Philippines

- **1898:** U.S. troops stationed here since colonization of the Philippines in the Spanish-American War

- **1945-1953:** US military fights leftist forces (Huks). Huks called for land reform and removal of US bases, and were made up largely of peasants and former fighters against the Japanese invaders during WWII. Under close supervision of Pentagon and CIA, Philippine armed forces defeated guerrilla revolt in 1953. The suppression of domestic dissent became the main task of the Philippine Army in its formative years under US supervision, and has remained so ever since.

- **1946:** Washington agreed to Philippine independence under terms permitting the re-establishment of US economic influence and military bases. Bases were important element in US Cold War policy in Asia, used for operations in Indonesia, Viet Nam, China and others.

- **1965-1986: Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship** supported by successive US governments. In the late 1960s, trade union, peasant, student, and nationalist movements were growing and demonstrating against the use of Philippine bases to support US intervention in Viet Nam. In September 1972, Marcos established martial law (with the agreement of President Richard Nixon) and brought the Philippine military into direct rule. Parliament is suspended, opposition politicians arrested, censorship imposed. Marcos supports US in Viet Nam and US helps him fight Filipino insurgents. New constitution gives Marcos absolute powers. The military dictatorship proceeded to suppress popular challenges to the status quo, including US bases. In 1980s, Marcos gives Ronald Reagan millions of dollars for election campaigns.

- **1983:** Opposition leader Benigno Aquino returns to Philippines, but is shot dead as he leaves his plane. The military is blamed for the murder, but not convicted until 1990, after Marcos gone.

- **1986:** Corazon Aquino, Benigno's widow, runs against Marcos who declares himself the winner. Mass protests in Manila, dubbed **"People Power."** Military withdraws support for Marcos. New government claims Marcos looted billions of dollars. US takes Marcos to safety in Hawaii. Under Aquino human rights abuses continue and dictates of the US are still followed.

- **1989:** US jets assist Philippine government forces in suppressing an attempted coup.

- **1991:** The nationalist people's movement convinces the Philippine Senate not to extend the treaty on the US military bases. The US has to vacate two of its largest overseas bases in 1992.

- **1992:** Privatization, deregulation and liberalization key to new economic policy. Successive governments sign any multilateral or bilateral treaties endorsed or demanded by US, turning a country that exported food into food importer, causing loss of a million agriculture-related jobs.

- **2002:** War on international terrorism excuse for vastly increased military cooperation between the US and the Philippines. Thus US able to reestablish a huge military presence in the region denied it by the base closures in 1991-2.