

A portrait of Louis XIII of France, showing him from the chest up. He has long, dark, wavy hair and a mustache. He is wearing a dark, patterned garment with a white lace collar and a blue sash. The background is a warm, reddish-brown color with a golden, ornate frame.

Today in History

September 27, 1601

▲ **Louis XIII, who became King of France at the age of nine, was born. He reigned until 1643 and was one of the most powerful monarchs in Europe**

1938: The Queen Elizabeth, at the time the largest passenger ship ever built, was launched at Clydebank in Scotland

1968: France rejected interim arrangements pending negotiations on British membership of the European Economic Community

1996: Afghanistan's Taliban rebels captured Kabul and hanged former President Najibullah

2008: Zhai Zhigang carried out China's first spacewalk