian Monk, assassinated by a group of nobles led by Purishkevich, Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich and Prince Felix Yusupov, who felt that Rasputin's influence over the imperial family of Nicholas II threatened the Russian Empire. Rasputin was murdered on December 30th at the home of Prince Yusupov. According to Yusupov's account, Rasputin survived several attempts to kill him, which included eating a cake laced with cyanide and drinking poisoned wine. An autopsy, however, discovered no signs of poisoning, but showed that he had been shot three times, the last of which was at close-range to his forehead.
- 1918 **István Imre Lajos Pál Tisza de Borosjenő et Szeged**, Hungarian Prime Minister, assassinated.
- 1918 **István Imre Lajos Pál Tisza de Borosjenő et Szeged**, Hungarian Prime Minister, assassinated.
- 1919 **Karl Liebknecht**, German socialist politician and theorist, and **Rosa Luxemburg**, economist, anti-war activist and revolutionary socialist, murdered by counterrevolutionary German Freikorps officers.
- 1919 **Kurt Eisner**, German journalist, politician and revolutionary, assassinated by German nationalist Anton Graf von Arco auf Valley.
- 1919 **Hugo Haase**, German socialist leader, assassinated by Johann Voss who was declared insane and committed to a mental asylum, although his followers believed he was a paid assassin.
- 1920 **José Venustiano Carranza De La Garza**, President of Mexico, assassinated. General Obregón and allied Sonoran generals united to form the strongest power bloc in Mexico and oppose Carranza. In April of 1920, a campaign aide to Obregón attempted to assassinate Carranza, but failed. Obregón then brought his army to Mexico City and drove Carranza out of the city. Carranza was betrayed and killed while camped in the rugged Sierra Norte de Puebla mountains.
- 1921 **Eduardo Dato**, Spanish Prime Minister, assassinated.
- 1921 **Matthias Erzberger**, German Finance Minister, assassinated.
- 1921 **António Machado Santos**, Portuguese military officer remembered as a hero of the October 1910 Revolution that ended Portugal's centuries-old monarchy, assassinated during a military insurrection that became known as the Bloody Night.
- 1921 **Takashi Hara**, Prime Minister of Japan, stabbed to death by Nakaoka Kon'ichi, a railroad switchman, at Tōkyō Station while catching a train to Kyoto for a party conference. Kon'ichi believed Hara to be corrupt and beholden to the industrial and financial business conglomerates in Japan at the time, known as the zaibatsu.
- 1922 **Walther Rathenau**, German statesman, assassinated by German nationalists.
- 1922 **Erskine Childers**, English-born Irish politician and writer in support of the Irish War of independence (1919-1921) executed for possessing a firearm in violation of England's Emergency Powers Resolution, a capital offense. The handgun had been a gift from

Michael Collins before Collins became head of the pro-treaty, Provisional Government of Ireland.

