

A close-up portrait of Vladimir Putin, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He has short, light-colored hair and blue eyes. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Today in History

*March 27, 2000*

▲ **Vladimir Putin continued his stunning rise to prominence by securing a full term as Russia's head of state, winning a decisive presidential election victory**

**1945:** The last German V2 rocket landed in Britain

**1980:** The Alexander Kielland oil platform collapsed into the North Sea with the loss of 147 lives

**1995:** South African President Nelson Mandela dismissed his wife Winnie from her cabinet position for repeated attacks on his government

**2005:** Pope John Paul II tried to give his usual Easter blessing but failing health left him unable to speak