

A portrait of Bashar al-Assad, President of Syria, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. In the background, a person in a white uniform and cap is partially visible, out of focus.

Today in History

July 10, 2000

▲ **Bashar al-Assad succeeded his late father as President of Syria. Initially seen as favouring reform, his mass crackdowns on the Arab Spring protesters led to civil war**

1895: German composer Carl Orff, best known for Carmina Burana, was born

1985: A crew member died when a Greenpeace ship was sunk by French agents in Auckland harbour

1995: Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest. She was detained again in 2000 and only finally released in 2010

2000: Venus and Serena Williams became the first sisters to win the ladies' doubles title at Wimbledon