- 1925 **Hugo Bettauer**, Austrian writer, journalist and opponent of antisemitism, shot by Otto Rothstock, a former member of the Nazi party. It is generally accepted that it was Bettauer's vocal criticism of antisemitism that was the motive behind the murder.
- 1927 **Kevin O'Higgins**, Irish politician, assassinated.
- 1928 **Alvaro Obregón**, general in the Mexican Revolution, who became the 46th President of Mexico, assassinated.
- 1928 **Stefan Radic**, Croatian politician, assassinated.
- 1934 **Engelbert Dollfuss**, Fascist politician and Chancellor of Austria who dissolved parliament and assumed dictatorial powers, assassinated by Nazis agents.
- 1934 **Alexander I**, King of Yugoslavia, and **Louis Barthou**, French Foreign Minister, assassinated by Bulgarian revolutionary, Vlado Chernozemski, during a 1934 state visit to France.
- 1934 **Serge Kirov**, close collaborator of Russian dictator, Joseph Stalin, assassinated at his offices in Leningrad by Leonid Nikolaev for reasons never established. Nikolaev and several suspected accomplices were convicted in a show trial and executed. Although Kirov's assassination is controversial and unresolved, there is widespread belief that Stalin was complicit. The murder was used as a pretext for Stalin's escalation of political repression in the Soviet Union and the Great Purge of the Communist Party and the Soviet military.
- 1935 **Huey Pierce Long Jr.** (aka The Kingfish), Governor of Louisiana, assassinated by Dr. Carl Weiss on the steps of the state's capital.
- 1937 **Mikhail Nikolayevich Tukhachevsky** (nicknamed "The Red Napoleon" by foreign newspapers), Russian Marshal, executed during a purge of generals by dictator, Joseph Stalin.
- 1937 **Bakr Sidqi**, Iraqi military leader who essentially ruled Iraq after his coup d'état ousted the government of Yasin al-Hashimi, assassinated by Muhammad 'Ali Talla'fari, a soldier. It still remains unclear as to who was behind the murder.
- 1940 **Leon Trotsky**, Russian revolutionary, murdered at his villa in Mexico with an ax by NKVD agent, Ramón Mercader, on orders from Joseph Stalin.
- 1943 **Wilhelm Kube**, German Nazi Generalkommissar for Belarus, assassinated in his Minsk apartment by a bomb hidden in his mattress placed there by Soviet partisan, Yelena Mazanik. In retaliation, the SS killed more than 1,000 men, all citizens of Minsk. Mazanik escaped the reprisals and continued to fight with the partisans. She was later awarded the title Heroine of the Soviet Union.
- 1945 **Benito Mussolini**, dictator of Italy and ally of Hitler during WW II, apprehended while trying to escape with his mistress, Clara Petacci, to Spain and shot by partisans. The bodies of Mussolini, Petacci, and other executed Fascists were loaded into a van and driven to Mila, where they were hung from their feet and stoned by the crowd assembled there.
- 1945 **Adolph Hitler**, dictator of Germany, commits suicide in his underground bunker in Berlin, rather than be captured by advancing Russian troops already in the city.
- 1946 **Rama VIII**, (born Ananda Mahidol), King of Siam, found shot dead in his bed. Although at first thought to have been an accident, his death was ruled a murder by medical examiners, and three royal pages were later executed following "very irregular trials."
- 1946 **Hermann Wilhelm Göring**, commander-in-chief of the Nazi air force (Luftwaffe),

sentenced to death for war crimes at Nuremberg, committed suicide on the evening before his execution.

- 1948 **Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi** (aka Mahatma Gandhi), Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and political ethicist, shot to death by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu nationalist, while on his way to address a prayer meeting.
- 1952 **Rudolf Slánský** and **Vladimír Clementis** executed in Czechoslovakia. After the split within the Communist Party between Josip Broz “Tito” of Yugoslavia and Soviet premier Joseph Stalin, Stalin instigated a wave of purges of Communist Party leaders to prevent more splits between the Soviet Union and its Central European satellite countries. Slánský and Clementis were two of eleven who were convicted of treason in show trials and executed in these purges.
- 1953 **Julius and Ethel Rosenberg**, convicted of spying for the Soviet Union, executed by Electric Chair at Sing Sing prison.
- 1953 **Lavrentiy Beria**, chief of the Soviet secret police, tried for treason and executed in the power struggle that followed the death of Joseph Stalin. He had attempted to use his position to become Stalin’s successor, but was defeated in his efforts by an anti-Beria coalition led by Georgy Malenkov (who did succeed Stalin), aided by Vyacheslav Molotov and Nikita Khrushchev.
- 1956 **Mustafa Hafez**, a Colonel in the Egyptian army responsible for recruiting refugees from Palestine to carry out attacks in Israel, assassinated by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).
- 1958 **Imre Nagy**, leader of the failed Hungarian Revolution of 1956 against the Soviet-backed government, convicted of treason in a secret trial and executed.
- 1962 **Heinz Krug**, West German rocket scientist working for Egypt's missile program, abducted from his company offices in Munich. His body was never found, but Swiss police later arrested two Mossad agents for threatening the daughter of another German scientist, and found that they were responsible for the killing as part of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Operation Damocles.
- 1963 **John Fitzgerald Kennedy**, US President, assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas, allegedly by Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald maintained his innocence, saying he was “a patsy,” but was murdered by Jack Ruby before he could stand trial. Many believe, as theorized in the movie *JFK (1991)* by Oliver Stone, that the assassination of the President was a joint operation of the CIA, the Mafia, and a faction of the military.
- 1965 **Malcolm X** (born Malcolm Little), African American Muslim minister and human rights activist, gunned down by three members of the Nation of Islam, after receiving numerous death threats when he left that organization, repudiating its doctrine of black supremacy, and became a Sunni Muslim.
- 1967 **George Lincoln Rockwell**, American Nazi Party leader, murdered by John Patler who had been expelled by Rockwell from the party for repeated attempts to inject Marxist ideas into party publications. Patler was convicted of the murder and sentenced to 20 years in prison.
- 1967 **Che Guevara**, Cuban revolutionary, captured and executed in Vallegrande, Bolivia by the Bolivian army, while trying to organize the peasantry in marxist revolution.
- 1968 **Martin Luther King Jr.**, civil right activist and vocal opponent of the Viet Nam War, shot in Memphis, Tennessee, by James Earl Ray. Although Ray was officially declared to be a lone gunman, unrelated to any conspiracy, the King family won a wrongful death civil suit against Memphis restaurant owner Loyd Jowers, whose restaurant was

