

GLOBAL HORIZONS



A communications platform for MIA's Protocol and International Affairs Division

JUNE 2026

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ABOUT US

The core mission of MIA's Protocol and International Affairs Division is to *facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries, and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.*

Contact

Tel: + 1 (305) 876-7457

Email: Protocol@FlyMIA.com

URL: https://www.iFlyMIA.com/protocol_international_affairs.asp

For comments, suggestions, event announcements, or to opt out, please email us.



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Republic of Cabo Verde “The Green Cape”



Head of State: José Maria Neves
Head of Government: Francisco Carvalho
Capital: Praia
Population: Approximately 520,500 (2026 est.)
Independence: July 5, 1975, from Portugal.

Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) is a volcanic archipelago made up of 10 islands located about 500 kilometers off the west coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean. Although the country has limited natural resources and only about 10% of its land is arable, it has emerged as one of Africa’s most stable democracies and fastest-growing tourism economies. Since the 1990s, tourism and services have helped transform Cabo Verde into a middle-income nation, with tourism accounting

for roughly one-quarter of the country’s GDP.

After gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, Cabo Verde developed a reputation for peaceful democratic governance and political stability. The country has experienced orderly transitions of power between its two main political parties — the African Party for the Independence of Cabo Verde (PAICV) and the Movement for Democracy (MpD). In May 2026, the PAICV won parliamentary elections, positioning party leader Francisco Carvalho — the former mayor of Praia — to become the country’s next prime minister after a decade of MpD rule.

Tubarões Azuis (the Blue Sharks) have made history as Cape Verde’s men’s national football team as they clinched qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, becoming one of the tournament’s most compelling storylines. As one of only nine African nations to qualify, Cabo Verde has captured global attention and holds the unique distinction of being the only African team to play a group-stage match in Miami, Florida. Their Group H clash with Uruguay on June 21, 2026, was a 2-2 draw at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, a landmark fixture that brought the Blue Sharks to one of the world’s most vibrant football communities. For Cabo Verde, a nation defined by resilience and rising football ambition, stepping onto the pitch in Miami marked not only their first-ever World Cup appearance but also a powerful symbol of pride, progress, and possibility.

Facts about Cabo Verde

The archipelago was uninhabited until Portuguese explorers discovered the islands in the 15th century, making it one of the few African nations without an Indigenous population before European settlement.

The islands became an important center for Atlantic trade routes during the Age of Exploration because of their strategic location between Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

Cabo Verde is internationally known for its music, especially morna, a soulful musical style popularized worldwide by legendary singer Cesária Évora, often called the “Barefoot Diva.”

The country’s highest point is Pico do Fogo, an active volcano rising nearly 9,300 feet above sea level on Fogo Island.

Despite its dry climate and limited farmland, Cabo Verde has made major advances in renewable energy and aims to generate 100% of its electricity from renewables by 2040.

Tourism is one of Cabo Verde’s economic engines, attracting more than 1 million visitors annually to its beaches, volcanic landscapes, and Creole culture.

The nation is recognized for its strong commitment to democracy, education, and social development, and is frequently ranked among Africa’s most politically stable countries. The nation’s steady advancement reflects the determination, creativity, and unity of its people. Together, these elements highlight Cabo Verde’s ongoing growth and strong cultural identity. We extend our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Livia Ballou for her valuable contribution to this report.



U. Desmond Alufohai
Division Director II
Protocol & International Affairs Division

June is a month of celebration, global connection, and international engagement. In this edition, we proudly feature Cabo Verde, a nation renowned for its rich cultural heritage, resilience, and contributions to the global African diaspora. As we celebrate Cabo Verde’s unique history and traditions, we are reminded of the importance of cultural exchange and the enduring ties that connect communities across continents.

This month also marked the beginning of one of the world’s most anticipated sporting events, the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which officially kicked off on June 11. As Miami hosted its first World Cup match on June 15, we were proud to welcome the thousands of fans, athletes, officials, media representatives, and visitors who traveled through our region and Miami International Airport. We look forward to continuing showcasing Miami’s renowned hospitality and cultural diversity while supporting a safe, memorable, and successful tournament for all participants and guests.

