

Boris Yeltsin

President of the Russian Federation

Born on Feb. 1, 1931, in the village of Butka in the Sverdlovsk region, Boris Yeltsin attended the Urals Polytechnical Institute and graduated in 1955 as a building engineer.

From 1955 to 1976, Mr. Yeltsin worked as a foreman, construction superintendent and senior construction superintendent, chief engineer, head of Sverdlovsk Building Organizations and head of the Construction Department. In 1976, he became First Secretary of the Sverdlovsk Communist Party of the Soviet Union Regional Committee. In 1981, he was made Secretary of the Sverdlovsk Central Committee.

As head of the Central Committee's Construction Department in 1985, Mr. Yeltsin held the position of secretary of the Central Committee for a year and was First Secretary of the Moscow Communist Party of the Soviet Union until 1987. For the next two years, he was First Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Building Committee and Minister of the USSR.

In 1989, he was elected to the USSR Supreme Soviet and was Chairman of the Committee for Construction and Architecture. The following year, Mr. Yeltsin became Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

On June 12, 1991, Mr. Yeltsin was elected the first President of the Russian Federation in national elections. In 1992, he was the Defence Minister (holding the military rank of colonel), Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and chaired the Council of Heads of Russia's Republics.

Since 1993, he has been elected each year as Chairman for the Commonwealth of Independent States. On July 3, 1996, Mr. Yeltsin was re-elected President of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Yeltsin is married with two daughters, he also has four grandchildren.