

A portrait of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. He is an elderly man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a white shirt and a highly ornate, gold-embroidered traditional Thai jacket (jamana) with white bows on the shoulders. He is seated in a light-colored chair and has his right hand raised in a gesture. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in formal attire.

Today in History

December 5, 1927

▲ **King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand was born. He acceded to the throne in June 1946 and is the world's longest-serving living head of state**

1933: The U.S. celebrated the end of 14 long years of alcohol prohibition

1977: Bophuthatswana, the Tswana tribal homeland, gained nominal independence within South Africa

2000: Former England cricket captain Colin Cowdrey died. He played in 114 Tests for his country over 20 years

2010: Serbia's top tennis stars, led by Novak Djokovic, beat France to win the Davis Cup team tournament for the first time