



# Today in History

*January 9, 1960*

▲ **Construction work began in Egypt on the Aswan High Dam, to control the annual Nile floods, provide water for irrigation and to generate hydroelectricity**

**1890:** Czech playwright and novelist Karel Capek, who first coined the word “robot”, was born

**1902:** New York State introduced a bill to outlaw flirting in public

**1972:** The Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth caught fire off Hong Kong

**2005:** Former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas won a commanding victory in the presidential election to succeed the late Yasser Arafat