

A photograph showing two women in the foreground wearing blue surgical face masks. The woman on the left is wearing a white puffer jacket and looking down at a smartphone. The woman on the right is wearing a black jacket and adjusting her mask. In the background, a large, traditional Chinese gatehouse with multiple tiers of roofs is visible through a thick layer of grey smog. Other people can be seen walking in the distance, also wearing masks.

Today in History

January 3, 2017

▲ **China issued its first-ever nationwide red alert for smog, with air pollution in Beijing and other major cities so bad that flights were delayed and roads closed**

1833: Britain seized control of the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic Ocean

1918: New Zealand-born scientist Ernest Rutherford announced he had split the atom

1959: Alaska was admitted to the United States as the 49th and largest American state

2009: Satoshi Nakamoto mined the first block in the chain of the digital currency bitcoin