

Russian History: A Brief Chronology (998-2000)

Kievan Russia

988	Conversion to Christianity
1237-1240	Mongol Invasion

Muscovite Russia

1380	The Battle of Kulikovo
1480	End of Mongol Rule
1462-1505	Ivan III
1505-1533	Basil III
1533-1584	Ivan the Terrible
1584-98	Theodore
1598-1613	The Time of Troubles
1613-45	Michael Romanoff
1645-76	Alexis
1672-82	Theodore

Imperial Russia

1682-1725	Peter I
1689	The Streltsy Revolt and Suppression; End of Sophia's Regency
1695-96	The Azov Campaigns
1697-98	Peter's travels abroad (The Grand Embassy)
1698	The revolt and the final suppression of the Streltsy
1700	Beginning of the Northern War (1700-21) and commencement of Russia's industrial development, including the building of the navy
	Introduction of the new chronology (the Julian Calendar is retained for the days of the month)
1703	Construction of St. Petersburg begins Publication of the first Russian newspaper, <i>Vedomosti</i>
1709	The defeat of Charles XII of Sweden at Poltava
1710	The Old Church Slavonic script is modernized into a secular alphabet
1710-13	The Turkish War
1711	Abolition of the Boyar Duma and establishment of the Governing Senate
1712	St. Petersburg is proclaimed capital of Russia
1714	Instituted succession by primogeniture
1718-22	Establishment of the Kollegia (ministries)

1721	Sweden cedes the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea to Russia (Treaty of Nystad). In celebration, Peter's title is changed from tsar to Emperor of All Russia
	Abolition of the Patriarchate of Moscow. Religious authority passes to the Holy Synod and its <i>Ober-prokurator</i> , appointed by the tsar.
1722	Table of Ranks
1723-25	The Persian Campaign. Persia cedes western and southern shores of the Caspian to Russia
1724	Russia's Academy of Sciences is established
1725	Peter I dies on February 8
1725-1727	Catherine I
1727-1730	Peter II
1730-1740	Anne
1740-1741	Ivan VI
1741-1762	Elizabeth
1744	Sophie Friederike Auguste von Anhalt-Zerbst arrives in Russia and assumes the name of Grand Duchess Catherine Alekseevna after her marriage to Grand Duke Peter (future Peter III)
1762	Peter III
1762	Following a successful coup d'etat in St. Petersburg during which Peter III is assassinated, Catherine is proclaimed Emress of All Russia
1762-1796	Catherine the Great
1767	Nakaz (The Instruction)
1772-1795	Partitions of Poland
1773-1774	Pugachev Rebellion
1785	Charter to the Nobility
1791	Establishment fo the Pale of Settlement (residential restrictions on Jews) in the parts of Poland with large Jewish populations, annexed to Russia in the partitions of Poland (1772, 1793, and 1795) and in the Black Sea liitoral annexed from Turkey. By the 1860s, the Pale included: all of Russia's Poland, Lithuania, Belorus, most of Ukraine, the Crimean Penninsula and Bessarabia. Abolished in 1917
1796-1801	Paul I
1801-1825	Alexander I
1801-1810	Incorporation of Georgia
1804	Ukaz, confirming of the right of Jews to access to any educational institution in Russia
1805	The Battle of Austerlitz
1807	Treaty of Tilsit
1808-1809	Incorporation of Finland
1812	Fort Ross founded in California
1812	Napoleon invades Russia, Moscow falls
1813	"Battle of Nations" (Leipzig)
1814	Paris falls to the Allies

