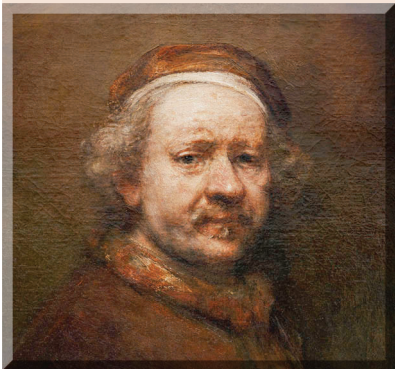


Thursday, July 15

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1606:** Rembrandt van Rijn, one of the great Dutch master painters, was born in Leiden in the Netherlands

1869: Margarine was patented in Paris by Hippolyte Mege Mouries

1968: The first direct air services between the U.S. and Soviet Union began from New York and Moscow, operated by Aeroflot and Pan Am

1980: The British government opted to replace the ageing Polaris with the U.S. Trident nuclear missile system

2009: China's foreign exchange reserves reached a record \$2.13 trillion, more than twice the size of the second-biggest holder, Japan