



# Today in History

*September 1, 2003*

▲ **China announced plans to cut troop numbers by 200,000. Despite the cuts China's armed forces remain the world's largest, currently over 2 million strong**

**1969:** Colonel Muammar Gaddafi led a military coup in Libya that overthrew the government and proclaimed a republic

**2003:** The Netherlands became the first country to allow cannabis to be dispensed as a prescription drug

**2008:** English Premier League football club Manchester City was bought by an Abu Dhabi consortium

**2009:** Alain Robert evaded security to climb one of the 88-storey Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur