

Boris Yeltsin

President of Russia

Boris Yeltsin was born on Feb. 1, 1931, in the village of Butka in Russia's Sverdlovsk region. In 1955, he graduated from Urals Polytechnical Institute as a building engineer and worked in construction for nearly three decades.

In 1961, Mr. Yeltsin joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In 1976, he was elected first secretary of the party's Sverdlovsk Region Committee. In 1981, he was made secretary of the Sverdlovsk Central Committee.

From 1985 to 1986, Mr. Yeltsin was first secretary of the party's Moscow City Committee. For the next two years, he was first vice-chair of the State Committee on Construction and a minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.).

In 1989, he was elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., where he chaired the Committee on Construction. The following year, Mr. Yeltsin became Speaker of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

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. In 1996, he was re-elected President of Russia.

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