

A marble bust of Constantine the Great, showing a man with short, wavy hair, looking slightly to the left. The bust is set against a plain, light-colored background.

Today in History

February 27, 272

▲ **Constantine the Great, the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity, was born. Byzantium (now Istanbul) was renamed Constantinople in his honour**

1557: Russia opened its first embassy in London

1879: The accidental discovery of the artificial sweetener saccharin was reported

2004: Japanese doomsday cult guru Shoko Asahara was sentenced to death for the fatal 1995 nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway

2015: Boris Nemtsov, a Russian opposition politician and critic of President Putin, was assassinated