



How to use

WHAT IS IN IT, AND WHERE

Year planner	3
Months	4
01 January	16
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THIS BOOK

Runs	January to December 2027
Week starts	Monday
Ruling	lined
Bound in	signatures of 32 pages

THE FIRST PAGE

It carries no title. There is a rule under the device and it is yours: name the book for what it turns out to be, which is rarely what you thought when you bought it. Some people date it instead, and some leave it empty for a year.

BEFORE YOU START

- ☐ Write your name on the kraft wrapper, and a number to call.
- ☐ Number the volume if you keep more than one of these.
- ☐ Try a nib on the last page before you trust it to page one.

Year

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	W1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W2
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	W3
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	W4
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	W5

FOCUS

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February

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	W6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	W7
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	W8
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	W9

FOCUS	MUST HAPPEN ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	NOTES
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March

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	W10
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	W11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	W12
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	W13
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	W14

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April

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	W14
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	W15
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	W16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	W17
26	27	28	29	30	1	2	W18

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May

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2	W18
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	W19
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	W20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	W21
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	W22
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	W23

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June

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	W23
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	W24
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	W25
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	W26
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	W27

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July

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	W27
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	W28
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	W29
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	W30
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	W31

FOCUS	MUST HAPPEN ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	NOTES
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August

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	W31
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	W32
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	W33
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	W34
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	W35
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	W36

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September

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	W36
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	W37
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	W38
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	W39
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	W40

FOCUS	MUST HAPPEN ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	NOTES
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October

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	W40
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W41
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	W42
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	W43
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	W44

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November

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	W45
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	W46
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	W47
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	W48
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	W49

FOCUS	MUST HAPPEN ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	NOTES
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December

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	W49
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	W50
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	W51
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	W52
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	W53

FOCUS

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NOTES

01 January

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Pierre de Coubertin, 1863, French educator and historian (1863–1937)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1776, General George Washington hoists the first United States flag, the Continental Union Flag, at Prospect Hill.

BORN THIS DAY

Mehmed IV, 1642, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1648 to 1687

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1954, India establishes its highest civilian awards, the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan.

BORN THIS DAY

J. R. R. Tolkien, 1892, English writer and philologist (1892–1973)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: US flying ace Major Greg "Pappy" Boyington is shot down in his Vought F4U Corsair by Captain Masajiro Kawato flying a Mitsubishi A6M Zero.

BORN THIS DAY

Jacob Grimm, 1785, German linguist, jurist and mythologist

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1762, Great Britain declares war on Spain, which meant the entry of Spain into the Seven Years' War.

BORN THIS DAY

Rudolf Christoph Eucken, 1846, 19th/20th-century German philosopher (1846–1926)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, The Soviet Union recognizes the new pro-Soviet Provisional Government of the Republic of Poland.

BORN THIS DAY

Heinrich Schliemann, 1822, German businessman and archaeologist (1822–1890)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1725, J. S. Bach leads the first performance of *Liebster Immanuel, Herzog der Frommen*, BWV 123, a chorale cantata for Epiphany.

BORN THIS DAY

Millard Fillmore, 1800, President of the United States from 1850 to 1853

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1610, Galileo Galilei makes his first observation of the four Galilean moons: Ganymede, Callisto, Io and Europa, although he is not able to distinguish the last two until the following night.

BORN THIS DAY

Emily Greene Balch, 1867, American economist, academic, and Nobel Laureate

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1790, George Washington delivers the first State of the Union address in New York City.

BORN THIS DAY

Richard Nixon, 1913, President of the United States from 1969 to 1974

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: First flight of the Avro Lancaster.

BORN THIS DAY

Sune Bergström, 1916, Swedish biochemist (1916–2004)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

-49, Julius Caesar crosses the Rubicon, signalling the start of civil war.

BORN THIS DAY

Kailash Satyarthi, 1954, Indian social campaigner (born 1954)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Japanese forces capture Kuala Lumpur, the capital of the Federated Malay States.

BORN THIS DAY

John Singer Sargent, 1856, American painter (1856–1925)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt creates the National War Labor Board.

BORN THIS DAY

Kostis Palamas, 1859, Greek poet (1859–1943)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: First use of an aircraft ejection seat by a German test pilot in a Heinkel He 280 jet fighter.

14 January

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Yukio Mishima, 1925, Japanese author and coup attempt leader (1925–1970)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: Japan begins Operation Ke, the successful operation to evacuate its forces from Guadalcanal during the Guadalcanal campaign.

BORN THIS DAY

Martin Luther King Jr., 1929, American minister and civil rights activist (1929–1968)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: The Soviet counter-offensive at Voronezh begins.

BORN THIS DAY

Dian Fossey, 1932, American primatologist (1932–1985)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

-27, Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus is granted the title Augustus by the Roman Senate, marking the beginning of the Roman Empire.

BORN THIS DAY

Muhammad Ali, 1942, American boxer and activist (1942–2016)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1799, Maltese patriot Dun Mikiel Xerri, along with a number of other patriots, is executed.

BORN THIS DAY

A. A. Milne, 1882, English writer (1882–1956)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: British troops launch a general counter-offensive against Italian East Africa.

BORN THIS DAY

Paul Cézanne, 1839, French painter (1839–1906)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1829, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust: The First Part of the Tragedy* receives its premiere performance.

BORN THIS DAY

Jeffrey Epstein, 1953, American financier and child sex offender (1953–2019)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1726, J. S. Bach leads the first performance of his cantata *Meine Seufzer, meine Tränen* (My sighs, my tears), BWV 13, for the second Sunday after Epiphany.

BORN THIS DAY

Plácido Domingo, 1941, Spanish tenor and conductor (born 1941)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1525, The Swiss Anabaptist Movement is founded when Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, George Blaurock, and about a dozen others baptize each other in the home of Manz's mother in Zürich, breaking a thousand-year tradition of church-state union.

BORN THIS DAY

Maria Leopoldina of Austria, 1797, Empress of Brazil (1822–1826) and Queen of Portugal (1826)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1957, Israel withdraws from the Sinai Peninsula.

BORN THIS DAY

Édouard Manet, 1832, French painter (1832–1883)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1556, The deadliest earthquake in history, the Shaanxi earthquake, hits Shaanxi province, China. The death toll may have been as high as 830,000.

BORN THIS DAY

Pierre-Augustin de Beaumarchais, 1732, French playwright and diplomat (1732–1799)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: The Allies bombard Bangkok, leading Thailand, then under Japanese control, to declare war against the United States and United Kingdom.

25 January

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Virginia Woolf, 1882, English modernist writer (1882–1941)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Thailand declares war on the United States and United Kingdom.

26 January

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Douglas MacArthur, 1880, United States Army general (1880–1964)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1837, Michigan is admitted as the 26th U.S. state.

BORN THIS DAY

Lewis Carroll, 1832, British author and scholar (1832–1898)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1302, Dante Alighieri is condemned in absentia and exiled from Florence.

BORN THIS DAY

Arthur Rubinstein, 1887, Polish pianist (1887–1982)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1671, Original city of Panama (founded in 1519) is destroyed by a fire when privateer Henry Morgan sacks and sets fire to it. The site of the previously devastated city is still in ruins (see Panama Viejo).

BORN THIS DAY

William McKinley, 1843, President of the United States from 1897 to 1901

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1861, Kansas is admitted as the 34th U.S. state.

30 January

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Islam Karimov, 1938, Leader of Uzbekistan from 1989 to 2016

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1925, The Government of Turkey expels Patriarch Constantine VI from Istanbul.

BORN THIS DAY

Theodor Heuss, 1884, President of West Germany from 1949 to 1959

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1915, World War I: Germany is the first to make large-scale use of poison gas in warfare in the Battle of Bolimów against Russia.

BORN THIS DAY

Langston Hughes, 1902, American writer and social activist (1901–1967)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1865, President Abraham Lincoln signs the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

BORN THIS DAY

Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark, 1882, Prince of Greece and Denmark (1882–1944)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1725, J. S. Bach leads the first performance of his chorale cantata *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin*, BWV 125, based on Luther's paraphrase of the *Nunc dimittis*.

BORN THIS DAY

Elizabeth Blackwell, 1821, British-American physician (1821–1910)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1933, Adolf Hitler announces that the expansion of Lebensraum into Eastern Europe, and its ruthless Germanisation, are the ultimate geopolitical objectives of Nazi foreign policy.

BORN THIS DAY

Charles Lindbergh, 1902, American aviator (1902–1974)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1789, George Washington is unanimously elected as the first President of the United States by the U.S. Electoral College.

BORN THIS DAY

Robert Peel, 1788, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1834–1835; 1841–1846)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

-2, Caesar Augustus is granted the title *pater patriae* by the Roman Senate.

BORN THIS DAY

Ronald Reagan, 1911, President of the United States from 1981 to 1989

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1778, New York became the third state to ratify the Articles of Confederation.

BORN THIS DAY

Thomas More, 1478, English politician, author and philosopher (1478–1535)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: Imperial Japanese Navy forces complete the evacuation of Imperial Japanese Army troops from Guadalcanal during Operation Ke, ending Japanese attempts to retake the island from Allied forces in the Guadalcanal campaign.

BORN THIS DAY

James Dean, 1931, American actor (1931–1955)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1807, Napoleon defeats the coalition forces of Russian General Bennigsen and Prussian General L'Estocq at the Battle of Eylau.