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1815	The Battle of Waterloo	1870-78	<i>Anna Karenina</i>
1814-1815	Congress of Vienna, The Holy Alliance	1871-72	Dostoevsky, <i>The Possessed</i>
1815	Russia's population 45,000,000	1872	Nietzsche, <i>The Birth of Tragedy</i>
1823-31	Pushkin (1799-1837), Eugene Onegin	1873-74	The Populist Movement "To the People"
1825	Decembrist Rebellion	1874	The Military Reform
1825-1855	Nicholas I	1976-79	Land and Freedom
1830	Polish Rebellion	1877	The Trial of 193
1833	Proclamation of "Official Nationality"	1877-1878	The Balkan War
1834	Belinsky (1811-48), "Literary Musings"	1879	People's Will
1835	New Legal Code	1881	Alexander II assassinated
1836	Chaadaev (1794-1856), Philosophical Letters	1881-1894	Alexander III
1840	Lermontov (1814-41), The Hero of Our Time	1882	A wave of anti-Jewish pogroms in southern Russia
1842	Gogol (1809-52), Dead Souls	1887	Publication of Nietzsche, <i>The Genealogy of Morals</i>
1847-51	Turgenev (1818-83), Sportsman's Sketches		Introduction of Numerus Clausus, restricting the entry of Jews in gymnasia and universities
1848	Revolutions in Europe	1894-1917	Nicholas II
1848	Herzen (1812-70), From the Other Shore	1898	Social Democratic Party formed
1849	The Petrashevsky Conspiracy	1904-1905	Russo-Japanese War
1851	Russia's Population 67,000,000	1905	The Bloody Sunday (January 22)
1851	(serfs = 44% of the population)		Manifesto (October) establishing a limited constitutional monarchy in Russia
1854-1855	The Crimean War	1905-1907	First Russian Revolution
1855-81	Alexander II	1905-1912	Constitutional and Parliamentary Reforms
1859	Darwin, The Origins of Species	1906	First State Duma (July-October)
1855-57	Relaxation of Censorship and re-emergence of civil society	1907	Second (March-June)
1861-64	The Great Reforms		Stolypni "coup d'etat", a new law severely restricting franchise
1861	Emancipation of Peasants Proclaimed	1907-12	Third State Duma (Nov. '07 – Jun. '12)
1861	The Declaration of the Tver Nobility	1912-1917	Fourth Duma
1861-62	University disturbances	1906-1911	Stolypin Reforms
1862	Petersburg fires	1911	Prime Minister, P.A. Stolypin is assassinated (Sept. 18)
1862	Turgenev, Fathers and Sons	1911-13	Beilis Case (so-called Jewish blood libel, levelled against a Jewish bookkeeper from Odessa)
1862-64	Chernyshevsky (1829-79) <i>What Is To Be Done</i>	1914	The Great War
1862-63	Financial Reforms	February, 1917	The Russian Revolution
1863-69	Tolstoy's <i>War and Peace</i>		
1863	Polish Rebellion		
1863	The Reform of Universities		
1864-68	The Zemstvo (elected local governments)		
1864-66	Judicial Reform		
1864	Dostoevsky (1821-81), <i>Notes From Underground</i>		
1865-76	Expansion into Central Asia		
1865	Press "Temporary Rules" (abolition of prior censorship)		
1866	Karakozov's attempt to assassinate the; tsar; beginning of the "reaction"		
1869	J.S. Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i>		
1870	The Municipal Reforms		

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The Soviet Period (1917-1991)

