

A sepia-toned portrait of Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Republic of China (Taiwan). He is wearing a military uniform with a peaked cap featuring the Republic of China emblem. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

Today in History

December 8, 1949

▲ **Chinese Nationalist forces under Chiang Kai-Shek fled to Formosa, now known as Taiwan, after defeat by the Communists in the Chinese Civil War**

1949: The stage musical *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* opened in New York

1974: Greece voted overwhelmingly against restoring the monarchy

2004: Ukraine's parliament voted in a package of electoral law reforms that cleared the way for a re-run of the annulled presidential ballot

2009: *SpaceShipTwo*, the world's first commercial spacecraft, was officially unveiled in the Mojave Desert in California