

## This Week In History

Picture: Newscom



Jan 6, 1884

Austrian monk Gregor Mendel died. He pioneered the study of biological heredity and laid the mathematical foundation of the science of genetics

1929: The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia

1969: French President Charles de Gaulle imposed a total ban on arms supplies to Israel

1989: The Soviet Union rehabilitated thousands of victims of Stalin's purges

2014: A polar vortex shattered temperature records across the US and Canada, with some areas as low as -37°C, colder than Mars



Picture: Getty Images

Jan 7, 1989

Emperor Hirohito of Japan died after a 63-year reign. Head of state in WWII, he later became a symbol of the new post-war constitution and economic recovery

1610: Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei first sighted Jupiter's four largest satellite moons

1789: George Washington was nominated as the first President of the United States

1904: The shipping distress call CQD (seek you, danger) was introduced. It was replaced two years later by SOS

1979: Vietnamese forces and Cambodian rebels captured Phnom Penh and ousted the Khmer Rouge



Picture: Getty Images

Jan 8, 1889

New York scientist Dr Herman Hollerith patented the first computer; the company formed to market his device evolved into the giant IBM

2004: Iconic blue jeans maker Levi Strauss closed its last two sewing plants in the United States

2007: Belarus halted Russian oil supplies to Poland, Germany and Ukraine after a gas price row

2007: Astronomers found the first triple quasar. Quasars are thought to

be powered by supermassive black holes

2016: Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was recaptured six months after escaping from prison



Picture: Getty Images

Jan 9, 1324

Venetian explorer Marco Polo died. His epic 24-year travels through the Orient did much to introduce Europeans to Central Asia and China

1839: The daguerreotype photo process, that produced a positive image in seconds, was announced

1909: Polar explorer Ernest Shackleton was forced to turn back just 10 miles from the South Pole

2004: Libya agreed to pay US\$170mil compensation for the 1989 bombing of a French aircraft over Niger

2009: The MV Sirius Star, the biggest supertanker ever hijacked, was released with all crew unharmed

Jan 10, 1901

The modern petroleum industry was born when oil was first discovered in Texas. The Lucas Gusher heralded the start of exploration on a grand scale

Picture: Getty Images



1929: Cartoon reporter Tintin and his dog Snowy first appeared in a Brussels newspaper

1994: Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan agreed to abolish trade tariffs and form a common market

1997: The West African nation of Benin declared Jan 10 a national voodoo holiday

2010: China took over the mantle of the world's largest exporting nation, pushing Germany from the top spot



Picture: Newscom

Jan 11, 2011

China successfully tested its new Chengdu J-20 Black Eagle stealth fighter jet, underscoring a growing military rivalry with the United States

1569: The draw for prizes in Britain's first national lottery began under a royal proclamation issued by Elizabeth I

1994: The Irish government ended a 20-year broadcasting ban on the IRA and its political arm Sinn Fein

2014: Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon died at the age of 85 after eight years in a coma following a stroke

2015: Over 3 million people marched for unity in France after the attack on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo



Picture: Newscom

Jan 12, 1966

Batman, assisted by his epithet-prone sidekick Robin, winged his way from comic books to the small screen as the show premiered on US television

1875: Kwang-su, penultimate Emperor of China, came to the throne when he was only four years old

1964: One month after Zanzibar achieved independence, the government was overthrown in a coup

1967: Dr James Bedford became the first person to be cryopreserved after death, with the hope of resuscitation

2001: The birth of the first genetically-engineered primate was reported by Science magazine

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Picture: Associated Press

Jan 27, 1967

US astronauts Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee died in a flash fire aboard Apollo 1 during a simulated launch at Cape Canaveral

1948: The first magnetic tape recorder was introduced in the United States, although it was invented in Germany before WWII

1994: Lithuania became the first former Soviet republic to join NATO's Partnership for Peace

2011: The Yemeni Revolution began as 16,000 protestors demonstrated in Sana'a against the government

2018: Ingvar Kamprad, founder of the Swedish furniture retailer Ikea, died at age 91



Picture: Newscom

Jan 28, 814

Charlemagne, King of the Franks and the first Holy Roman Emperor, died. He united most of western and central Europe for the first time since the Roman Empire

1944: General de Gaulle made his landmark appeal for a new relationship between France and black Africa

1958: Lego patented bricks using a special plastic to give the versatile interlocking brick still in use today

1999: The Ford Motor Company announced it was to buy Sweden's Volvo car division for US\$6.45bil

2011: Brazil's president pledged to build 8,000 houses for people made homeless by recent flooding



Picture: Getty Images

Jan 29, 2005

China and Taiwan resumed the first direct commercial flights since 1949, when Mao Zedong took control of China and Chiang Kai-shek retreated to Taiwan

1949: Britain officially recognised the state of Israel, established by Israel's declaration of independence in 1948

1999: Serb forces carried out another massacre of civilians in Kosovo

2004: A woman in Gujarat, India, gave birth to her own twin grandchildren, acting as a surrogate for her daughter



Pic: Newscom

Jan 30, 1649

England became a republic when King Charles I was beheaded for treason during the English Civil War. The monarchy was restored in 1660

1934: A Soviet hydrogen-filled balloon with a crew of three reached an altitude of 22,000 metres

1969: The Beatles performed live for the last time on the roof of the Apple building in Savile Row, London

1979: White Rhodesians voted in favour of a new constitution aimed at black majority rule

2009: The transitional government of Somalia collapsed after Al-Shabaab militants captured Baidoa



Pic: Getty Images

Jan 31, 1929

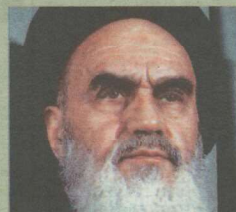
Marxist revolutionary Leon Trotsky, founder of the Red Army, was expelled from the Soviet Union after losing a power struggle against Josef Stalin

1908: The Count Of Monte Cristo, the first movie made in California, was released

1994: German automobile firm BMW purchased the Rover group, Britain's last independent mass car-maker

1999: Scientists confirmed that the HIV virus originated in a subspecies of chimpanzee found in central Africa

2009: Moderate Islamist leader Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed was elected president of Somalia



Pic: Getty Images

Feb 1, 1979

Ayatollah Khomeini, spiritual leader of the Iranian Revolution, returned to Tehran after more than 14 years in exile spent mostly in the holy Shia city of Najaf, in Ira

1944: DNA was accidentally identified as the hereditary agent in a virus by scientists monitoring pneumonia

2009: Japan Airlines made the first successful test flight of a Boeing 747-300 partly powered by biofuel

2009: Kirill I was officially enthroned as Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, following the death of Alexiy II

2014: The Mumbai Monorail, India's first monorail since independence, was officially inaugurated



Pic: Associated Press

Feb 2, 1971

Major General Idi Amin took over as military head of state in Uganda. Over 100,000 people are believed to have been killed during his eight-year regime

1709: Alexander Selkirk, inspiration for Robinson Crusoe, was rescued after five years on an uninhabited island

1990: South African president F.W. de Klerk lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress party

2004: The Hubble telescope detected oxygen and carbon in the atmosphere of a distant gas-giant planet, Osiris

2009: An appeal for emergency relief in Gaza was launched after weeks of fighting between Hamas and Israel

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