		1920-1922	Trotsky on the militarization of the revolutionary state
		1921	Drought and Famine
1917			
Feb.	Strikes and riots precipitating February revolution	Feb.	Red Army invades Georgia
	Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' deputies organized		Creation of Gosplan
	Provisional Government, headed by Kerensky, is established	Mar.	Workers' unrest in Petrograd
Mar.	Nicholas II abdicates		Kronstadt Sailors' revolt
Apr.	Lenin returns to Russia		10th Party Congress; Birth of the New Economic Policy (lifting of War Communism and establishment of a mixed economy)
May	1st coalition Provisional Government		Lenin incapacitated
	Bolsheviks attempt seizure of power in Petrograd	Mar.-Apr.	11th party Congress; Stalin is elected General Secretary
June	All-Russian Congress of Soviets	Apr.	Patriarch Tikhon placed under house arrest
	Kerensky orders an offensive at the front	June-July	Trial and execution of Metropolitan Veniamin
July	The July Days" (riots and demonstrations by radical workers and soldiers)	Aug.	Capture of Enver Pasha
	Kerensky becomes the head of the 2nd Coalition Provisional Government	1921-22	Famine in the Volga region; government seizes Church valuables ostensibly for the purpose of famine relief
Aug.	General Kornilov's failed coup	Dec. 1922	Soviet Union (USSR) is established
Sept.	3d Coalition Provisional Government		Restrictions on private economy begin
November 7 (October 25)	The Bolshevik Coup D'État	1923	
	2nd All-Russian Congress of Soviets hands over power to Bolsheviks	Apr.	12th party Congress
November 8	Decrees on Land and Peace		the First Conclave of the Living Church (i.e., one that recognizes the Bolshevik regime)
Nov. 9	Decree on Suppression of Hostile Newspapers	July summer	Publication of the USSR Constitution
	Elections to the Constituent Assembly	1924	the "scissors" crisis
Nov. 15	Declaration of Rights of the Peoples of Russia	Jan.	Lenin dies
Dec. 20	The Secret Police (the Extraordinary Commission to Fight Counter-Revolution)		1st USSR Constitution adopted
1918		May	13th party Congress; Trotsky's opposition condemned by the Party
Jan.	Constituent Assembly is in session; forcibly dissolved by the Bolsheviks on Jan 19		Great Britain recognizes USSR
	Creation of Red Army	Dec. 1924-25	Stalin's doctrine of "Socialism in one country"
	Legislation on the separation of Church and State	1925	Further restrictions on private economy
	Patriarch Tikhon anathematizes the Bolshevik regime	Jan.	Trotsky dismissed as Commissar of War
February	Introduction of the Gregorian Calendar	Apr.	14th Party Conference ("Socialism in One Country" is accepted)
	Nationalization of Land	June	Central Committee passes a liberal resolution on plurality in the sphere of belles lettres
Mar.	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ceding Ukraine to Germany		
	7th Party Congress	1926	
May	Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan declare independence	Oct.	Trotsky is expelled from Politburo
June 14	One-Party Dictatorship established		The United Opposition
June 28	War Communism (Decrees on Nationalization of Large-Scale Industry)	May	Rupture of diplomatic relations with Britain; war scare
July	Socialist Revolutionary uprising in Moscow and elsewhere	Dec. 1927	11th party Congress (banning "deviations from the Party Line; collectivization of agriculture is resolved)
	First Soviet Russian Constitution (Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic)		Restrictions on the "kulaks"
summer	Civil War begins		Bukharin's <i>Angry Remarks</i> (campaign against bohemianism)
Aug.	The Whites capture Kazan	1928	
Sept.	Red Terror declared	May	The Grain Procurement Crisis
Nov.	Germans withdraw from occupied Russian territory		The Shakhty Trial (mining engineers accused of sabotage confess at the show trial)
	Kolchak seizes power in Omsk (Siberia)		The Alschuler et al. Trial (culmination of campaign against Bohemianism)
1918-1920	Allied intervention (100,000 troops altogether)	July	Bukharin on the menace of Stalin
1919		Oct.	Central Committee sends youth activists to college
Oct. 1919-Jan. 1920	Bolshevik Russia is blockaded by foreign powers		Beginning of the 1st Five Year Plan (to Dec. 1932)
March	8th party Congress; Centralization of the Communist Party (creation of the Politburo and Orgburo)		Collectivisation of agriculture commences
Oct.	The Whites advance on Moscow and Petrograd	1928-1934	Five million rural households disappear from the countryside
Dec.	Kolchak's army is routed	1929	
1920		Apr.	Law on "religious associations"
March	Denikin's army is routed		the "Right Deviation" (Bukharin et al.) is condemned
Apr.	Poland invades Ukraine	Fall	mass collectivization and "dekulakization" commence
Aug.	Red Army fails to take Warsaw	Nov.	Bukharin is expelled from the Politburo; Right Opposition is defeated
	Tambov region peasant insurrection against the Bolsheviks	1930	
Oct.	Soviet-Polish armistice	Mar.	Stalin's "Dizzy with Success"
Nov.	Red Army defeats Wrangel in Crimea	April	Mayakovsky commits suicide

