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At the turn of the millennium in 2000, TIME selected 100 individuals as the most influential people of the 20th century. The resulting list provided such a revealing perspective on history that the magazine has now begun naming a TIME 100 each year, designating influential individuals in five categories. As with TIME’s annual Person of the Year designation, the list includes both heroes and villains; inclusion reflects the power of an individual’s impact on history, whether for good or for ill.

LEADERS & REVOLUTIONARIES
Michelle Bachelet Chile’s president survived a brutal dictatorship to win worldwide respect.
Bartholomew I The Eastern Orthodox patriarch insisted that ecology and spirituality are one.
Ben Bernanke Each year, designating influential individuals in five categories. As with TIME’s annual Person of the Year designation, the list includes both heroes and villains; inclusion reflects the power of an individual’s impact on history, whether for good or for ill.

Ben Bermanke In a year of economic crisis, the Fed chief charted a bold and controversial course.
George W. Bush History will judge, but many still believe he responded to challenges courageously.
Hillary Clinton She proved her mettle and won the admiration of longtime enemies.
Dalai Lama Tibet’s beacon of peace radiated calm compassion—even as Beijing cracked down on his long-suffering people.
Sonita Gandhi The Italian-born woman remains the power behind the throne of India’s Congress Party.
Robert Gates Charged with heading an unpopular war, the US secretary of defense earned bipartisan respect for his intelligence and command.
Hu Jintao The host of the Olympics, and China’s first leader who grew up in the aftermath of the 1949 communist revolution, has made his nation a looming presence on the world stage.
Anwar Ibrahim A global voice for moderate Islam is back in the center of Malaysian politics.
Ashfaq Kayani Pakistan’s new top general kept the army out of the country’s election.
Ma Ying-jeou Taiwan’s rising political star hopes to resolve his nation’s problems with China.
John McCain He defied the odds and stuck to his guns on Iraq to win the Republican nomination for president.
Baitullah Mehsud Pakistan’s government identified him as the mastermind of the successful plot to kill Benazir Bhutto, proving he had forced his way into the top tier of terrorists.
Evo Morales Bolivia’s low-key president moved quickly away from the neoliberal policies of the past to try to help his nation’s most impoverished citizens.
Barack Obama He transformed American politics, attracting new voters to his call for change.
Vladimir Putin Russia’s iron-willed leader passed on his mantle of rule but continued to rebuild his country as a great power—and an irritant to the West.
Kevin Rudd Australia’s bold new prime minister got it right early, apologizing to native Aborigines.
Muqtada al-Sadr The firebrand Shi’ite cleric has become a major power broker in the new Iraq.
Jacob Zuma He fought charges of rape and corruption to remain the hero of South Africa’s poor.

HEROES & PIONEERS
Andre Agassi With his charitable foundation, he proved that there is life beyond athletics.
Lance Armstrong The remarkable athlete inspires millions with his victory over cancer.
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Burma’s imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize recipient is today’s Nelson Mandela.
Tony Blair Britain’s successful former prime minister accepted a job as special envoy for the Quartet on the Middle East, where he is using the same diplomatic skills that brought peace to Northern Ireland.
Mia Farrow The actor and activist became a highly effective advocate for the people of Darfur.
Peter Gabriel The pop star cofounded the Elders to chart a new future for the global village.
Kaká Brazil’s remarkable young soccer star is a tireless worker for the UN World Food Programme.
Sheikh Mohammed ibn Rashid al-Maktum The ruler of Dubai has made the UAE an internationally recognized symbol of success, becoming an unlikely poster boy for globalization.
George Mitchell He brought peace to Northern Ireland; now he is ridding baseball of illegal drugs.
Lorena Ochoa Mexico’s great pro golfer is also a dedicated humanitarian.
Madhusha Nandasena Oshihdb Her business, employing some 100 women, is a quiet revolution in Iraqi life.
Paul Allen SCIENTISTS & THINKERS The Microsoft cofounder’s Allen Institute for Brain Science mapped the mouse brain, illuminating how genes work, and then gave the results away for free online.

Larry Brilliant The epidemiologist helped lead the World Health Organization’s successful war on smallpox; now he is the head of Google’s well-funded philanthropic efforts.

