

U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTIONS SINCE 1890: *FROM WOUNDED KNEE TO SYRIA*

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List and article at <https://sites.evergreen.edu/zoltan/interventions>

The following is a partial list of U.S. military interventions from 1890 to 2019.

This guide does *not* include:

- * mobilizations of the National Guard,
- * offshore shows of naval strength,
- * reinforcements of embassy personnel,
- * the use of non-Defense Department personnel (e.g., Drug Enforcement Administration),
- * military exercises,
- * non-combat mobilizations (such as replacing postal strikers),
- * the permanent stationing of armed forces on bases,
- * covert actions where the US did *not* play a “command operation” role,
- * the use of small hostage rescue units,
- * most uses of foreign proxy troops,
- * U.S. piloting of foreign warplanes,
- * foreign or domestic disaster assistance,
- * military training and advisory programs not involving direct combat,
- * civic action programs, and many other military activities.

Among sources used, beside news reports, are the *Congressional Record* (23 June 1969), *180 Landings* by the U.S. Marine Corps History Division, Ege & Makhijani in *Counterspy* (July-Aug, 1982), “Instances of Use of United States Forces Abroad, 1798-1993” by Ellen C. Collier of the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service, and Ellsberg in *Protest & Survive*. Death toll estimates from 20th-century wars can be found in the *Historical Atlas of the 20th Century*, by alphabetized places index, map series, and major casualties: <https://necrometrics.com/warstats.htm>

Forces:	N: Naval
B: Bombing	NT: Nuclear Threat
CO: Command Operation	NW: Nuclear War
J: Jets	T: Troops

COUNTRY OR STATE	Dates of intervention	Forces	Comments
SOUTH DAKOTA	1890 (-?)	T	300+ Lakota civilians massacred at Wounded Knee.
ARGENTINA	1890	T	U.S. “interests” protected in Buenos Aires.
CHILE	1891	T	Marines clash with nationalist rebels.
HAITI	1891	T	Black revolt on Navassa Island defeated.
IDAHO	1892	T	Army suppresses silver miners’ strike.
HAWAI’I	1893 (-?)	N, T	Independent kingdom overthrown, seized 1898.
CHICAGO	1894	T	Breaking of rail strike, 34 killed.
NICARAGUA	1894	T	Month-long occupation of Bluefields.
CHINA	1894-95	N, T	Marines land in Sino-Japanese War
KOREA	1894-96	T	Marines kept in Seoul during war.
PANAMA	1895	T, N	Marines land in Colombian province.

NICARAGUA	1896	<i>T</i>	Marines land in port of Corinto.
CHINA	1898-1900	<i>T</i>	Boxer Rebellion fought by foreign armies.
PHILIPPINES	1898-1910	<i>N, T</i>	Seized from Spain, killed 600,000 Filipinos.
CUBA	1898-1902 (-?)	<i>N, T</i>	Seized from Spain, still hold Guantánamo base.
PUERTO RICO	1898 (-?)	<i>N, T</i>	Seized from Spain, occupation continues.
GUAM	1898 (-?)	<i>N, T</i>	Seized from Spain, still use as base.
MINNESOTA	1898 (-?)	<i>T</i>	Army battles Ojibwe revolt at Leech Lake.
NICARAGUA	1898	<i>T</i>	Marines land at port of San Juan del Sur.
SAMOA	1899 (-?)	<i>T</i>	Battle over succession to throne; annexed east.
NICARAGUA	1899	<i>T</i>	Marines land at port of Bluefields.
IDAHO	1899-1901	<i>T</i>	Army occupies Coeur d'Alene mining region.
OKLAHOMA	1901(-?)	<i>T</i>	Army battles Creek Native revolt.
PANAMA	1901-14	<i>N, T</i>	Broke off from Colombia 1903, annexed Canal Zone; opened canal 1914.
HONDURAS	1903	<i>T</i>	Marines intervene in revolution.
DOMINICAN REP.	1903-04	<i>T</i>	U.S. interests protected in revolution.
KOREA	1904-05	<i>T</i>	Marines land in Russo-Japanese War.
CUBA	1906-09	<i>T</i>	Marines land in democratic election.
NICARAGUA	1907	<i>T</i>	"Dollar Diplomacy" protectorate set up.
HONDURAS	1907	<i>T</i>	Marines land during war with Nicaragua.
PANAMA	1908	<i>T</i>	Marines intervene in election contest.
NICARAGUA	1910	<i>T</i>	Marines land in Bluefields & Corinto.
HONDURAS	1911	<i>T</i>	U.S. interests protected in civil war.
CHINA	1911-41	<i>N, T</i>	Continuous occupation with flare-ups.
CUBA	1912	<i>T</i>	U.S. interests protected in civil war.
PANAMA	1912	<i>T</i>	Marines land during heated election.
HONDURAS	1912	<i>T</i>	Marines protect U.S. economic interests.
NICARAGUA	1912-33	<i>T, B</i>	10-year occupation, fought Sandinista rebels.
MEXICO	1913	<i>N</i>	Americans evacuated during revolution.
DOMINICAN REP.	1914	<i>N</i>	Fight with rebels over Santo Domingo.
COLORADO	1914	<i>T</i>	Army breaks miners' strike.
MEXICO	1914-18	<i>N, T</i>	Series of interventions against nationalists.
HAITI	1914-34	<i>T, B</i>	19-year occupation after revolts.
TEXAS	1915	<i>T</i>	Soldiers crush Mexican-American rebellion
DOMINICAN REP.	1916-24	<i>T</i>	Marine occupation for 8 years.
CUBA	1917-33	<i>T</i>	Military occupation, economic protectorate.
WORLD WAR I	1917-18	<i>N, T</i>	Ships sunk, fought Germany for 1.5 years.
RUSSIA	1918-22	<i>N, T</i>	Five landings to fight Bolshevik Revolution.
PANAMA	1918-20	<i>T</i>	"Police duty" during unrest after elections.
HONDURAS	1919	<i>T</i>	Marines land during election campaign.
YUGOSLAVIA	1919	<i>T</i>	Marines intervene for Italy against Serbs in Dalmatia.
GUATEMALA	1920	<i>T</i>	2-week intervention against unionists.
WEST VIRGINIA	1920-21	<i>T, B</i>	Army intervenes against mineworkers.
TURKEY	1922	<i>T</i>	Fought Turkish nationalists in Smyrna.
CHINA	1922-27	<i>N, T</i>	Deployment during nationalist revolt.
MEXICO	1923	<i>B</i>	Airpower defends Calles from rebellion.
HONDURAS	1924-25	<i>T</i>	Landed twice during election strife.
PANAMA	1925	<i>T</i>	Marines suppress general strike.

