



## Today in History

*February 19, 2008*

▲ After 49 years in office, Cuba's ailing leader Fidel Castro resigned as President and Commander and was succeeded by his younger brother, Raul

**1800:** Napoleon Bonaparte established himself as First Consul in France

**1977:** Deep-ocean researchers discovered worms around geothermal vents that relied on bacteria oxidizing hydrogen sulphide rather than sunlight

**2006:** A methane explosion in the Pasta de Conchos coal mine in the Mexican killed 65 miners

**2009:** Zimbabwe's cholera epidemic infected 80,000 people and killed 3,700