



## Today in History

*June 8, 1949*

▲ George Orwell's novel 1984 was published, warning of the dangers of totalitarianism. Its concept that "Big Brother is Watching You" is used by protesters worldwide

**1869:** A "sweeping machine", the earliest suction type vacuum cleaner, was patented in the U.S.

**1969:** Spain closed its border with Gibraltar after Britain refused to hand over the colony

**2004:** Observers were able to witness the Transit of Venus across the sun for the first time since 1882

**2009:** A pro-Western coalition led by Saad Hariri won Lebanon's parliamentary election