

A photograph of Richard Nixon and Mao Zedong shaking hands. Nixon is on the right, wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie, smiling. Mao is on the left, wearing a grey Mao suit, looking towards Nixon. They are standing in front of a dark background with some lights visible.

Today in History

February 21, 1972

▲ **Richard Nixon became the first U.S. President to visit China, a key step in normalising relations and ending 25 years of separation between the two countries**

1842: The first sewing-machine was patented in the United States

2012: Russian punk rock band Pussy Riot performed anti-Putin songs in Moscow's main cathedral

2017: Aid agencies reported that over 20 million people faced starvation in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen

2021: Novak Djokovic won his ninth Australian Open title. He was unable to defend it in 2022 after a row over his vaccination status