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Nov.- Dec. 1931	Trial of the "Industrial Party"		education
Mar. 1932	Trial of Mensheviks' "Union Buro"	1941	
Apr.	Central Committee resolution on reforming "literary-artistic organizations." RAPP is dissolved	1940-41	The Katyn Forest massacre of the Polish officer corps and intellectuals
fall	Ryutin's program is circulated in the Central Committee	June 22	German Invasion of the USSR
Oct.	Construction of the Dneprostroi hydro-electric plant commences	July	Stalin's first public broadcast
Dec.	Introduction of internal passports (<i>propiska</i>)	Sept.	Beginning of Leningrad blockade
1932-34	Drought and famine	Oct.	Moscow is in direct danger; evacuation of the city begins
1933		Dec.	Wehrmacht loses the battle of Moscow
Jan. 1933	Hitler comes to power in Germany	1942	
May	Opening of the Belomor Canal (built with convict labor)	Sept.	Wehrmacht at Stalingrad
	USA recognizes USSR	Oct.	restoration of officers' full status in Red Army
1934		Nov.	Soviet Army encircles Germany's 6th Army at Stalingrad
Jan.	17th Party Congress (the Congress of the Victors)	1943	
May	Osip Mandelstam is arrested	Jan.	Wehrmacht's 6 Army surrenders at Stalingrad
June	The new nationalism		General Valsov (in Smolensk) calls for the overthrow of the Stalinist regime
Aug.	1st Congress of Soviet Writers	July	Battle for Kursk
Dec.	Kirov's assassination and the First Purge	Sept.	the Moscow patriarchate is re-established
1935	USSR joins the League of Nations	1944	
Jan.	Death of Kuibyshev	Jan.	Leningrad blockade is lifted
Feb.	Model Collective Farm statute	June	Allies establish the second front in France
Aug.	Stakhanovite labor campaign begins	Aug.-Oct.	the Warsaw rising
Sept.	Reintroduction of ranks in Red Army	Sept.	General Vlasov establishes Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia (KONR)
1936		1945	
1936-38	The Great Terror (8 million dead is currently the lowest estimate of the victims of the Great Terror)	Feb.	Yalta Conference
Feb.	Communist Academy is merged with the Academy of Sciences		Alecion of Patrairch Alexii
June	Death of Gorky		Solzhenitsyn is arrested
July	New family law (abortion is outlawed)	May 8	Germany surrenders
Aug.	outbreak of Spanish civil war	July-Aug.	Potsdam Conference
Sept.	Trial of Zinoviev, Kamenev <i>et al.</i>	1946	
Dec.	Yezhov succeeds Yagoda as head of NKVD	1946-50	4th Five Year Plan
	the Stalin Constitution	Aug.	Campaign against the writers Akhmatova and Zoshchenko (the Zhdanov Speech and the Central Committee Decree)
	Civil war in Spain	Sept.	Party high schools are established
1937			Decree on "measures to liquidate the breaches of the Collective Farm statute"
Jan. 1937	Trials of Radek, Pyatakov <i>et al.</i>	1946-47	Famine in Ukraine
Feb.	death of Ordzhonikidze	1947	
May-June	Dismissal, arrest and execution of Marshal Tukhachevsky	Sept.	Cominform is established
	Powers of the army political commissars restored	Dec.	Currency reform
1937-1939	The purge of the military command	1948	
1938		1948-53	Campaigne against the "cosmopolites" (Jews, Armenians and other diaspora peoples)
	3d Five Year Plan (to June 1941)	Jan.	murder of Jewish Theater actor Mikhoels
Mar.	Stalin's <i>Short Course</i> is published	Feb.	Communist coup in Czechoslovakia
Sept.	Trial of Bukharin, Rykov, Krestinsky, Rakovsky, Yagoda <i>et al.</i>	June	Yugoslavia expelled from Cominform
Dec.	Chamberlain's and Deladier's appeasement of Germany	Aug.	Lysenko's victory at the Agricultural Academy (persecution of geneticists)
	Introduction of "labor passport" for workers to control migration	Autumn	Death of Zhdanov
	Beria succeeds Yezhov as head of the NKVD	Nov.	the Leningrda purge (disappearance of Voznesensky)
1939		1948-49	Dissolution of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee
Feb.	18th Party Congress (only 20% of those who attended the 17th Congress)	1949	Collectivization of agriculture in the Baltic regions
Aug.	The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact		Jewish State Thater is closed in Moscow
1939-40	Partition of Poland (sept. 1939) and the occupation of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union in accordance with the secret protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact	1950	
	Soviet-Finnish war	June	Stalin's article on linguistics (attack on Marr) proclaiming language to be part of <i>base</i> , not <i>superstructure</i>
Nov. 1940		July	Law on workers' councils is passed in Yugoslavia
Mar.	Peace with Finland	1951-5	
June	Annexation of Baltic states		5th Five year Plan
Aug.	work abseteeism is made a criminal offence	1952	
	Trotsky is assassinated in Mexico	Oct.	19th Party Congress
Oct.	Introduction of fees ofr higher and upper secondary		Vas. Grossman's <i>For the Just Cause</i> is published in the journal <i>Novyi mir</i>
G. Freidin		1953	
		Jan.	The Doctor's Plot

