ON THIS DAY

▲ **1940:** Constantine, former king of Greece, was born. He is 70 today

1780: The Gordon riots broke out in London in protest against Parliament's plans to ease restrictions on Catholics

1932: New Zealand engineer Major Frank Holmes first struck oil in Bahrain

1997: Nigerian warships bombarded Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone, in an attempt to restore constitutional rule following a military coup

2009: China blocked access to such websites as Twitter and Hotmail ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre

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