



Today in History

September 16, 1963

▲ The former British colonies of Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore united with Malaya, which gained independence in 1957, to form the Federation of Malaysia

1884: U.S ophthalmologist Carl Koller first used cocaine as a local anaesthetic in eye surgery

1966: The new Metropolitan Opera House in New York opened with the world premiere of Samuel Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra*

1978: A powerful earthquake in eastern Iran killed 25,000 people

2013: UN inspectors confirmed that sarin gas had been used in rebel-held suburbs of Damascus