



Today in History

May 20, 1570

▲ Flemish cartographer Abraham Ortelius issued *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas, a book of maps for which copper printing plates were engraved

1980: The Canadian province of Quebec voted against a proposal to negotiate independence from Canada

1995: Italian magistrates called for former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi to be tried on charges of corruption

2000: The shuttle Atlantis blasted off to carry out essential repairs to the fledgling International Space Station

2010: U.S. scientists announced the creation of the first artificial lifeform with a synthetic genome