

A color photograph of Mao Zedong, the founder of the People's Republic of China. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a green military uniform with a red collar and a green beret with a red star. He is looking slightly to the right and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is a light blue sky with some distant green hills.

Today in History

September 9, 1976

▲ **Mao Zedong, Communist revolutionary and founder of the People's Republic of China, died. He initiated many of the policies that transformed modern China**

1839: British scientist John Herschel, who coined the term photography, took the first photograph on a glass plate

1992: Sweden raised its bank lending rate to 75% in an attempt to protect its currency, the krona

2001: Ahmed Shah Massoud, leader of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance, was assassinated by Al Qaeda operatives

2002: Slovenian Martin Strel became the first man to swim the 2,360-mile length of the Mississippi River