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Mar. 4,	Stalin's death		Affairs of Church in a letter to Supreme Soviet
1953	Malenkov appointed Prime Minister	1966	
May	revolt in the Norilsk labor camp	Feb.	Trial of Siniavsky and Daniel
July	arrest and execution of Beria; revolt in Vorkuta labor camp	Mar.	Demonstration by the Baptists in Moscow 23 party Congress
Sept.	Khrushchev is confirmed as the 1st Secretary of the CPSU	1967	
1954		May	Andropov appointed to head the KGB
	Pospelov's Commission begins investigation of Stalin's repressions	June	Arab-Israeli war
		1968	
May	Revolt in Kengir labor camp	Jan.	Trial of Ginzburg and Galanskov (for the samizdat publication of the <i>White Paper</i> about the trial of Sinaivsky and Daniel)
1954-56	The Virgin lands campaign		Dubcek becomes 1st Secretary of the Czech CP
1954	Solzhenitsyn is released from the Gulag		1st issue of the samizdat <i>Chronicle of Current Events</i>
1955		Apr.	Warsaw Pact troops invade Czechoslovakia
Feb.	Bulganin replaces Malenkov as Prime Minister	Aug.	
May	Warsaw Pact is formally established	1969	
	Khrushchev and Bulganin visit Yugoslavia	Jan.	Formation of the Initiative Group for the Defence of Civil Rights
	Khrushchev visits the United States		
1956		1970	
Feb.	20th Party Congress and Khrushchev's Secret Speech	Feb.	Tvardovsky is removed as editor of <i>Novyi mir</i>
Apr.	Criminal liability of absenteeism is abolished	Mar.	Sakharov, Turchin and Medvedev write to Brezhnev
June	Workers' riots in Poznan (Poland)	Apr.	1st issue of the Jewish samizdat journal <i>Exodus</i>
	fees for higher and secondary education are abolished		Publication in the West of Grossman's <i>Forever Flowing</i> (1953-1963)
Oct.	Gomulka becomes 1st Secretary of the Polish United Workers party	Dec.	Two Jews sentenced to death and then reprieved for attempting to hijack an airliner
	General strike and street disturbances in Budapest		Workers riot in Poland; Gierek replaces Gomulka as 1st Secretary of Polish United Workers' Party
Nov.	Soviet intervention in Hungary; Kadar is installed as 1st Secretary of the Hungarian Workers' Party		
1957		1971	
June	Central Committee backs Khrushchev against the "anti-party group"	1971-75	9th Five Year Plan
	Marshal Zhukov is dismissed as Defence Minister	Feb.	Large Jewish demonstration outside the Supreme Soviet building in Moscow; beginning of large-scale Jewish emigration to Israel
Oct.		Apr.	24th party Congress
1958		1972	
Feb.	Khrushchev replaces Bulganin as Prime Minister	Jan.	1st issue of <i>Chronicle of Lithuanian Catholic Church</i>
