



## Today in History

*September 5, 1698*

▲ **Tsar Peter the Great of Russia imposed a tax on beards as part of a effort to modernise Russian society following western European models**

**1980:** The 17km St Gotthard road tunnel, at the time the longest in the world, was opened in Switzerland

**1991:** The constitution of the Soviet Union was virtually abolished

**2002:** President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan narrowly escaped an assassination attempt in Kandahar

**2008:** Quentin Bryce was sworn in as Australia's first female Governor General, the representative of the monarch, Queen Elizabeth II