

A portrait of Hu Yaobang, a former Chinese Communist Party leader. He is an older man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the right with a neutral expression.

Today in History

April 15, 1989

▲ **Hu Yaobang, former Chinese Communist Party leader and liberal reformer, died. His death triggered the pro-democracy demonstrations of Tiananmen Square**

1726: Sir Isaac Newton recounted how he arrived at the “notion of gravitation” by considering why an apple always falls perpendicularly to the ground

1923: The first film with sound was demonstrated in New York

1994: World trade ministers finally signed the GATT treaty after eight years of protracted negotiations

1998: Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader who instigated a reign of terror in Cambodia, died