



Today in History

March 3, 1875

▲ Bizet's opera *Carmen* was first staged at the Opera Comique in Paris. Now one of the world's most popular operas, it was initially considered scandalous

1950: The U.S. Congress admitted Alaska as the 49th State of the Union

1990: Venezuela suspended foreign debt payments after mass rioting

2005: Steve Fossett completed the first solo nonstop round the world flight in his Global Flyer aircraft

2015: Addressing the U.S. Congress, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu attacked President Barack Obama's efforts to get Iran to freeze its nuclear programme