Oct.	Pasternak is awarded Nobel Prize for Literature		wide-spread arrests and searches among Ukrainian intellectuals
Dec.	New Criminal Code	May	Riots in Kaunas (Lithuania) following self-immolation of R. Kalanta
	educational reform		Shcherbitsky becomes 1st Sec. of the Ukrainian CP
1959		Sept.	Shervadnadze becomes 1st Sec. of the Georgian CP
1959-65	Seven Year Plan	Apr.	Andropov and Gromyko join the Politburo
	Khrushchev launches the maize campaign		Publication of Solzhenitsyn's <i>Gulag Archipelago</i> in the West
Sept.	Workers' unrest in Temirtau (Kazakhstan)	1974	
1960		Apr.	Solzhenitsyn is arrested and then deported from the USSR
May	death of Pasternak	1975	
1961		Aug.	Helsinki Accords on European Security and Cooperation
	Kiev Crypt Monastery is closed	Oct.	Sakharov is awarded Nobel Prize for Peace
Apr.	Gagarin's flight in space	1976	
	First arrests of young people at the Mayakovsky Square	1976-80	10th Five Year Plan
	pottery readings		Formation of the dissident Helsinki Watch Groups in several republics
July	anti-Church legislation	Feb.-Mar.	25th Party Congress
Oct.	22nd Party Congress -- the height of de-Stalinization; Stalin is removed from the Mausoleum	June	Workers unrest in Poland
1962		Sept.	Formation of KOR in Poland
June	Strikes and rioting in Novocherkassk (bloody reprisals)	1977	
Oct.	Cuban missile crisis	June	Brezhnev assumes the title of the USSR President
Nov.	Solzhenitsyn's <i>One Day</i> is published	Nov.	New Soviet Constitution published
1963		Apr.	Kalq coup in Afghanistan
Mar.	Khrushchev warns writers "against bourgeois influences"	July	Street demonstrations in Tbilisi in defence of Georgian language
fall	poor grain harvest; beginning of large-scale shipments of grain from US	1979	Trial of Shcharansky
	KGB arrests Grossman's manuscripts, including <i>Life and Fate</i>	Jan.	Three "Armenian nationalists" executed
1964		Apr.	Brezhnev awarded Lenin Prize in Literature
Apr.	Fire at Ukrainian Academy of Sciences	Dec.	Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan
Oct.	Central Committee Meeting replaces Khrushchev with Brezhnev	1980	
	Vassily Grossman dies (b. 1905)	Jan.	Sakharov is exiled to Gorky
1965			
Mar.	Agricultural reforms		
Sept.	approval of Kosygin's economic reforms		
Dec.	1st unofficial demonstration on Pushkin Square calling for the observance of the Constitution		
	Eshliman and Yakunin criticize the church hierarchy for subservience to the state and criticize the Council for		