near the Lorraine Motel where King was shot. The jury found that Jowers and others, including government agencies, had conspired to murder King, and he was therefore legally liable to pay compensation to the King family. The family accepted one hundred dollars in restitution to demonstrate they were not pursuing the case for financial gain, and publicly stated that in their opinion Ray had nothing to do with the assassination.

- 1968 **Robert Francis Kennedy**, brother of former US President John F. Kennedy, shot while himself campaigning for President in Los Angeles, by Sirhan Sirhan. In his book about the RFK assassination, *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy* (1995), veteran crime reporter Dan Moldea wrote that there were three audio recordings made at the scene and that they underwent an acoustical analysis using technology unavailable at the time, in an attempt to determine if a distinctive gunshot 'audio signature' could be identified and the number of gunshots counted. Dr Michael H.L. Hecker (an electrical engineer with the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, California, who conducted the tests), wrote in his report, "On the basis of auditory, oscillographic and spectrographic analyses of these three recordings, it is my opinion, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, that no fewer than 10 gunshots are ascertainable following the conclusion of the Senator's victory speech until after the time Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was disarmed." Sirhan's gun could only hold 8 bullets.
- 1973 **Salvador Guillermo Allende Gossens**, President of Chile, overthrown in a coup by a military junta (later proven to have been backed by the CIA), and reportedly committed suicide. He was the first Marxist to be elected president of a democracy in Latin America.
- 1977 **Ibrahim al-Hamdi**, leader of a military coup in the Yemen Arab Republic that overthrew President Abdul Rahman al-Iryani in 1974, assassinated (with help from Saudi Arabia) at the home of Ahmad bin Hussein al-Ghashmi, who then succeeded him as President. al-Ghashmi was himself assassinated eight months later.
- 1977 **Steve Biko**, South African anti-apartheid activist, died from injuries sustained during his frequent and brutal interrogations by South African police.
- 1978 **Pope John Paul I**, possibly poisoned. In his book *When the Bullet Hits the Bone*, published in 2019, Anthony Raimondi (who claims to be a nephew of Lucky Luciano the notorious mobster) says he helped his cousin Archbishop Paul Marcinkus kill the pope by putting valium in his tea to knock him out, then poisoning him with cyanide. The motive he says was that John Paul had allegedly threatened to expose "a massive stock fraud run by Vatican insiders." Raimondi says that "If they take [the pope's body] and do any type of testing, they will still find traces of the poison in his system."
- 1978 **Ahmad bin Hussein al-Ghashmi**, President of the Yemen Arab Republic, assassinated while meeting with an envoy sent by People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, President Salim Rubai Ali. A briefcase, reportedly containing a secret message from Ali exploded, killing both al-Ghashmi and the envoy. It's not known who set off the explosion. Salim Rubai Ali was killed in a coup three days later.
- 1978 **Salim Rubai Ali**, Marxist head of state of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), deposed and executed by Ali Nasir Muhammad, his Prime Minister who then succeeded him as President.
- 1978 **Aldo Moro**, former Prime Minister of Italy, kidnapped and murdered by the Red Brigades, a terrorist organization that sought to create a revolutionary state through armed struggle, and to remove Italy from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- 1978 **Georgi Markov**, Bulgarian writer and political activist, murdered by an agent of the Bulgarian Secret Service on a sidewalk in London, via a micro-engineered pellet

containing the toxin ricin fired into his leg from an umbrella. It's believed that the Soviet KGB had helped in planning the attack.

