

Chronology

1945:	Pogroms against the Igbo, one of Nigeria's three main ethnic groups, in Jos; hundreds of casualties
1953	Pogroms against the Igbo in Kano; hundreds of casualties
1 st October 1960	Nigeria's independence
1 st October 1963	The country becomes a federal Republic with three regions: North, East and West. Nnamdi Azikiwe, an Igbo, becomes President
December 1964	Elections. Tafawa Balewa, a Hausa{ XE "Hausa" }, is re-elected Prime Minister
14-15 January 1966	Military coup led by Major Nzeogwu (Igbo). Aguiyi Ironsi, an Igbo, becomes Head of State
May-June 1966	New pogroms against the Igbo in the north: more than 30,000 casualties. The Igbo flee to the East
29 July 1966	Counter-coup: Ironsi is killed and Yakubu Gowon,{ XE "Gowon, Yakubu" } from a northern Christian minority, takes over as Head of State
18-24 September 1966	New pogroms against the Igbo throughout the federation. More than 20,000 casualties. New Igbo exodus
4-5 January 1967	The military high command meets in Aburi, Ghana, to sign an agreement and end the violence. Gowon will later reject this agreement on the Brits' advice
26 May 1967	Nigeria is divided into twelve States. The Eastern Region{ XE "Eastern Region" } votes to secede. Gowon proclaims a state of emergency
30 May 1967	The Eastern Region{ XE "Eastern Region" } declares its independence under the name of Biafra and chooses Enugu{ XE "Enugu" } ¹ as its capital. The Regional governor, Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu,{ XE "Ojukwu, Emeka Odumegwu" } becomes Biafra's Head of State
June 1967	Biafra organises its civil defence
6 July 1967	Oil companies operating on the eastern coast decide to do business with Biafra. Nigerian forces launch the offensive against Biafra

¹ Enugu{ XE "Enugu" }, an old colonial town in the north of Igboland{ XE "Igboland" }, was built in 1912 to facilitate the exploitation of coal mines. In 1967, it was the capital of the Eastern Region.

14 July 1967	Fall of Nsukka{ XE "Nsukka" }. The Nigerian army plunders the university
26 July 1967	Fall of Port-Harcourt{ XE "Port-Harcourt" }, main Biafran port on the Atlantic, and of Bonny island
29 July 1967	Major Nzeogwu, one of the Biafran officers, is killed on the Nsukka{ XE "Nsukka" } front
9 – 21 August 1967	Biafran offensive on the Midwest and West. The Biafran army is stopped at Ore, in Ondo State, between Benin and Lagos
22 September 1967	The Nigerian army recovers all territories lost in August
26 September 1967	Biafra's capital, Enugu{ XE "Enugu" }, is bombed
4 October 1967	Fall of Enugu{ XE "Enugu" }
19 October 1967	Fall of the coastal port of Calabar
31 March 1968	Fall of Onitsha{ XE "Onitsha" }, an international market and main port on the Niger. Battle of Abagana, the only great Biafran victory on its own territory: 6 000 Nigerian casualties and 1000 Biafran dead
April 1968	300 Biafran civilians killed in Onitsha{ XE "Onitsha" } cathedral
12 April 1968	Tanzania{ XE "Tanzania" } recognises Biafra
8 May 1968	Gabon{ XE "Gabon" } recognises Biafra
14 May 1968	Ivory Coast{ XE "Ivory Coast" } recognises Biafra
19 May 1968	Fall of Port-Harcourt{ XE "Port-Harcourt" }
20 May 1968	Zambia{ XE "Zambia" } recognises Biafra
June 1968	Federal troops move closer to the last three Biafran towns: Owerri{ XE "Owerri" }, Umuahia{ XE "Umuahia" } and Aba{ XE "Aba" }
31 July 1968	General de Gaulle calls for Biafra's autodetermination
17 September 1968	Aba{ XE "Aba" } and Owerri{ XE "Owerri" } in the hands of Nigerians
23 September 1968	First French arms shipment to Biafra
1 st October 1968	Fall of Okigwe
December 1968	In Biafra, some 14, 000 people die every day (info CICR ²)
22 march 1969	Haiti recognises Biafra

² The International Committee of the Red Cross{ XE "Red Cross" }

22 April 1969	Fall of Umuahia{ XE "Umuahia" }, Biafra's interim capital
25 April 1969	the Biafran army retakes Owerri{ XE "Owerri" }
December 1969	Four major Nigerian attacks
9 January 1970	The Nigerian army recaptures Owerri{ XE "Owerri" }
11 January 1970	Biafra's Head of State takes refuge in Ivory Coast{ XE "Ivory Coast" }. Fall of Uli, Biafra's last air-strip, and cease-fire
12 January 1970	Biafra surrenders
1 st October 1982	President Shehu Shagari grants Ojukwu his pardon and allows him to come back from exile
29 May 2000	President Obasanjo commutes to retirement the dismissal of all military personnel who fought on the Biafran side during the civil war
8 September 2005	'Biafran' riots in Onitsha{ XE "Onitsha" }, involving the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra{ XE " Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra " } (MASSOB) and the Anambra Vigilance Services (AVS). These events follow a new wave of massacres triggered by the national census and the preparation of the 2007 elections. Killings spread from Anambra State to Ebonyi, Edo, Delta and Imo States, reach Abuja, the federal capital, and continue for several months
15 January 2008	The 63 survivors from the group of Nigerian soldiers who had joined Biafran forces in 1967 receive their veteran pension and the pardon of the Head of State
23 August 2020	At least two officers and up to 21 civilians were killed in a clash between Nigerian security forces and members of the separatist group the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the city of Enugu, Nigeria. While the final number of casualties and wounded has not yet been confirmed, viral videos posted online show some victims of the clash. IPOB has called for retaliation for what they call the murder of their people, while police maintain that they only reacted once IPOB members shot first.

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