

A dramatic portrait of Michael Jackson. He has dark, curly hair and his eyes are closed. His face is smeared with red paint or blood, particularly around the eyes and mouth. He is wearing a dark jacket with a wide, ornate gold and black collar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

# Today in History

*June 25, 2009*

▲ Pop superstar Michael Jackson died after ingesting a powerful cocktail of sleeping drugs. His death triggered an outpouring of grief among fans around the world

**1991:** Croatia and Slovenia declared independence, plunging the Yugoslav federation into a violent breakup

**2006:** The world's two largest steel companies, Arcelor of France and India's Mittal Steel, agreed a merger

**2009:** Three men previously acquitted of the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya were sent for retrial

**2015:** Islamic State militants launched a new attack on the Syrian town of Kobane, killing 140 civilians