



Today in History

May 23, 1785

▲ Benjamin Franklin revealed he had invented bifocal spectacles, with lenses of two different thicknesses for viewing distant objects as well as near ones

1949: The German Federal Republic formally came into existence, with the capital based in Bonn

1994: Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* proved a controversial winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes

1997: Mohammed Khatami, often described as a "moderate", was elected president of Iran

2001: U.S. President George W. Bush met with Tibet's exiled Dalai Lama, drawing protests from Beijing