

A photograph of Hugo Chavez, the President of Venezuela, smiling and surrounded by a crowd of people. He is wearing a red beret and a dark shirt. Several people in the crowd are also wearing red berets. The image is slightly blurred, suggesting a candid moment.

Today in History

December 6, 1998

▲ **Hugo Chavez was elected as President of Venezuela, winning a large majority following a campaign in which he pledged to tackle corruption and poverty**

1947: The Everglades National Park was dedicated in Florida

1978: A referendum approved a constitutional monarchy in Spain

1994: A New York diamond dealer paid \$395,500 at auction for the bronze statue used in John Huston's classic 1941 film, *The Maltese Falcon*

2011: Belgium's new federal government was sworn in after 541 days of negotiations, the longest in recorded history