



# 21,000 BC

The world's earliest known civilization was also one of the first to build a defensive wall. During the 21st century B.C., ancient Sumerian rulers constructed a massive fortified barrier to keep out the Amorites, a group of nomadic tribesmen who had been making incursions into Mesopotamia. This “**Amorite Wall**” is believed to have stretched for over a hundred miles between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in what is now Iraq.



# 10,000 BC

According to the Hebrew Bible, Solomon's Temple was built atop what is known as the Temple Mount in the 10th century BCE and destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, and the Second Temple completed and dedicated in 516 BCE. The remains of this temple form the '**Western Wall**' or 'Wailing Wall' in modern day Israel.



# 10,000 BC

The first walls of **Jericho** date back to 10,000 BCE. During the Younger Dryas period of cold and drought, permanent habitation of any one location was impossible. Around 9600 BCE, the droughts and cold of the Younger Dryas stadial had come to an end, making it possible for Natufian groups to extend the duration of their stay, eventually leading to year-round habitation and permanent settlement.



# 3000-2600 BC

The **Walls of Troy**, first erected in the Bronze Age between 3000 and 2600 BC, are its main defense. The remains of the walls have been studied through the aforementioned excavations that shed light onto the historical city itself and the mythological implications as the walls protected the citadel during the Trojan War.



# 700-400 BC

The **Great Wall of China** consists of numerous walls built over two millennia, individual kingdoms used the walls to protect them from their neighbours and barbarian invasions. The total length of the wall is 8850km



# 461 BC

Around 461 B.C. the Athenians constructed a series of barriers to connect the city center to the vital harbors of Piraeus and Phalerum. When completed, these “**Long Walls**” created a siege-proof triangle of land that allowed the city to easily resupply itself from the sea, which was itself guarded by the mighty Athenian navy.

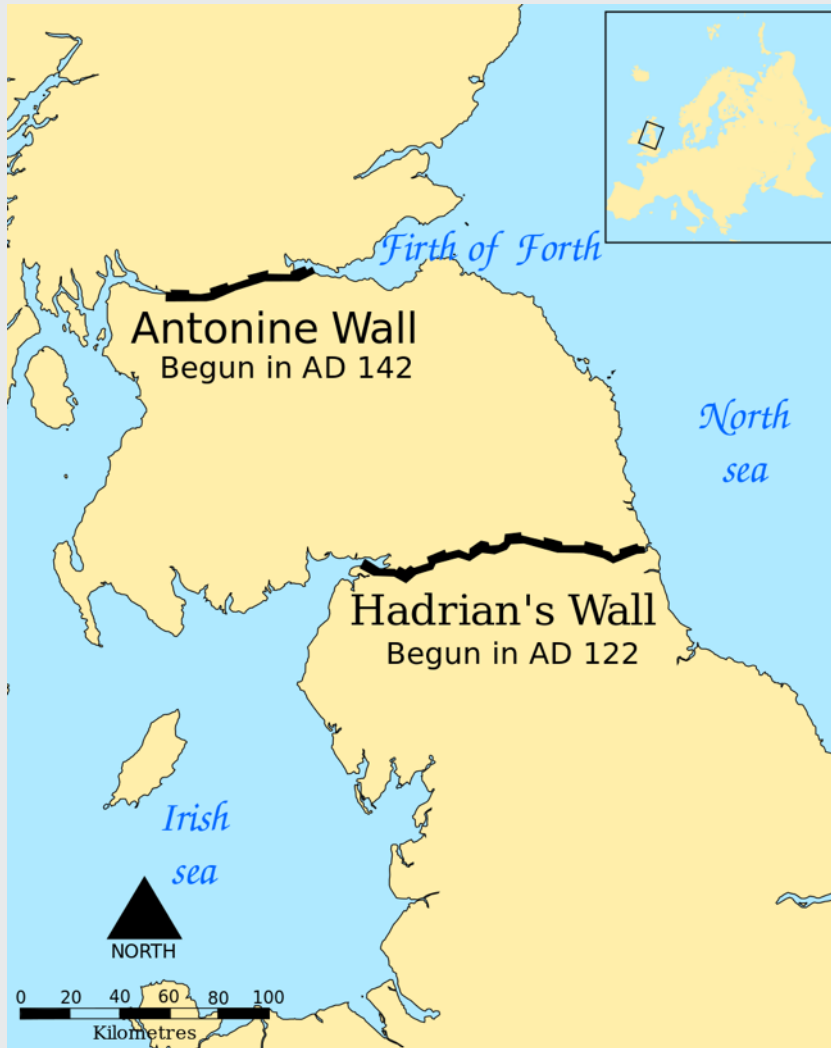


# 122 AD

Stretching 73 miles from coast to coast, **Hadrian's Wall** was built to guard the wild north-west frontier of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor Hardian attempted to establish a defensible border between North & South Roman Britain.



