



Today in History

April 2, 2005

▲ **Pope John Paul II, spiritual leader of 1.2 billion Catholics, died at age 84. Born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, he was the first non-Italian pope in over 450 years**

1840: French writer Emile Zola, founder of the Naturalist movement as used in his novels *Therese Raquin* and *Germinal*, was born

1905: The Simplon rail tunnel was opened, linking Switzerland and Italy

1995: Scientists announced that water in liquid form had been found on Mars

2005: Riccardo Muti resigned as music director of Milan's La Scala opera house after months of discord led to cancelled performances