- 1979 **Louis Mountbatten**, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma and distant cousin to Queen Elizabeth II, assassinated by Thomas McMahon, a member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), who planted a bomb aboard his fishing boat.
- 1979 **Airey Neave**, conservative member of the English Parliament, assassinated by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) as part of an extensive bombing campaign of terror.
- 1979 **Zulfikar Ali Bhutto**, Prime Minister of Pakistan, arrested during a military coup led by General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, and charged with authorizing the murder of a political opponent in 1974. He was hanged after international pleas for mercy were ignored by General Zia.
- 1979 **Ignatius Kutu Acheampong**, military leader of Ghana, deposed and executed in a military uprising led by Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, whose Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) returned Ghana to civilian rule in September of that year.
- 1979 **Park Chung Hee**, President of South Korea, fatally shot by his Chief of Intelligence, Kim Jae-gyu, who said that Park was an obstacle to democracy and that his act was one of patriotism. Jae-gyu was hanged for the murder.
- 1980 **Anastasio Somoza Debayle**, President and dictator of Nicaragua, assassinated by a Sandinista commando team.
- 1981 **Anwar Sadat**, President of Egypt, assassinated by soldiers at a military parade because of the peace he made with Israel's Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, brokered by US President Jimmy Carter the year before at Camp David.
- 1981 **Ziaur Rahman**, President of Bangladesh, killed with his family in a shoot out with army personnel during a coup.
- 1981 **Mohammad-Ali Rajai**, President of Iran, **Mohammad Javad Bahonar**, the Iranian Prime Minister, and 29 others killed by a briefcase bomb planted by Massoud Keshmiri, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, but secretly an operative of the People's Mujahedin of Iran (also known as the MEK). He was able to make good his escape, but in reprisal over 2,000 Mujahedin were executed before year's end.
- 1982 **Bashir Gemayel**, President Elect of Lebanon, assassinated before taking office when a bomb was detonated by Habib Shartouni, a member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, killing Gemayel and 26 other Phalange politicians. Shartouni later confessed to the murder saying, "Bachir sold the country to Israel."
- 1983 **Benigno Simeon Aquino Jr.**, political opponent of Ferdinand Marcos, President (dictator) of the Philippines, assassinated at Manila airport upon returning home from a self-imposed exile.
- 1983 **Maurice Bishop**, Prime Minister of Grenada, killed in a military coup. 6,000 US troops invaded and restored civil rule.
- 1984 **Jerzy Popiełuszko**, Polish priest and supporter of the Solidarity Labor Movement, beaten to death by the secret police.
- 1984 **Indira Gandhi**, Prime Minister of India, assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards. As a result, anti-Sikh riots swept the country and over 1,000 people died in the blood letting.
- 1986 **Olof Palme**, Prime Minister of Sweden, shot in the back by an unknown gunman while walking home from a movie house with his wife. Although a small time criminal was convicted of the murder, it was later overturned. Suspension has since fallen on other suspects. In 2015, Major General Chris Thirion, who headed the military intelligence of

South Africa during the final years of apartheid rule, told Göran Björkdahl, a Swedish diplomat who had done independent research on Palme's assassination, that he believed South Africa was behind Palme's murder. Some politicians and journalists in Turkey believed that the murder was the work of the PKK, a Kurdish militant political organization and guerrilla movement, because Palme was the first in Europe to designate the PKK as terrorist organization.