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Nancy Brinker Her foundation fights breast cancer by encouraging millions to “Race for the Cure.”

Eric Chivian and Richard C. Cook The professor of psychiatry and the Evangelical Presbyterian minister joined in preaching the need for environmental stewardship.

Michael Griffin NASA’s boss made it the openly communicative, inspired organization it used to be.

Jeff Han He led a revolution, introducing the concept of multitouch-sensing computer screens.

Mary Lou Jepsen Her One Laptop Per Child program gives cheap computers to kids everywhere.

Wendy Kopp The 5,000 teachers in her visionary program, Teach for America, reach 440,000 kids.

Harold McGee Four stars for his fine book On Food and Cooking: The Science and Lore of the Kitchen.

Jill Bolte Taylor Now she is tackling climate change.

Jeffrey Immelt General Electric’s boss is a polymath who is equally at home in a research lab, a turbine facility, or on the set of Saturday Night Live.

Lou Jiwei The former deputy finance minister is now controlling China’s huge pool of investment dollars.

Neelie Kroes The Dutchwoman is the European Union’s czar of competition—and a formidable voice for economic fairness and women’s rights.

Indra Nooyi PepsiCo’s boss has made healthiness and sustainability part of the company’s mission.

Ruperta Murdoch The new owner of The Wall Street Journal, the Australian-born press lord is the most influential newspaper publisher of his era.

Carlos Slim Helú The Mexican telecom superbillionaire is also a visionary and humanitarian.

Ratan Tata The Indian automotive mogul introduced an affordable car for India’s masses.

Suze Orman The TV financial adviser made millions better informed on issues of dollars and sense.

Tyler Perry Made his creator revolutionized the way Hollywood entertains urban audiences.

Alex Rigopoulos and Eran Egozy The geeks behind Guitar Hero and Rock Band made us all stars.

Chris Rock The brilliant black comic takes on sex, racism, and marriage—and makes it all seem fun.

Tim Russert The late host of NBC’s Meet the Press was an astute, discerning seeker of truth.

Bruce Springsteen The legendary troubadour continues to give voice to America’s social conscience.

Tom Stoppard He challenges audiences with the intellect, scope, and verbiage of his plays.

BUILDERS & TITANS

Jay Adelson His Diigg.com site, a user-driven ranking system for Internet content, attracts millions of viewers each month.

Prince al-Walid ibn Talal ibn Abdulaziz al-Saud The Saudi investor proves that good business can unite the most diverse of cultures and nations.

Michael Arrington With his TechCrunch blog, he is a leading authority on tech biz culture.

Steve Ballmer Bill Gates’s successor at Microsoft, he doesn’t just throw fits at sales conferences and play the madman—he delivers results.

Jeff Bezos Amazon’s visionary CEO unveiled Kindle, a paperbacksized, battery-powered digital book.

Lloyd Blankfein The CEO of Goldman Sachs wisely steered clear of mortgage-backed securities.

Cynthia Carroll Anglo America’s CEO is helping revitalize the global mining industry.

John Chambers With his new virtual-meeting system, TelePresence, Cisco’s boss kept his Internet-systems company in the vanguard.

Jamie Dimon By leading JPMorgan Chase’s purchase of the reeling investment firm Bear Stearns, he helped head off a financial-market meltdown.

Mo Ibrahim The cell-phone king is leading calls for democracy and good governance in Africa.

Jeffrey Immelt General Electric’s boss is a polymath who is equally at home in a research lab, a turbine facility, or on the set of Saturday Night Live.

Lou Jiwei The former deputy finance minister is now controlling China’s huge pool of investment dollars.

Steve Jobs Apple’s boss is a countercultural icon and a brilliant businessman and marketer.

Nellee Kros The Dutchwoman is the European Union’s czar of competition—and a formidable voice for economic fairness and women’s rights.

Karl Lagerfeld The visionary German designer showed that fashion can originate from the street, the media—anywhere.

Rupert Murdoch The new owner of The Wall Street Journal, the Australian-born press lord is the most influential newspaper publisher of his era.

