# The 1940s

*The West survives its worst war and builds the first computers.*

The Second World War killed tens of millions. Out of it came penicillin in mass production, radar, the jet engine, the electronic computer, the transistor and the long peace that followed.

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## What rose

1942. Chicago Pile-1, the first controlled nuclear chain reaction. Source: Chicago Pile-1

1943. Mass production of penicillin. Source: Penicillin

1946. ENIAC is unveiled. Source: ENIAC

1947. The transistor is invented at Bell Labs. Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier. Source: Transistor

1948. The Marshall Plan begins rebuilding Western Europe. Source: Marshall Plan

## What fell or stalled

The Second World War and the Holocaust: the greatest loss of life in the West's history. Source: World War II

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*Version 1, November 16, 2026. Drafted with AI from public sources and checked against the source linked for each entry. Not yet reviewed by Nicholas Niehaus. Corrections are welcome and are logged publicly.*
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