- 1987 **Rashid Abdul Hamid Karami**, Prime Minister of Lebanon, killed by a bomb aboard his helicopter. Militia leader Samir Geagea was accused in 1994 for this assassination, and in 1999, Geagea and ten other members of the Lebanese Forces, a Lebanese Christian-based political party and former militia during the Lebanese Civil War were found guilty of the assassination. Soon after Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon in 2005, they were provisionally pardoned and released from jail.
- 1987 **Thomas Sankara**, President of Burkino Faso, killed by a group of twelve army officials in a coup organized by his former colleague, Blaise Compaoré. When accounting for the coup, Compaoré said that Sankara jeopardized foreign relations with former colonial power France and neighboring Ivory Coast, and accused his former friend of plotting to assassinate opponents. Compaoré assumed the Presidency until he was overthrown by popular protests in 2014, and fled the country. In 2021, Compaoré and 13 others were put on trial for the assassination. Compaoré and two others were found guilty in absentia, and sentenced to life in prison. Eight were sentenced to between 3 and 20 years, and three were found innocent.
- 1988 **Khalil Ibrahim al-Wazir**, military leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), assassinated by Israeli agents.
- 1988 **Mohammad Zia al-Haq**, President of Pakistan, killed in an explosion aboard his aircraft. Sabotage was suspected.
- 1989 **Luis Carlos Galán Sarmiento**, presidential candidate of Columbia, shot dead by drug traffickers.
- 1990 **Ian Reginald Edward Gow**, member of English Parliament, killed in a car bomb attack by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).
- 1990 **Samuel Kanyon Doe**, President of Liberia, captured and killed by rebel troops.
- 1991 **Detlev Karsten Rohwedder**, President of the Treuhand Corporation for privatization of businesses in the former E. Germany, murdered by the Red Army Faction (RAF), a West German terrorist group.
- 1991 **Shapur Bakhtiar**, last Prime Minister of Iran under the Shah (1979), murdered with his secretary while in exile in Paris by three assassins with kitchen knives. The bodies were not found until 36 hours after later, even though Bakhtiar had heavy police protection and his killers had left identity documents with a guard at his house, indicating the murder might have been an in "inside job." Two of the assassins escaped to Iran. A third, Ali Vakili Rad, was apprehended in Switzerland, along with an alleged accomplice, Zeynalabedin Sarhadi, a great-nephew of the president of Iran at the time, and extradited to France for trial. Vakili Rad was sentenced to life in prison, but Sarhadi was acquitted.
- 1991 **Rajiv Gandhi**, former Prime Minister of India, son of Indira Gandhi and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi (both of whom were themselves assassinated), killed by a suicide bomber while he was campaigning for a congressional candidate in an upcoming election.
- 1992 **Giovanni Falcone** and **Paolo Borsellino**, Italian Judges and Mafia opponents, both assassinated on orders of Salvatore Riina, head of the Sicilian Mafia. Falcone

was killed with 881 pounds of explosives. (The blast was so powerful that it registered on local earthquake monitors.) Borsellino was killed by a car bomb, less than two months after the assassination of his friend Falcone.

- 1992 **Chadli Bendjedid**, President of Algeria since 1979, assassinated.
- 1992 **Mohammed Boudiaf**, since 1988 President of Algeria and opponent of Islamic fundamentalism, assassinated by a bodyguard during a televised public speech at the opening of a cultural center in Annaba, on his first visit outside Algiers as head of state.
- 1993 **Melchior Ndadaye**, newly elected President of Burundi, is killed in a military putsch that reignites civil war.
- 1993 **Ranasinghe Premadasa**, President of Sri Lanka, is assassinated in a bombing at a demonstration.
- 1994 **Juvénal Habyarimana** and **Cyprien Ntaryamira**, Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi respectively, are assassinated when their plane is shot down.
- 1995 **Yitzhak Rabin**, Prime Minister of Israel, assassinated by Yigal Amir, an opponent of the Oslo Accords, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), that resulted in the recognition by the PLO of the state of Israel, and the recognition by Israel of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, and as a partner in future peace negotiations.
- 1996 **Fernando Mugica Herzog**, Socialist Basque politician, murdered in San Sebastian. Basque separatist group, Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA), claims responsibility.
- 1996 **Pierre-Lucien Claverie**, Bishop of Oran, murdered by Islamic extremists.
- 1996 **Hussein Kamel al-Majid** and his brother **Saddam Kamel al-Majid**, both sons-in-laws of Saddam Hussein, who had fled to Jordan, return to Iraq. Despite promises of amnesty, they were murdered.
- 1996 **Alhaja Kudirat Abiola**, a Nigerian pro-democracy campaigner, assassinated while her husband, Moshood Abiola, was being detained by the Nigerian Government.
- 1998 **Moshood Abiola**, Nigerian businessman, publisher, and politician, was detained for four years, largely in solitary confinement, and died unexpectedly on the day he was to be released while meeting group of American diplomats, and just after drinking a cup of tea. Although the official cause of death was the result of a weak heart, many suspected he was poisoned.
- 1998 **Juan Gerardi Conedera**, Guatemalan Catholic bishop and human rights defender who was working with the indigenous Mayan peoples of the country, bludgeoned to death two days after the publication of a human rights report by the church. Three army officers were convicted of the murder and sentenced to 30 years in prison, later lowered to 20 years on appeal.
- 1999 **Luis María Argaña**, Paraguayan politician and Supreme Court judge, assassinated when his car was ambushed at a time when it appeared likely that he would inherit the presidency from Raúl Cubas, who was on the verge of being impeached. Pablo Vera Esteche was arrested for the crime and later said the murder, for which he and two other gunmen were paid a total of \$300,000, was authorized by Cubas and General Lino Oviedo, his political ally and supporter.
- 2000 **Fernando Buesa**, Spanish socialist politician, killed with his bodyguard by a car bomb, planted by by the separatist group ETA, as he walked through the university campus in Vitoria-Gasteiz.
- 2000 **Pavel Bulatović**, Yugoslavian Minister of Defense, shot by an unknown assailant at a restaurant in Belgrade. Bulatović represented the Socialist People's Party of