We are also delighted to welcome Mr. David Bressler as the new Federal Security Director for the Transportation Security Administration (FSD) at MIA and Ms. Ekaterina Stepanenko as the newest Airport Protocol Officer in the Protocol and International Affairs Division. Their addition strengthens our commitment to excellence in service and international engagement.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt greetings to all nations celebrating their Independence Days and National Days during June. These observances remind us of the shared values of freedom, unity, and national pride that continue to bring people together around the world.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS

The 5th World Protocol Matters Conference in Budapest: Advancing a Global Profession



As one of the distinguished panelists at the Budapest Conference, Mr. U. Desmond Alufohai articulated his position with notable clarity, offering a pointed emphasis on the important issues under deliberation.

From May 11–15, 2026, protocol professionals, diplomats, government officials, academics, and practitioners from more than 45 countries gathered in the historic city of Budapest, Hungary, for the 5th Annual World Protocol Matters Conference. Hosted in one of Europe's most culturally rich capitals, the conference served as a premier international forum for examining the evolving role of protocol in diplomacy, government, international organizations, airports, academia, and the private sector.

The conference theme focused on the growing importance of protocol as a strategic tool for fostering international cooperation, promoting intercultural understanding, and facilitating effective engagement in an increasingly interconnected world. Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and networking sessions, delegates explored emerging trends, best practices, and contemporary challenges facing the profession. Discussions highlighted the expanding responsibilities of protocol practitioners in an

era marked by geopolitical shifts, rapid technological change, and heightened expectations for professionalism, inclusivity, and cultural intelligence.

A significant outcome of the conference was the collective commitment to continue elevating protocol as a recognized professional discipline. Delegates reaffirmed their support for ongoing efforts to secure international recognition of May 11 as World Protocol Day, a milestone that would acknowledge the vital contributions of protocol professionals to diplomacy, governance, international relations, and global engagement. Participants also emphasized the importance of advancing protocol education through standardized curricula, academic research, professional certification, and training programs to prepare the next generation of practitioners.

The conference further reinforced the value of global collaboration among protocol offices and professional associations. Attendees shared innovative approaches to managing high-level visits, state ceremonies, major international events, airport protocol operations, and diplomatic engagement. The exchange of ideas and experiences strengthened professional networks and fostered new partnerships that will continue to benefit institutions and communities around the world.

As the conference concluded, delegates departed Budapest with a renewed sense of purpose and a shared vision for the future of the profession. The 5th World Protocol Matters Conference demonstrated that protocol is far more than ceremonial practice; it is an essential instrument of diplomacy, relationship-building, and international cooperation. The resolutions adopted in Budapest underscore a collective determination to elevate standards, expand professional development opportunities, and ensure that protocol continues to serve as a bridge connecting nations, cultures, and people across the globe.



Meet the New TSA Federal Security Director (FSD) at MIA



Mr. David Bressler is the new Federal Security Director (FSD) for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), where he leads security operations at Miami International Airport (MIA), a Category X airport and one of the nation's busiest, employing over 1,800 TSA personnel.

With more than 23 years of public service, Mr. Bressler has deep expertise in managing complex security operations and responding to evolving threats across the transportation sector. In his senior leadership role, he oversees a comprehensive range of air, surface, and cargo security initiatives, ensuring the protection of the traveling public and critical infrastructure.

Mr. Bressler is widely recognized for his commitment to operational excellence, the enhancement of security protocols, and his ability to foster strategic partnerships with government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and local communities. He has a strong track record of leading large-scale teams and managing resources across diverse geographic regions, consistently ensuring the effective implementation of TSA policies and procedures.

A champion of innovation, Mr. Bressler leverages data analytics, emerging technologies, and forward-thinking strategies to improve performance and security outcomes. He spearheaded the creation of TSA's Human Capital Community of Practice, a national platform that serves as a central resource hub for HR professionals across the agency.

In addition to his operational leadership, Mr. Bressler plays a critical role in crisis response, having successfully led multiple efforts in high-stakes security incidents and real-world emergencies. He is adept at coordinating across federal, state, and local agencies under pressure, maintaining a steadfast focus on mission success.

