



Today in History

August 1, 1960

▲ **Benin, formerly Dahomey, proclaimed its independence, the first of eight French colonies in west and equatorial Africa to gain independence that month**

1793: The metre was first defined as one ten-millionth of the northern quadrant of the Paris meridian

1975: The Soviet Union and the West signed the Final Act of the Helsinki Agreement on human rights

2005: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia died after years of ill health. He was succeeded by his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah

2007: New Zealand launched its first commercially available biofuel