



Today in History

December 22, 1801

▲ **French silk weaver Joseph Marie Jacquard patented a loom that used punch cards to control a sequence of operations, enabling the weaving of intricate patterns**

1981: General Leopoldo Galtieri was sworn in as president of Argentina

1989: Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's communist dictator, was ousted in a revolution after 24 years of hardline rule. He was executed within days

1993: Residents of a small Spanish town won 32 billion pesetas (\$230m) in the world's biggest lottery

2001: "Shoe bomber" Richard Reid tried to blow up a jet with explosives hidden in his shoes