



Every day brings with it a wealth of history, and February 15th is no exception. From ancient times to modern-day milestones, this date has witnessed significant events that have shaped the world we live in. Let's delve deeper into some of the 'Major Historical Events on February 15- Today in History'.

## Major Historical Events on February 15- Today in History

1. Socrates Sentenced to Death (399 BC)
2. Coronation of Khosrau II (590)
3. Start of the Spanish-American War (1898)
4. Introduction of the Teddy Bear (1903)
5. Greece Adopts the Gregorian Calendar (1923)
6. Release of "It" Starring Clara Bow (1927)
7. Eddie Eagan's Olympic Achievement (1932)
8. Duke Ellington Records "Take the A Train" (1941)
9. Fall of Singapore in World War II (1942)
10. Premiere of Disney's Cinderella (1950)
11. Adoption of Canada's Maple Leaf Flag (1965)
12. Decimalization of UK and Ireland Currencies (1971)
13. Leon Spinks Defeats Muhammad Ali (1978)
14. Controversy at the World Chess Championship (1985)
15. Soviet Union Withdraws from Afghanistan (1989)
16. Human Genome Draft Publication (2001)
17. Global Protests Against Iraq War (2003)
18. Largest Peace Demonstration (2003)
19. Grammy Awards Winners (2016)
20. Historic Satellite Launch by India (2017)
21. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's WTO Appointment (2021)

Socrates Sentenced to Death (399 BC)



***Major Historical Events on February 15- Today in History - Socrates Sentenced to Death (399 BC)***

In ancient Athens, the renowned philosopher Socrates was sentenced to death for corrupting the minds of the youth. His trial and subsequent execution remain emblematic of the clash between philosophy and the state.

**Coronation of Khosrau II (590)**

Khosrau II ascended to the throne as the last Sasanian king of Iran before the Muslim conquest. His reign marked a tumultuous period in Persian history, characterized by both internal strife and external threats.

**Start of the Spanish-American War (1898)**

The sinking of the battleship USS Maine in Havana harbor served as a catalyst for the Spanish-American War. This conflict, which lasted from April to August of the same year,



resulted in the United States emerging as a global power and marked the end of Spanish colonial rule in the Americas.

### Introduction of the Teddy Bear (1903)

Morris Michtom, a toy maker from New York, introduced the first teddy bear soft toy for sale. Inspired by a political cartoon featuring President Theodore Roosevelt, the teddy bear quickly became a beloved children's toy and an enduring symbol of comfort and companionship.

### Greece Adopts the Gregorian Calendar (1923)



#### ***Major Historical Events on February 15- Today in History - Greece Adopts the Gregorian Calendar (1923)***

Greece, the birthplace of democracy and Western civilization, adopted the Gregorian calendar, aligning itself with the rest of Europe. This transition marked a significant step



towards modernization and standardization in the country.

## Release of “It” Starring Clara Bow (1927)



### ***Major Historical Events on February 15- Today in History - Release of “It” Starring Clara Bow (1927)***

The silent film “It,” starring Clara Bow, was released in the United States, introducing audiences to the concept of the “It girl.” Bow’s magnetic performance and the film’s cultural impact made it a defining moment in Hollywood history.

## Eddie Eagan’s Olympic Achievement (1932)

American boxer Eddie Eagan became the first person to win Olympic gold medals in both summer and winter games in separate events. His remarkable feat underscored his versatility and athleticism, earning him a place in Olympic history.



### Duke Ellington Records “Take the A Train” (1941)

Jazz pioneer Duke Ellington recorded his iconic song “Take the A Train” for the first time. The composition, which became synonymous with the swing era, showcased Ellington’s innovative style and enduring influence on American music.

### Fall of Singapore in World War II (1942)

Singapore, a strategic British stronghold in Southeast Asia, fell to Japanese forces during World War II. The surrender of British troops, comprising Indian, English, and Australian soldiers, marked a major victory for the Axis powers and a significant setback for the Allied forces.

### Premiere of Disney’s Cinderella (1950)

Disney’s classic animated film Cinderella premiered, captivating audiences with its timeless tale of romance and magic. The film’s enchanting characters and memorable soundtrack have since become beloved icons of popular culture.

### Adoption of Canada’s Maple Leaf Flag (1965)



***Major Historical Events on February 15- Today in History - Adoption of Canada's Maple Leaf Flag (1965)***

Canada adopted its current national flag featuring a stylized maple leaf, symbolizing the country's natural beauty and cultural heritage. The adoption of the maple leaf flag marked a significant step towards Canadian identity and unity.

**Decimalization of UK and Ireland Currencies (1971)**

The United Kingdom and Ireland transitioned from their traditional currency systems to decimalization, streamlining their monetary systems and facilitating commerce. The change simplified currency transactions and brought the two countries in line with modern international standards.

**Leon Spinks Defeats Muhammad Ali (1978)**

In one of boxing's most shocking upsets, newcomer Leon Spinks defeated the legendary



Muhammad Ali to win the heavyweight title. Spinks' victory marked a turning point in his career and remains etched in the annals of boxing history.

### Controversy at the World Chess Championship (1985)

The World Chess Championship match between Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov was controversially abandoned, with Karpov leading 5-3. The decision sparked debates and discussions within the chess community, highlighting the complexities of competitive sports.

### Soviet Union Withdraws from Afghanistan (1989)

The Soviet Union officially ended its military intervention in Afghanistan, withdrawing its troops after a decade-long conflict. The withdrawal marked the culmination of a costly and protracted war that had far-reaching consequences for both Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

### Human Genome Draft Publication (2001)

The publication of the human genome draft, containing complete human genetic information, marked a milestone in scientific research and discovery. The comprehensive map of the human genome laid the foundation for advancements in genetics, medicine, and biotechnology.

### Global Protests Against Iraq War (2003)

Millions of people across the globe participated in widespread protests against the Iraq war, voicing their opposition to military intervention in the region. The demonstrations, held in over 600 cities worldwide, underscored the depth of public opposition to the conflict and highlighted the power of collective action.

### Largest Peace Demonstration (2003)



***Major Historical Events on February 15- Today in History - Largest Peace Demonstration (2003)***

Up to 30 million people in 600 cities worldwide participated in the largest peace demonstration in history, protesting against the Iraq War. The unprecedented show of solidarity highlighted the global opposition to military intervention and called for peaceful resolutions to international conflicts.

**Grammy Awards Winners (2016)**

At the 58th Grammy Awards, Ed Sheeran won Best Song for “Thinking Out Loud,” while Taylor Swift took home the award for Best Album for “1989.” The ceremony celebrated the outstanding achievements of musicians and artists from around the world.

**Historic Satellite Launch by India (2017)**

India’s space agency, ISRO, made history by successfully launching 104 satellites in a single





flight, setting a new record for the most satellites launched in a single mission. This achievement demonstrated India's growing prowess in space technology and cemented its position as a key player in the global space race.

## Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's WTO Appointment (2021)



### ***Major Historical Events on February 15- Today in History - Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's WTO Appointment (2021)***

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria made history by becoming the first woman and first African to lead the World Trade Organization (WTO). Her appointment marked a significant milestone in the quest for gender and racial diversity in international organizations and signaled a new era of leadership at the WTO.

**Also Read: Major Historical Events on February 14- Today in History**