



# Today in History

*January 1, 1999*

▲ The introduction of the euro meant that nearly 300 million Europeans in 12 nations woke up to a shared currency for the first time since the Roman Empire

**1914:** Northern and Southern Nigeria became a single British colony, to offset growing tension with German colonies in the region

**1934:** Alcatraz Island became a U.S. federal prison

**1984:** Brunei gained independence from the UK, and has since become one of the world's richest nations

**2014:** The former Soviet republic of Latvia became the 18th member of the eurozone