

A portrait of Akbar the Great, the third Mughal emperor, wearing a white turban with a large white feather and a white mustache. He is wearing a white robe with a red and gold border. The background is a solid blue color.

Today in History

October 15, 1542

▲ **Akbar the Great, the third Mughal emperor, was born. Under his rule the empire expanded to encompass most of northern and central India**

1492: Christopher Columbus made the first recorded reference to tobacco – leaves being smoked

1794: The U.S. Mint in Philadelphia struck the first “silver dollars” of America’s new currency

1917: Mata Hari, Dutch exotic dancer, was executed by the French for being a German spy during World War One

1997: The British jet car ThrustSSC broke the sound barrier on land to set a new speed record of 763mph