



## Today in History

*August 20, 2009*

▲ **At the World Championships in Berlin, Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt smashed his 200m world record set at the 2008 Olympics, lowering it from 19.30s to 19.19s**

**636:** In the first great wave of Islamic conquests, Khalid ibn al-Walid won control of Syria and Palestine

**1988:** Iran and Iraq agreed to a ceasefire after eight years of war

**1989:** George Adamson was murdered by Somali bandits in Kenya. His wife Joy, who wrote Born Free, about Elsa the lioness, was murdered in 1980

**1991:** The Baltic republic of Estonia, annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, declared full independence