

**Prime Minister
Viktor Chernomyrdin**

Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin was born in 1938 in the central Russian city of Orenburg. He studied engineering at the Kuybyshev Polytechnical Institute.

After joining the Communist Party in 1961, Mr. Chernomyrdin rose through the ranks, holding various party and industrial positions.

In 1985, he was appointed minister of the gas industry for the U.S.S.R. The ministry was transformed into a state company, Gazprom, in 1988 with Mr. Chernomyrdin as its chairman.

Mr. Chernomyrdin became a member of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet in 1987 and was elected to the Communist Party Central Committee in 1986. He resigned from the party following the abortive August 1991 coup.

The following year, President Yeltsin appointed Mr. Chernomyrdin deputy prime minister responsible for energy. He became prime minister in December 1992.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin is married and has two sons.