



Dylan Thomas in Context Timeline

This document presents the publication of Dylan Thomas's key works in the context of other political, literary and cultural events. Thomas's publications are shown in blue.

Year	Political Events	Significant Literary or other Cultural Events
1910-1919		
1914		
1915	Start of WWI	Dylan Thomas is born in Swansea <i>Dubliners</i> (James Joyce) <i>Des Imagistes</i> (Ezra Pound, ed.) Vorticism founded by Wyndham Lewis
1916	Stalemate on Western Front	<i>My People</i> (Caradoc Evans) <i>Cathay</i> (Pound) <i>The Rainbow</i> (D. H. Lawrence) <i>The Good Soldier</i> (Ford Madox Ford)
1917	Battles of the Somme and Verdun; enormous casualties	<i>Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> (Joyce) Dadaism in Zürich with Cabaret Voltaire Duchamp exhibits a urinal 'ready made' in New York
1918	Mutinies in French Army; Battle of Ypres USA enters WWI October revolution in Russia; Bolshevik Party seizes power	<i>Prufrock and Other Poems</i> (T. S. Eliot) <i>Poems</i> (Edward Thomas) <i>The Wild Swans at Coole</i> (W. B. Yeats)
1919	Defeat of Central Powers by Allies; armistice 11 November Death of Wilfred Owen Rutherford splits the atom	<i>Poems</i> (Gerard Manley Hopkins) <i>New Poems</i> (Lawrence) Exhibition of <i>White Square on White</i> (Visual Art, Malevich) <i>Tarr</i> (Wyndham Lewis)
	Treaty of Versailles; break-up of Austro-Hungarian Empire Influenza epidemic kills 20 million worldwide	<i>The Economic Consequences of the Peace</i> (Keynes) Bauhaus founded in Weimar <i>The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari</i> (Robert Wiene) Communist republic (March-May) in Hungary German Spartacist uprising; Rosa Luxembourg murdered by Freikorps
1920-1930		
1920		
1921	League of Nations founded	<i>Poems 1901-18</i> (Walter de la Mare) <i>Poems</i> (Wilfred Owen) <i>Hugh Selwyn Mauberley</i> (Pound) <i>Beyond the Pleasure Principle</i> (Sigmund Freud) Dada festival in Paris and exhibition in Cologne
	Independence of Irish Free State following Anglo-Irish War (1919-21) Munich 'Beer Hall putsch' by Nazi Party	<i>Women in Love</i> (Lawrence) <i>Sodome et Gomorrhe</i> (Marcel Proust) <i>Good Soldier Schweik</i> (Jaroslav Hasek)

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1922		
1923	Mussolini's march on Rome; declaration of Italian fascist state	<i>The Waste Land</i> (Eliot) <i>Ulysses</i> (Joyce) <i>Aaron's Rod</i> (Lawrence) <i>Façade</i> (Edith Sitwell) <i>Jacob's Room</i> (Virginia Woolf) <i>Baal</i> (Berthold Brecht) <i>Tristia</i> (Osip Mandelstam)
1924	Election of first British Labour Government Hyperinflation and political crisis in Germany	<i>Birds, Beasts and Flowers</i> (Lawrence) <i>Antic Hay</i> (Aldous Huxley) <i>The Ego and the Id</i> (Freud) Yeats awarded Nobel Prize for Literature
1925	Labour Government overthrown after the 'Zinoviev Letter' smear campaign German mark stabilised Death of Lenin	<i>Surrealist Manifesto</i> (Andre Breton) The review <i>Surrealist Revolution</i> founded <i>England, My England</i> (Lawrence) <i>Mein Kampf</i> (Hitler)
1926		<i>Mr Tasker's Gods</i> (Powys, T. F.) <i>A Vision</i> (Yeats) <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> (Woolf) <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (F. Scott Fitzgerald) <i>Poems 1905-25</i> ; includes <i>The Hollow Men</i> (Eliot) <i>Collected Poems</i> (Thomas Hardy) <i>Battleship Potemkin</i> (Sergei Eisenstein; film)
1927	British General Strike	<i>The Plumed Serpent</i> (Lawrence) <i>Seven Pillars of Wisdom</i> (Lawrence, T. H.) <i>Personae</i> (Pound)
1928	Kuomintang, led by General Chiang Kai-shek, crushes Chinese Communist Party First solo Atlantic flight by Lindbergh	<i>To the Lighthouse</i> (Woolf) <i>Men Without Women</i> (Ernest Hemingway) <i>The Future of an Illusion</i> (Freud)
1929	Votes for women in Britain	<i>For Lancelot Andrews</i> (Eliot) First Mickey Mouse cartoon <i>The Tower</i> (Yeats) <i>Threepenny Opera</i> (Brecht and Kurt Weill)
	Wall Street Crash; Great Depression begins	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> (William Faulkner) <i>Pansies</i> (Lawrence) <i>Goodbye to All That</i> (Robert Graves) <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> (Hemingway) <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> (Jean-Marie Remarque) <i>Un chien Andalou</i> (Film; Luis Buñuel/Salvador Dali) <i>A Room of One's Own</i> (Woolf)

