

A portrait of Simon Bolivar, a man with dark hair and a slight mustache, wearing a dark military uniform with gold epaulettes and a gold leaf pattern on the collar. The text "Today in History" is overlaid in white at the bottom of the image.

Today in History

December 17, 1830

▲ **Simon Bolivar, instrumental in liberating Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru from Spanish rule, and known as El Libertador, died from tuberculosis**

1957: The U.S. tested the first Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile

1996: China's last imperial eunuch, Sun Yaoting, died in Beijing at the age of 93

2010: Tunisian street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set fire to himself in protest at official harassment, sparking Tunisia's revolution and the wider Arab Spring

2014: The U.S. and Cuba began the process of re-establishing diplomatic relations