Montenegro, which was then allied in government with the Socialist Party of Serbia, led by Slobodan Milošević, a possible motive for the murder.

NOTE: Milošević was indicted in May 1999, during the Kosovo War, by the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for crimes against humanity. Charges of violating the laws or customs of war, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, and genocide in Bosnia were added a year and a half later. Milošević died during his trial at The Hague, and the court never returned a verdict on the charges.

- 2001 **Ahmed Shab Masud**, Afghan politician and military commander opposing the ruling Taliban regime, killed by a suicide bomber. A co-conspirator was captured and then shot while trying to escape.
- 2001 **Laurent Kabila**, President of the Congo, shot dead in his office. The investigation that followed led to 135 people, including four children, being tried before a special military tribunal. The alleged ringleader, Colonel Eddy Kapend (one of Kabila's cousins), and 25 others were sentenced to death, but never executed. Of the other defendants, 64 were jailed with sentences from six months to life, and 45 were exonerated.
- 2002 **Carmine Pecorelli**, Italian journalist, shot to death. He had been investigating the kidnapping and murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro in 1978, saying it had been organized by a "lucid superpower." While on trial for his alleged ties to the Mafia, Italy's former Premiere, Giulio Andreotti, was at the same time tried on charges of complicity in Pecorelli's murder, along with Sicilian Mafia boss, Gaetano Badalamenti, and others. After a retrial convicted the defendants, all were acquitted by the Italian supreme court on appeal.
- 2002 **Salah Shehade**, member of the Palestinian Islamist movement, Hamas, killed when the Israeli Defense Forces targeted his home in Gaza City, using a one-ton bomb dropped by an F-16 plane. Eight houses were completely destroyed. Another 29 houses were either partially destroyed or damaged. The attack killed 15 people, including Shehade's wife and daughter.
- 2003 **Yuri Shchekochikhin**, journalist and author who wrote about crime and corruption in the former Soviet Union, died suddenly after contracting a mysterious illness. At the time, he was investigating the 1999 series of apartment bombings in Russia that left hundreds dead for Novaya Gazeta, a Russian newspaper known for its critical coverage of political and social affairs. His medical records were classified by Russian authorities. Shchekochikhin was one of many critics of Vladimir Putin, President and dictator of Russia, who were murdered or died in suspicious ways.
- 2003 **Sergei Yushenkov**, former Russian army colonel, gunned down outside his home in Moscow. He had just registered his Liberal Russia movement as a political party, and was gathering evidence he believed that proved the Putin government was behind one of the apartment bombings in 1999.
- 2003 **Zoran Đinđić**, Serbian Prime Minister, shot dead by a sniper outside the government seat in Belgrade. Twelve men were tried and convicted for the assassination, among them Milorad Ulemek, former commander of the Special Operations Unit of Yugoslavia's secret police.
- 2003 Brothers **Uday and Qusay Hussain**, killed in a shoot out with US soldiers and their bodies put on graphic display. Uday had been the founder and commander of the Fedayeen Saddam, a loyalist paramilitary organization that served as Saddam Hussein's personal guard, while Qusay had been a high-ranking member of the Iraqi Republican Guard.

