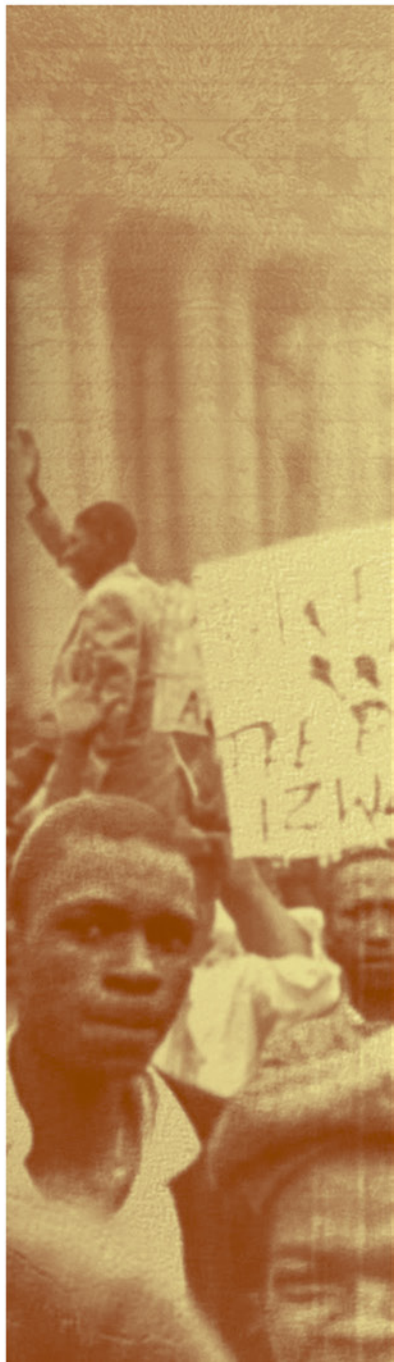




ROAD TO NOW



THE KEY EVENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE MODERN WORLD & LED US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY



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The road to now started with such promise. The end of the Cold War – dramatically represented by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union – sparked optimism that the democratic values and free markets of the West would be universally accepted.

How quickly it all changed. America's certainties ended abruptly in the deserts of Afghanistan and Iraq, its relations with the outside world forever changed by the events of 9/11. The global financial crisis undermined the West's claim of leadership, while the incredibly fast rise of China as an economic powerhouse demonstrated that authoritarian capitalism could be an effective economic model.

And the 21st century has been a time of dramatic change and manifold challenges – super-power rivalries, economic disruption, technological revolution and environmental pressures have created a world of unprecedented complexity. In the past 30 years we have added 2.5 billion people to the planet. The impact of industrialisation, the spread of economic power from west to east and a rapidly changing climate are so profound that some people foresee an existential crisis for mankind.

How did we get to now? How did the celebration of freedom that remarkable night in Berlin lead to the crisis of international confidence evident today? Stepping back to observe the connections that link the rapidly changing events of the past thirty years, we see the patterns that led us inexorably to this moment.

This fascinating 6-part series unpacks major events on the road to now. Christian Amanpour (Chief International Anchor, CNN), Tom Friedman (author, Foreign Affairs columnist, The New York Times) and Niall Ferguson (British author and historian) are amongst some of the world's best commentators, historians, journalists and politicians guiding us through the key events that have shaped the modern world.

Presenterless version available.

TX SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

- 'informative, well presented & incredibly powerful'
- 'puts into perspective so many of today's issues'
- 'excellent...shows key events in their significance & complexity'

AUDIENCE HIGHLIGHTS



#1 IN ITS TUESDAY BROADCAST TIMESLOT



STRONG FEMALE SKEW AUDIENCE ON CATCH-UP



CATCH-UP DELIVERED YOUNGER AUDIENCE BASE VS TRADITIONAL AUDIENCE ON LINEAR TX

INTERVIEWS

Guiding us through the last 30 years are some of the world's best historians, journalists and politicians, including:

- **Niall Ferguson**
British historian and author
- **Christian Amanpour**
Chief International Anchor, CNN
- **Tom Friedman**
Foreign Affairs columnist, The New York Times and author
- **Hugh White**
Emeritus Professor, Australian National University & author
- **John Howard**
Prime Minister of Australia 1996-2007 & author
- **Helen Clark**
Prime Minister of New Zealand 1999-2008 & senior UN official
- **Gareth Evans**
Foreign Minister of Australia 1988-1996 & President, International Crisis Group

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EPISODES

EPISODE 1: AGE OF CONFLICT

Every century in human history has been marked by conflicts. Yet this age began with something different – a joyous celebration of freedom in Berlin in 1989, that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. The capitalist West had won the Cold War and the world entered a period of enormous change. After 40 years of domination by the Soviet Union, countries from the Baltics to the Balkans regained their freedom and began the transition to democracy. East Germany was re-united with West Germany, forging the most populous and prosperous country in Europe.

The collapse of the twin towers and the mass murder of 3,000 people in New York marked the beginning of a new age of uncertainty, encompassing what have proved to be wars without end in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Arab Spring uprisings of 2011 and the removal of hated dictators did not lead to a new age of liberty in the Middle East – instead Syria, Libya and Yemen became bloody battlegrounds and Egypt became again a police state. Amid the chaos, the fight for freedom continued around the world.

