



## Today in History

*April 17, 1916*

▲ **Sri Lankan stateswoman Sirimavo Bandaranaike was born. She succeeded her late husband to become the world's first woman prime minister in July 1960**

**1421:** An estimated 100,000 people drowned when the sea broke through the dykes at Dort, in the Netherlands

**1946:** Syria gained independence from France, becoming the largest Arab state to emerge from the former Ottoman-ruled Levant

**1961:** U.S.-backed Cuban exiles failed to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs

**1986:** UK journalist John McCarthy was kidnapped in Beirut. He was released by Islamic Jihad in 1991