Timeline of key events in cross-Strait relations

1683 – Qing empire annexes Taiwan, previously divided among Taiwan's Indigenous peoples, European and Chinese settlers. Ruled as a prefecture of Fujian Province until Taiwan Province established in 1887.

1895 – Taiwan is ceded to Japan after the First Sino-Japanese War.

1945 – Republic of China (ROC) assumes administration of Taiwan after Japan's defeat.

1947 – 228 Incident, Kuomintang (KMT) troops kill tens of thousands of anti-government protestors, starting the White Terror period during which thousands were killed.

1949 – People's Republic of China (PRC) founded, KMT evacuates to Taiwan. UN recognises ROC as sole legitimate representative of China. Martial law is imposed from 1949 to 1987.

1954 – First Taiwan Strait Crisis, PRC seizes ROC controlled islands.

1958 – Second Taiwan Strait Crisis, PRC shells ROC controlled islands.

1971 – UN recognises the PRC as the legitimate representative of China, expelling the ROC.

1972 – Shanghai Communique, US acknowledges that there is one China and Taiwan is part of China; US commits to peaceful settlement of the Taiwan issue by "the Chinese themselves".

1979 – US-PRC Joint Communique, recognises the PRC and not the ROC as the sole government of China. US agrees to maintain only unofficial relations with Taiwan.

1979 – US passes Taiwan Relations Act, which provides a legal basis for unofficial US-Taiwan relations and provides commitments to Taiwan's security and support through arms sales.

1982 – US-PRC Joint Communique, declares US intent to gradually decrease arm sales to Taiwan. US Six Assurances policy promises to continue US support to Taiwan.

1987 – Martial law lifted, visits by Taiwanese to family members in the mainland allowed.

1992 – Meetings between PRC and ROC working officials result in the 1992 Consensus.

1995-96 – Third Taiwan Strait Crisis, PRC conducts missile tests in the Taiwan Strait before Taiwan's first presidential election. In 1996 KMT candidate Lee Teng-hui is elected president.

2000 – Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Chen Shui-bian elected president, ending 50 years of KMT rule.

2005 – PRC Anti-Secession Law stipulates force against Taiwan if independence is declared.

2006 – President Chen rescinds inauguration pledge by scrapping the declared National Unification Council.

2008 – KMT's Ma Ying-jeou elected president. Taiwan and PRC restart official dialogue.

2014 – Sunflower Student Movement, students occupy the parliament and halt the enforcement of the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement.

2015 – Ma Ying-jeou meets Xi Jinping in Singapore, the first ever cross-Strait leaders meeting.

2016 – DPP candidate Tsai Ing-wen elected president.

2020 – Tsai Ing-wen re-elected president with a record number of votes.