

GN45681 On this day in history Week20 May 12-18



Today in History

May 12, 2014

▲ Narendra Modi became prime minister of India after his Hindu nationalist BJP party trounced the ruling Congress Party in the world's biggest general election

1870: The Dominion of Canada purchased Manitoba from the Hudson Bay Company

1949: The Soviet blockade of West Berlin, the first major military skirmish of the Cold War

1994: A Palestinian peacekeeping force was deployed in the West Bank after 27 years of occupation

2004: The death of Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria, Egypt, ended the longest reign of a single ruler in modern history

Picture: Getty Images



Today in History

May 13, 1909

▲ The first Giro d'Italia cycling tour set out from Milan. Only 49 of the 127 starting riders finished the race, which covered eight stages over 2,448km

1637: Cardinal Richelieu of France created the first table knife, rounded at the tip, to replace daggers to cut meat

1973: Germanys "Black Friday" stock market crash



Today in History

May 14, 2004

▲ Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark married Australian estate agent Mary Donaldson. The couple became King and Queen in January of this year

1948: David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel

1948: Atlantic Records was founded. The label included artists like Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington



Today in History

May 15, 2004

▲ North London football team Arsenal became the first team in 115 years to complete a season in England's premier league without a single defeat

1918: The world's first airmail postal service began in the United States

1928: Australia's Flying Doctor service was founded



Today in History

May 16, 1989

▲ The first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years, between leaders Deng Xiaoping and Mikhail Gorbachev, ended a lengthy feud between China and the Soviet Union

1960: The first optical laser was demonstrated in California

1975: Japanese mountaineer Junko Tabei became the first woman to climb Mount Everest

1989: The world's first successful hole-in-the-heart operation carried out on an adult was performed in London

2023: Flooding in Emilia-Romagna, Italy, caused widespread disruption, including the cancellation of the F1 Grand Prix at Imola

Picture: Getty Images

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Today in History

May 17, 2004

▲ Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to issue legal marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Thousands of couples obtained licenses within days

1510: Florentine painter Sandro Botticelli, whose works embody the Italian Renaissance spirit, died in poverty

1792: The New York Stock Exchange was founded by 24 brokers who signed an agreement while meeting under a tree on what is now Wall Street

1814: Norway was declared an independent nation. It has the world's second oldest constitution after the U.S.

1954: The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation in schools

Picture: Getty Images

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Today in History

May 18, 1804

▲ Napoleon Bonaparte, renowned military leader who rose to prominence during the French Revolution, was proclaimed Emperor of France

1974: India became the world's sixth nuclear power when it successfully detonated its first nuclear bomb

1994: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first genetically-engineered tomato

2004: Israeli tanks destroyed homes in a Gaza refugee camp to stop the flow of weapons through tunnels from Egypt

2004: Nigeria declared a state of emergency due to ongoing violence between Christians and Muslims

Picture: Newscom

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