

A photograph of Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union. He is an older man with thinning grey hair, wearing glasses, a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie with a red paisley pattern. He is holding a large white document or map with both hands, looking slightly to his right with a serious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Today in History

December 25, 1991

▲ **The Soviet Union ceased to exist after the resignation of President Mikhail Gorbachev, with Russian President Boris Yeltsin taking power**

1866: The American yacht Henrietta won the first transatlantic yacht race, reaching England in 13 days

1979: Afghanistan was invaded by Soviet troops, the start of a grinding nine-year campaign

1990: The World Wide Web came into being, implemented by British computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee

1999: Russian forces entered the Chechen capital Grozny, amid fierce resistance from Islamic fighters