# 142 AD



**The Antonine Wall**, known to the Romans as Vallum Antonini, was a turf fortification on stone foundations, built by the Romans across what is now the Central Belt of Scotland, between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde. Representing the northernmost frontier barrier of the Roman Empire, it spanned approximately 63 kilometres (39 miles) and was about 3 metres (10 feet) high and 5 metres (16 feet) wide.

# circa 420-530 AD

The **Great Wall of Gorgan** stretches for almost 200 km and is lined by 38 forts. It is the longest fort-lined ancient barrier between Central Europe and China.



# circa 500 AD

The Byzantine metropolis of Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) created the **Theodosian Walls** to protect the city from raiders. They included a moat, a 27-foot outer wall and a massive inner wall that was 40 feet tall and 15 feet thick. Troops stood guard on the ramparts at all times, ready to rain arrows and a type of ancient napalm called “Greek fire” on any enemy that dared attack them.



# circa 1100-1400

According to legend the **Great Zimbabwe** was the capital city to the Queen of Sheba. The city covers approximately 80 hectares. The word zimbabwe, is a Shona (Bantu) word meaning “stone houses.”



# 1358



The **Walls of Ston** are a series of defensive stone walls, originally more than 7 kilometres (4.3 mi) long, that surrounded and protected the city of Ston, in Dalmatia, part of the Republic of Ragusa, in what is now southern Croatia. Their construction was begun in 1358. Today, it is the second-longest preserved fortification system in the world.

# 1438-1471

The **Sacsayhuaman** meaning 'Royal Eagle' fortress-temple complex lies at the northern edge of the former Inca capital Cuzco.

The Sacsayhuaman is still used today for re-enactments of Inca-inspired ceremonies.



# 1453

The Byzantine metropolis of Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) flourished for over a millennium thanks in part to the strength of its defensive walls. More than 14 miles of barricades surrounded the city. The **Theodosian Walls** succeeded in turning back a host of would-be conquerors from the Arabs to Attila the Hun, but they finally met their match in 1453, when the Ottoman Empire besieged the city with a frightening new weapon — the cannon.



# 1819

After the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, the **border between the United States and New Spain (modern day Mexico)** was not clearly defined. The border was established in the 1819 -Adams-Onís Treaty between the United States and Spain, which specified a border in the vicinity of the western edge of the Mississippi River watershed.



# 1846-1848

The constant conflicts in the Texas region in the mid-19th century eventually led to the **Mexican-American War**, which began in 1846 and ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In the terms of the peace treaty, Mexico lost more than 2,500,000 square km (970,000 sq mi) of land, 55% of its territory, including all of what is today California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada.



# 1920s

The Zimmerman Telegram, allegedly sent by German officials, was meant to bait Mexico into war with the United States in order to reconquer what was taken from them during the U.S.-Mexican War. This inspired the U.S. FBI to monitor suspicious activities and potential violence at the border. Within 10 years, frequent provocations caused border towns to transform into battlefields, which intensified transborder restrictions, brought federal soldiers to patrol the border, and caused the construction of fences and barriers between border towns. As years passed, more fences and higher barriers were established as attentions focused on the **boundary demarcation between the United States and Mexico.**



# 1931-1936



The **Hoover Dam** is a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the border between the U.S. states of Nevada and Arizona. It was constructed between 1931 and 1936 during the Great Depression.

# 1947

The **partition of India** in 1947 was the division of British India into two independent states, India and Pakistan. The partition displaced between 10-12 million people along religious lines, creating overwhelming refugee crises in the newly constituted dominions; there was large-scale violence, with estimates of loss of life accompanying or preceding the partition disputed and varying between several hundred thousand and 2 million.



# 1953

The **Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)** is part of the Korean Armistice Agreement between the United Nations, North Korea, and China to end the Korean War.



# 1961

The **Berlin Wall** was built by East Germany to stop the flow of people to the west. The Wall extended 45km dividing the city and remained in place until 1989.



