



Today in History

June 14, 1822

▲ **Charles Babbage proposed a mechanical engine to calculate and produce tables of polynomial functions, the forerunner of the modern computer**

1995: Chechen gunmen occupied a hospital in southern Russia, taking some 2,000 patients and staff hostage

1998: Europe's longest suspension bridge was opened in Denmark

2005: President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa sacked his deputy, Jacob Zuma, who was implicated in a bribery scandal

2009: Europe recorded its first H1N1 swine flu death just days after the outbreak was labelled a global pandemic