

**Monday, August 30**

# ON THIS DAY



▲ **2009:** The Democratic Party of Japan, under Yukio Hatoyama, won a landslide election victory, ending over five decades of near unbroken rule by the Liberal Democratic Party

**30BC:** Egypt's most famous queen, Cleopatra, committed suicide, allegedly by allowing an asp to bite her breast

**1901:** Scotsman Hubert Cecil Booth patented the vacuum cleaner

**1963:** A direct telephone "hot line" came into operation between the White House and the Kremlin

**2001:** East Timor held its first democratic elections since throwing off 23 years of Indonesian rule