



## Today in History

*December 22, 1989*

▲ **Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's communist dictator, was ousted in a revolution after 24 years of hardline rule. He was tried and executed within days**

**640:** The Saracens destroyed the library at Alexandria; burning books warmed the public baths for six months

**1808:** Ludwig van Beethoven conducted and performed in a four-hour concert consisting entirely of premieres of his own work, including the Fifth Symphony

**1885:** Prince Ito Hirobumi, a samurai, became Japan's first Prime Minister

**1989:** Reclusive Irish dramatist Samuel Beckett died in Paris