- 2003 **Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim**, leader of the Shite ethnic majority in Iraq, killed along with 80 others in a bombing outside the Holy Shrine of the Imam Ali in Najaf, Iraq.
- 2004 **Akhmad Kadyrov**, Chechen President killed in a bomb attack with some 100 people injured. Rebel leader, Shamil Basayev, claimed responsibility for the attack.
- 2004 **Sheikh Ahmed Yassin**, founder of Hamas, along with his successor Abdel Asis Rantissi, killed when an Israeli attack helicopter fired a hellfire missile at his entourage.
- 2006 **Aleksandr Valterovich Litvinenko**, former KGB agent who died three weeks after drinking a cup of tea laced with polonium-210 at a London hotel. After leaving the Russian Federal Security Service, Litvinenko became a vocal critic of the agency, and later blamed the security service for orchestrating the 1999 apartment bombings in Russia. A British inquiry found that Litvinenko was poisoned by Russian agents Andrei Lugovoi and Dmitry Kovtun, who were acting on orders that had “probably been approved” by President Putin. Russia refused to extradite them, and Putin later granted Lugovoi a medal for “services to the motherland.”
- 2006 **Anna Politkovskaya**, Russian reporter for Novaya Gazeta, whose book, "Putin's Russia," accused the Kremlin leader of turning the country into a police state. She was shot in an elevator in her apartment building. Five men were convicted of her murder, but the judge found that it was a contract killing, with \$150,000 of the fee paid by a person whose identity was never discovered.
- 2006 **Saddam Hussein**, President of Iraq, hanged after the US and allied countries invaded and deposed him after he invaded Kuwait.
- 2009 **Natalia Estemirova**, Russian journalist who investigated abductions and murders that had become commonplace in Chechnya. There, pro-Russian security forces waged a brutal crackdown to weed out Islamic militants responsible for some of the country's worst terrorist attacks. Like fellow journalist Anna Politkovskaya, Estemirova reported on civilians who often got caught between these two violent forces. She was kidnapped outside her home, shot several times, and her body dumped in a nearby woods.
- 2009 **Sergei Magnitsky**, Russian attorney, died in police custody after allegedly being brutally beaten, and denied medical care. He had been working for British-American businessman William Browder to investigate a case of massive tax fraud. Magnitsky was arrested after uncovering evidence suggesting that police officials were behind the fraud. Browder lobbied the US government to impose sanctions on those linked to his death. The sanctions bill bearing his name has since been applied to human rights abusers in other cases.
- 2009 **Stanislav Markelov and Anastasia Baburova**, Markelov was a human rights lawyer known for representing Chechen civilians in human rights cases against the Russian military. He also represented journalists who found themselves in legal trouble after writing articles critical of Putin, including reporter Anna Politkovskaya, who was slain in 2006. Markelov was shot by a masked gunman near the Kremlin, and Baburova was fatally shot as she tried to help him. Russian authorities said a neo-Nazi group behind the killings, and two people were convicted of the murders.
- 2011 **Anwar al-Awlaki**, American citizen, killed in Yemen by a drone strike ordered by US President Barack Obama. He was alleged to be an operational leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization, although the Obama administration refused to declassify much of the evidence that led it to that conclusion. Al-Awlaki became the first US citizen to be targeted and killed by his country, without being afforded the rights of due process guaranteed by the US Constitution. Although two of his children, Abdulrahman al-

Awlaki (age 16) and Nawar al-Awlak (age 8), also US citizens, were killed in subsequent strikes against al-Qaeda, they were evidently innocent bystanders and not specifically targeted, unlike their father.