BORN THIS DAY

Ali-Shir Nava'i, 1441, Turkic poet and politician (1441–1501)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1822, Haiti attacks the newly established Dominican Republic on the other side of the island of Hispaniola.

BORN THIS DAY

Lee Hsien Loong, 1952, Prime Minister of Singapore from 2004 to 2024, Senior Minister of Singapore since 2024

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1920, About 75% of the population in Zone I votes to join Denmark in the 1920 Schleswig plebiscites.

11 February

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Hans-Georg Gadamer, 1900, German philosopher (1900–2002)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1812, Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry is accused of "gerrymandering" for the first time.

BORN THIS DAY

Charles Darwin, 1809, English naturalist and biologist (1809–1882)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1817, An Argentine/Chilean patriotic army, after crossing the Andes, defeats Spanish troops at the Battle of Chacabuco.

BORN THIS DAY

Pope Alexander VII, 1599, Head of the Catholic Church from 1655 to 1667

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1955, Israel obtains four of the seven Dead Sea Scrolls.

BORN THIS DAY

Babur, 1483, Mughal emperor from 1526 to 1530

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1855, Texas is linked by telegraph to the rest of the United States, with the completion of a connection between New Orleans and Marshall, Texas.

15 February

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Louis XV, 1710, King of France from 1715 to 1774

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1923, Greece becomes the last European country to adopt the Gregorian calendar.

BORN THIS DAY

Ernst Haeckel, 1834, German zoologist (1834–1919)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1899, Iceland's first football club, Knattspyrnufélag Reykjavíkur, is founded.

17 February

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Mo Yan, 1955, Chinese author (born 1955)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1753, In Sweden, February 17 is followed by March 1 as the country moves from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar.

BORN THIS DAY

Ramakrishna, 1836, Indian mystic (1836–1886)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1873, Bulgarian revolutionary leader Vasil Levski is executed by hanging in Sofia by the Ottoman authorities.

BORN THIS DAY

Hovhannes Tumanyan, 1869, Armenian author, poet, novelist, and public activist (1869–1923)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1878, Thomas Edison patents the phonograph.

BORN THIS DAY

Ludwig Boltzmann, 1844, Austrian mathematician and theoretical physicist (1844–1906)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1933, Adolf Hitler secretly meets with German industrialists to arrange for financing of the Nazi Party's upcoming election campaign.

BORN THIS DAY

Anaïs Nin, 1903, French-born American author (1903–1977)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish *The Communist Manifesto*.

BORN THIS DAY

George Washington, 1732, Founding Father, U.S. president from 1789 to 1797

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1958, Following a plebiscite in both countries the previous day, Egypt and Syria join to form the United Arab Republic.

BORN THIS DAY

W. E. B. Du Bois, 1868, American sociologist and activist (1868–1963)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1725, J. S. Bach leads his Tafel-Music Shepherd Cantata for the birthday of Christian, Duke of Saxe-Weissenfels.

BORN THIS DAY

Steve Jobs, 1955, American businessman (1955–2011)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, Egyptian Premier Ahmad Mahir Pasha is killed in Parliament after reading a decree.

BORN THIS DAY

Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 1841, French painter and sculptor (1841–1919)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1932, Adolf Hitler, having been stateless for seven years, obtains German citizenship when he is appointed a Brunswick state official by Dietrich Klagges, a fellow Nazi. As a result, Hitler is able to run for Reichspräsident in the 1932 election.

BORN THIS DAY

François Arago, 1786, French physicist and astronomer (1786–1853)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escapes from exile on the island of Elba.

BORN THIS DAY

Robert H. Grubbs, 1942, American chemist and Nobel Laureate (1942–2021)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1617, Sweden and the Tsardom of Russia sign the Treaty of Stolbovo, ending the Ingrian War and shutting Russia out of the Baltic Sea.

BORN THIS DAY

Michel de Montaigne, 1533, French author and philosopher (1533–1592)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

2026, The United States and Israel launch attacks across Iran, assassinating Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Retaliatory strikes are launched by Iran against US military bases in the Gulf, with explosions reported in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE.

01 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Glenn Miller, 1904, American big band musician (1904–1944)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1815, Napoleon returns to France from his banishment on Elba.

02 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Mikhail Gorbachev, 1931, Leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 to 1991

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1796, Napoleon Bonaparte is appointed to command the Army of Italy.

03 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Alexander Graham Bell, 1847, Inventor of the telephone (1847–1922)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1845, Florida is admitted as the 27th U.S. state.

04 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Hans Eysenck, 1916, German-born British psychologist (1916–1997)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1773, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart departs Italy after the last of his three tours there.

BORN THIS DAY

Zhou Enlai, 1898, Premier of China from 1949 to 1976

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1933, Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party receives 43.9% at the Reichstag elections, which allows the Nazis to later pass the Enabling Act and establish a dictatorship.

BORN THIS DAY

Joseph von Fraunhofer, 1787, German physicist (1787–1826)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: Generalfeldmarschall Erwin Rommel launches the Battle of Medenine in an attempt to slow down the British Eighth Army. It fails, and he leaves Africa three days later.

BORN THIS DAY

Alessandro Manzoni, 1785, Italian poet and novelist (1785–1873)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1799, Napoleon Bonaparte captures Jaffa in Palestine and his troops proceed to kill more than 2,000 Albanian captives.

BORN THIS DAY

Otto Hahn, 1879, German nuclear chemist and Nobel laureate (1879–1968)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: The Dutch East Indies surrender Java to the Imperial Japanese Army.

BORN THIS DAY

Aloysius Gonzaga, 1568, Italian Jesuit seminarian and saint (1568–1591)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1230, Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Asen II defeats Theodore of Epirus in the Battle of Klokotnitsa.

10 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Alexander III of Russia, 1845, Emperor of Russia from 1881 to 1894

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1814, Emperor Napoleon I is defeated at the Battle of Laon in France.

11 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Douglas Adams, 1952, English writer and humourist (1952–2001)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act into law, allowing American-built war supplies to be shipped to the Allies on loan.

BORN THIS DAY

Jack Kerouac, 1922, American writer (1922–1969)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1913, The future capital of Australia is officially named Canberra.

BORN THIS DAY

Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor, 1741, Holy Roman Emperor from 1765 to 1790

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1957, Cuban student revolutionaries storm the presidential palace in Havana in a failed attempt on the life of President Fulgencio Batista.

BORN THIS DAY

Umberto I of Italy, 1844, King of Italy from 1878 to 1900

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, The Holocaust: The liquidation of the Kraków Ghetto is completed.

15 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Andrew Jackson, 1767, President of the United States from 1829 to 1837

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1922, After Egypt gains nominal independence from the United Kingdom, Fuad I becomes King of Egypt.

BORN THIS DAY

Bernardo Bertolucci, 1941, Italian filmmaker (1941–2018)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1935, Adolf Hitler orders Germany to rearm itself in violation of the Treaty of Versailles. Conscription is reintroduced to form the Wehrmacht.

BORN THIS DAY

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 1920, Bangladeshi revolutionary and statesman (1920–1975)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1948, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom sign the Treaty of Brussels, a precursor to the North Atlantic Treaty establishing NATO.

BORN THIS DAY

Frederick III of Denmark, 1609, King of Denmark and Norway from 1648 to 1670

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1861, Spain would annex annex the Dominican Republic, which would last for four years.

19 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Adolf Eichmann, 1906, German SS officer and war criminal (1906–1962)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, World War II: Adolf Hitler issues his "Nero Decree" ordering all industries, military installations, shops, transportation facilities, and communications facilities in Germany to be destroyed.

20 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Napoleon II, 1811, Son of Napoleon I (1811–1832)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1956, Tunisia gains independence from France.

21 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Jair Bolsonaro, 1955, President of Brazil from 2019 to 2023

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, World War II: British troops liberate Mandalay, Burma.

BORN THIS DAY

Ulugh Beg, 1394, Timurid sultan, astronomer and mathematician (1394–1449)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1946, The United Kingdom grants full independence to Transjordan.

23 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

José Manuel Barroso, 1956, Portuguese politician (born 1956)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1956, Pakistan becomes the first Islamic republic in the world. This date is now celebrated as Republic Day in Pakistan.

BORN THIS DAY

Peter Debye, 1884, Dutch-American physical chemist (1884–1966)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1721, Johann Sebastian Bach dedicates six concertos to Margrave Christian Ludwig of Brandenburg-Schwedt, now commonly called the Brandenburg Concertos, BWV 1046–1051.

BORN THIS DAY

Elton John, 1947, British musician and songwriter (born 1947)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1655, Saturn's largest moon, Titan, is discovered by Christiaan Huygens.

BORN THIS DAY

Richard Dawkins, 1941, British evolutionary biologist and author (born 1941)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, World War II: The Battle of Iwo Jima ends as the island is officially secured by American forces.

BORN THIS DAY

Wilhelm Röntgen, 1845, German physicist (1845–1923)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Yugoslav Air Force officers topple the pro-Axis government in a bloodless coup.

BORN THIS DAY

John Amos Comenius, 1592, Czech teacher, educator, philosopher and writer (1592–1670)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: First day of the Battle of Cape Matapan in Greece between the navies of the United Kingdom and Australia, and the Royal Italian navy.

