



Today in History

January 21, 2009

▲ **Toyota of Japan overtook General Motors to become the world's largest carmaker, ending the U.S. auto giant's 77-year reign at the top**

1790: French doctor Joseph Guillotin proposed a new, humane method of execution, the guillotine

1905: French fashion designer Christian Dior was born

1908: A New York City law made it illegal for women to smoke in public

2000: President Jamil Mahuad of Ecuador was ousted following mass protests at his plans to cut inflation by replacing the national currency, the sucre, with the U.S. dollar