



The Decade of the **2000s**

Sports and Entertainment of the 2000s

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Important Events of the 2000s



2002

- Euro enters circulation
- Terrorists attack Bali tourist district in Indonesia
- Dwarf planet Quaoar is discovered
- *American Idol* debuts on Fox network
- Xbox Live revolutionizes online gaming

2004

- Hundreds of thousands die in Indian Ocean tsunami
- *Spirit* and *Opportunity* rovers explore surface of Mars
- Facebook is launched
- Hundreds die when Chechen separatists take over a school in Russia
- Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat dies
- Green Belt Movement founder Wangari Maathai of Kenya wins Nobel Peace Prize



2000

- Dire warnings of Y2K Millennium Bug fizzle
- Dot-com bubble bursts
- Israel withdraws all forces from Lebanon
- Dashboard GPS devices become widely available
- Tiger Woods becomes youngest golfer to win Grand Slam
- USS *Cole* is attacked in Yemen

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2001

- Terrorist attack on United States kills three thousand people
- Apple launches iPod
- World's first space tourist reaches International Space Station
- Film version of first Harry Potter book is released
- Wikipedia is launched
- United States invades Afghanistan
- Netherlands legalizes same-sex marriage



2003

- United States invades Iraq
- Space shuttle *Columbia* disintegrates on reentry
- Human genome project is completed
- Record heat wave kills tens of thousands in Europe
- China launches its first manned space mission
- WHO issues rare global health alert on SARS

“We did it, man. We’re the champs,”³ exclaimed Red Sox outfielder Manny Ramirez, who was voted most valuable player of the series. In a few weeks in October 2004, the Red Sox had shocked the sports world and rewritten the story of their historic franchise.

Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz hits a two-run single in game four of the 2004 American League Championship Series against their archrival, the New York Yankees. Overcoming early humiliating losses, the Red Sox ultimately won the series.



In the 1990s Armstrong was a rising cycling star, competing in races around the world and in the 1996 Olympics. By 1996 he was the seventh-ranked cyclist in the world and had signed a lucrative contract with a French cycling team, Cofidis. He was devastated, however, in October 1996, when he was diagnosed with aggressive testicular cancer that had spread throughout his body. Despite doctors giving him a 40 percent chance of survival, Armstrong insisted that he would beat the cancer and return to competitive cycling. Throughout surgery and chemotherapy, Armstrong's iron will prevailed, and doctors declared him cancer-free in February 1997. Yet most people believed he would never be able to return to the elite of cycling.

Lance Armstrong rejoices as he crosses the finish line to win the seventeenth stage of the 2004 Tour de France. Armstrong's seven straight Tour de France wins between 1999 and 2005 made him a cycling star—until he was stripped of all titles in 2012 because of doping.



Film—A Blockbuster Decade

Nothing characterized the movies of the decade more than increasing budgets and box office returns. Big budgets paid for expensive special effects technologies that created some of the most visually exciting films ever made. New forms of marketing that employed the power of social media brought more people to the box office than ever before. In addition, blockbuster franchise films pulled in legions of loyal fans, resulting in some of the biggest box office successes in film history.

Huge Budgets, Huge Audiences

During the decade, the Hollywood studio system was dominated by six global entertainment companies: Time Warner, 20th Century Fox, Viacom, Sony, Walt Disney, and NBC Universal. These studios made about 90 percent of the North American films of the decade. Typically, the six mega companies handed the actual work of film production to dozens of independent companies and in-house subsidiaries such as Warner's New Line Cinema, Fox's Searchlight, and NBC Universal's Focus Features. By 2005 every film that earned \$100 million or more at the box office was made by one of these six companies.

The deep pockets of these companies enabled films of the 2000s to have increasingly large budgets. As recently as the 1990s, studios had considered \$100 million in production costs to be the benchmark for an expensive film. In the 2000s studio budgets crept upward, and the old budget ceiling was broken. It became common for a feature film from a major studio to cost well over \$100 million, with an increasing number of films costing more than \$200 million. In 2007 *Pirates of the*

Words of the 2000s

Note: Below is a sampling of new words or words given new meaning during the decade, taken from a variety of sources.

bailout: Rescue by government of companies on the brink of failure.

birther: A person who believes that Barack Obama was not born in the United States and therefore cannot be president.

bling: Ostentatious displays of fortune and flash.

blog: A weblog.

chad: The tiny paper square that pops out when a voter punches the ballot card while casting a vote.

Chinglish: The growing Chinese-English hybrid language resulting from China's expanding influence.

click-through: Clicking on a banner ad on a website.

cloud computing: The practice of storing regularly used computer data on multiple servers that can be accessed through the Internet.

distracted driving: Multitasking while driving.

frenemy: Someone who is both friend and enemy.

generica: Strip malls, motel chains, prefab housing, and other features of the American landscape that are the same nationwide.

hacktivism: Activism by hackers.

hashtag: The # (hash) symbol used as a tag on Twitter.

*Note: Boldface page numbers
indicate illustrations.*

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