



## Today in History

*April 12, 2009*

▲ The Zimbabwean dollar was abandoned as an official currency after years of hyperinflation. Its astonishing denominations included a \$100 trillion banknote

**1961:** Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space. The flight lasted 108 minutes

**1981:** NASA launched its first reusable space shuttle, Columbia

**1996:** Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers were declared the world's tallest buildings. They are now the ninth tallest

**2009:** U.S. Navy snipers shot dead three Somali pirates who had held U.S. merchant ship captain Richard Phillips hostage for four days