Mr. Bressler's leadership philosophy is grounded in integrity, adaptability, and strategic vision. He is passionate about building high-performing teams, mentoring future leaders, and cultivating a culture of accountability and excellence throughout TSA. As a trusted advisor to senior government officials, he also helps develop national policy initiatives that advance transportation security nationwide. His contributions have been recognized through multiple accolades, including the South Florida Federal Executive Board's *Federal Employee of the Year* award.

New Airport Protocol Officer



The Protocol and International Affairs Division is pleased to announce the addition of **Ms. Ekaterina Stepanenko**, who joined the Protocol team on June 22, 2026. Ms. Stepanenko brings a distinguished blend of international experience, aviation expertise, and a strong commitment to public service. Originally from Siberia, Russia, she

immigrated to the United States two decades ago and now contributes her global perspective and service-driven approach to her role as Airport Protocol Officer.

Ms. Stepanenko began her tenure with the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) in 2024 as a Landside Officer. During this time, she demonstrated exemplary professionalism, dedication, and a sincere passion for community engagement. Her ability to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds, foster positive interactions, and cultivate meaningful relationships has been a defining strength throughout her career. These qualities, combined with her multicultural background and strong interpersonal skills, make her an asset to the Protocol and International Affairs Division.

Prior to joining MDAD, Ms. Stepanenko spent more than a decade with Swissport Inc., serving as a Passenger Service Agent and later as a Lead Passenger Service Agent. In these roles, she supported several major international airlines at Miami International Airport, gaining extensive experience in customer relations, operational coordination, and assisting passengers from a wide range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Ms. Stepanenko's academic background includes studies in Economics at Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University in Russia and in Business Administration at Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida. She remains committed to continuing her education as she advances her career in aviation. She is fluent in English and Russian and is actively enhancing her Spanish language proficiency.

Beyond her professional responsibilities, Ms. Stepanenko enjoys spending time with her two children, traveling, and exploring new destinations. She has a strong interest in history and nature and values opportunities to discover unique places and cultures. A lifelong learner with an energetic and inquisitive spirit, she also enjoys trivia, board games, pickleball, paddleboarding, and maintaining an active lifestyle. Her enthusiasm, curiosity, and dedication to service reflect the values that guide both her personal and professional endeavors.

BRIEFS AND NOTES

Fathers' Day: A Journey Through Time and Cultures

[Father's Day](#), observed annually on the third Sunday of June, is a heartfelt occasion to honor the diverse roles of fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, and all father figures who contribute to the lives of their families and communities. Father's Day, as we know it today, is a heartfelt celebration of fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. But its history is far from uniform; it is a tapestry woven from traditions across continents, shaped by religion, culture, and evolving social values.

The earliest roots of honoring fathers can be traced back to Catholic Europe. Since the Middle Ages, many Catholic countries have celebrated fatherhood on March 19, the Feast of Saint Joseph, Mary's husband and the earthly father of Jesus. In countries like Spain, Portugal, and Italy, Saint Joseph's Day remains a day of family gatherings, church services, and expressions of gratitude toward fathers.

In the United States, the modern version of Father's Day began in the early 20th century. Inspired by Mother's Day, [Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington](#), sought to honor her father, a Civil War veteran who raised six children alone. The first official Father's Day in the U.S. was celebrated on June 19, 1910. Over the decades, the idea spread, and in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed it into law as a national holiday, observed on the third Sunday in June.

From there, the tradition traveled and transformed. In [Canada](#) and the United Kingdom, Father's Day is also celebrated on the third Sunday in June, often with family meals, cards, and small gifts. In Canada, it's one of the busiest dining days of the year, with brunch outings, outdoor activities like fishing or hiking, and special restaurant menus. In Australia and New Zealand, however, the holiday falls on the first Sunday in September, coinciding with the start of spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

In Germany, Father's Day, known as Vatertag, is celebrated on Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter. Traditionally, men would embark on hiking trips, pulling wagons filled with beer and regional food, blending religious observance with spirited social outings.

In Thailand, Father's Day is celebrated on December 5, the birthday of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who was deeply revered as the "Father of the Nation." People wear yellow, the King's color, and present fathers with canna flowers, a symbol of masculinity.

