ON THIS DAY

▲ **2008: Dmitry Medvedev won a landslide election victory to become President of Russia. His predecessor Vladimir Putin became prime minister**

1717: *The Loves of Mars and Venus* became the first ballet staged in Britain

1801: The War of the Oranges between Spain and Portugal began

1962: In Burma the army led by Ne Win seized power in a coup, ousting Prime Minister U Nu

1997: A state of emergency was declared in Albania amid widespread unrest triggered by the collapse of pyramid investment schemes

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