

Timor-Leste timeline

1600s

- Timor is invaded by Portuguese who set up a trading post and use the island as a source of sandalwood

1749

- Timor splits into east and west, Portuguese take eastern half

1942

- Japanese invade during World War Two and occupy the island until 1945
 - Up to 60,000 Timorese are killed

1974

- Pro-democracy revolution in Portugal
 - Leading to Portugal recognising Timor-Leste's right to self-determination

1975

- **Aug.** – Portuguese administration withdraws to offshore island of Atauro
- **Nov.** – Fretilin (Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor) declares independence after a brief civil war
- **Dec.** – Indonesia invades and a new occupation begins
- Strong resistance to new rulers. Indonesia responds with repression and a famine follows - thought to have killed 200,000 people

1981

- Xanana Gusmao becomes the leader of Falintil (Armed Forces of National Liberation of East Timor) - armed wing of Fretilin

1992

- Gusmao is captured and arrested, later convicted of subversion

1999

- **30 Aug.** – almost 99% of 450,000 strong electorate votes in UN-organised referendum - 78% vote for independence

2001

- **July** – Timor-Leste and Australia sign memorandum of understanding over future revenues from oil, gas fields in Timor Sea - Timor-Leste would get 90 percent of revenues
- **Aug.** - Fretilin wins election, attaining 55 out of 88 seats

2002

- **Jan.** – Indonesia initiates human rights court to hold military accountable for atrocities in Timor-Leste after 1999 independence vote
- **April** – Xanana Gusmao wins presidential elections

- **Sept.** – Timor-Leste becomes 191st member of UN

2004

- **Jan.** – Portugal announces \$63million aid package

2005

- **June** – remaining Australian peacekeepers leave
- **Aug.** – Truth commission, set up by Timor-Leste and Indonesia, holds its first meeting. Examines the violence which occurred during the nation's independence in 1999. The body has no power to prosecute

2006

- **Jan.** – Timor-Leste and Australia sign a deal to divide billions of dollars in expected revenues from oil and gas deposits in the Timor Sea. Talks on a disputed maritime boundary are postponed
- A report submitted to the UN focusing on atrocities committed during Indonesia's 24-year occupation finds that they were directly responsible for the deaths of more than 200,000 Timor-Leste
- **May** – 25 people are killed and another 150,000 take refuge after wide factional violence between former soldiers who had been sacked in March and Foreign troops who arrived in Dili to restore order
- **June – July** – Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri reigns over his handling of the violence. Jose Ramos-Horta is named as premier, wins presidential election in May, 2007

2007

- **June** – Fretilin, led by Alkatiri wins election, but not enough votes to govern alone
- **Aug.** – Gusmao is named Prime Minister, prompting violent protests
- **Nov.** – An Australia court rules that five Australian-based journalists were killed by Indonesian troops in 1975 to stop them exposing the invasion of Timor-Leste

2008

- **July** – Truth Commission blames Indonesia for human rights violations in run-up to Timor-Leste's independence in 1999 and urges it to apologise – President Yudhoyono expresses "deep regrets" but no apology

2009

- **Aug.** – President Ramos-Horta dismisses an Amnesty International report accuses the government of failing to provide justice to those who suffered during the 1999 violence. He acknowledges failure to address poverty

2012

- **Nov.** – Hundreds of Australian soldiers pull out of Timor-Leste
- **Dec.** – UN end its peacekeeping mission

2014

- **Dec.** – Timor-Leste accuses Australian intelligence of bugging its cabinet meetings to gain an advantage in the 2004 oil and gas negotiations. Ties are heavily strained

2016

- **Sept.** – The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague takes up the decade-long maritime border dispute between Australia and Timor-Leste over lucrative oil and gas reserves in the Timor Sea.

2017

- **Jan.** – Australia indicates it will accept Timor-Leste's move to withdraw arrangements defining their maritime border
- **May** – Former independence fighter Francisco Guterres is sworn in as president
- **Sept.** – Australia and Timor-Leste reach a breakthrough agreement on their maritime border, ending a decade-old row

2018

- **March** – Australia and Timor-Leste sign a historic treaty drawing their maritime boundaries, opening a new chapter in their relations

2019

- **Aug.** – on the 20th anniversary of Timor-Leste's independence referendum, Australia offers to refurbish a naval base, fund a concept design for a larger, upgraded base and assist in bringing high-speed internet to the country – some say it is an attempt to undercut increasing Chinese aid to poor but resource rich Pacific nations