In Brazil, Father's Day (Dia dos Pais) is celebrated on the second Sunday in August, chosen to honor Saint Joachim, the father of the Virgin Mary. Families gather for large meals, and children often prepare handmade gifts.

In Russia, the holiday has military origins. Known as Defender of the Fatherland Day and celebrated on February 23, it honors men who serve or have served in the armed forces, but it has evolved into a day to celebrate all men, especially fathers.

In Nepal, Father's Day, called Gokarna Aunsi, is tied to the lunar calendar and involves a ritual where children offer sweets, gifts, and prayers to their fathers, or, if their fathers have passed away, visit sacred sites to honor their memory.

In Mexico, Father's Day ("Día del Padre") is celebrated on the third Sunday of June, featuring family gatherings, school activities, and even a "[Carrera del Día del Padre](#)" fun run or half-marathon in Mexico City, promoting health and father-child bonding.

In [Japan](#), Chichi no Hi falls on the third Sunday in June. Families express gratitude with gifts like sake, ties, or handmade coupons for chores or shoulder massages.

In [South Africa](#), Father's Day is also observed on the third Sunday in June. Celebrations include family picnics, "braais" (barbecues), gifts like ties, flowers, or gourmet items, and community events such as father-focused marathons and brunches.

In Denmark, Father's Day ([Fars Dag](#)) is celebrated on June 5, coinciding with Constitution Day. Common traditions include breakfast in bed, homemade cards, and gifts of beer or chocolates.

Across the globe, the ways of celebrating differ; some are solemn and religious, others festive and playful, but the heart of the holiday remains the same: to recognize the guidance, love, and sacrifices of fathers.

From Saint Joseph's Day in Europe to beer-filled hikes in Germany, from yellow-clad celebrations in Thailand to heartfelt family meals in Brazil, Father's Day is a reminder that while cultures vary, the bond between father and child is a universal thread that ties humanity together.

Flag Day: Celebrating America's Symbol and the Stories Behind It



Each year on June 14, the United States observes Flag Day, a moment to reflect on the [history](#), tradition, and symbolism of the Stars and Stripes. While many Americans recognize the date as honoring the adoption of the first official U.S. flag in 1777, the story of Flag Day is also one of civic enthusiasm. [Bernard J. Cigrand](#), a young Wisconsin teacher, championed the idea of celebrating the flag's birthday beginning in 1885, and his dedication eventually led to national recognition when President Woodrow Wilson formally proclaimed Flag Day in 1916.

For those of us working at Miami International Airport, the [flag](#) is more than a symbol of national identity; it is a daily presence at Concourse E, on aircrafts, and in the diplomatic and protocol duties we support. The flag represents the ideals that guide our interactions with international partners: freedom, integrity, respect, and a commitment to service.

In honor of Flag Day, here are some notable pieces of [flag etiquette](#) that continue to guide [proper display](#):

- The flag should never be flown upside down except as a distress signal.
- It should not be used as clothing, advertising material, or drapery.
- It should not serve as a table covering or be used to carry or hold objects.
- While respectfully retiring the flag through burning is allowed, the flag should never be defaced.

Global Flag Facts You May Not Know

Across the world, national flags showcase remarkable stories, design quirks, and cultural symbolism. For example, the flag of [Mozambique](#) is the only national flag featuring a modern firearm, symbolizing defense and vigilance. [Libya's](#) current flag is a revival of its earlier design. Its former 1977–2011 version was famously the only national flag consisting of a single solid color with no markings. Meanwhile, the tiny nation of [Bhutan](#) features a dragon clutching jewels, representing prosperity and protection; its vivid design is deeply tied to the country's Buddhist heritage.

Some flags contain hidden symbolism that isn't immediately obvious. [Canada's flag](#), for instance, has a stylized 11-point maple leaf not because the tree has 11 points in nature, but because designers determined it created the most visually balanced outline at a distance. The [Brazilian flag](#) includes a celestial map depicting the night sky exactly as it appeared over Rio de Janeiro on November 15, 1889, the day the country became a republic, complete with 27 stars arranged according to actual astronomical positions.