CHINA	1927-34	<i>T</i>	Marines stationed throughout the country.
EL SALVADOR	1932	<i>N</i>	Warships sent during Farabundo Martí revolt.
WASHINGTON DC	1932	<i>T</i>	Army stops WWI vet bonus protest.
WORLD WAR II	1941-45	<i>N, T, B, NW</i>	Hawai'i bombed, fought Japan, Italy & Germany for 3 years; first nuclear war.
DETROIT	1943	<i>T</i>	Army put down African American rebellion.
IRAN	1946	<i>NT</i>	Soviet troops told to leave northwestern region.
YUGOSLAVIA	1946	<i>N, NT</i>	Response to shoot-down of U.S. plane.
URUGUAY	1947	<i>NT</i>	Bombers deployed as show of strength.
GREECE	1947-49	<i>CO</i>	U.S. directs far-right forces in civil war.
GERMANY	1948	<i>NT</i>	Atomic-capable bombers guard Berlin Airlift.
CHINA	1948-49	<i>T</i>	Marines evacuate citizens before Communist victory.
PHILIPPINES	1948-54	<i>CO</i>	CIA directs war against Huk Rebellion.
PUERTO RICO	1950	<i>CO</i>	Independence rebellion crushed in Ponce.
KOREA	1951-53 (-?)	<i>T, N, B, NT</i>	U.S./So. Korea fights China/No. Korea to stalemate nuclear threat 1950 vs. China '53. Still have bases.
IRAN	1953	<i>CO</i>	CIA overthrows democracy, installs Shah.
VIETNAM	1954	<i>NT</i>	French offered bombs to use vs. Dienbienphu siege.
GUATEMALA	1954	<i>CO, B, NT</i>	CIA directs exile invasion after gov't nationalized United Fruit lands; bombers based in Nicaragua.
EGYPT	1956	<i>NT, T</i>	Soviets told to keep out of Suez Crisis; Marines evacuate foreigners.
LEBANON	1958	<i>T, N</i>	Army & Marine occupation against rebels.
IRAQ	1958	<i>NT</i>	Iraq warned against invading Kuwait.
CHINA	1958	<i>NT</i>	China told not to move on Taiwan isles.
PANAMA	1958	<i>T</i>	Flag protests erupt into Canal Zone confrontation.
VIETNAM	1960-75	<i>T, N, B, NT</i>	Fought South Vietnam revolt & North Vietnam; 1 million killed; atomic bomb threats in 1968 & '69.
CUBA	1961	<i>CO</i>	CIA-directed Bay of Pigs exile invasion fails.
GERMANY	1961	<i>NT</i>	Alert during Berlin Wall crisis.
LAOS	1962	<i>CO</i>	Military buildup during Pathet Lao guerrilla war.
CUBA	1962	<i>NT, N</i>	Blockade during missile crisis; near-war with Soviets.
IRAQ	1963	<i>CO</i>	CIA organizes coup that killed president, brings Ba'ath Party to power, Saddam Hussein as secret service head
PANAMA	1964	<i>T</i>	Panamanians shot for urging canal's return.
INDONESIA	1965	<i>CO</i>	1 million+ killed in CIA-assisted army coup.
DOMINICAN REP.	1965-66	<i>T, B</i>	Army & Marines land during election campaign.
GUATEMALA	1966-67	<i>CO</i>	Green Berets intervene against rebels.
DETROIT	1967	<i>T</i>	Army battles African American uprising, 43 killed.
UNITED STATES	1968	<i>T</i>	After M.L. King is shot; 21,000+ soldiers in cities.
CAMBODIA	1969-75	<i>B, T, N</i>	Up to 2 million killed in decade of bombing, starvation, political chaos.
OMAN	1970	<i>CO</i>	U.S. directs Iranian marine invasion.
LAOS	1971-73	<i>CO, B</i>	U.S. directs South Vietnamese invasion; "carpet-bombs" countryside around Ho Chi Minh Trail.
SOUTH DAKOTA	1973	<i>CO</i>	Army directs Wounded Knee siege of Lakotas.
MIDEAST	1973	<i>NT</i>	Worldwide alert vs. Soviets during Mideast War.

