

A close-up portrait of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, smiling and wearing a white ghutra and black agal. The image is framed with a dark border.

## Today in History

*January 1, 1996*

▲ **King Fahd of Saudi Arabia handed management of government affairs to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, following a stroke**

**1863:** U.S. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves

**1962:** The Beatles failed an audition for Decca Records because “groups of guitars are on the way out”

**1993:** Czechoslovakia ceased to exist, splitting into separate Czech and Slovak republics

**2003:** Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, sworn in as president of Brazil, promised “a new style of government”