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July-Aug.	Olympic Games in Moscow		
Aug.	Workers unrest in Gdansk; formation of Solidarity	April	majorities
Oct.	Street demonstrations in Estonia	June	Novo-Ogaryovo negotiations in the new Union Treaty
Dec.	Death of Kosygin	Aug.	Yeltsin elected President of Russia
1981		Dec. 31	Attempted coup d'état
1981-5	11th Five Year Plan	1992-	Dissolution of the Soviet Union
Dec.	Jaruzelski declares martial law in Poland Grossman's <i>Life and Fate</i> is published in the West	1992-	Beginning of the "Yeltsin Era" Liberalization of Prices and Macroeconomic reform under Yegor Gaidar
1982		1993	Gaidar is replaced by Victor Chernomyrdin under pressure from the Supreme Soviet
Sept.	Last Helsinki watch group disbanded	April	Yeltsin wins the Referendum on his reform course and sets up a Constituent Assembly to redraft the constitution
Nov.	Brezhnev dies and is replaced by Andropov	Sept.	Yeltsin abolishes the Soviets and calls for a general election
1983		Oct.	Supreme Soviet and Vice President Rutskoy impeach Yeltsin and mount an insurrection in the street of Moscow until Yeltsin puts down the revolt
Apr.	Andropov falls seriously ill	Dec.	General election to the Duma, lower Chamber of the new Russian parliament and a referendum on the new constitution granting the president substantial powers
1984		1994	Beginning of the "first" Chechen war (December) that soon becomes a most unpopular war at home.
Feb.	Andropov dies and is replaced by Chernenko	1996	General election brings Yeltsin another term in office and deals a blow to the communists. General Lebed, elevated after a showing in the polls, negotiates a truce in Chechnya and is soon dismissed for insubordination
1985			Yeltsin undergoes bypass surgery but never completely recovers
Mar.	Chernenko dies and is replaced by M.S. Gorbachev	1997-	Beginning of the currency and economic stabilization
April	Central Committee Plenum establishing radical reforms	1998	
May	Anti-alcohol campaign	1998	Prime Minister Chernomyrdin is replaced by Kirineko (March)
1986		August	Russia suffers a major economic crash as a result of the global crisis and weak financial infrastructure further undermined by rampant corruption
Apr.	Explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear plant Perestroika and glasnost becoming a reality	Sept.	Yeltsin dismisses Kirienko and after a series of unsuccessful attempts to confirm Chernomyrdin in the Duma appoints Yevgeny Primakov as Prime Minister
1987		March	Primakov is replaced by former Minister of the Interior, Victor Stepashin
Nov.	Gorbachev denounces the Party's monopoly on truth	Sept.	Ailing Yeltsin dismisses Stepashin and replaces him with Vladimir Putin, former head of the FSB
Dec.	Yeltsin is dismissed as Moscow CP chief.		Several apartment building in Moscow and elsewhere in Russia are bombed by anonymous terrorists as some of the Chechen war lords invade the neighbouring Dagestan in the hope of winning the Muslim regions of the Caucasus to their cause. In response Putin spearhead a large scale military operation, with intense popular support.
1988		Dec.	Yeltsin resigns his presidency.
June	Formation and the recognition of the Popular front of Estonia	1999	Running against the communists, Putin wins the general election but by a rather slim margin.
Nov.	Declaration of the Supremacy of Estonian laws over Soviet laws	2000	Putin's political and economic reforms are aimed at strengthening the federal government while encouraging productivity by a dramatic lowering of taxes. His attempts, at times clumsy, to fight corruption and re-establish the authority of the state and presidency are seen by some as an encroachment on the hard won freedoms of the Yeltsin's era.
Dec.	Earthquake in Armenia		
1989			
Feb.	Withdrawal from Afghanistan		
Mar.	Elections to Congress of People's Deputies (first contested elections in the Soviet Union)		
Apr.	"Bloody Sunday" in Tbilisi Gorbachev is elected President of the USSR by Congress of Peoples Deputies		
Mar.-Dec.	Presidential Council		
May	Declaration of independence by Lithuanian parliament		
Aug.	Lithuanian parliament declared the Soviet annexation of Lithuania in 1940 null and void.		
Dec.	Lithania abolishes Communist Party's monopoly on political power Collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, including East Germany War between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorny Karabakh Grossman's <i>Forever Flowing</i> is published in Russia		
1990			
Mar.	Mass demonstrations in Moscow against Article 6 of the Constitution guaranteeing the Communist Party of the USSR a monopoly on political power Repeal of Article 6 of the USSR Constitution		
June-July	28th Party Congress. A.N. Yakovlev leaves the Politburo		
July	Yeltsin resigns from the CP		
Dec.	Shervadnadze's speech ("Dictatorship is coming") Solzhenitsyn's <i>Gulag Archipelago</i> is published in Russia		
1991			
Jan.	Security forces make a bloody and unsuccessful attempt to stage a coup d'état in Vilnius and Riga		
Feb.	91% of Lithuanian voters approve of independence		
Mar.	Estonia and Latvia approve independence by large		