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1930-1939		
1930		
1931	<p>Mass unemployment in USA and Europe Gandhi begins civil disobedience campaign in India Amy Johnson's solo flight, London to Australia Death of D. H. Lawrence</p>	<p><i>Poems</i> (W. H. Auden) <i>Ash Wednesday</i> (Eliot) <i>Draft of XXX Cantos</i> (Pound) <i>Seven Types of Ambiguity</i> (Empson) <i>Civilisation and its Discontents</i> (Freud)</p>
1932	<p>Financial crisis leads to collapse of Labour Government National Government formed by Ramsay MacDonald Britain abandons Free Trade and the gold standard Nationalist-militarist government takes power in Japan.</p>	<p><i>Frankenstein</i> (film; starring Boris Karloff)</p>
1933	<p>Oswald Mosley founds British Union of Fascists 'Bodyline' bowling tour in Australia Chadwick discovers the neutron</p>	<p><i>New Signatures</i> anthology (Michael Roberts ed.) <i>The Orators</i> (Auden) <i>Brave New World</i> (Huxley) <i>New Bearings in English Poetry</i> (F. R. Leavis)</p>
1934	<p>Hitler becomes German Chancellor Roosevelt launches New Deal in USA Rowntree's English Journey claims 36% of the population live below the poverty line</p>	<p>Odeon cinema circuit founded in Britain <i>New Country</i> anthology (Roberts ed.) <i>The Magnetic Mountain</i> (Cecil Day-Lewis) <i>Love on the Dole</i> (Walter Greenwood) <i>The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism</i> (Eliot) <i>Down and Out in Paris and London</i> (George Orwell) <i>The Invisible Man</i> (Film; James Whale) The Bauhaus closed by Nazis</p>
1935	<p>Stanley Baldwin takes over from Ramsay MacDonald as Prime Minister Peace Pledge Union founded Night of the Long Knives: Hitler purges S.A. Crushing of Vienna workers by Dollfuss government in Austria</p>	<p>Thomas publishes 18 Poems <i>Tropic of Cancer</i> (Henry Miller)</p>
1936	<p>Commons revolt over means test for the dole Italy invades Ethiopia</p>	<p>Penguin books launched by Allen Lane <i>A Short Survey of Surrealism</i> (Gascoyne) <i>A Time to Dance</i> (C. Day Lewis) <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> (Eliot) <i>The Dog Beneath the Skin</i> (Auden and Christopher Isherwood)</p>
	<p>Oswald Moseley's British Fascist Union march halted at the 'Battle of Cable Street' in London's East End Franco attacks Spanish Republic; Civil War begins First Show Trials in USSR Abdication of Edward VIII Murder of Lorca by Falange militia</p>	<p>Thomas publishes Twenty-five Poems <i>Modern Times</i> (Chaplin; film) <i>General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money</i> (G. M. Keynes) <i>Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste</i> (Bela Bartók) International Surrealist Exhibition in London <i>Look, Stranger</i> (Auden)</p>

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1937		
1938	<p>Neville Chamberlain takes over from Baldwin as Prime Minister</p> <p>Lord Halifax' visit to Hitler marks start of appeasement policy</p> <p>Communists and socialists form United Front of Britain</p> <p>Battle of the Ebro; bombing of Basque towns by Luftwaffe</p> <p>Japan invades China; 'Rape of Nanking'</p>	<p><i>The Road to Wigan Pier</i> (Orwell)</p> <p><i>Letters from Iceland</i> (Auden and Louis MacNeice)</p> <p>Exhibition of 'Degenerate Art' in Berlin by Nazis</p> <p><i>Guernica</i> (Visual Art: Pablo Picasso)</p>
1939	<p>Germany annexes Austria (Anschluss) and occupies Czech Sudetenland</p> <p>Munich Treaty (Britain and France accept German occupation of Sudetenland)</p>	<p><i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> (Walt Disney)</p> <p><i>The Death of the Heart</i> (Elizabeth Bowen)</p> <p><i>The Enemies of Promise</i> (Cyril Connolly)</p> <p><i>Goodbye to Berlin</i> (Isherwood)</p> <p><i>Rebecca</i> (Daphne du Maurier)</p>
	<p>Victory of Franco and Nationalists (Falangists) in Spain</p> <p>Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between USSR and Nazi Germany</p> <p>Germany invades Poland</p> <p>Britain and France declare war on Germany;</p> <p>World War II begins</p> <p>Conscription of 20-21 year-olds</p> <p>Evacuation from London begins</p>	<p>Thomas publishes <i>The Map of Love & The World I Breathe</i> (USA)</p> <p><i>How Green Was My Valley</i> (Richard Llewellyn)</p> <p><i>Gone with the Wind</i> (film)</p> <p><i>Finnegans Wake</i> (Joyce)</p> <p><i>Autumn Journal</i> (MacNeice)</p> <p>Deaths of W. B. Yeats and Sigmund Freud</p>
1940-1949		
1940		
1941	<p>British Army rescued from Dunkirk</p> <p>Beginning of the Blitz against British cities</p> <p>Rationing of bacon, butter and sugar</p> <p>Battle of Britain</p> <p>Assassination of Trotsky in Mexico by Stalinist agent</p>	<p>Thomas publishes <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog</i></p> <p><i>New Apocalypse</i> (Hendry and Treece, eds.)</p> <p><i>The Power and the Glory</i> (Greene)</p> <p><i>The Great Dictator</i> (Chaplin; film)</p> <p>Death of James Joyce</p>
1942	<p>Japan attacks US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour; US enters war with the Allies</p> <p>Death of James Joyce and Virginia Woolf</p> <p>Daily Worker suppressed</p> <p>Rowntree Report on poverty</p>	<p><i>The Lion and the Unicorn</i> (Orwell)</p> <p><i>Blithe Spirit</i> (Noel Coward; play)</p> <p><i>Citizen Kane</i> (Orson Welles; film)</p>
1943	<p>Battle of Midway; US forces halt Japanese expansion in Pacific</p> <p>German forces halted at Stalingrad</p> <p>Battle of El Alamein</p> <p>RAF 1,000-bomber air raid on Bremen</p> <p>First computer developed</p>	<p><i>Report on Social Security</i> (William Beveridge)</p> <p><i>Little Gidding</i> (Eliot)</p>
	<p>Overthrow of Mussolini</p> <p>Battle of Kursk</p> <p>Battle of the Coral Sea</p> <p>Teheran Conference between Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt</p>	<p>Thomas publishes <i>New Poems</i> (USA)</p> <p><i>Caught</i> (Henry Green)</p> <p><i>Notes Towards a Definition of Culture</i> (Eliot)</p> <p><i>Madonna and Child, Northampton</i> (Henry Moore; sculpture)</p> <p>Ralph Vaughan Williams Symphony No. 5 in D</p> <p><i>No Directions</i> (James Hanley)</p>