Ali al-Naimi Saudi Arabia’s thoughtful oil minister uses his influence well in global petropolitics.

Indra Nooyi PepsiCo’s boss has made healthiness and sustainability part of the company’s mission.

Radiohead The British rock band made their new album available online, dealing a death blow to music’s old distribution models.

Carine Roitfeld The quintessentially Parisian editor of French Vogue enforces and defines the world of fashion by mixing street culture and high society.

Carlos Slim Helú The Mexican telecom super-billionaire is also a visionary and humanitarian.

Ratan Tata The Indian automotive mogul introduced an affordable car for India’s masses.
Celebrities and Newsmakers

These mini-biographies are intended to provide background information about people in the news. See also the Obituaries (below) for recently deceased persons.

50 Cent (Curtis Jackson; 6 Jul 1976, Jamaica, Queens NY), American hardcore rapper.

Mahmoud (Ridha) Abbas (nom de guerre Abu Mazen; 26 Mar 1935, Zefat, British Palestine), Palestinian politician; secretary general of the PLO executive committee and cofounder (with Yasar Arafat) of the Fateh movement; he served as the first prime minister of the Palestinian Authority and was its president from 2005.

Sidi Muhammad Ould Cheikh Abdallahi (1938), Mauritanian politician; president, 2007–08.

Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz (1956, Akjoujt, Mauritania), Mauritanian military leader; chairman of the high council of state from 2008.

Paula (Julie) Abdul (19 Jun 1962, San Fernando CA), American pop singer, choreographer, and TV personality.


Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (26 Nov 1939, Kuala Terengganu, Penang state, Malaysia), Malaysian politician; prime minister from 2003.


Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin ibni al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad (22 Jan 1962, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia), Malaysian politician; Yang di-Pertuan Agong (head of state) in 2001 and again from 2006.

J(0ffrey) J(acob) Abrams (27 Jun 1966, New York NY), American TV producer whose credits include Alias (2001–06) and Lost (from 2004).

Abdal (Salvador) Acevedo Vilá (13 Feb 1962, Hato Mayor del Monte, Puerto Rico), Nicaraguan-born Salvadoran poet, essayist, and political prisoner; head of state in 2001 and again from 2006.

Chinua Achebe (Albert Chinualumogu Achebe; 16 Nov 1930, Ogidi, Nigeria), Nigerian novelist and writer who won the second Man Booker International Prize for fiction in 2007.

Joe Ackermann (Johannes Ackermann; 7 Feb 1948, Mels, Switzerland), Swiss corporate executive; cofounder (1946) of the Aldi supermarket chain.


Scott Adams (8 Jun 1957, Windham NY), American cartoonist; creator of Dilbert.


Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (15 Sep 1977, Enugu, Nigeria), Nigerian novelist; winner of the 2007 Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction.

Benjamin (Geza) Affleck (15 Aug 1972, Berkeley CA), American actor, director, and writer.

Caleb Casey Affleck (12 Aug 1975, Falmouth MA), American film actor.
Joan Allen (20 Aug 1956, Rochelle IL), American film and theater actress.

Paul G. Allen (21 Jan 1953, Mercer Island WA), American corporate executive; cofounder of Microsoft Corp. (1975) and owner of several professional sports teams.

Woody Allen (Allen Stewart Konigsberg; 1 Dec 1935, Brooklyn NY), American filmmaker, actor, and comedian.

Isabel Allende (2 Aug 1942, Lima, Peru), Chilean writer in the magic realist tradition.

Kirstie Alley (12 Jan 1951, Wichita KS), American film and TV actress.

Kofi (Atta) Annan (18 Apr 1938, Kumasi, Gold Coast), Ghanaian diplomat; UN Secretary-General, 1997–2006; corecipient, with the UN, of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize.


Jennifer Aniston (Jennifer Linn Anistassakis; 11 Feb 1969,eyond MO), American actress, singer.

Martha Argerich (2 Apr 1941, Buenos Aires, Argentina), Argentine concert pianist.

Marc Anthony (Marco Antonio Muñiz; 16 Sep 1968, Spanish Harlem, New York NY), American salsa vocalist and actor (for the band Walk the Moon).

