

# BORIS YELTSIN

**Born:** Sverdlovsk, Ukraine, Feb 1, 1931

**1955:** Graduates as an engineer from Ural Polytechnic Institute in Sverdlovsk

**1956:** Marries *Naina Girina*. Two daughters – *Yelena* and *Tatiana*

**1961:** Joins Communist Party

**1976:** Becomes First Secretary of Sverdlovsk region

**1981:** Member of Presidium of Supreme Soviet

**1985:** Chosen by *Mikhail Gorbachev* as First Secretary of Moscow City party committee

**1986:** Inducted into party's ruling Politburo

**1987:** Ousted from Moscow post after clashing with conservatives and criticizing Gorbachev's reforms

**1989:** Wins election to Supreme Soviet after attracting popular support from radical reformers

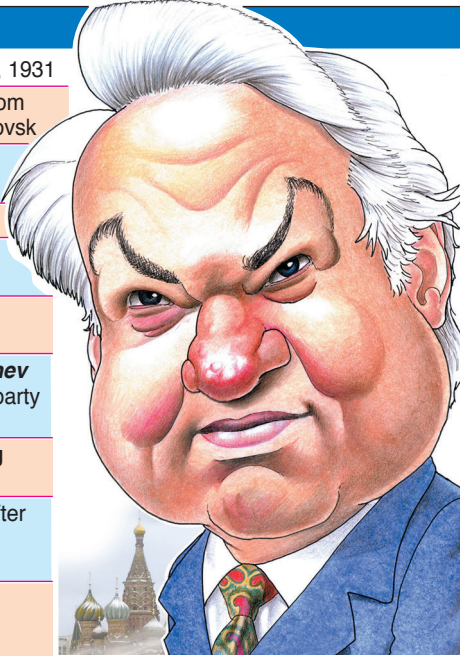
**1990:** Appointed president of newly-independent Russian republic. Resigns from Communist Party

**Jun 1991:** Becomes Russia's first democratically elected president – and Gorbachev's chief liberal opponent

**Aug:** Successfully leads opposition to coup against Gorbachev mounted by hard-line Communists – event shifts power to reformers

**Dec:** Commonwealth of Independent States replaces dissolved U.S.S.R.

**Oct 1993:** Suspends Russian parliament. Army crushes armed uprising led by sacked vice-president *Alexander Rutskoi* – dozens are killed



**Dec:** Wins approval for proposed constitution, which guarantees a free press, human rights and people's right to own property

**1994:** Sends troops into Chechnya to crush separatist rebellion

**1996:** Survives bitter power struggle to win second term. Undergoes quintuple heart bypass surgery

**1997-8:** Authority undermined by ill health and unpredictable behaviour

**1999:** Second invasion of Chechnya proves popular. Pro-government parties perform well in elections

**Dec 31, 1999:** Shock resignation – names prime minister *Vladimir Putin* as his successor