BORN THIS DAY

Jean-de-Dieu Soult, 1769, Prime Minister of France and French Marshal (1769–1851)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: British Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy forces defeat those of the Italian Regia Marina off the Peloponnesian coast of Greece in the Battle of Cape Matapan.

BORN THIS DAY

Paul Verlaine, 1844, French poet (1844–1896)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1867, Alaska is purchased from Russia for \$7.2 million, about two cents/acre (\$4.19/km²), by United States Secretary of State William H. Seward.

31 March

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Frederick V of Denmark, 1723, King of Denmark and Norway from 1746 to 1766

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Japanese forces invade Christmas Island, then a British possession.

BORN THIS DAY

Otto von Bismarck, 1815, Chancellor of Germany from 1871 to 1890

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1725, J. S. Bach's later Easter Oratorio in its first version is performed at the Nikolaikirche in Leipzig on Easter Sunday.

BORN THIS DAY

Maria Sibylla Merian, 1647, German naturalist and artist (1647–1717)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1800, Ludwig van Beethoven leads the premiere of his First Symphony in Vienna.

BORN THIS DAY

Helmut Kohl, 1930, Chancellor of Germany from 1982 to 1998

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Japanese forces begin an assault on the United States and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula.

BORN THIS DAY

Maya Angelou, 1928, American writer and activist (1928–2014)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1814, Napoleon abdicates (conditionally) for the first time and names his son Napoleon II as Emperor of the French, followed by unconditional abdication two days later.

BORN THIS DAY

Alexander of Battenberg, 1857, Prince of Bulgaria from 1879 to 1886

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1879, Bolivia declares war on Chile, and Chile declares war on Peru, starting the War of the Pacific.

BORN THIS DAY

James Watson, 1928, American biologist (1928–2025)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1957, The flag carrier airline of Greece for decades, Olympic Airways, is founded by Aristotle Onassis following the acquisition of "TAE - Greek National Airlines".

BORN THIS DAY

Franck Ribéry, 1983, French footballer (born 1983)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1805, German composer Ludwig van Beethoven premieres his Third Symphony, at the Theater an der Wien in Vienna.

BORN THIS DAY

Kofi Annan, 1938, UN Secretary-General from 1997 to 2006

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1960, The Netherlands and West Germany sign an agreement to negotiate the return of German land annexed by the Dutch in return for 280 million German marks as Wiedergutmachung.

BORN THIS DAY

Erich Ludendorff, 1865, German general and politician (1865–1937)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1917, World War I: The Battle of Arras: The battle begins with Canadian Corps executing a massive assault on Vimy Ridge.

BORN THIS DAY

Robert Burns Woodward, 1917, American chemist (1917–1979)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1868, At Arogee in Abyssinia, British and Indian forces defeat an army of Emperor Tewodros II. While 700 Ethiopians are killed and many more injured, only two British/Indian troops die.

BORN THIS DAY

Andrew Wiles, 1953, British mathematician who proved Fermat's Last Theorem

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1727, Premiere of Johann Sebastian Bach's St Matthew Passion BWV 244b at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Electorate of Saxony (now Germany).

BORN THIS DAY

Joyce Banda, 1950, President of Malawi from 2012 to 2014

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1877, The United Kingdom annexes the Transvaal.

BORN THIS DAY

György Lukács, 1885, Hungarian philosopher and critic (1885–1971)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: The discovery of mass graves of Polish prisoners of war killed by Soviet forces in the Katyn Forest Massacre is announced, causing a diplomatic rift between the Polish government-in-exile in London and the Soviet Union, which denies responsibility.

14 April

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Arnold J. Toynbee, 1889, British historian (1889–1975)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1958, The Soviet satellite Sputnik 2 falls from orbit after a mission duration of 162 days. This was the first spacecraft to carry a living animal, a female dog named Laika, who likely lived only a few hours.

BORN THIS DAY

Johannes Stark, 1874, German physicist (1874–1957)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1861, President Abraham Lincoln calls for 75,000 militiamen to quell the insurrection that soon became the American Civil War.

BORN THIS DAY

Charlie Chaplin, 1889, English actor and filmmaker (1889–1977)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: The Italian-German Tarigo convoy is attacked and destroyed by British ships.

BORN THIS DAY

Karen Blixen, 1885, Danish writer (1885–1962)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1521, Trial of Martin Luther over his teachings begins during the assembly of the Diet of Worms. Initially intimidated, he asks for time to reflect before answering and is given a stay of one day.

BORN THIS DAY

Ahmed I, 1590, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1603 to 1617

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1521, Trial of Martin Luther begins its second day during the assembly of the Diet of Worms. He refuses to recant his teachings despite the risk of excommunication.

BORN THIS DAY

Ferdinand I of Austria, 1793, Emperor of Austria from 1835 to 1848

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1810, Venezuela achieves home rule: Vicente Emparán, Governor of the Captainty General is removed by the people of Caracas and a junta is installed.

BORN THIS DAY

Napoleon III, 1808, Emperor of the French from 1852 to 1870

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1770, The Georgian king, Erekle II, abandoned by his Russian ally Count Tottleben, wins a victory over Ottoman forces at Aspindza.

BORN THIS DAY

Percy Williams Bridgman, 1882, American physicist (1882–1961)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1782, The city of Rattanakosin, now known internationally as Bangkok, is founded on the eastern bank of the Chao Phraya River by King Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke.

BORN THIS DAY

Germaine de Staël, 1766, French novelist and woman of letters (1766–1817)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: The 1st Air Commando Group using Sikorsky R-4 helicopters stage the first use of helicopters in combat with combat search and rescue operations in the China Burma India Theater.

BORN THIS DAY

Shirley Temple, 1928, American actress and diplomat (1928–2014)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1724, Johann Sebastian Bach leads the first performance of his cantata Du Hirte Israel, höre, BWV 104, illustrating the topic of the Good Shepherd in pastoral music.

BORN THIS DAY

Józef Gosławski (sculptor), 1908, Polish sculptor and medallic artist

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: The SBS launches a raid against the garrison of Santorini in Greece.

BORN THIS DAY

Felix Klein, 1849, German mathematician (1849–1925)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, World War II: United States and Soviet reconnaissance troops meet in Torgau and Strehla along the River Elbe, cutting the Wehrmacht of Nazi Germany in two. This would be later known as Elbe Day.

BORN THIS DAY

Ludwig Wittgenstein, 1889, Austrian philosopher and logician (1889–1951)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1564, Playwright William Shakespeare is baptized in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England (date of birth is unknown).

BORN THIS DAY

Mary Wollstonecraft, 1759, English writer and philosopher (1759–1797)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1539, Official founding of the city of Bogotá, New Granada (nowadays Colombia), by Nikolaus Federmann and Sebastián de Belalcázar.

BORN THIS DAY

Kurt Gödel, 1906, Mathematician and philosopher (1906–1978)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1937, South African medical researcher Max Theiler develops the yellow fever vaccine at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City.

BORN THIS DAY

Henri Poincaré, 1854, French mathematician, physicist and engineer (1854–1912)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, World War II: Adolf Hitler marries his longtime partner Eva Braun in a Berlin bunker and designates Admiral Karl Dönitz as his successor.

BORN THIS DAY

António Guterres, 1949, Secretary-General of the United Nations since 2017

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1838, Nicaragua declares independence from the Central American Federation.

BORN THIS DAY

Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, 1850, British prince, son of Queen Victoria (1850–1942)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, World War II: German radio broadcasts news of Adolf Hitler's death, falsely stating that he has "fallen at his command post in the Reich Chancellery fighting to the last breath against Bolshevism and for Germany". The Soviet flag is raised over the Reich Chancellery, by order of Stalin. Up to 2,500 people die in a mass suicide in Demmin following the advance of the Red Army.

BORN THIS DAY

Jerome K. Jerome, 1859, English writer and humorist (1859–1927)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Following the coup d'état against Iraq Crown Prince 'Abd al-Ilah earlier that year, the United Kingdom launches the Anglo-Iraqi War to restore him to power.

BORN THIS DAY

George Paget Thomson, 1892, British physicist (1892–1975)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1802, Washington, D.C. is incorporated as a city after Congress abolishes the Board of Commissioners, the District's founding government. The "City of Washington" is given a mayor-council form of government.

BORN THIS DAY

Hosni Mubarak, 1928, President of Egypt from 1981 to 2011

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1926, The United Kingdom general strike begins.

BORN THIS DAY

Søren Kierkegaard, 1813, Danish philosopher and theologian (1813–1855)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1789, In France, the Estates-General convenes for the first time since 1614.

BORN THIS DAY

Djemal Pasha, 1872, Ottoman military leader (1872–1922)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: On Corregidor, the last American forces in the Philippines surrender to the Japanese.

BORN THIS DAY

Rabindranath Tagore, 1861, Indian polymath (1861–1941)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1697, Stockholm's medieval castle Tre Kronor is destroyed by fire. It is replaced in the 18th century by the current Royal Palace.

BORN THIS DAY

Harry S. Truman, 1884, President of the United States from 1945 to 1953

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: The German Luftwaffe launches a bombing raid on Nottingham and Derby.

BORN THIS DAY

J. M. Barrie, 1860, Scottish novelist and playwright (1860–1937)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1386, England and Portugal formally ratify their alliance with the signing of the Treaty of Windsor, making it the oldest diplomatic alliance in the world which is still in force.

BORN THIS DAY

Fred Astaire, 1899, American dancer and actor (1899–1987)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1503, Christopher Columbus visits the Cayman Islands and names them Las Tortugas after the numerous turtles there.

11 May

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Salvador Dalí, 1904, Spanish surrealist artist (1904–1989)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1919, Uruguay becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.

BORN THIS DAY

Jiddu Krishnamurti, 1895, Spiritual speaker and writer (1895–1986)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Second Battle of Kharkov: In eastern Ukraine, Red Army forces under Marshal Semyon Timoshenko launch a major offensive from the Izium bridgehead, only to be encircled and destroyed by the troops of Army Group South two weeks later.

BORN THIS DAY

Pope Pius IX, 1792, Head of the Catholic Church from 1846 to 1878

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: Germany's conquest of France begins, as the German army crosses the Meuse. Winston Churchill makes his "blood, toil, tears, and sweat" speech to the House of Commons.

BORN THIS DAY

Franjo Tuđman, 1922, President of Croatia from 1990 to 1999

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1811, Paraguay: Pedro Juan Caballero, Fulgencio Yegros and José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia start actions to depose the Spanish governor.

BORN THIS DAY

Max Frisch, 1911, Swiss playwright and novelist (1911–1991)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1725, Bach leads the first performance of his cantata *Ich bin ein guter Hirt*, BWV 85, about Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

BORN THIS DAY

Juan Rulfo, 1917, Mexican writer (1917–1986)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1888, Nikola Tesla delivers a lecture describing the equipment which will allow efficient generation and use of alternating currents to transmit electric power over long distances.

17 May

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Henri Barbusse, 1873, French novelist and writer (1873–1935)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1809, Emperor Napoleon I orders the annexation of the Papal States to the French Empire.

BORN THIS DAY

Bertrand Russell, 1872, English philosopher and logician (1872–1970)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: Battle of Monte Cassino: Conclusion after seven days of the fourth battle as German paratroopers evacuate Monte Cassino.

BORN THIS DAY

Johann Gottlieb Fichte, 1762, German philosopher (1762–1814)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1802, Napoleon Bonaparte founds the Legion of Honour.

BORN THIS DAY

Sigrid Undset, 1882, Norwegian novelist (1882–1949)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1862, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln signs the Homestead Act into law, opening eighty-four million acres (340,000 km²) of public land to settlers.

BORN THIS DAY

Andrei Sakharov, 1921, Soviet nuclear physicist and human rights activist (1921–1989)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1703, Daniel Defoe is imprisoned on charges of seditious libel.

BORN THIS DAY

Mary Cassatt, 1844, American painter and printmaker (1844–1926)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, Joseph Stalin disbands the Comintern.

BORN THIS DAY

Otto Lilienthal, 1848, German aviation pioneer (1848–1896)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1932, In Brazil, four students are shot and killed during a manifestation against the Brazilian dictator Getúlio Vargas, which resulted in the outbreak of the Constitutionalist Revolution several weeks later.

BORN THIS DAY

Tansu Çiller, 1946, Prime Minister of Turkey from 1993 to 1996

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Battle of the Atlantic: In the Battle of the Denmark Strait, the German battleship Bismarck sinks the pride of the Royal Navy, HMS Hood, killing all but three crewmen.

BORN THIS DAY

Pieter Zeeman, 1865, Dutch physicist (1865–1943)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1738, A treaty between Pennsylvania and Maryland ends the Conojocular War with settlement of a boundary dispute and exchange of prisoners.

BORN THIS DAY

Mehmed III, 1566, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1595 to 1603

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1864, President Abraham Lincoln signs legislation organizing the Montana Territory.

BORN THIS DAY

Louis-Ferdinand Céline, 1894, French writer (1894–1961)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: In the Le Paradis massacre, 99 soldiers from a Royal Norfolk Regiment unit are shot after surrendering to German troops; two survive.

28 May

2027

BORN THIS DAY

William Pitt the Younger, 1759, British statesman (1759–1806)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1892, In San Francisco, John Muir organizes the Sierra Club.

BORN THIS DAY

Alfonsina Storni, 1892, Argentine poet (1892–1938)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1919, Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity is tested (later confirmed) by Arthur Eddington and Andrew Claude de la Cherois Crommelin.

BORN THIS DAY

Alexei Leonov, 1934, Soviet cosmonaut (1934–2019)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1539, In Florida, Hernando de Soto lands at Tampa Bay with 600 soldiers with the goal of finding gold.

BORN THIS DAY

Pope Pius XI, 1857, Head of the Catholic Church from 1922 to 1939

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Imperial Japanese Navy midget submarines begin a series of attacks on Sydney, Australia.

BORN THIS DAY

Marilyn Monroe, 1926, American actress and model (1926–1962)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1815, Napoleon promulgates a revised Constitution after it passes a plebiscite.

BORN THIS DAY

Thomas Hardy, 1840, English novelist and poet (1840–1928)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: German paratroopers murder Greek civilians in the villages of Kondomari and Alikianos.

BORN THIS DAY

George V, 1865, King of the United Kingdom from 1910 to 1936

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: During the Battle of France, the Luftwaffe bombs Paris.

BORN THIS DAY

Bronisław Komorowski, 1952, President of Poland from 2010 to 2015

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1946, in Argentina assumes its first presidency Juan Domingo Perón.

05 June

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Allvar Gullstrand, 1862, Swedish ophthalmologist and optician

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1849, Denmark becomes a constitutional monarchy by the signing of a new constitution.

BORN THIS DAY

Thomas Mann, 1875, German novelist (1875–1955)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1918, World War I: U.S. Marine Corps suffers its worst single day's casualties during the Battle of Belleau Wood while attempting to recapture the wood at Château-Thierry (the losses are exceeded at the Battle of Tarawa in November 1943).

BORN THIS DAY

Philipp Lenard, 1862, Hungarian-German physicist (1862–1947)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1862, The United States and the United Kingdom agree in the Lyons–Seward Treaty to suppress the African slave trade.

BORN THIS DAY

Robert Schumann, 1810, German composer, pianist and critic (1810–1856)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: The completion of Operation Alfabeta, the evacuation of Allied forces from Narvik at the end of the Norwegian campaign.

BORN THIS DAY

Natalie Portman, 1981, Israeli and American actress (born 1981)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1923, Bulgaria's military takes over the government in a coup.

BORN THIS DAY

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, 1921, Consort of Elizabeth II from 1952 to 2021

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1523, Copenhagen is surrounded by the army of Frederick I of Denmark, as the city will not recognise him as the successor of Christian II of Denmark.

BORN THIS DAY

John Constable, 1776, English painter (1776–1837)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1724, Johann Sebastian Bach leads his cantata O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort (O eternity, you word of thunder), BWV 20, on the first Sunday after Trinity, beginning his second cycle, the chorale cantata cycle.

BORN THIS DAY

Anthony Eden, 1897, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1955 to 1957

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1550, The city of Helsinki, Finland (belonging to Sweden at the time) is founded by King Gustav I of Sweden.

BORN THIS DAY

Paavo Nurmi, 1897, Finnish middle and long distance runner (1897–1973)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1525, Martin Luther marries Katharina von Bora, against the celibacy rule decreed by the Roman Catholic Church for priests and nuns.

14 June

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Charles-Augustin de Coulomb, 1736, French physicist (1736–1806)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1955, Chile becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.

BORN THIS DAY

Xi Jinping, 1953, Leader of China since 2012

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: Operation Aerial begins: Allied troops start to evacuate France, following Germany's takeover of Paris and most of the nation.

BORN THIS DAY

Georg Wittig, 1897, German chemist (1897–1987)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1858, Abraham Lincoln delivers his House Divided speech in Springfield, Illinois.

BORN THIS DAY

Eddy Merckx, 1945, Belgian cyclist (born 1945)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1789, In France, the Third Estate declares itself the National Assembly.

BORN THIS DAY

Jürgen Habermas, 1929, German social philosopher (1929–2026)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1858, Charles Darwin receives a paper from Alfred Russel Wallace that includes nearly identical conclusions about evolution as Darwin's own, prompting Darwin to publish his theory.

BORN THIS DAY

Aung San Suu Kyi, 1945, Burmese politician (born 1945)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1862, President Abraham Lincoln signs the Territorial Slavery Act of 1862, which prohibits slavery in all current and future United States territories.

BORN THIS DAY

Errol Flynn, 1909, Australian and American actor (1909–1959)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1956, A Venezuelan Super-Constellation crashes in the Atlantic Ocean off Asbury Park, New Jersey, killing 74 people.

BORN THIS DAY

Michel Platini, 1955, French football player administrator and player (born 1955)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: Italy begins an unsuccessful invasion of France.

BORN THIS DAY

Wilhelm von Humboldt, 1767, Prussian philosopher (1767–1835)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: France is forced to sign the Second Compiègne armistice with Germany, in the same railroad car in which the Germans signed the Armistice in 1918.

BORN THIS DAY

Alfred Kinsey, 1894, American scientist (1894–1956)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1794, Empress Catherine II of Russia grants Jews permission to settle in Kyiv.

BORN THIS DAY

Juan Manuel Fangio, 1911, Argentine racing driver (1911–1995)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: Operation Collar, the first British Commando raid on occupied France, by No 11 Independent Company.

BORN THIS DAY

George Orwell, 1903, English author and journalist (1903–1950)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1788, Virginia becomes the tenth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

BORN THIS DAY

Lord Kelvin, 1824, British physicist, engineer and mathematician (1824–1907)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: Under the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, the Soviet Union presents an ultimatum to Romania requiring it to cede Bessarabia and the northern part of Bukovina.

BORN THIS DAY

Helen Keller, 1880, American author and activist (1880–1968)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1806, British forces take Buenos Aires during the first of the British invasions of the River Plate.

BORN THIS DAY

Luigi Pirandello, 1867, Sicilian dramatist, novelist, poet, short story writer (1867–1936)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Nazi Germany starts its strategic summer offensive against the Soviet Union, codenamed Case Blue.

BORN THIS DAY

Robert Schuman, 1886, Prime Minister of France from 1947 to 1948

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, The Soviet Union annexes the Czechoslovak province of Carpathian Ruthenia.

BORN THIS DAY

Czesław Miłosz, 1911, Polish-American poet and Nobel laureate (1911–2004)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1905, Albert Einstein sends the article *On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies*, in which he introduces special relativity, for publication in *Annalen der Physik*.

BORN THIS DAY

Frederick II of Denmark, 1534, King of Denmark and Norway from 1559 to 1588

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1858, Joint reading of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace's papers on evolution to the Linnean Society of London.

BORN THIS DAY

Hermann Hesse, 1877, German writer (1877–1962)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1921, World War I: U.S. President Warren G. Harding signs the Knox–Porter Resolution formally ending the war between the United States and Germany.

BORN THIS DAY

Julian Assange, 1971, Australian WikiLeaks editor (born 1971)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1767, Norway's oldest newspaper still in print, Adresseavisen, is founded and the first edition is published.

BORN THIS DAY

Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1804, American author (1804–1864)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1887, The founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, joins Sindh-Madrassa-tul-Islam, Karachi.

BORN THIS DAY

Cecil Rhodes, 1853, British mining magnate and politician (1853–1902)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1945, The United Kingdom holds its first general election in 10 years, which would be won by Clement Attlee's Labour Party.

BORN THIS DAY

Frida Kahlo, 1907, Mexican painter (1907–1954)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1885, Louis Pasteur successfully tests his vaccine against rabies on Joseph Meister, a boy who was bitten by a rabid dog.

BORN THIS DAY

Ringo Starr, 1940, English musician and actor (born 1940)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: Largest Banzai charge of the Pacific War at the Battle of Saipan.

BORN THIS DAY

Jean de La Fontaine, 1621, French fabulist and poet (1621–1695)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1497, Vasco da Gama sets sail on the first direct European voyage to India.

BORN THIS DAY

Jan Neruda, 1834, Czech poet, theater reviewer, publicist, journalist and writer

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1821, Four hundred and seventy prominent Cypriots including Archbishop Kyprianos are executed in response to Cypriot aid to the Greek War of Independence.

BORN THIS DAY

Nikola Tesla, 1856, Serbian-American engineer and inventor (1856–1943)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: The Vichy government is established in France.

11 July

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Jean-François Marmontel, 1723, French historian and writer (1723–1799)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1950, Pakistan joins the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank.

BORN THIS DAY

Amedeo Modigliani, 1884, Italian painter and sculptor (1884–1920)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: Battle of Kursk: German and Soviet forces engage in the Battle of Prokhorovka, one of the largest armored engagements of all time.

BORN THIS DAY

Harrison Ford, 1942, American actor (born 1942)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Montenegrins begin the Trinaestojulski ustanak (Thirteenth of July Uprising), a popular revolt against the Axis powers.

BORN THIS DAY

Gerald Ford, 1913, President of the United States from 1974 to 1977

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1916, World War I: Battle of Delville Wood begins as an action within the Battle of the Somme, lasting until 3 September 1916.

BORN THIS DAY

Rembrandt, 1606, Dutch painter and printmaker (1606–1669)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1918, World War I: The Second Battle of the Marne begins near the River Marne with a German attack.

BORN THIS DAY

Joshua Reynolds, 1723, English painter (1723–1792)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1790, The District of Columbia is established as the capital of the United States after signature of the Residence Act.

17 July

2027

BORN THIS DAY

James Cagney, 1899, American actor and dancer (1899–1986)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1821, The Kingdom of Spain cedes the territory of Florida to the United States.

BORN THIS DAY

Rudolf II, Holy Roman Emperor, 1552, Holy Roman Emperor from 1576 to 1612

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1723, Johann Sebastian Bach leads the first performance of his cantata *Erforsche mich, Gott, und erfahre mein Herz*, BWV 136, in Leipzig on the eighth Sunday after Trinity.

19 July

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Gottfried Keller, 1819, Swiss poet and writer

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1947, Prime Minister of the shadow Burmese government, Bogyoke Aung San and eight others are assassinated.

BORN THIS DAY

Diana Rigg, 1938, English actress (1938–2020)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1810, Citizens of Bogotá, New Granada declare independence from Spain.

21 July

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Cat Stevens, 1948, British musician (born 1948)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: Battle of Guam: American troops land on Guam, starting a battle that will end on August 10.

BORN THIS DAY

Edward Hopper, 1882, American painter and printmaker (1882–1967)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1598, William Shakespeare's play, *The Merchant of Venice*, is entered on the Stationers' Register. By decree of Queen Elizabeth, the Stationers' Register licensed printed works, giving the Crown tight control over all published material.

BORN THIS DAY

Sergio Mattarella, 1941, President of Italy since 2015

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, Bulgarian poet and communist activist Nikola Vaptsarov is executed by firing squad.

BORN THIS DAY

Henrik Pontoppidan, 1857, Danish writer, Nobel Laureate

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: Operation Gomorrah begins: British and Canadian aeroplanes bomb Hamburg by night, and American planes bomb the city by day. By the end of the operation in November, 9,000 tons of explosives will have killed more than 30,000 people and destroyed 280,000 buildings.

BORN THIS DAY

Frances Arnold, 1956, American chemist and academic (born 1956)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1824, Costa Rica annexes Guanacaste from Nicaragua.

BORN THIS DAY

George Bernard Shaw, 1856, Irish playwright, critic, and polemicist (1856–1950)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1847, Liberia declares its independence from the United States. France and the United Kingdom are the first to recognize the new nation.

BORN THIS DAY

Alexandre Dumas fils, 1824, French writer and dramatist (1824–1895)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1890, Vincent van Gogh shoots himself and dies two days later.

BORN THIS DAY

Hugo Chávez, 1954, President of Venezuela from 1999 to 2013

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Soviet leader Joseph Stalin issues Order No. 227. In response to alarming German advances, all those who retreat or otherwise leave their positions without orders to do so are to be tried in a military court, with punishment ranging from duty in a shtrafbat battalion, imprisonment in a Gulag, or execution.

BORN THIS DAY

Benito Mussolini, 1883, Dictator of Italy from 1922 to 1943

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1921, Adolf Hitler becomes leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party.

BORN THIS DAY

Patrick Modiano, 1945, French novelist (born 1945)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1756, In Saint Petersburg, Bartolomeo Rastrelli presents the newly built Catherine Palace to Empress Elizabeth and her courtiers.

BORN THIS DAY

J. K. Rowling, 1965, British author (born 1965)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1938, Bulgaria signs a non-aggression pact with Greece and other states of Balkan Antanti (Turkey, Romania, Yugoslavia).

BORN THIS DAY

George de Hevesy, 1885, Hungarian radiochemist (1885–1966)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1498, Christopher Columbus becomes the first European to visit what is now Venezuela.

BORN THIS DAY

Shimon Peres, 1923, Israeli politician (1923–2016)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

-47, Julius Caesar defeats Pharnaces II of Pontus in the battle of Zela.

BORN THIS DAY

Frederick William III, 1770, King of Prussia from 1797 to 1840

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1492, Christopher Columbus sets sail from Palos de la Frontera, Spain.

BORN THIS DAY

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, 1960, Prime Minister of Spain from 2004 to 2011

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1789, France: abolition of feudalism by the National Constituent Assembly.

BORN THIS DAY

Guy de Maupassant, 1850, French writer (1850–1893)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1949, In Montana, 12 smokejumper firefighters and a US Forest Service fire guard are killed in the Mann Gulch Fire.

BORN THIS DAY

Charles VII, Holy Roman Emperor, 1697, Holy Roman Emperor from 1742 to 1745

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1538, Bogotá, Colombia, is founded by Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada.

BORN THIS DAY

Elinor Ostrom, 1933, American political economist (1933–2012)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1782, George Washington orders the creation of the Badge of Military Merit to honor soldiers wounded in battle. It is later renamed to the more poetic Purple Heart.

BORN THIS DAY

Dustin Hoffman, 1937, American actor (born 1937)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1863, Tennessee Military Governor Andrew Johnson frees his personal slaves in Greeneville, Tennessee, despite them being exempt from the Emancipation Proclamation, now commemorated as Emancipation Day in the state.

BORN THIS DAY

Whitney Houston, 1963, American singer and actress (1963–2012)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1810, Napoleon annexes Westphalia as part of the First French Empire.

BORN THIS DAY

Alfred Döblin, 1878, German novelist, essayist, and doctor (1878–1957)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: The Battle of Guam in the Pacific comes to an effective end.

BORN THIS DAY

Sadi Carnot (statesman), 1837, President of France from 1887 to 1894

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1813, In Colombia, Juan del Corral declares the independence of Antioquia.

12 August

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Jacinto Benavente, 1866, Spanish dramatist (1866–1954)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1492, Christopher Columbus arrives in the Canary Islands on his first voyage to the New World.

BORN THIS DAY

Frederick Sanger, 1918, British biochemist (1918–2013)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1724, Johann Sebastian Bach leads the first performance of Nimm von uns, Herr, du treuer Gott, BWV 101, a chorale cantata on a famous tune.

14 August

2027

BORN THIS DAY

John Galsworthy, 1867, English novelist and playwright (1867–1933)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1947, Pakistan gains independence from the British Empire as the Dominion of Pakistan, due to the partition of India.

BORN THIS DAY

Napoleon, 1769, Emperor of the French (1804–1814; 1815)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1914, World War I: The First Russian Army, led by Paul von Rennenkampf, enters East Prussia.

BORN THIS DAY

Gabriel Lippmann, 1845, French physicist (1845–1921)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: US Navy L-class blimp L-8 drifts in from the Pacific and eventually crashes in Daly City, California. The two-man crew cannot be found.

BORN THIS DAY

V. S. Naipaul, 1932, Trinidadian writer (1932–2018)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1798, The Vietnamese Catholics report a Marian apparition in Quảng Trị, an event which is called Our Lady of La Vang.

BORN THIS DAY

Brook Taylor, 1685, English mathematician

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: The Hardest Day air battle, part of the Battle of Britain, takes place. At that point, it is the largest aerial engagement in history with heavy losses sustained on both sides.

BORN THIS DAY

George Enescu, 1881, Romanian composer and violinist (1881–1955)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

-43, In the wake of the murder of Julius Caesar, his nephew and heir, Octavian, uses the threat of military force to compel the Roman Senate to elect him Consul.

BORN THIS DAY

Benjamin Harrison, 1833, President of the United States from 1889 to 1893

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1858, Charles Darwin first publishes his theory of evolution through natural selection in The Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London, alongside Alfred Russel Wallace's same theory.

BORN THIS DAY

Jules Michelet, 1798, French writer and historian (1798–1874)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: The Guadalcanal campaign: American forces defeat an attack by Imperial Japanese Army soldiers in the Battle of the Tenaru.

BORN THIS DAY

Claude Debussy, 1862, French classical composer (1862–1918)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, Brazil declares war on Germany, Japan and Italy.

BORN THIS DAY

Gene Kelly, 1912, American actor, dancer, singer and director (1912–1996)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1799, Napoleon Bonaparte leaves Egypt for France en route to seizing power.

BORN THIS DAY

Fernand Braudel, 1902, French historian and leader of the Annales School (1902–1985)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1914, World War I: German troops capture Namur.

BORN THIS DAY

Ludwig II of Bavaria, 1845, King of Bavaria from 1864 to 1886

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: The first Bombing of Berlin by the British Royal Air Force.

BORN THIS DAY

Chris Pine, 1980, American actor (born 1980)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: Chad becomes the first French colony to join the Allies under the administration of Félix Éboué, France's first black colonial governor.

BORN THIS DAY

Theodore Dreiser, 1871, American novelist and journalist (1871–1945)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1813, French Emperor Napoleon I defeats a larger force of Austrians, Russians, and Prussians at the Battle of Dresden.

28 August

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Ivo Josipović, 1957, President of Croatia from 2010 to 2015

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: Marseille and Toulon are liberated.

BORN THIS DAY

Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, 1780, French painter (1780–1867)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1914, World War I: Start of the Battle of St. Quentin in which the French Fifth Army counter-attacked the invading Germans at Saint-Quentin, Aisne.

BORN THIS DAY

Mary Shelley, 1797, English writer (1797–1851)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1917, Vietnamese prison guards led by Trịnh Văn Cấn mutiny at the Thái Nguyên penitentiary against local French authority.

BORN THIS DAY

Tsai Ing-wen, 1956, President of the Republic of China from 2016 to 2024

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Serbian paramilitary forces defeat Germans in the Battle of Loznica.

BORN THIS DAY

Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, 1945, President of Yemen from 2012 to 2022

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: Launch of Operation Ratweek, complicating German retreat.

BORN THIS DAY

Joseph Roth, 1894, Austro-Hungarian novelist and journalist (1894–1939)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: Following the start of the invasion of Poland the previous day, the Free City of Danzig (now Gdańsk, Poland) is annexed by Nazi Germany.

BORN THIS DAY

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, 1936, President of Tunisia from 1987 to 2011

HAPPENED THIS DAY

301, San Marino, one of the smallest nations in the world and the world's oldest republic still in existence, is founded by Saint Marinus.

BORN THIS DAY

Luigi Cadorna, 1850, Italian general and count (1850–1928)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1912, Albanian rebels succeed in their revolt when the Ottoman Empire agrees to fulfill their demands

BORN THIS DAY

Johann Christian Bach, 1735, German composer (1735–1782)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1938, Chile: A group of youths affiliated with the fascist National Socialist Movement of Chile are executed after surrendering during a failed coup.

BORN THIS DAY

Moses Mendelssohn, 1729, German philosopher and theologian (1729–1786)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1492, Christopher Columbus sails from La Gomera in the Canary Islands, his final port of call before crossing the Atlantic Ocean for the first time.

BORN THIS DAY

Buddy Holly, 1936, American musician (1936–1959)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1864, American Civil War: Atlanta is evacuated on orders of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman.

BORN THIS DAY

Mustafa IV, 1779, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1807 to 1808

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1655, Warsaw falls without resistance to a small force under the command of Charles X Gustav of Sweden during The Deluge, making it the first time the city is captured by a foreign army.

BORN THIS DAY

Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, 1918, President of Italy from 1992 to 1999

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1791, Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, is named after President George Washington.

BORN THIS DAY

Chris Columbus (filmmaker), 1958, American filmmaker (born 1958)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1724, Johann Sebastian Bach leads the first performance of *Jesu, der du meine Seele*, BWV 78, a chorale cantata based on a passion hymn by Johann Rist.

BORN THIS DAY

Sung Jae-gi, 1967, South Korean activist (1967–2013)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1541, Santiago, Chile, is attacked by indigenous warriors, led by Michimalonco, to free eight indigenous chiefs held captive by the Spaniards.

BORN THIS DAY

Hans Zimmer, 1957, German film composer (born 1957)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1959, The Soviet Union launches a large rocket, Lunik II, at the Moon.

BORN THIS DAY

Leopold Ružička, 1887, Croatian-Swiss chemist (1887–1976)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1862, American Civil War: Union soldiers find a copy of Robert E. Lee's battle plans in a field outside Frederick, Maryland. It is the prelude to the Battle of Antietam.

BORN THIS DAY

Margaret Sanger, 1879, American birth control activist and nurse (1879–1966)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: The Estonian military boards the Polish submarine ORP Orzeł in Tallinn, sparking a diplomatic incident that the Soviet Union will later use to justify the annexation of Estonia.

BORN THIS DAY

Umberto II of Italy, 1904, King of Italy in 1946

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1952, The United Nations cedes Eritrea to Ethiopia.

BORN THIS DAY

Albert Szent-Györgyi, 1893, Hungarian biochemist (1893–1986), Nobel Prize winner

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: Italian troops conquer Sidi Barrani.

BORN THIS DAY

Ken Kesey, 1935, American writer and countercultural figure (1935–2001)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1950, The Republic of India formally recognised the State of Israel.

BORN THIS DAY

Anna Netrebko, 1971, Russian operatic soprano (born 1971)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

324, Constantine the Great decisively defeats Licinius in the Battle of Chrysopolis, establishing Constantine's sole control over the Roman Empire.

BORN THIS DAY

Paulo Freire, 1921, Brazilian educator (1921–1997)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: The Battle of Kępa Oksywska concludes, with Polish losses reaching roughly 14% of all the forces engaged.

BORN THIS DAY

Sophia Loren, 1934, Italian actress (born 1934)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1519, Ferdinand Magellan sets sail from Sanlúcar de Barrameda with about 270 men on his expedition which ultimately culminates in the first circumnavigation of the globe.

BORN THIS DAY

Shinzo Abe, 1954, Prime Minister of Japan (2006–2007; 2012–2020)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1776, Part of New York City is burned shortly after being occupied by British forces.

BORN THIS DAY

Philip Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, 1694, British politician, diplomat and writer (1694–1773)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1957, In Haiti, François Duvalier is elected president.

BORN THIS DAY

Aldo Moro, 1916, Prime Minister of Italy (1963–1968; 1974–1976)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: The Matanikau action on Guadalcanal begins: U.S. Marines attack Japanese units along the Matanikau River.

BORN THIS DAY

F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1896, American writer (1896–1940)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1932, Mahatma Gandhi and B. R. Ambedkar agree to the Poona Pact, which reserved seats in the Indian provincial legislatures for the "Depressed Classes" (Untouchables).

BORN THIS DAY

Francesco Borromini, 1599, Italian Baroque architect (1599–1667)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: Surviving elements of the British 1st Airborne Division withdraw from Arnhem via Oosterbeek.

BORN THIS DAY

Martin Heidegger, 1889, German philosopher (1889–1976)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

-46, Julius Caesar dedicates a temple to Venus Genetrix, fulfilling a vow he made at the Battle of Pharsalus.

27 September

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Grazia Deledda, 1871, Italian writer (1871–1936)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: The Tripartite Pact is signed in Berlin by Germany, Japan and Italy.

BORN THIS DAY

Brigitte Bardot, 1934, French actress and activist (1934–2025)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agree on a division of Poland.

BORN THIS DAY

László Bíró, 1899, Hungarian-Argentine inventor (1899–1985)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1724, J. S. Bach leads the first performance of Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir, BWV 130 for the feast of archangel Michael, based on Paul Eber's hymn in twelve stanzas.

BORN THIS DAY

Jean Perrin, 1870, French physicist (1870–1942)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1947, Pakistan joins the United Nations.

BORN THIS DAY

Ip Man, 1893, Chinese martial artist (1893–1972)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1949, The People's Republic of China is established.

BORN THIS DAY

Paul von Hindenburg, 1847, President of Germany from 1925 to 1934

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1958, Guinea declares its independence from France.

BORN THIS DAY

Louis Aragon, 1897, French poet (1897–1982)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1789, George Washington proclaims Thursday November 26, 1789 as Thanksgiving Day.

BORN THIS DAY

Engelbert Dollfuss, 1892, Chancellor of Austria from 1932 to 1934

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1582, The Gregorian Calendar is introduced by Pope Gregory XIII.

BORN THIS DAY

Václav Havel, 1936, Last president of Czechoslovakia and first president of the Czech Republic (1936–2011)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: Pacific Theater: Ninety-eight American POWs are executed by Japanese forces on Wake Island.

BORN THIS DAY

Roland Garros (aviator), 1888, 20th-century early French pilot

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: The Battle of Kock is the final combat of the September Campaign in Poland.

07 October

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Desmond Tutu, 1931, South African bishop and anti-apartheid activist (1931–2021)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: The McCollum memo proposes bringing the United States into the war in Europe by provoking the Japanese to attack the United States.

BORN THIS DAY

Otto Heinrich Warburg, 1883, German physiologist and Nobel laureate (1883–1970)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: Germany annexes western Poland.

BORN THIS DAY

Nikolai Bukharin, 1888, Soviet revolutionary and politician (1888–1938)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, A coup in Panama declares Ricardo Adolfo de la Guardia Arango the new president.

BORN THIS DAY

Taur Matan Ruak, 1956, East Timorese politician (born 1956)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1492, The crew of Christopher Columbus's ship, the Santa Maria, attempt a mutiny.

BORN THIS DAY

François Mauriac, 1885, French author (1885-1970)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1311, The peerage and clergy restrict the authority of English kings with the Ordinances of 1311.

BORN THIS DAY

Edward VI, 1537, King of England and Ireland from 1547 to 1553

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1492, Christopher Columbus's first expedition makes landfall on San Salvador Island in the Caribbean. (Julian calendar)

BORN THIS DAY

Margaret Thatcher, 1925, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1923, Ankara becomes the capital of Turkey.

BORN THIS DAY

Lillian Gish, 1893, American actress (1893–1993)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: The German submarine U-47 sinks the British battleship HMS Royal Oak within her harbour at Scapa Flow, Scotland.

15 October

2027

BORN THIS DAY

Akbar, 1542, Mughal emperor from 1556 to 1605

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1815, Napoleon begins his exile on Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean.

BORN THIS DAY

Günter Grass, 1927, German author and artist (1927–2015)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1953, Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro delivers his "History Will Absolve Me" speech, and is sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by the Fulgencio Batista government for leading an attack on the Moncada Barracks.

BORN THIS DAY

Eminem, 1972, American rapper (born 1972)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1933, Albert Einstein flees Nazi Germany and moves to the United States.

BORN THIS DAY

Pierre Trudeau, 1919, Prime Minister of Canada (1968–1979; 1980–1984)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1561, In Japan the fourth Battle of Kawanakajima is fought between the forces of Uesugi Kenshin and Takeda Shingen, resulting in a draw.

BORN THIS DAY

Angus Deaton, 1945, British-American economist (born 1945)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1512, Martin Luther becomes a doctor of theology.

BORN THIS DAY

Isabelle de Charrière, 1740, Dutch and Swiss writer (1740–1805)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Thousands of civilians in German-occupied Serbia are murdered in the Kragujevac massacre.

BORN THIS DAY

Benjamin Netanyahu, 1949, Prime Minister of Israel (1996–1999; 2009–2021; 2022–present)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1512, Martin Luther joins the theological faculty of the University of Wittenberg.

BORN THIS DAY

Robert Capa, 1913, Hungarian-American photographer (1913–1954)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1724, J. S. Bach leads the first performance of *Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele* (Adorn yourself, O dear soul) in Leipzig on the 20th Sunday after Trinity, based on the communion hymn of the same name.

BORN THIS DAY

Ang Lee, 1954, Taiwanese filmmaker (born 1954)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1958, Belgian artist Peyo's comic characters, the Smurfs, make their debut in Spirou magazine.

BORN THIS DAY

Malcolm Turnbull, 1954, Prime Minister of Australia from 2015 to 2018

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: Japan's center force is temporarily repulsed in the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

BORN THIS DAY

Levi Eshkol, 1895, Prime Minister of Israel from 1963 to 1969

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: Heinrich Himmler orders a crackdown on the Edelweiss Pirates, a loosely organized youth culture in Nazi Germany that had assisted army deserters and others to hide from the Third Reich.

BORN THIS DAY

Karin Boye, 1900, Swedish poet and novelist (1900–1941)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: In the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands during the Guadalcanal Campaign, one U.S. aircraft carrier is sunk and another carrier is heavily damaged, while two Japanese carriers and one cruiser are heavily damaged.

BORN THIS DAY

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, 1945, President of Brazil (2003–2011; since 2023)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1275, Traditional founding of the city of Amsterdam.

BORN THIS DAY

Jonas Salk, 1914, American inventor of the polio vaccine (1914–1995)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1420, Beijing is officially designated the capital of the Ming dynasty when the Forbidden City is completed.

BORN THIS DAY

Richard Dreyfuss, 1947, American actor (born 1947)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: The Dutch city of Breda is liberated by 1st Polish Armoured Division.

BORN THIS DAY

Francisco I. Madero, 1873, President of Mexico from 1911 to 1913

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: Lt. Tony Fasson and Able Seaman Colin Grazier drown while taking code books from the sinking German submarine U-559.

BORN THIS DAY

Pope Clement XIV, 1705, Head of the Catholic Church from 1769 to 1774

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1864, Nevada is admitted as the 36th U.S. state.

BORN THIS DAY

Edward Said, 1935, Palestinian-American academic (1935–2003)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1805, Napoleon Bonaparte invades Austria during the War of the Third Coalition.

BORN THIS DAY

Edward V, 1470, King of England in 1483

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, World War II: First day of Battle of Elaia–Kalamas between the Greeks and the Italians.

BORN THIS DAY

Amartya Sen, 1933, Indian economist and Nobel laureate (born 1933)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1812, Napoleon's armies are defeated at the Battle of Vyazma.

BORN THIS DAY

Laura Bush, 1946, First Lady of the United States from 2001 to 2009

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1783, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Symphony No. 36 is performed for the first time in Linz, Austria.

BORN THIS DAY

Oleg Blokhin, 1952, Ukrainian footballer and manager

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1881, In New Zealand, 1600 armed volunteers and constabulary field forces led by Minister of Native Affairs John Bryce march on the pacifist Māori settlement at Parihaka, evicting upwards of 2000 residents, and destroying the settlement in the context of the New Zealand land confiscations.

BORN THIS DAY

Suleiman the Magnificent, 1494, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1520 to 1566

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1860, Abraham Lincoln is elected the 16th president of the United States with only 40% of the popular vote, defeating John C. Breckinridge, John Bell, and Stephen A. Douglas in a four-way race.

BORN THIS DAY

Michael Spence, 1943, Canadian-American economist and Nobel Laureate (born 1943)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1504, Christopher Columbus returns from his fourth and last voyage.

BORN THIS DAY

Edmond Halley, 1656, English astronomer, mathematician and physicist (1656–1742)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: French Resistance coup in Algiers, in which 400 civilian French patriots neutralize Vichyist XIXth Army Corps after 15 hours of fighting, and arrest several Vichyist generals, allowing the immediate success of Operation Torch in Algiers.

BORN THIS DAY

Muhammad Iqbal, 1877, Islamic philosopher and poet (1877–1938)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1940, Warsaw is awarded the *Virtuti Militari* by the Polish government-in-exile.

BORN THIS DAY

Martin Luther, 1483, German priest, theologian and author (1483–1546)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1766, The last colonial governor of New Jersey, William Franklin, signs the charter of Queen's College (later renamed Rutgers University).

BORN THIS DAY

Gustaf VI Adolf, 1882, King of Sweden from 1950 to 1973

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1923, Adolf Hitler is arrested in Munich for high treason for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch.

BORN THIS DAY

John William Strutt, 3rd Baron Rayleigh, 1842, British physicist (1842–1919)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1956, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia join the United Nations.

BORN THIS DAY

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, 1953, President of Mexico from 2018 to 2024

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1947, The Soviet Union completes development of the AK-47, one of the first proper assault rifles.

BORN THIS DAY

Condoleezza Rice, 1954, American diplomat and political scientist (born 1954)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

-332, Alexander the Great is crowned pharaoh of Egypt.

