

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin<sup>[e][4]</sup> (born 7 October 1952) is a Russian politician and former intelligence officer who has served as [President of Russia](#) since 2012, having previously served from 2000 to 2008. Putin also served as [Prime Minister of Russia](#) from 1999 to 2000<sup>[e]</sup> and again from 2008 to 2012.<sup>[f][7]</sup> He is the longest-serving Russian president since the independence of Russia from the [Soviet Union](#).

Putin worked as a [KGB](#) foreign intelligence officer for 16 years, rising to the rank of [lieutenant colonel](#). He resigned in 1991 to begin a political career in Saint Petersburg. In 1996, he moved to Moscow to join the administration of President [Boris Yeltsin](#). He briefly served as the director of the [Federal Security Service](#) (FSB) and then as [secretary](#) of the [Security Council of Russia](#) before [being appointed prime minister](#) in August 1999. Following Yeltsin's resignation, Putin became [acting president](#) and, less than four months later in May 2000, [was elected](#) to his first term as president. He was [reelected in 2004](#). Due to constitutional limitations of two consecutive presidential terms, Putin served as prime minister again from 2008 to 2012 under [Dmitry Medvedev](#). He returned to the presidency in 2012, following [an election](#) marked by allegations of fraud and [protests](#), and [was reelected](#) in 2018.

During Putin's initial presidential tenure, the [Russian economy](#) grew on average by seven percent per year<sup>[8]</sup> as a result of [economic reforms](#) and a [fivefold increase](#) in the [price of oil](#) and gas.<sup>[9][10]</sup> Additionally, Putin led Russia in a conflict [against Chechen separatists](#), re-establishing federal control over the region.<sup>[11][12]</sup> While serving as prime minister under Medvedev, he oversaw a [military conflict with Georgia](#) and [enacted military and police reforms](#). In his third presidential term, Russia [annexed Crimea](#) and supported a [war in eastern Ukraine](#) through several military incursions, resulting in international sanctions and a [financial crisis in Russia](#). He also ordered a [military intervention in Syria](#) to support his ally [Bashar al-Assad](#) during the [Syrian civil war](#), with the aim of obtaining naval bases in the [Eastern Mediterranean](#).<sup>[13][14][15]</sup>

In February 2022, during his fourth presidential term, Putin launched a [full-scale invasion of Ukraine](#), which prompted [international condemnation](#) and led to [expanded sanctions](#). In September 2022, he announced a [partial mobilization](#) and forcibly [annexed four Ukrainian oblasts into Russia](#). In March 2023, the [International Criminal Court](#) issued [an arrest warrant](#) for Putin for [war crimes](#)<sup>[16]</sup> related to his alleged criminal responsibility for [illegal child abductions during the war](#).<sup>[17]</sup> In April 2021, after [a referendum](#), he [signed constitutional amendments](#) into law that included one allowing him to run for reelection twice more, potentially extending his presidency to 2036.<sup>[18][19]</sup> In March 2024, he [was reelected](#) to another term.