



Today in History

March 15, 1937

▲ The first central blood bank, to preserve blood for transfusion by refrigeration, was set up at a hospital in Chicago. It paved the way for modern surgery

1493: Christopher Columbus returned to Spain following his first voyage to the New World

1956: The musical *My Fair Lady*, starring Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews, opened on Broadway

2003: The WHO issued an alert on SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) as it swept the Far East

2003: Hu Jintao was ceremonially named president of China, replacing Jiang Zemin