

A close-up portrait of Vladimir Putin, looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. He has short, light brown hair and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt.

Today in History

August 9, 1999

▲ **Former KGB officer Vladimir Putin was named acting prime minister of Russia after President Yeltsin sacked Sergei Stepashin, his fourth premier in 17 months**

1965: Singapore gained independence from Malaysia

2000: Tyre company Firestone recalled 6.5 million tyres after reports of blowouts and peeling treads

2004: The world's deepest vertical drop, measuring 516m, was discovered in a cave in the Velebit mountains in Croatia

2007: Fallout from the subprime mortgage crisis in the U.S. continued as Europe's BNP Paribas froze three of its investment funds