



## Today in History

*August 19, 1991*

▲ **Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev was overthrown in a coup by Communist hardliners. The coup failed but soon led to the collapse of the Soviet Union**

**1839:** The first “daguerreotype” photograph, a direct positive image, was shown in Paris

**1936:** Playright Federico Garcia Lorca was shot dead by Fascist forces at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War

**2016:** U.S. epidemiologist Donald Henderson, who led the international effort to eradicate smallpox, died

**2016:** The UN admitted responsibility in the cholera epidemic in Haiti and offered financial assistance