

A portrait of Xi Jinping, President of China, looking slightly to the right with a faint smile. He is wearing a dark suit and a white shirt. The background is a blurred red flag with yellow stars.

Today in History

March 14, 2013

▲ Xi Jinping formally became President of China, completing the transition of power and putting Xi in charge of all three centres of power in the country

1885: Gilbert and Sullivan's Japanese-set operetta, *The Mikado*, was first performed in London

1930: Swedish-born film star Greta Garbo starred in her first talking movie, *Anna Christie*

1965: Israel accepted a West German request to establish diplomatic relations

2005: China's legislature passed a law authorising the use of force against Taiwan if the island declared formal independence