Andrus Ansip (1 May 1969, Tartu, USSR [now in Estonia]), Estonian politician; prime minister from 2005.

Isabel Allende (2 Aug 1942, Lima, Peru), Chilean writer in the magic realist tradition.

Kate Atkinson (13 Sep 1949, Calzada Pedraza, Spain), British writer in the magic realist tradition.

Susan Athey (29 Nov 1970, Boston MA), American computer innovator; developer of Netscape.

Bob Baffert (13 Jan 1953, Nogales AZ), American jockey.

Judd Apatow (6 Dec 1967, Syosset NY), American filmmaker.

Jerry D. Bailey (29 Aug 1957, Dallas TX), American jockey.

Terje S. Bell (7 May 1956, Kapelle, Netherlands), Dutch politician (Christian-Democratic Appeal); prime minister from 2002.

Pamela (Denise) Anderson (20 Aug 1956, Rochelle IL), American film and TV actress.

Marilyn Monroe (Norma Jeane; 1926, Los Angeles CA), American film actress.

Tadao Ando (24 Sep 1949, Osaka, Japan), Japanese architect; recipient of the 1995 Pritzker Prize.

Maryse Alberti (12 Jan 1951, Wichita KS), American puppeteer.

Jan Peter Balkenende (7 May 1956, Kapelle, Netherlands), Dutch politician (Christian-Democratic Appeal); prime minister from 2002.
Steven A. Ballmer (24 Mar 1956, Detroit, MI), American corporate executive; CEO of Microsoft Corp. from 2000.


Eric Bana (Eric Benadonovich; 9 Aug 1968, Melbourne, VIC, Australia), Australian actor.

José Antonio (Dominguez) Banderas (10 Oct 1960, Málaga, Spain), Spanish actor and director.

Russell Banks (28 Mar 1940, Newton, MA), American novelist.

Tyra Banks (4 Dec 1973, Los Angeles CA), American model, actress, and TV show host.

Banu Kuvan (27 Apr 1948, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia), Mongolian diplomat; prime minister from 2007.

Beatrix (13 Jun 1938, Soestdijk, Netherlands), Dutch royal; queen of The Netherlands from 1980.

Beck (Beck Hansen; 8 Jul 1970, Los Angeles CA), American singer and songwriter.


Victoria Beckham (Victoria Caroline Adams; 7 Apr 1975, Goff’s Oak, Hertfordshire, England), British pop singer (“Posh Spice” of the Spice Girls) and celebrity.


Mike Beebe (Michael Dale Beebe; 28 Dec 1946, Amagon AR), American politician (Democrat); governor of Arkansas from 2007.

Kenenisa Bekele (13 Jun 1982, near Bekoji, Ethiopia), Ethiopian cross-country runner.


Joshua Bell (9 Dec 1967, Bloomington IN), American violinist.

Rob (ert) Bell (23 Aug 1970, Lansing MI), American evangelical pastor and author; founder of the Mars Hill Bible Church, Grandville MI.

Arden L. Bement, Jr. (22 May 1932, Pittsburgh PA), American materials scientist; director of the National Science Foundation from 2004.


Benedict XVI (Joseph Alois Ratzinger; 16 Apr 1927, Marktl am Inn, Bavaria, Germany), German Roman Catholic churchman; pope from 2005.

Alan Bennett (9 May 1934, Leeds, England), British dramatist and writer.

Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov (29 Jun 1957, Barakar, USSR [now in Turkmenistan]), Turkmen politician; president from 2006.

Salil (Ram) Berisha (15 Oct 1944, Tropojë, Albania), Albanian cardiologist and politician (Democratic Party); president, 1992–97, and prime minister from 2005.


Maxime Bernier (18 Jan 1963, Beauce, QC, Canada), Canadian insurance executive; foreign minister, 2007–08.

Halle (Maria) Berry (14 Apr 1968, Cleveland OH), American film actress and model.

Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone (2 Dec 1934, Romano Canavese, Italy), Italian Roman Catholic churchman; secretary of state of the Vatican from 2006.

Steve(n) Lynn Beshare (21 Sep 1944, Dawson Springs KY), American politician (Democrat); governor of Kentucky from 2007.