

# Spotlight on Nick Clegg

*Outsider Clegg shakes up British election*

■ **Jan 7, 1967:** **Nicholas William Peter Clegg** born in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire. His father is half Russian, half English; mother is Dutch

## Education

■ Westminster School, London; Robinson College, Cambridge; University of Minnesota. Masters' at College of Europe in Bruges, where he meets Spanish wife **Miriam Gonzalez Durantez** – mother of his three children

## Political career

■ **1994-98:** Works for European Commission, handling £50 million in aid programmes. As policy adviser for Trade Commissioner **Leon Brittan**, Nick Clegg heads EC negotiating team on bids by Russia and China to join World Trade Organisation

■ **1999-2004:** Serves as Liberal Democrat MEP\* for East Midlands

■ **2005:** Elected MP for Sheffield Hallam at general election

■ **2007:** Elected leader of Liberal Democrats following retirement of **Sir Menzies Campbell**. Appoints leadership rival **Chris Huhne** to Home Affairs and acting party leader **Vince Cable** as Treasury spokesperson

■ **April 2009:** Inflicts humiliating defeat on Prime Minister **Gordon Brown** after Tories and Labour rebels back Lib Dem motion demanding right of Gurkha veterans to retire in UK

■ **June:** Opposes £100 billion plan to replace **Trident** nuclear deterrent

■ **2010:** Attacks Labour over its £117 billion taxpayers' bank bailout



■ **April 15:** Clegg's success in first of party leaders' TV debates sees Lib Dems surge in opinion polls, pushing Labour into third place

*Average of polls by BPIX, ComRes, Harris, ICM, Opinium, Populus, YouGov*

