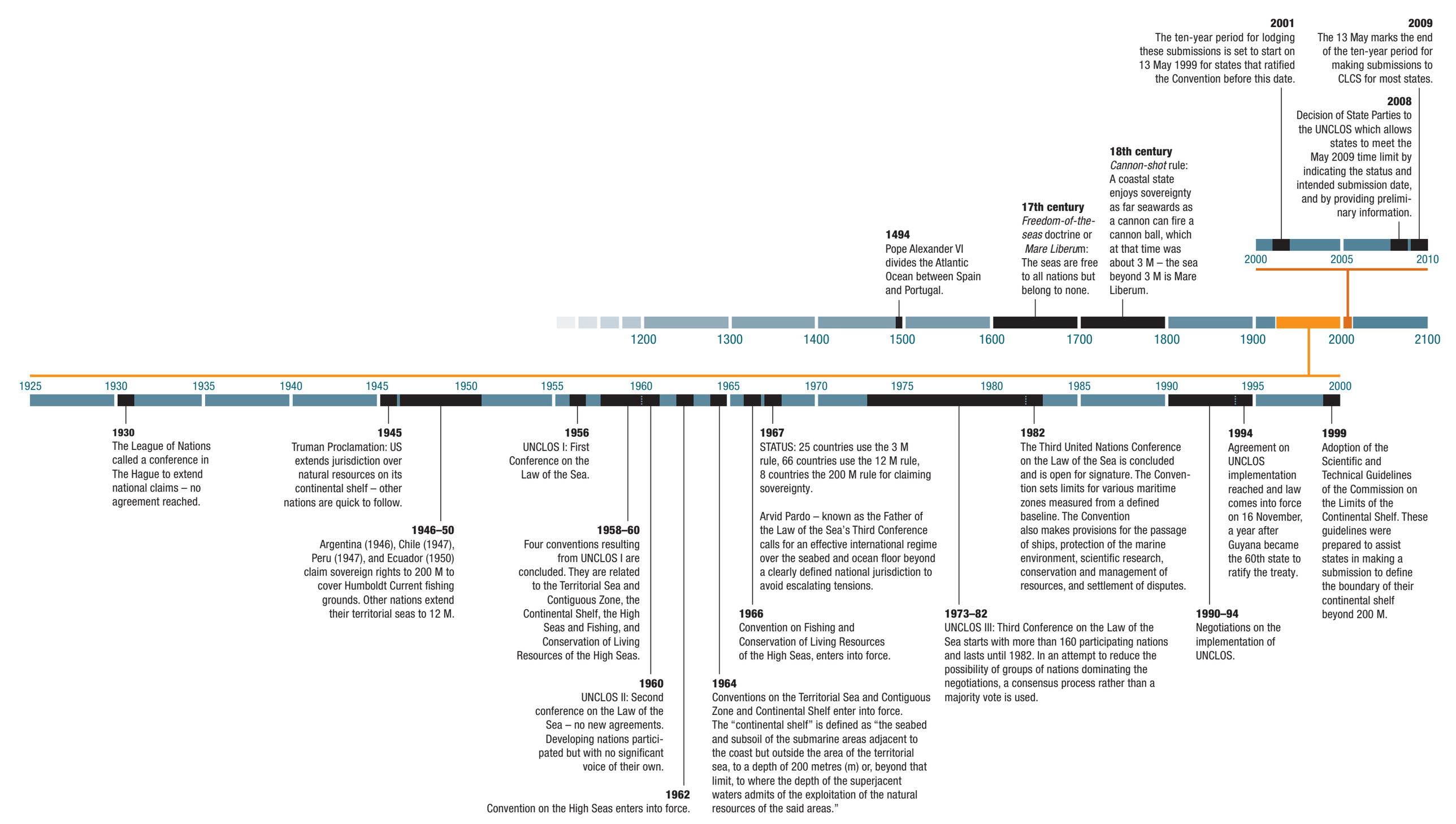

1925
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1930
The League of Nations called a conference in The Hague to extend national claims – no agreement reached.
1945
Truman Proclamation: US extends jurisdiction over natural resources on its continental shelf – other nations are quick to follow.
1946–50
Argentina (1946), Chile (1947), Peru (1947), and Ecuador (1950) claim sovereign rights to 200 M to cover Humboldt Current fishing grounds. Other nations extend their territorial seas to 12 M.
1956
UNCLOS I: First Conference on the Law of the Sea.
1958–60
Four conventions resulting from UNCLOS I are concluded. They are related to the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, the Continental Shelf, the High Seas and Fishing, and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas.
1960
UNCLOS II: Second conference on the Law of the Sea – no new agreements. Developing nations participated but with no significant voice of their own.
1962
Convention on the High Seas enters into force.
1964
Conventions on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone and Continental Shelf enter into force. The “continental shelf” is defined as “the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the coast but outside the area of the territorial sea, to a depth of 200 metres (m) or, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the superjacent waters admits of the exploitation of the natural resources of the said areas.”
1966
Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas, enters into force.
1967
STATUS: 25 countries use the 3 M rule, 66 countries use the 12 M rule, 8 countries the 200 M rule for claiming sovereignty.
Arvid Pardo – known as the Father of the Law of the Sea’s Third Conference calls for an effective international regime over the seabed and ocean floor beyond a clearly defined national jurisdiction to avoid escalating tensions.
1973–82
UNCLOS III: Third Conference on the Law of the Sea starts with more than 160 participating nations and lasts until 1982. In an attempt to reduce the possibility of groups of nations dominating the negotiations, a consensus process rather than a majority vote is used.
1982
The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea is concluded and is open for signature. The Convention sets limits for various maritime zones measured from a defined baseline. The Convention also makes provisions for the passage of ships, protection of the marine environment, scientific research, conservation and management of resources, and settlement of disputes.
1990–94
Negotiations on the implementation of UNCLOS.
1994
Agreement on UNCLOS implementation reached and law comes into force on 16 November, a year after Guyana became the 60th state to ratify the treaty.
1999
Adoption of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. These guidelines were prepared to assist states in making a submission to define the boundary of their continental shelf beyond 200 M.
1494
Pope Alexander VI divides the Atlantic Ocean between Spain and Portugal.
17th century
Freedom-of-the-seas doctrine or Mare Liberum: The seas are free to all nations but belong to none.
18th century
Cannon-shot rule: A coastal state enjoys sovereignty as far seawards as a cannon can fire a cannon ball, which at that time was about 3 M – the sea beyond 3 M is Mare Liberum.
2001
The ten-year period for lodging these submissions is set to start on 13 May 1999 for states that ratified the Convention before this date.
2008
Decision of State Parties to the UNCLOS which allows states to meet the May 2009 time limit by indicating the status and intended submission date, and by providing preliminary information.
2009
The 13 May marks the end of the ten-year period for making submissions to CLCS for most states.