



Today in History

December 25, 1979

▲ **Afghanistan was invaded by Soviet troops. A grinding nine-year campaign against local insurgents killed over 120,000 combatants and more than a million civilians**

1497: Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama discovered Natal, South Africa

1914: British and German soldiers exchanged cigarettes and played football in an unofficial Christmas truce in the trenches of World War I

1999: Russian forces entered the Chechen capital Grozny, meeting fierce resistance from Islamic separatists

2009: Chinese activist Liu Xiaobo was sentenced to 11 years in prison for “subversion of state power”