

Boris Yeltsin

President of Russia

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, senior construction superintendent, chief engineer, the head of Sverdlovsk Building Organizations and the 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 U.S.S.R. State Building Committee and a minister of the U.S.S.R.

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

In national elections on June 12, 1991, Mr. Yeltsin won the post of first President of Russia. In 1992, he was the Defence Minister, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and chair of the Council of Heads of Russia's Republics.

Each year since 1993, Mr. Yeltsin has been elected Chairman of the Commonwealth of Independent States. On July 3, 1996, he was re-elected President of Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin is married. He has two daughters and four grandchildren.