Even flag proportions vary significantly. Switzerland and the Vatican City share the distinction of having the only [square national flags](#), a detail that stands out in international displays. And some nations incorporate design continuity across generations: the Union Jack, for example, embeds layers of history by combining the crosses of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Why the American Flag on Aircraft Sometimes Looks "Backward"



If you've ever noticed the American flag on the right side of an American Airlines Boeing 777 and thought it looked reversed, you're not alone. But the design is intentional and correct.

According to the U.S. Flag Code, when the flag appears on a moving vehicle, such as an airplane, it should appear to stream backward in the wind as the aircraft moves forward. This means:

- On the left side of the aircraft, the flag appears in its standard orientation.
- On the right side, the flag is reversed so that the canton (the blue field with stars) faces forward, giving the appearance of forward motion.

While this is an advisory guideline, not a legal requirement, most airlines, including American Airlines, adhere to it to maintain proper protocol and a respectful, authentic appearance. At MIA, where international visitors encounter these aircrafts daily, this

detail often becomes a point of curiosity, highlighting how deeply symbolism is embedded in aviation culture.

As we commemorate Flag Day, we celebrate both the history of the U.S. flag and the role it plays here at [Miami International Airport](#), whether greeting arriving and departing passengers, flying in front of Concourse E, or soaring proudly on the aircrafts that connect Miami to the world.

May this observance inspire us to uphold the principles the flag embodies and to carry forward its legacy of unity, respect, and national pride in all that we do.

June 11th – International Day of Play 2026



[The International Day of Play](#), celebrated annually on June 11, returns in 2026 with a renewed global commitment to protect and promote every child's right to play. The observance was formally established by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2024, recognizing play as essential to childhood development. What began as a collaborative effort among UNICEF, the LEGO Foundation, and a coalition of child-advocacy organizations has since grown into a worldwide movement.

By 2026, the day will be recognized across numerous countries, each highlighting the essential role of play in learning, well-being, and community building. UNICEF emphasizes that play builds creativity, resilience, and social skills, forming the foundation for lifelong learning. Yet children around the world face a growing [“play deficit”](#) due to shrinking public spaces, safety concerns, and increasing academic pressure.

The play deficit is the documented decline in children's opportunities for unstructured, self-directed play. Rather than just missing out on fun, children with this deficit are denied the primary "delivery system" for learning essential life skills such as emotional regulation, risk assessment, and conflict resolution.

This year's theme, "Protect play, protect childhood," underscores the need to safeguard children's time, space, and freedom to play. Cities and communities are responding with play festivals, pop-up play streets, and initiatives to expand access to safe, inclusive play environments. UNICEF's 2026 global webinar titled "Let's Celebrate the Right to Play!" on May 12th brought together representatives from 25 countries to discuss solutions and prepare for the celebration. Cities such as Nottingham, UK; Brussels, Belgium; Regensburg, Germany; Vantaa, Finland; and Boston, USA shared initiatives ranging from master plans for play to children-as-researchers projects and citywide play days. The 2026 observance also highlights the role of adults (parents, educators, caregivers, and local leaders) in nurturing play. UNESCO and UNICEF stress that play is not merely recreation but a vital component of healthy development, requiring multisectoral support. Workplaces and community organizations are joining the movement as well, promoting playful learning and family-friendly activities.

Below are a few examples of celebrations and events that will take place:

[Boston, MA - United States](#) - The City of Boston Mayor's Office of Early Childhood, along with several organizations and partners, is hosting a free public "Play Festival" featuring a variety of hands-on activities.

[New York City, NY - United States](#) - A high-level summit hosted at the UN headquarters will bring together children, Member States, and partners to champion every child's right to play and drive global commitments.

At TED World Theatre, the LEGO Group and TED will live-stream their "Play@TED" initiative to share learning curricula for educators and playful workshops to prioritize active learning spaces globally.

London, United Kingdom - *Hasbro* has teamed up with the *Spread a Smile* organization to launch interactive mobile play sessions across four major London hospitals.

Berlin, Germany - The LEGO Group collaborates with *Save the Children Germany* across 10 locations in Berlin. They specifically take over neighborhood convenience stores (*Spätis*) and local urban spaces to drop pop-up "Play Spots" focused on sports, music, and building challenges.