CHILE	1973	<i>CO</i>	CIA-backed coup ousts elected leftist president.
CAMBODIA	1975	<i>T, B</i>	Gassing of captured ship Mayagüez, 28 troops die when helicopter shot down.
ANGOLA	1976-92	<i>CO</i>	CIA assists South African-backed UNITA rebels.
IRAN	1980	<i>T, NT</i>	Raid to rescue embassy hostages; 8 troops die in helicopter-plane crash; bombing aborted. Soviets warned not to get involved in revolution.
LIBYA	1981	<i>N, J</i>	Two Libyan jets shot down in maneuvers.
EL SALVADOR	1981-92	<i>CO, T</i>	Advisors, overflights aid counterinsurgency war, soldiers briefly involved in hotel hostage clash.
NICARAGUA	1981-90	<i>CO, N</i>	CIA directs exile (Contra) invasions, plants harbor mines against Sandinista revolutionary gov't.
LEBANON	1982-84	<i>N, B, T</i>	Marines expel PLO and back far-right Phalangists, Navy bombs and shells Muslim rebels, Syrian forces. 241 Marines killed when Shi'a rebels bomb barracks.
GRENADA	1983-84	<i>T, B</i>	Invasion topples 4-year leftist revolutionary gov't
HONDURAS	1983-89	<i>T</i>	Maneuvers help build bases near Nicaragua borders.
IRAN	1984	<i>J</i>	Two Iranian jets shot down over Persian Gulf.
LIBYA	1986	<i>B, N, J</i>	Air strikes to topple Qaddafi gov't.
BOLIVIA	1986	<i>T</i>	Army assists raids on cocaine region.
IRAN	1987-88	<i>N, B</i>	U.S. intervenes on side of Iraq in war, defending reflagged tankers & downing civilian jet.
LIBYA	1989	<i>N, J</i>	Two Libyan jets shot down.
VIRGIN ISLANDS	1989	<i>T</i>	St. Croix Black unrest after hurricane.
PHILIPPINES	1989	<i>J</i>	Air cover provided for government against coup.
PANAMA	1989-99	<i>T, B</i>	Noriega gov't ousted by 27,000 soldiers, 2000+ killed, 1989. Canal Zone & bases returned, 1999.
LIBERIA	1990	<i>T</i>	Foreigners evacuated during civil war.
SAUDI ARABIA	1990-91	<i>T, J</i>	Iraq countered after invading Kuwait. 540,000 troops Stationed; also in Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, Israel.
IRAQ	1990-91	<i>B, T, N</i>	Blockade of Iraqi & Jordanian ports, air strikes; 200,000+ killed in invasion of Iraq & Kuwait; large-scale destruction of Iraqi military in Gulf War.
KUWAIT	1991	<i>N, B, T</i>	Kuwait royal family returned to throne.
IRAQ	1991-2003	<i>B, N</i>	No-fly zone over Kurdish north, Shi'a south; constant air strikes, naval-enforced economic sanctions.
LOS ANGELES	1992	<i>T</i>	Army, Marines deployed in anti-police uprising.
SOMALIA	1992-94	<i>T, N, B</i>	U.S.-led United Nations occupation during civil war; raids fail against one Mogadishu faction.
YUGOSLAVIA	1992-94	<i>N</i>	NATO blockade of Serbia & Montenegro.
BOSNIA	1993-95	<i>J, B</i>	No-fly zone in civil war; downed jets, bombed Serbs.
HAITI	1994	<i>T, N</i>	Blockade against military government; troops restore President Aristide to office three years after coup.
ZAIRE (CONGO)	1996-97	<i>T</i>	Troops at Rwandan Hutu refugee camps, in area where Congo revolution begins.
LIBERIA	1997	<i>T</i>	Soldiers under fire during evacuation of foreigners.
ALBANIA	1997	<i>T</i>	Soldiers under fire during evacuation of foreigners.
SUDAN	1998	<i>M</i>	Attack on alleged Al Qaeda nerve gas plant.

