

US Interventions

US Military and Clandestine Operations in Foreign Countries - 1798-Present

By [Global Policy Forum](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

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Note: This list does not pretend to be definitive or absolutely complete. Nor does it seek to explain or interpret the interventions. Information and interpretation on selected interventions will be later included as links. Note that US operations in World Wars I and II have been excluded.

1798-1800

France

Undeclared naval war against France, marines land in Puerto Plata.

1801-1805

Tripoli

War with Tripoli (Libya), called "First Barbary War".

1806

Spanish Mexico

Military force enters Spanish territory in headwaters of the Rio Grande.

1806-1810

Spanish and French in Caribbean

US naval vessels attack French and Spanish shipping in the Caribbean.

1810

Spanish West Florida

Troops invade and seize Western Florida, a Spanish possession.

1812

Spanish East Florida

Troops seize Amelia Island and adjacent territories.

1812

Britain

War of 1812, includes naval and land operations.

1813

Marquesas Island

Forces seize Nukahiva and establish first US naval base in the Pacific.

1814

Spanish (East Florida)

Troops seize Pensacola in Spanish East Florida.

1814-1825

French, British and Spanish in Caribbean

US naval squadron engages French, British and Spanish shipping in the Caribbean.

1815

Algiers and Tripoli

US naval fleet under Captain Stephen Decatur wages "Second Barbary War" in North Africa.

1816-1819

Spanish East Florida

Troops attack and seize Nicholls' Fort, Amelia Island and other strategic locations. Spain eventually cedes East Florida to the US.

1822-1825

Spanish Cuba and Puerto Rico

Marines land in numerous cities in the Spanish island of Cuba and also in Spanish Puerto Rico.

1827

Greece

Marines invade the Greek islands of Argentiere, Miconi and Andross.

1831

Falkland/Malvinas Islands

US naval squadrons aggress the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic.

1832

Sumatra, Dutch East Indies

US naval squadrons attack Qallah Battoo.

1833

Argentina

Forces land in Buenos Aires and engage local combatants.

1835-1836

Peru

Troops dispatched twice for counter-insurgency operations.

1836

Mexico

Troops assist Texas war for independence.

1837

Canada

Naval incident on the Canadian border leads to mobilization of a large force to invade Canada. War is narrowly averted.

1838

Sumatra, Dutch East Indies

US naval forces sent to Sumatra for punitive expedition.

1840-1841

Fiji

Naval forces deployed, marines land.

1841

Samoa

Naval forces deployed, marines land.

1842

Mexico

Naval forces temporarily seize cities of Monterey and San Diego.

1843

China

Marines land in Canton.

1843

Ivory Coast

Marines land.

1846-1848

Mexico

Full-scale war. Mexico cedes half of its territory to the US by the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo.

1849

Ottoman Empire (Turkey)

Naval force dispatched to Smyrna.

1852-1853

Argentina

Marines land in Buenos Aires.

1854

Nicaragua

Navy bombards and largely destroys city of San Juan del Norte. Marines land and set fire to the city.

1854

Japan

Commodore Perry and his fleet deploy at Yokohama.

1855

Uruguay

Marines land in Montevideo.

1856

Colombia (Panama Region)

Marines land for counter-insurgency campaign.

1856

China

Marines deployed in Canton.

1856

Hawaii

Naval forces seize small islands of Jarvis, Baker and Howland in the Hawaiian Islands.

1857

Nicaragua

Marines land.

1858

Uruguay

Marines land in Montevideo.

1858

Fiji

Marines land.

1859

Paraguay

Large naval force deployed.

1859

China

Troops enter Shanghai.

1859

Mexico

Military force enters northern area.

1860

Portuguese West Africa

Troops land at Kissembó.

1860

Colombia (Panama Region)

Troops and naval forces deployed.

1863

Japan

Troops land at Shimonoseki.

1864

Japan

Troops landed in Yedo.

1865

Colombia (Panama Region)

Marines landed.

1866

Colombia (Panama Region)

Troops invade and seize Matamoros, later withdraw.

1866

China

Marines land in Newchwang.

1867

Nicaragua

Marines land in Managua and Leon in Nicaragua.

1867

Formosa Island (Taiwan)

Marines land.

1867

Midway Island

Naval forces seize this island in the Hawaiian Archipelago for a naval base.

1868

Japan

Naval forces deployed at Osaka, Hiogo, Nagasaki, Yokohama and Negata.

1868

Uruguay

Marines land at Montevideo.

1870

Colombia

Marines landed.

1871

Korea

Forces landed.

1873

Colombia (Panama Region)

Marines landed.

1874

Hawaii

Sailors and marines landed.

1876

Mexico

Army again occupies Matamoros.

1882

British Egypt

Troops land.

1885

Colombia (Panama Region)

Troops land in Colon and Panama City.

1885

Samoa

Naval force deployed.

