

Useful Info #13
Post-Soviet Russia I: Collapse, 1991-1999

Terms, Concepts, etc.

Boris Yeltsin (1931-2007)	Yegor Gaidar	Ruslan Khasbulatov
Gennadii Ziuganov	Privatization	Vouchers
Loans for shares	Anatolii Chubais	Constitution of 1993
State Duma (lower house)	Federal Council (upper house)	Vladimir Putin

Excellent Timeline

1991	Dec	Formal termination of the USSR
1992	Jan	Russian gov't introduces economic "shock therapy" (under Yegor Gaidar)
	Feb	Declaration of Russia and US on end of the Cold War
		Referendum of sovereignty of Tatarstan passes
	March	Conclusion of new Federation Treaty in Russia. ¹
	Oct	Privatization, part I: vouchers given out to the citizenry
	Dec	Yegor Gaidar forced out of office as prime minister
1993	April	Referendum calls for drafting of new constitution
	Sept	Yeltsin dismisses parliament (Supreme Soviet of RF) & announces new elections
	Oct	Parliament resists, and Yeltsin storms the building (the "White House") forcefully
		Termination of soviets at all levels
	Dec	Referendum on new Russian constitution passes
		Elections to new parliament (State Duma)
		Constitution makes all "subjects" (provinces/republics) of Federation equal
1994	Jan	Yelstin's initial core group of reformers resigns
	Feb	Treaty between Russia and Tatarstan. ²
	Aug	Completion of withdrawal of Soviet forces from Europe
	Oct	"Black Tuesday": sharp drop in value of Russian ruble
	Dec	Beginning of (first) war with Chechnya
1995	March	Assassination of TV journalist Vlad Listev
	Fall	Privatization, part II: "loans for shares" (massive giveaway of state assets)
	Dec	Elections to Duma, with Communists emerging as largest party
1996	April	Leader of Chechen separatists Djokhar Dudaev is killed in rocket attack
	July	Yelstin defeats Communist G. Ziuganov in presidential run-off elections with 54%
	Aug	Moscow & Chechnya sign Khasaviurt Accords ending war. ³

¹ Not signed by Chechnia (+Ingushetiia) and Tatarstan.

² Tatarstan was able to achieve a "special" relationship with this treaty, though many Tatar nationalists felt that the treaty did not get enough.

1996	Nov	Yeltsin signs order for withdrawal of last Russian forces from Chechnya Quintuple bypass surgery for Yeltsin
1997	Jan	Aslan Maskhadov elected president of factually independent Chechnya
1998	March	Yeltsin dismisses entire cabinet (including Victor Chernomyrdin) Sergei Kirienko becomes prime minister
	Aug	Default of Russian gov't on its debts; major financial crisis ensues Kirienko sacked; Yeltsin attempts to replace him with Chernomyrdin
	Sept	Russian parliament rejects Chernomyrdin; Yeltsin offers Yevgenii Primakov
	Nov	Assassination of human rights activist Galina Starovoitova
1999	April	NATO begins campaign against Yugoslavia in Kosovo
	May	Primakov replaced as prime minister by Sergei Stepashin
	summer	Bombing of Moscow apartment building, blamed on Chechen terrorists Incursions of Chechen separatist forces into Russian territories
	Sept	Resumption of full-scale Russian military actions against Chechnya (second war) Stepashin replaced as prime minister by Vladimir Putin
	Dec	Elections to Russian Parliament (Duma) Communists (25.9%) remain the largest party in Duma Pro-govt party "Unity" also does well (16.6%) President Yeltsin resigns; Putin becomes acting President (formally elected in 2000)

Some Statistics on Post-Soviet Russia

Inflation:		Life Expectancy
1992	2591%	1990 (men): 64
1993	840%	1995 (men): 58
1994	215%	1990 (women): 74
1995	131%	1995 (women): 70
1996	22%	
1999	37%	
2000	20%	
2001	19%	
2002	14%	
2003	12%	

Number of enterprises privatized by 1997: 120,000 (responsible for 70% of GDP)

Portion of Russia's food products that is imported (ca. 2004): 35% (50% of meat)

Per capita income in Russia as % of US per capita income:

1989: 43%

1995: 10%

Percentage of new elites from the old *nomenklatura*: 75% (politics), 61% (economics)

³ This agreement ended military action, but instead of defining Chechnya's political status stated that this issue would be resolved by 31 December 2001. An engineered referendum was finally held in March, 2003.