AFGHANISTAN	1998	<i>M</i>	Attack on former CIA training camps used by Al Qaeda after its attacks on US embassies.
IRAQ	1998	<i>B, M</i>	Four days of intensive air strikes after weapons inspectors allege Iraqi obstructions.
YUGOSLAVIA	1999	<i>B, M</i>	Heavy NATO air strikes after Serbia declines to withdraw from Kosovo. NATO occupation of Kosovo.
YEMEN	2000	<i>N</i>	USS Cole, docked in Aden, bombed by Al Qaeda.
MACEDONIA	2001	<i>T</i>	NATO forces disarm & move Kosovo Albanian rebels.
UNITED STATES	2001	<i>J, N</i>	Reaction to Al Qaeda hijacker attacks on New York, DC.
AFGHANISTAN	2001(-?)	<i>T, B, M</i>	Invasion to overthrow Taliban, hunt Al Qaeda fighters, install Karzai regime, and battle Taliban insurgency. 30,000+ U.S. troops, numerous private security contractors carry out occupation.
YEMEN	2002	<i>M</i>	Drone missile attack on Al Qaeda, including US citizen.
PHILIPPINES	2002(-?)	<i>T, N</i>	Training mission for Philippine military fighting Abu Sayyaf rebels evolves into Mindanao combat missions.
COLOMBIA	2003(-?)	<i>T</i>	Special Forces sent to rebel zone to back up Colombian military protecting oil pipeline.
IRAQ	2003-11	<i>T, N, B, M</i>	Saddam Hussein regime toppled in Baghdad. 250,000+ U.S. personnel participate in invasion. US & UK forces battle Sunni & Shi'a insurgencies. 160,000+ troops & many private contractors stationed on bases.
LIBERIA	2003	<i>T</i>	Troops in peacekeeping force as rebels expel leader.
HAITI	2004-05	<i>T, N</i>	Marines & Army land after right-wing rebels oust elected President Aristide, U.S. forces him into exile.
PAKISTAN	2005(-?)	<i>M, B, CO</i>	CIA drone, air strikes, Special Forces raids on alleged Al Qaeda & Taliban refuge villages kill multiple civilians. Drone attacks on Pakistani Mehsud network.
SOMALIA	2006(-?)	<i>M, N, T, CO</i>	Special Forces advise Ethiopian invasion that topples Islamist government; AC-130 strikes, Cruise missile attacks & helicopter raids vs. Al Shabab Islamist rebels; naval blockade vs. "pirates" & rebels.
SYRIA	2008	<i>T</i>	Special Forces in helicopter raid near Iraq kill 8 civilians
YEMEN	2009(-?)	<i>M, CO</i>	Cruise missile attack on Al Qaeda kills 49 civilians; U.S. backing Saudi-Yemeni military attacks on Houthi rebels
LIBYA	2011(-?)	<i>B, M, T, CO</i>	NATO coordinates air strikes and missile attacks vs. Qaddafi government during uprising by rebel army. Constant Special Forces, drone raids vs. Islamist rebels.
IRAQ	2014(-?)	<i>B, M, T, CO</i>	Air strikes & Special Forces intervene vs. Islamic State insurgents; training Iraqi & Kurdish troops.
SYRIA	2014(-?)	<i>B, M, T, CO</i>	Air strikes & Special Forces intervene vs. Islamic State insurgents; training other Syrian rebels; bomb alleged Syrian gov't chemical arms sites.
NIGER	2017	<i>T</i>	Special Forces combat Islamist insurgents, fly drones.
SAUDI ARABIA	2019(-?)	<i>T</i>	Mobilization against Iran in Saudi Arabia & UAE after drone attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure.