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American Revolution

1777

New York elects its first governor

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CITE

On this day in 1777, New York elects Brigadier General George Clinton as the first governor of the independent state of New York. Clinton would go on to become New York's longest-serving governor, as well as the longest-serving governor in the United States, holding the post until 1795, and again from 1801 to 1804. In 1805, he was elected vice president of the

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United States, a position he held under
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 President Thomas Jefferson

Madison, until his death in 1812.

George Clinton belonged to a politically minded family. His father, Charles, immigrated to New York from Ireland and served in the New York colonial assembly. His brother, James, served as a major general during the War for Independence, and James' son, DeWitt Clinton, would follow in his uncle's footsteps and serve as the governor of New York from 1817 to 1823.

Clinton's career was marked by his friendship with George Washington and his hatred of New York Tories. In fact, as governor, he attempted to keep the public's tax burden low by confiscating and selling land belonging to Tories to maintain state coffers. Clinton went on to represent New York in the Continental Congress and voted in favor of the Declaration of Independence, but was not present to sign the document because he had already left to serve General Washington in the field. Although Clinton refused to endorse the U.S. Constitution until the Bill of Rights was added to the document, he remained a dedicated supporter of the new federal government and threw a celebratory feast for President Washington after riding with him to his first inauguration.

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Lead Story

1877

Wimbledon tournament begins

(/this-day-in-history
/wimbledon-tournament-begins)

On July 9, 1877, the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club begins its first lawn tennis tournament at Wimbledon, then an outer-suburb of London. Twenty-one amateurs showed up to compete in the Gentlemen's Singles tournament, the only event at the first Wimbledon. The winner was to take home a...

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Automotive

2006

World's largest parade of Fiat cars (/this-day-in-history

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[World's largest parade of Fiat cars](#) (/this-day-in-history/worlds-largest-parade-of-fiat-cars)

The Fiat 500 Club Italia, an organization formed in appreciation of the iconic 500-“Cinquecento” in Italian-car produced by the automaker Fiat (Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino), holds what the Guinness Book of World Records will call the world’s largest parade of Fiat cars on July 9, 2006, between Villanova d’Albenga and...

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Civil War

1864

Rebels strike Yankees at the Battle of Monocacy (/this-day-in-history/rebels-strike-yankees-at-the-battle-of-monocacy)

On this day, Confederate General Jubal Early brushes a Union force out of his way as he heads for Washington, D.C. Early’s expedition towards the Union capital was designed to take pressure off Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia around Petersburg, Virginia. Beginning in early May, Ulysses S....

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 ANIMATION-OF-INDEPENDENCE

1960

Khrushchev and Eisenhower trade threats over Cuba (/this-day-in-history/khrushchev-and-eisenhower-trade-threats-over-cuba)

President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev trade verbal threats over the future of Cuba. In the following years, Cuba became a dangerous focus in the Cold War competition between the United States and Russia. In January 1959, Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro overthrew the long-time dictator Fulgencio Batista....

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Crime

1996

A family is brutally attacked on a walk in England (/this-day-in-history/a-family-is-brutally-attacked-on-a-walk-in-england)

Dr. Lin Russell, her two daughters, Josie and Megan, and their dog, Lucy, are all brutally attacked by a man wielding a hammer on their way home to Nonington Village, Kent, England, after a swimming gala. Forcing them to sit

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do: in the woods, the attacker blindfolded
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Disaster

1918

Trains collide outside Nashville (/this-day-in-history/trains-collide-outside-nashville)

Two trains collide outside Nashville, Tennessee, killing 101 people, on this day in 1918. Despite the high death toll, the story was mainly ignored by the national press. It was just after 7 a.m. when the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis line's Train No. 1 arrived at the Shops station....

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General Interest

1850

President Taylor dies of cholera (/this-day-in-history/president-taylor-dies-of-cholera)

Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the United States, dies suddenly from an attack of cholera morbus. He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore. Raised in Kentucky with little formal schooling, Zachary Taylor received a U.S. Army commission in 1808. He became a captain in 1810 and was promoted to major during...

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1947

First female army officer (/this-day-in-history/first-female-army-officer)

In a ceremony held at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, General Dwight D. Eisenhower appoints Florence Blanchfield to be a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, making her the first woman in U.S. history to hold permanent military rank. A member of the Army Nurse Corps since 1917, Blanchfield secured her...

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1993

Romanov remains identified (/this-day-in-history/romanov-remains-identified)

British forensic scientists announce that they have positively identified the remains of Russia's last czar, Nicholas II; his wife, Czarina Alexandra; and three of their daughters. The scientists used mitochondria DNA fingerprinting to identify the bones, which had been excavated from a mass grave near Yekaterinburg in 1991. On the night...

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Hollywood

2008

MTV's The Real World leaves Hollywood (/this-day-in-history/ /mtvs-the-real-world-leaves-hollywood)

On this day in 2008, the final episode of The Real World: Hollywood, a reality television show about seven young adults selected to live together, airs on MTV. Real World: Hollywood marked the 20th season of the pioneering reality program, which debuted in 1992 and went on to become MTV's...

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 MODERNIZATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1962

Bob Dylan records "Blowin' In The Wind" (/this-day-in-history/bob-dylan-records-blowin-in-the-wind)

"This here ain't no protest song or anything like that, 'cause I don't write no protest songs." That was how Bob Dylan introduced one of the most eloquent protest songs ever written when he first performed it publicly. It was the spring of his first full year in New York...

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Old West

1846

U.S. takes San Francisco (/this-day-in-history/u-s-takes-san-francisco)

An American naval captain occupies the small settlement of Yerba Buena, a site that will later be renamed San Francisco. Surprisingly, Europeans did not discover the spectacular San Francisco Bay until 1769, although several explorers had sailed by it in earlier centuries. When Spanish explorers finally found the bay in that...

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Presidential

1850

President Zachary Taylor dies unexpectedly (/this-day-in-history/president-zachary-taylor-dies-unexpectedly)

On this day in 1850, after only 16 months in office, President Zachary Taylor dies after a brief illness. The exact cause of his death is still disputed by some historians. On a scorching Fourth of July in Washington, D.C., Taylor attended festivities at the newly dedicated grounds...

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Sports

1948

Satchel Paige makes debut with Cleveland Indians (/this-day-in-history/satchel-paige-makes-debut-with-cleveland-indians)

On this day in 1948, 42-year-old Leroy "Satchel" Paige pitches two innings for the Cleveland Indians in his debut with the newly-and barely-integrated American League. The game

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car. 21 years after the great pitcher's first
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 Negro League appears in 1907. Page was

born on July 7, 1906, in Mobile, Alabama.

Page's family...

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Vietnam War

1966

Soviets protest U.S. bombing of Haiphong (/this-day-in-history/soviets-protest-u-s-bombing-of-haiphong)

The Soviet Union sends a note to the U.S. embassy in Moscow charging that the air strikes on the port of Haiphong endangered four Soviet ships that were in the harbor. The United States rejected the Soviet protest on July 23, claiming, "Great care had been taken to assure the...

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1971

United States turns over responsibility for the DMZ (/this-day-in-history/united-states-turns-over-responsibility-for-the-dmz)

Four miles south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), about 500 U.S. troops of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division turn over Fire Base Charlie 2 to Saigon troops, completing the transfer of defense responsibilities for the border area. On the previous day, nearby Fire Base Alpha 4 had been turned...

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World War I

1915

Germans surrender Southwest Africa to Union of South Africa (/this-day-in-history/germans-surrender-southwest-africa-to-union-of-south-africa)

On this day in 1915, with the Central Powers pressing their advantage on the Western Front during World War I, the Allies score a distant

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vic...y, when military forces of the Union of
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RODE AFRICA TO UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
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territory of Southwest Africa. The Union of
South Africa, a...

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World War II

1941

Enigma key broken (/this-day-in-history/enigma-key-broken)

On this day in 1941, crackerjack British cryptologists break the secret code used by the German army to direct ground-to-air operations on the Eastern front. British experts had already broken many of the Enigma codes for the Western front. Enigma was the Germans' most sophisticated coding machine, necessary to secretly transmitting...

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