1887

Hawaii

Navy gains right to build permanent naval base at Pearl Harbor.

1888

Haiti

Troops landed.

1888

Samoa

Marines landed.

1889

Samoa

Clash with German naval forces.

1890

Argentina

US sailors land in Buenos Aires.

1891

Chile

US sailors land in the major port city of Valparaiso.

1891

Haiti

Marines land on US-claimed Navassa Island.

1893

Hawaii

Marines and other naval forces land and overthrow the monarchy. [Read More](#)

1894

Nicaragua

Marines land at Bluefields on the eastern coast.

1894-1895

China

Marines are stationed at Tientsin and Beijing. A naval ship takes up position at Newchwang.

1894-1896

Korea

Marines land and remain in Seoul.

1895

Colombia

Marines are sent to the town Bocas del Toro.

1896

Nicaragua

Marines land in the port of Corinto.

1898

Nicaragua

Marines land at the port city of San Juan del Sur.

1898

Guam

Naval forces seize Guam Island from Spain and the US holds the island permanently.

1898

Cuba

Naval and land forces seize Cuba from Spain.

1898

Puerto Rico

Naval and land forces seize Puerto Rico from Spain and the US holds the island permanently.

1898

[Philippines](#)

Naval forces defeat the Spanish fleet and the US takes control of the country.

1899

Philippines

Military units are reinforced for extensive counter-insurgency operations.

1899

Samoa

Naval forces land

1899

Nicaragua

Marines land at the port city of Bluefields.

1900

China

US forces intervene in several cities.

1901

Colombia/Panama

Marines land.

1902

Colombia/Panama

US forces land in Bocas de Toro

1903

Colombia/Panama

With US backing, a group in northern Colombia declares independence as the state of Panama

1903

Guam

Navy begins development in Apra Harbor of a permanent base installation.

1903

Honduras

Marines go ashore at Puerto Cortez.

1903

Dominican Republic

Marines land in Santo Domingo.

1904-1905

Korea

Marines land and stay in Seoul.

1906-1909

Cuba

Marines land. The US builds a major naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

1907

Nicaragua

Troops seize major centers.

1907

Honduras

Marines land and take up garrison in cities of Trujillo, Ceiba, Puerto Cortez, San Pedro, Laguna and Choloma.

1908

Panama

Marines land and carry out operations.

1910

Nicaragua

Marines land in Bluefields and Corinto.

1911

Honduras

Marines intervene.

1911-1941

China

The US builds up its military presence in the country to a force of 5000 troops and a fleet of 44 vessels patrolling China's coast and rivers.

1912

Cuba

US sends army troops into combat in Havana.

1912

Panama

Army troops intervene.

1912

Honduras

Marines land.

1912-1933

Nicaragua

Marines intervene. A 20-year occupation of the country follows.

1913

Mexico

Marines land at Ciaris Estero.

1914

Dominican Republic

Naval forces engage in battles in the city of Santo Domingo.

1914

Mexico

US forces seize and occupy Mexico's major port city of Veracruz from April through November.

1915-1916

Mexico

An expeditionary force of the US Army under Gen. John J. Pershing crosses the Texas border and penetrates several hundred miles into Mexican territory. Eventually reinforced to over 11,000 officers and men.

1914-1934

Haiti

Troops land, aerial bombardment leading to a 19-year military occupation.

1916-1924

Dominican Republic

Military intervention leading to 8-year occupation.

1917-1933

Cuba

Landing of naval forces. Beginning of a 15-year occupation.

1918-1920

Panama

Troops intervene, remain on "police duty" for over 2 years.

1918-1922

Russia

Naval forces and army troops fight battles in several areas of the country during a five- year

period.

1919

Yugoslavia

Marines intervene in Dalmatia.

1919

Honduras

Marines land.

1920

Guatemala

Troops intervene.

1922

Turkey

Marines engaged in operations in Smyrna (Izmir).

1922-1927

China

Naval forces and troops deployed during 5-year period.

1924-1925

Honduras

Troops land twice in two-year period.

1925

Panama

Marines land and engage in operations.

1927-1934

China

Marines and naval forces stationed throughout the country.

1932

El Salvador

Naval forces intervene.

1933

Cuba

Naval forces deployed.

1934

China

Marines land in Foochow.

1946

[Iran](#)

Troops deployed in northern province.

1946-1949

China

Major US army presence of about 100,000 troops, fighting, training and advising local combatants.

1947-1949

Greece

US forces wage a 3-year counterinsurgency campaign.

1948

Italy

Heavy CIA involvement in national elections.

1948-1954

Philippines

Commando operations, "secret" CIA war.

1950-1953

Korea

Major forces engaged in war in Korean peninsula.

1953

[Iran](#)

CIA overthrows government of Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh. [Read More](#)

1954

Vietnam

Financial and materiel support for colonial French military operations, leads eventually to direct US military involvement.

1954

[Guatemala](#)

CIA overthrows the government of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman.

