

A photograph of a man and a woman looking through binoculars. The man is in the foreground, wearing a white t-shirt and has tattoos on his arms. The woman is behind him, wearing sunglasses and a headband. In the background, the US Capitol dome is visible under a blue sky with some clouds.

Today in History

August 21, 2017

▲ Millions of Americans looked to the sky as a solar eclipse crossed the United States, the first time all 48 mainland states could see an eclipse since 1918

1680: Pueblo Indians took possession of what is now Santa Fe, New Mexico, driving out over 2,000 Spanish settlers

1968: Forces from the Soviet Union and four other Eastern Bloc states marched towards Prague

1986: A cloud of carbon dioxide erupted from volcanic Lake Nyos in Cameroon, killing 1,800 people within 20km

1988: U.S. inventor William Seward Burroughs was granted a patent for the first successful adding machine