BORN THIS DAY

William Herschel, 1738, German-British astronomer and composer (1738–1822)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1889, Brazil is declared a republic by Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca as Emperor Pedro II is deposed in a military coup.

BORN THIS DAY

Guillermo Lasso, 1955, President of Ecuador from 2021 to 2023

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1849, A Russian court sentences writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky to death for anti-government activities linked to a radical intellectual group; his sentence is later commuted to hard labor.

BORN THIS DAY

Cyril Ramaphosa, 1952, President of South Africa since 2018

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1831, Ecuador and Venezuela are separated from Gran Colombia.

BORN THIS DAY

Carl Maria von Weber, 1786, German composer (1786–1826)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1918, Latvia declares its independence from Russia.

BORN THIS DAY

Charles I of England, 1600, King of England, Scotland and Ireland from 1625 to 1649

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1946, Afghanistan, Iceland and Sweden join the United Nations.

BORN THIS DAY

Otto von Habsburg, 1912, Heir to the Austrian throne (1912–2011)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1805, Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*, premieres in Vienna.

BORN THIS DAY

Voltaire, 1694, French writer and philosopher (1694–1778)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1877, Thomas Edison announces his invention of the phonograph, a machine that can record and play sound.

BORN THIS DAY

Charles de Gaulle, 1890, French general and statesman (1890–1970)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, Lebanon gains independence from France, nearly two years after it was first announced by the Free French government.

BORN THIS DAY

Johannes Diderik van der Waals, 1837, Dutch physicist (1837–1923)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: HMS Rawalpindi is sunk by the German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau.

BORN THIS DAY

Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1849, British-American novelist (1849–1924)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* is published.

BORN THIS DAY

Carl Benz, 1844, German designer and engineer (1844–1929)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1943, World War II: Statehood of Bosnia and Herzegovina is re-established at the State Anti-fascist Council for the National Liberation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

BORN THIS DAY

Tina Turner, 1939, Singer-songwriter and actress (1939–2023)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: The Hull note is given to the Japanese ambassador, demanding that Japan withdraw from China and French Indochina, in return for which the United States would lift economic sanctions. On the same day, Japan's 1st Air Fleet departs Hitokappu Bay for Hawaii.

BORN THIS DAY

Bruce Lee, 1940, Martial artist and actor (1940–1973)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1912, Spain declares a protectorate over the north shore of Morocco.

BORN THIS DAY

Friedrich Engels, 1820, German philosopher and socialist (1820–1895)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1811, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73, premieres at the Gewandhaus in Leipzig.

BORN THIS DAY

C. S. Lewis, 1898, British writer, lay theologian, and scholar (1898–1963)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, Albania is liberated by the Partisans.

BORN THIS DAY

Jonathan Swift, 1667, Anglo-Irish satirist and cleric (1667–1745)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1916, Costa Rica signs the Buenos Aires Convention, a copyright treaty.

BORN THIS DAY

Pablo Escobar, 1949, Colombian drug lord (1949–1993)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1862, American Civil War: In his second State of the Union Address, President Abraham Lincoln reaffirms the necessity of ending slavery as ordered ten weeks earlier in the Emancipation Proclamation.

BORN THIS DAY

Gianni Versace, 1946, Italian fashion designer (1946–1997)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1865, Alabama ratifies the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, followed by North Carolina, then Georgia; U.S. slaves were legally free within two weeks.

BORN THIS DAY

Joseph Conrad, 1857, Polish-British writer (1857–1924)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1818, Illinois becomes the 21st U.S. state.

BORN THIS DAY

Samuel Butler (novelist), 1835, English novelist and critic (1835–1902)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1939, World War II: HMS Nelson is struck by a mine (laid by U-31) off the Scottish coast and is laid up for repairs until August 1940.

BORN THIS DAY

Bhumibol Adulyadej, 1927, King of Thailand from 1946 to 2016

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Great Britain declares war on Finland, Hungary and Romania.

BORN THIS DAY

George Porter, 1920, British chemist (1920–2002)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1492, After exploring the island of Cuba (which he had mistaken for Japan) for gold, Christopher Columbus lands on an island he names Hispaniola.

BORN THIS DAY

Leopold Kronecker, 1823, German mathematician (1823–1891)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Attack on Pearl Harbor: The Imperial Japanese Navy carries out a surprise attack on the United States Pacific Fleet and its defending Army and Marine air forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. (For Japan's near-simultaneous attacks on Eastern Hemisphere targets, see December 8.)

BORN THIS DAY

Diego Rivera, 1886, Mexican muralist (1886–1957)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declares December 7 to be "a date which will live in infamy", after which the U.S. declares war on Japan.

BORN THIS DAY

Judi Dench, 1934, English actress (born 1934)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1856, The Iranian city of Bushehr surrenders to occupying British forces.

BORN THIS DAY

Michael Clarke Duncan, 1957, American actor (1957–2012)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1953, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill receives the Nobel Prize in Literature.

BORN THIS DAY

Robert Koch, 1843, German physician and bacteriologist (1843–1910)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1816, Indiana becomes the 19th U.S. state.

BORN THIS DAY

Gustave Flaubert, 1821, French novelist (1821–1880)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1787, Pennsylvania becomes the second state to ratify the US Constitution.

BORN THIS DAY

Henry IV of France, 1553, King of France from 1589 to 1610

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1862, American Civil War: At the Battle of Fredericksburg, Confederate General Robert E. Lee repulses attacks by Union Major General Ambrose Burnside on Marye's Heights, inflicting heavy casualties.

BORN THIS DAY

Morihei Ueshiba, 1883, Founder of Aikido

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1955, Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Laos, Libya, Nepal, Portugal, Romania and Spain join the United Nations through United Nations Security Council Resolution 109.

BORN THIS DAY

Don Johnson, 1949, American actor (born 1949)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1942, World War II: The Battle of Mount Austen, the Galloping Horse, and the Sea Horse begins during the Guadalcanal campaign.

BORN THIS DAY

George Santayana, 1863, Spanish American philosopher (1863–1952)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1944, World War II: The Battle of the Bulge begins with the surprise offensive of three German armies through the Ardennes forest.

BORN THIS DAY

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, 1948, Turkish politician (born 1948)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1819, Simón Bolívar declares the independence of Gran Colombia in Angostura (now Ciudad Bolívar in Venezuela).

BORN THIS DAY

Joseph Stalin, 1878, Leader of the Soviet Union from 1924 to 1953

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1787, New Jersey becomes the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

BORN THIS DAY

Leonid Brezhnev, 1906, Leader of the Soviet Union from 1964 to 1982

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1941, World War II: Adolf Hitler appoints himself as head of the Oberkommando des Heeres.

BORN THIS DAY

Martin Schulz, 1955, German politician (born 1955)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1924, Adolf Hitler is released from Landsberg Prison.

BORN THIS DAY

Benjamin Disraeli, 1804, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1868; 1874–1880)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1923, United Kingdom and Nepal formally sign an agreement of friendship, called the Nepal–Britain Treaty of 1923, which superseded the Treaty of Sugauli signed in 1816.

BORN THIS DAY

Chagatai Khan, 1183, Second son of Genghis Khan and Börte (c. 1184 – 1242)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1808, Ludwig van Beethoven conducts and performs in concert at the Theater an der Wien, Vienna, with the premiere of his Fifth Symphony, Sixth Symphony, Fourth Piano Concerto and Choral Fantasy.

BORN THIS DAY

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, 1896, Sicilian writer and prince (1896–1957)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1948, Seven Japanese military and political leaders convicted of war crimes by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East are executed by Allied occupation authorities at Sugamo Prison in Tokyo, Japan.

BORN THIS DAY

Selim III, 1761, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1789 to 1807

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1814, Representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States sign the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812.

BORN THIS DAY

Isaac Newton, 1642, English polymath (1642–1727)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1725, J. S. Bach leads the first performance of the Christmas cantata Unser Mund sei voll Lachens, BWV 110, making laughter audible in singing.

BORN THIS DAY

Mao Zedong, 1893, Leader of China from 1949 to 1976

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1723, Bach led the first performance of Darzu ist erschienen der Sohn Gottes, BWV 40, his first Christmas Cantata composed for Leipzig.

BORN THIS DAY

Louis Pasteur, 1822, French chemist, pharmacist and microbiologist (1822–1895)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1831, Charles Darwin embarks on his journey aboard HMS Beagle, during which he will begin to formulate his theory of evolution.

BORN THIS DAY

Woodrow Wilson, 1856, President of the United States from 1913 to 1921

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1846, Iowa is admitted as the 29th U.S. state.

BORN THIS DAY

Andrew Johnson, 1808, President of the United States from 1865 to 1869

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1911, Mongolia gains independence from the Qing dynasty, enthroning 8th Jebtsundamba Khutugtu as Khagan of Mongolia.

BORN THIS DAY

Tu Youyou, 1930, Chinese pharmaceutical chemist (born 1930)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1922, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is formed.

BORN THIS DAY

George C. Marshall, 1880, American politician and United States Army general (1880–1959)

HAPPENED THIS DAY

1844, The Philippines skipped this date in order to align the country with the rest of Asia, as the trading interest switched to China, Dutch East Indies and neighboring territories after Mexico gained independence from Spain on 27 September 1821. In the islands, Monday, 30 December 1844 was immediately followed by Wednesday, 1 January 1845.

NOTES

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Notes

2027

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Notes

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