

A photograph showing Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the right, an older man with white hair wearing a dark sweater over a striped shirt, shaking hands with Vladimir Putin on the left, a younger man with dark hair wearing a dark suit and tie. They are in an indoor setting with a painting on the wall behind them.

## Today in History

*December 31, 1999*

▲ Russian president Boris Yeltsin stunned the world by announcing his immediate resignation and appointing premier Vladimir Putin as acting president

**1938:** The “Drunkometer”, the first alcohol breathalyzer machine, was introduced in the United States

**1992:** The European Single Market came into being

**1994:** Russian forces launched a major assault on Grozny, capital of the breakaway republic of Chechnya

**2019:** Health authorities in Wuhan, China, reported 27 cases of pneumonia of unknown origin, the start of the Covid-19 pandemic