

A close-up portrait of Edward Snowden, a man with short brown hair, glasses, and a light beard, looking slightly to the side.

## Today in History

*August 1, 2013*

▲ **Russia incurred U.S. anger by granting temporary asylum to Edward Snowden, the former CIA defence contractor who leaked information on U.S. surveillance**

**1498:** Christopher Columbus first landed on mainland South America, arriving in what is now Venezuela

**1793:** France became the first country to use the metric system of weights and measures

**1873:** Andrew Hallidie successfully tested a cable car he had designed for the city of San Francisco

**2009:** Rare Buddhist treasures, not seen for more than 70 years, were unearthed in Mongolia's Gobi Desert