- 2011 **Osama bin Laden**, international terrorist and chief architect of the 9/11 attacks, killed during a raid on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan by a US Special Forces team.
- 2013 **Boris Berezovsky**, Russian business tycoon instrumental in Putin's rise to power. He later became a critic of the soviet President and fled to the United Kingdom, where he vowed to bring down Putin's regime. He also accused the Kremlin of orchestrating the killing of Alexander Litvinenko, a former intelligence officer and whistleblower, poisoned to death in 2006. Berezovsky was found dead inside a locked bathroom at his home with a noose around his neck, in what was at first called a suicide. However, the coroner's office could not determine the cause of death.
- 2015 **Boris Nemtsov**, Russian Deputy Prime Minister who became increasingly critical of Putin's rolled back civil liberties. Nemstov led massive street rallies in protest of the 2011 parliamentary election results, and wrote reports on official corruption. He also was arrested several times as the Kremlin cracked down on opposition rallies. Just hours after urging the public to join a march against Russia's military involvement in Ukraine, Nemtsov was shot four times in the back by an unknown assailant within view of the Kremlin. Putin took personal control of the investigation into Nemtsov's killing, but the assailant was never caught.
- 2017 **Denis Voronkov**, former Russian Communist Party member who began sharply criticizing Vladimir Putin after fleeing Russia to the Ukraine in 2016, shot to death in Kiev. Ukrainian President, Petro Poroshenko, called the shooting an "act of state terrorism by Russia."
- 2020 **Mohsen Fakhrizadeh**, brigadier general in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, an academic physicist, and a senior official in the nuclear program of Iran, assassinated when his car was ambushed in a district east of Tehran. Although the perpetrators are unknown, international speculation immediately fell on the state of Israel.
- 2020 **Qasem Soleimani**, Iranian military officer, assassinated by a drone strike near Baghdad International Airport, ordered by US President Donald Trump. Officials said the strike was in response to an attack by Iranian proxies in Iraq in which a U.S. contractor was killed and four U.S. service members were wounded.
- 2021 **Lokam Slim**, Lebanese publisher, political activist, vocal critic of Hezbollah and of Iran's interference in Lebanon, shot five times in his rented car. In the days before he was killed, Slim had stated that Hezbollah supporters had been threatening him at his home and accusing him of treason.
- 2021 **Jovenel Moïse**, President of Haiti, shot to death at his home. His wife was also shot, but survived. The New York Times reported that Moïse's assassination might be linked to his efforts to curb narcotics trafficking and plans to publicly expose high-ranking Haitian officials involved in the Haitian drug trade. Ariel Henry, who had been selected as the Prime Minister by Moïse shortly before his death, was later accused by several officials of being connected to Joseph Felix Badio, an alleged mastermind of the assassination, and being involved in the planning. Judge Garry Orélien, who was overseeing the case, stated that Henry was friends with Badio and planned the assassination with him.
- 2023 **Yevgeny Prigozhin**, founder and leader of the Wagner Group, a mercenary army that was in the employ of Vladimir Putin's Ministry of Defense, and fighting for Russia in Ukraine. He became publicly critical of the Russian military establishment and its

handling of the war, eventually leading his men on a march against Moscow. Prigozhin ended his coup attempt before reaching the city, saying he didn't want to shed more Russian blood, this after two attack helicopters sent to meet him were shot down. Speculation was that Prigozhin didn't get the backing of key figures in the Kremlin that he had expected, and without that support had to withdraw. Two Months later, his private airplane crashed on a flight from Moscow to Saint Petersburg. All ten aboard, including Prigozhin, were confirmed dead. Few people were surprised, knowing Putin's vengeful nature. In those two months prior to his death, Prigozhin had been dubbed by Western media as a "dead man walking."

- 2023 **Ibrahim Biari**, Commander of Hamas' Central Jabaliya Battalion, killed in an airstrike on the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) as part of the "Israel-Hamas War."
- 2024 **Saleh al-Aroui**, a leader of Hamas and a founding commander of its military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, deputy chairman of Hamas's political bureau, and Hamas's military commander of the West Bank, killed in an Israeli drone strike in the Dahieh neighborhood of Beirut, Lebanon, along with six other Hamas members.
- 2024 **Alexei Navalny**, Russian opposition leader and anti-corruption activist, died while in prison. It is widely believed that Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his murder. Repeated requests to view the body by his lawyers and his mother were refused.

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2. wikipedia.org
3. britannica.com
4. washingtonpost.com (for their list of critics of Russian President, Vladimir Putin, who were murdered or died suspiciously)

This list is incomplete (as if it ever could be). If you know of a political murder that I haven't included, please let me know and I'll add it to later editions. Contact at chuck-Weiss.com.

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