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1944		
1945	D-Day landings in Normandy German V-weapons fired at London in the 'Little Blitz' South Wales miners strike Butler Education Act	<i>Four Quartets</i> (Eliot) <i>Full Employment in a Free Society</i> (Beveridge) <i>Henry V</i> (Laurence Olivier; film)
1946	Yalta Conference Nazi concentration camps liberated by British, American and Russian armies Hitler commits suicide. Mussolini killed by partisans German surrender Atomic weapons dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; surrender of Japan Labour landslide in election	<i>Brief Encounter</i> (David Lean; film) <i>Animal Farm</i> (Orwell) <i>The Open Society and its Enemies</i> (Karl Popper) <i>Brideshead Revisited</i> (Evelyn Waugh)
1947	Nuremberg Tribunal Arts Council established Bank of England nationalised	Dylan Thomas publishes <i>Deaths and Entrances & Selected Writings</i> (USA)
1948	Coal industry nationalised Britain's first nuclear power station, at Harwell Edinburgh Festival established Indian Independence	<i>Under the Volcano</i> (Malcolm Lowry)
1949	Railways nationalised Bread rationing ends State of Israel declared Yugoslavia declares independence of Moscow Berlin Blockade; start of Cold War.	<i>Memoirs of an Aesthete</i> (Harold Acton) <i>The Lady's Not for Burning</i> (Christopher Fry) <i>Pisan Cantos</i> (Pound)
	Clothes rationing ends Iron and steel industries nationalised USSR explodes an atomic bomb Chinese Communist Party takes power under Mao Zedong NATO formed	<i>1984</i> (Orwell) <i>The Heat of the Day</i> (Bowen) <i>The Third Man</i> (Carol Reed; film)
1950-1953		
1950		
1951	Labour majority reduced at election Korean War starts (to 1953)	<i>Shane</i> (film) <i>The God That Failed</i> (Arthur Koestler, ed.) <i>Canto General</i> (Pablo Neruda) Death of George Bernard Shaw
	Bevan and Wilson resign from cabinet after health service charges imposed Election of Conservative government Execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg on espionage charges in USA Festival of Britain	Malone Dies (Samuel Beckett) Billy Budd (Benjamin Britten; opera)

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1952		
1953	<p>Churchill announces Britain has atomic bomb Accession of Queen Elizabeth II USA detonates first H-Bomb</p>	<p>Thomas publishes <i>In Country Sleep (USA)</i> & <i>Collected Poems 1934-1952</i> <i>The Anathémata</i> (David Jones) <i>The Mousetrap</i> (Agatha Christie; play)</p>
	<p>Edmund Hillary and Norkey Tenzing climb Mount Everest Death of Stalin DNA discovered by Watson and Crick USSR acquires H-Bomb</p>	<p>Thomas Dies in St. Vincent's Hospital, New York City Publication of <i>The Doctor and the Devils</i> and first performance of <i>Under Milk Wood</i> <i>The Present and the Past</i> (Ivy Compton-Burnett) <i>Hurry on Down</i> (John Wain) <i>Casino Royale</i> (Ian Fleming) <i>Writing Degree Zero</i> (Roland Barthes)</p>