



# Today in History

*January 19, 1813*

▲ **Sir Henry Bessemer was born. A prodigious inventor, he is remembered for his process to remove impurities and create steel inexpensively**

**1853:** The first performance of Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Il Trovatore* took place in Rome

**1915:** A U.S. patent was issued to George Claude of Paris for luminescent tubes which led to the neon sign

**2003:** China's historic Yuzhengong Palace was destroyed by fire

**2009:** Russia devalued the rouble for the sixth time in 2009 to reflect the sharp decrease in the price of oil