

A photograph showing four men walking outdoors. From left to right: a man in a dark suit and sunglasses, a man in a dark suit and blue tie, a young man in a green Israeli military uniform (Gilad Shalit), and a man in a light blue military uniform with a red beret. They are walking on a paved surface with a yellow building in the background.

## Today in History

*October 18, 2011*

▲ **Gilad Shalit, a 25 year-old Israeli soldier, kidnapped in 2006 and held captive in Gaza for more than five years, was freed in exchange for 1,000 Palestinian prisoners**

**1867:** The United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million, or approximately two cents an acre

**1871: British mathematician Charles Babbage, who pioneered the forerunner of the computer, died**

**1922:** The British Broadcasting Company, better known as the BBC, officially came into being

**1961: The film version of West Side Story was released and went on to win 10 Academy Awards**