# 1969

The first **‘Peace Walls’** in Northern Ireland were put up in areas of Belfast and Derry following the outbreak of civil unrest.



# 1989

On 9 November 1989, the Germany Democratic Republic (GDR) announced that its borders were open to everyone. East and West Berliners then gathered at the **Berlin Wall**, demanding the structure come down.



# 1994

In 1994, the Israeli government ordered the first section (slabs of concrete contiguous for miles) of the **West Bank barrier** to be constructed. The section follows the border between Bat Hefer and Tulkarm communities.



# 2002

The **Sungai Selangor Dam** in Malaysia was completed in 2002, flooding the valley of Gerachi Jaya and Pertak off Kuala Kubu Bharu, and forcing the resettling of the native (Orang Asli) communities that lived here to a new village nearby. There are numerous consequences for indigenous groups of dam-induced environmental change and development-forced displacement and resettlement (DFDR).



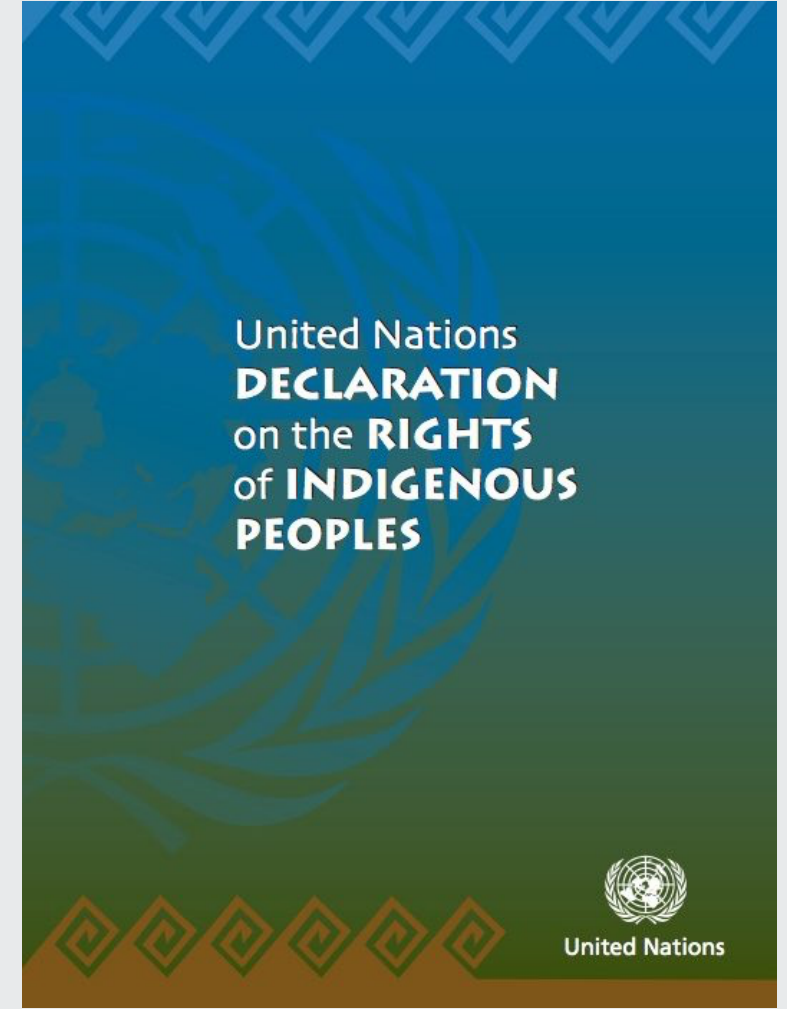
# 2003

In 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that stated the **Israeli West Bank barrier wall** contradicts international law and should be removed; the vote was 144-4 with 12 abstentions.



# 2007

In September 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. Article 10 asserts “Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.”



# 2017

As of late 2017, there are 59 **‘Peace Walls’** or ‘Peace Lines’ existing in Northern Ireland. In total they stretch over 21 miles (34 km). They have increased in both height and number since the signing of the Belfast or Good Friday Peace Agreement in 1998.



# 2018



The Cambodian government opened the **Lower Sesan 2 Dam**, the country's largest hydropower scheme, swatting aside dire warnings about the environmental impact of the US\$780 million project and its effect on local communities. The dam displaced thousands of villagers. The United Nations (UN) has previously raised concerns about the dam while some scientists had joined calls for it to be halted over fears for the region's food supply.