



# Today in History

*December 19, 1999*

▲ **China resumed sovereignty over the territory of Macao after 442 years of Portuguese colonial rule. It is the only part of China where casino gambling is legal**

**1871:** Mark Twain patented suspenders (braces) to hold up trousers

**1944:** Paleontologist Richard Leakey, who led a single-handed crusade against poaching and wildlife land abuse in Kenya, was born

**1984:** Britain and China signed an agreement for the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997

**2001:** Fires burning at the World Trade Centre since the 9/11 attacks were finally extinguished