This fascinating episode explores how the ‘peace dividend’ from the end of the Cold War vanished in waves of terrorism and war, leaving the Middle East mired in conflict.

EPISODE 2: GLOBAL SHAPERS

The end of the Cold War revealed heroes whose actions changed the lives of tens of millions of people – Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, and South Africa’s most famous political prisoner turned president, Nelson Mandela. Another famous political prisoner, Aung San Suu Kyi, endured long years of house arrest in Myanmar to lead the campaign against the military government. In power though, Suu Kyi failed to publicly challenge the campaign of ethnic cleansing by the military and Buddhist extremists against a Muslim ethnic minority. 700,000 Rohingya fled across the border to a life in exile in squalid refugee camps in Bangladesh. Despots, such as Iraq’s President Saddam Hussein, have been overthrown while others with dictatorial powers, Russia’s President Vladimir Putin and China’s Xi Jinping, promote super nationalistic themes and challenge western leadership of the world. Successive presidents of the United States George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump brought both hope and fury to the White House; extraordinary contrasts in style and substance that strangely define the contradictions of our age.

This compelling episode profiles the national leaders whose actions have shaped international opinion and changed the world during the past 30 years.

EPISODE 3: THE FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS

When the Berlin wall was smashed down 30 years ago it was seen to be ushering in a golden age of freedom. Germans in the east were effectively killing off the communist regime which had stifled free speech and grossly restricted personal liberties for 50 years. The subsequent implosion of the Soviet Union also freed European nations from the Baltics to the Balkans from communism. Over time in most countries democratic governments emerged.

In China the struggle by citizens to be free has run an entirely different course. In June 1989, five months before the Berlin wall fell, Chinese troops crushed the student and worker rebellion in Tiananmen Square. While hundreds of millions of Chinese are free to make money, to travel to study abroad, they’re not able to challenge Communist Party rule, they’re not free to express themselves on social media and China has become a surveillance state with 200 million cameras in public areas. The forced detention of a million Uighers in ‘re-education camps’ and the attempts to crush pro-democracy campaigners in Hong Kong illustrate the reality of Communist Party’s rule.

This episode examines how the quest for personal and political freedoms has shaped much of the past thirty years and explores the notion of ‘democracy in retreat’.

EPISODE 4: IN HARM’S WAY

Throughout human history death and destruction has been wrought by natural disasters. As the world’s population has exploded in the past 30 years, from 5.2 billion to 7.7 billion people, more and more people are in harm’s way when disasters strike.

The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in Indonesia saw walls of water sweep over the province of Aceh, flattening towns and villages along the coast and drowning more than 100,000 people. When another earthquake erupted off the coast of Japan in 2011, citizens of the technologically advanced nation at least had some warning of the impending disaster and survived in buildings engineered to withstand a big quake. But the tsunami that followed was much higher than the walls which had been built around the Fukushima nuclear plant on the coast north of Tokyo. It turned into one of the worst nuclear accidents in history and forced an international review of the safety of nuclear plants.

A new element has added to the danger – humanity itself is now playing a role in what used to be considered were forces beyond our control. Human-caused global warming is affecting climatic patterns, creating more extreme weather events of greater ferocity and longer duration. A warming world is already causing the displacement of people reliant on traditional agriculture and creating ‘climate change refugees’.

EPISODE 5: GLOBALISATION

Globalisation, technology and the spread of economic power from West to East have profoundly changed the world of money. This episode tracks the extraordinary changes in the world economy in the past 30 years. The end of the Cold War was seen as capitalism triumphing over communism. Free markets spread through eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics and were fundamental to the global economic system.

China, an insignificant player in 1989, joined the free market party developing a unique model of authoritarian capitalism. China fast-tracked its economic revival, freeing hundreds of millions from poverty through rapid industrialisation and liberalising trade.

Nothing defines the rapid change of our century more than the power of the Internet – the new industries which have exploited the power of connectivity and the stupendous profits being made. Global tech companies have grown so large they influence our lives as much as governments. Not always for the good.

The world embraced debt. Financiers developed exotic ways of collating and re-packaging debts. Bad loans structured by American bankers lured people into buying property they couldn't afford – ultimately leading to the global financial crisis of 2008 and 2009. Despite the risks, countries continue to play with financial fire.

EPISODE 6: RETURN OF THE WALL

More than 70 million people – twice as many as at the start of the century – are judged by the UN to be internally displaced, in exile from their countries and seeking re-settlement or claiming refugee status. This episode explores the vast scale of unplanned mass migration around the world, and the key forces driving this flood of humanity.

The young people who wielded hammers and chisels to dismantle the Berlin Wall in 1989, allowing free movement between East and West Germany would see, less than 30 years later, new walls going up across Europe. While smashing down the Berlin Wall came to symbolise the collapse of communism, the new walls of steel and razor wire reflect the resurgence of nationalism and intolerance of ethnic and religious minorities.

Driven by wars, poverty, ethnic and religious persecution, the refugee caravan seemed never ending. For some Europeans enduring economic turmoil, a fear of Islam and the shock of terror attacks, denying entry to Europe was pragmatic good sense. Only Germany, the biggest, richest nation in Europe, kept its doors open, settling more than a million people. In the United States, the object of Donald Trump's border wall is to prevent people from Central America and Mexico from entering the US illegally – claiming that imposing tough border controls is essential to national security.

