



Today in History

August 1, 1291

▲ The three cantons of Uri, Unterwalden and Schwyz formed a confederation known as the Everlasting League, which led to the formation of Switzerland

1774: British chemist Joseph Priestley identified a gas which would later come to be known as oxygen

1778: The world's first savings bank was opened in Hamburg, Germany

1793: France introduced metric weights and measures, defining the metre as one ten-millionth of the northern quadrant of the Paris meridian

2013: Russia granted asylum to former CIA contractor Edward Snowden, who leaked details on U.S. surveillance