



Today in History

July 7, 1853

▲ **Japan opened up to trade after more than 200 years of isolation when a U.S. Navy officer persuaded the Shogun to reopen contact with the West**

1891: The invention of the travellers cheque enabled travellers to obtain money using only their signature for ID

1936: U.S. patents were issued for the crosshead Phillips screw and matching screwdriver

1991: Over 100 prominent Australians formally launched a movement backing the setting up of a republic

2010: Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was jailed for seven years for money laundering