1958

Lebanon

US marines and army units totaling 14,000 land.

1958

Panama

Clashes between US forces in Canal Zone and local citizens.

1959

Haiti

Marines land.

1960

Congo

CIA-backed overthrow and assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba.

1960-1964

Vietnam

Gradual introduction of military advisors and special forces.

1961

Cuba

CIA-backed Bay of Pigs invasion.

1962

Cuba

Nuclear threat and naval blockade.

1962

Laos

CIA-backed military coup.

1963

Ecuador

CIA backs military overthrow of President Jose Maria Valesco Ibarra.

1964

Panama

Clashes between US forces in Canal Zone and local citizens.

1964

[Brazil](#)

CIA-backed military coup overthrows the government of Joao Goulart and Gen. Castello Branco takes power. [Read More](#)

1965-1975

Vietnam

Large commitment of military forces, including air, naval and ground units numbering up to 500,000+ troops. Full-scale war, lasting for ten years.

1965

Indonesia

CIA-backed army coup overthrows President Sukarno and brings Gen. Suharto to power.

1965

Congo

CIA backed military coup overthrows President Joseph Kasavubu and brings Joseph Mobutu to power.

1965

[Dominican Republic](#)

23,000 troops land.

1965-1973

Laos

Bombing campaign begin, lasting eight years.

1966

Ghana

CIA-backed military coup ousts President Kwame Nkrumah.

1966-1967

Guatemala
Extensive counter-insurgency operation.

1969-1975

Cambodia

CIA supports military coup against Prince Sihanouk, bringing Lon Nol to power. Intensive bombing for seven years along border with Vietnam.

1970

Oman

Counter-insurgency operation, including coordination with Iranian marine invasion.

1971-1973

Laos

Invasion by US and South Vietnamese forces.

1973

[Chile](#)

CIA-backed military coup ousts government of President Salvador Allende. Gen. Augusto Pinochet comes to power.

1975

Cambodia

Marines land, engage in combat with government forces.

1976-1992

Angola

Military and CIA operations.

1980

[Iran](#)

Special operations units land in Iranian desert. Helicopter malfunction leads to aborting of planned raid.

1981

Libya

Naval jets shoot down two Libyan jets in maneuvers over the Mediterranean.

1981-1992

El Salvador

CIA and special forces begin a long counterinsurgency campaign.

1981-1990

Nicaragua

CIA directs exile "Contra" operations. US air units drop sea mines in harbors.

1982-1984

Lebanon

Marines land and naval forces fire on local combatants.

1983

[Grenada](#)

Military forces invade Grenada.

1983-1989

Honduras

Large program of military assistance aimed at conflict in Nicaragua.

1984

[Iran](#)

Two Iranian jets shot down over the Persian Gulf.

1986

[Libya](#)

US aircraft bomb the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, including direct strikes at the official residence of President Muamar al Qadaffi.

1986

Bolivia

Special Forces units engage in counter-insurgency.

1987-1988

[Iran](#)

Naval forces block Iranian shipping. Civilian airliner shot down by missile cruiser.

1989

Libya

Naval aircraft shoot down two Libyan jets over Gulf of Sidra.

1989

Philippines

CIA and Special Forces involved in counterinsurgency.

1989-1990

Panama

27,000 troops as well as naval and air power used to overthrow government of President Noriega.

1990

Liberia

Troops deployed.

1990-1991

Iraq

Major military operation, including naval blockade, air strikes; large number of troops attack Iraqi forces in occupied Kuwait.

1991-2003

Iraq

Control of Iraqi airspace in north and south of the country with periodic attacks on air and ground targets.

1991

[Haiti](#)

CIA-backed military coup ousts President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

1992-1994

Somalia

Special operations forces intervene.

1992-1994

Yugoslavia

Major role in NATO blockade of Serbia and Montenegro.

1993-1995

Bosnia

Active military involvement with air and ground forces.

1994-1996

Haiti

Troops depose military rulers and restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to office.

1995

Croatia

Krajina Serb airfields attacked.

1996-1997

Zaire (Congo)

Marines involved in operations in eastern region of the country.

1997

Liberia

Troops deployed.

1998

Sudan

Air strikes destroy country's major pharmaceutical plant.

1998

[Afghanistan](#)

Attack on targets in the country.

1998

Iraq

Four days of intensive air and missile strikes.

1999

Yugoslavia

Major involvement in NATO air strikes.

2001

Macedonia

NATO troops shift and partially disarm Albanian rebels.

2001

[Afghanistan](#)

Air attacks and ground operations oust Taliban government and install a new regime.

2003

[Iraq](#)

Invasion with large ground, air and naval forces ousts government of Saddam Hussein and establishes new government.

2003-present

[Iraq](#)

Occupation force of 150,000 troops in protracted counter-insurgency war

2004

[Haiti](#)

Marines land. CIA-backed forces overthrow President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

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