



Today in History

August 18, 1825

▲ **Scottish explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first European to reach Timbuktu, now in Mali, while crossing the Sahara from north to south**

1868: French astronomer Pierre Janssen discovered helium after analysing the solar spectrum

1933: Oscar-winning movie director Roman Polanski was born in Paris to Polish parents

1954: James E. Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of Labour, was the first black man to attend a U.S. cabinet meeting

2011: Canada, France, Germany, the UK and the U.S. called for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to resign