What makes the International Day of Play resonate globally is its universal truth: play connects us. Whether through a simple game, a shared story, or a collaborative building activity, play bridges cultures and generations. As the world marks the International Day of Play in 2026, the message is clear: protecting the right to play is an investment in healthier children, stronger communities, and a more creative, compassionate future.

As momentum grows, more governments, educators, and community organizations are recognizing that protecting play requires intentional planning and long-term investment. Cities are exploring child-friendly policies, expanding green spaces, and designing streets where children can move safely and freely.

Educators are strengthening play-based approaches that support problem-solving, communication, and emotional resilience. Nonprofit groups continue to reach underserved communities, ensuring that all children, regardless of background or ability, have opportunities to play. Together, these efforts reinforce a simple truth: when children are given room to play, they gain the skills and confidence needed to thrive throughout their lives.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JUNE 2026)

June 2, 1946 – Italy: Republic Day or Festa della Repubblica (Festival of the Republic), commemorates the day Italians voted to abolish the monarchy and replace it with a republic.

June 3, 2006 – Montenegro: In a referendum held on May 21, 2006, Montenegrins voted to end the federation with Serbia and declared independence on June 3, 2006. The Serbian parliament recognized Montenegro's independence two days later.

June 4, 1970 – Tonga: After signing the Treaty of Friendship in 1900, the Kingdom of Tonga became a protectorate of the United Kingdom. Although Tonga retained its sovereignty and continued to self-govern, foreign affairs were handled by the UK. On Emancipation Day (June 4, 1970), Tonga achieved full independence from the United Kingdom.

June 6, 1523 – Sweden: On June 6, 1523, Gustav Vasa was elected king of Sweden, marking the abolition of the Kalmar Union between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. From 1916 to 1982, the day was celebrated as Swedish Flag Day. Since 1983, June 6 has been celebrated as Sweden's National Day.

June 10, 1580 – Portugal: Portugal Day, also called Camões Day, is celebrated annually on June 10 and commemorates the day Portugal's greatest and most revered poet, Luís de Camões, passed away in 1580.

June 12, 1898 – Philippines: Although the Philippines declared independence from Spain during the Spanish-American War of 1898, Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States after the war ended. For nearly 50 years, the Philippines was a colony of the United States until achieving independence on July 4, 1946. In 1962, the date of Philippine independence was changed to June 12, 1898, honoring the day General Emilio Aguinaldo declared independence from Spain.

June 12, 1990 – Russia: Russia Day, the country's national holiday, has been celebrated annually since 1992. It commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) on June 12, 1990.

June 13, 2026 – United Kingdom: Since 1748, when King George II decided to combine his birthday celebration with an annual military parade, the 'Trooping of the Color' has marked the official birthday of the British Sovereign. Due to Britain's unpredictable weather, King George II chose to hold the parade in June, and this tradition continues today. This year, the celebration will take place on June 13th.

June 17, 1944 – Iceland: After a two-part referendum in May 1944, the union with Denmark was dissolved on June 17, 1944. The date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of Jon Sigurdsson, the leader of Iceland's 19th-century independence movement.

June 23, 1962 – Luxembourg: The celebration of the sovereign became an important patriotic public holiday during the reign of Grand Duchess Charlotte (1919- 1964). In 1962, National Day festivities were changed to June 23 to take advantage of the summer weather.

June 25, 1991 – Slovenia: The country declared independence from Yugoslavia. The declaration marked the beginning of the Ten-Day War, during which Slovenia successfully defended its sovereignty.

June 25, 1975 – Mozambique: Since Vasco da Gama came ashore in 1497, and Portuguese settlers followed in 1505, Mozambique had been part of Portugal, first as a province and then as a colony. On June 25, 1975, Mozambique attained its independence from Portugal.

June 26, 1960 – Madagascar gained independence from France.

June 27, 1977 – Djibouti: Before 1967, Djibouti was known as French Somaliland and from 1967 to 1977 as the French Territory of the Afars and Issas. When the territory gained independence from France on June 27, 1977, it was renamed Djibouti.

June 29, 1976 – Seychelles: A British crown colony since 1903, the Seychelles became an independent republic.

June 30, 1960 – Democratic Republic of Congo: The DRC gained independence from Belgium.