

CADEMY

SHORT GUIDE TO RUSSIAN RULERS

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Rurik

862-879

Prince of Novgorod

The **semilegendary first ruler** of Russia, a Varangian prince and warrior who was invited to Russia to reconcile the Slavs. His dynasty ruled over Russia for the next 700 years.



Oleg

882-912

Grand Prince of Kiev

The mythical **founder of Kievan Rus**. A Varangian prince and relative to Rurik. He took his army **from Novgorod to Kiev** and united all the Varangian territories into one state.



Igor I

912-945

Grand Prince of Kiev

The son of Rurik and the **third ruler of Kievan Rus**. Oleg ruled with him as regent. Also a brave Varangian warrior who died tragically while collecting tax from the Drevlyans.



Olga

945-962

Grand Princess of Kiev (regent)

Olga was the **first female ruler** of Kievan Rus, also one of the first who adopted **Christianity** and the first Russian Orthodox **saint**.



Svyatoslav I

945-972

Grand Prince of Kiev

The **greatest warrior** among the Kievan princes, the conqueror of **Khazaria** and **Volga Bulgaria**. At the height of his reign the borders of Kievan Rus' extended from **Volga to Danube**.

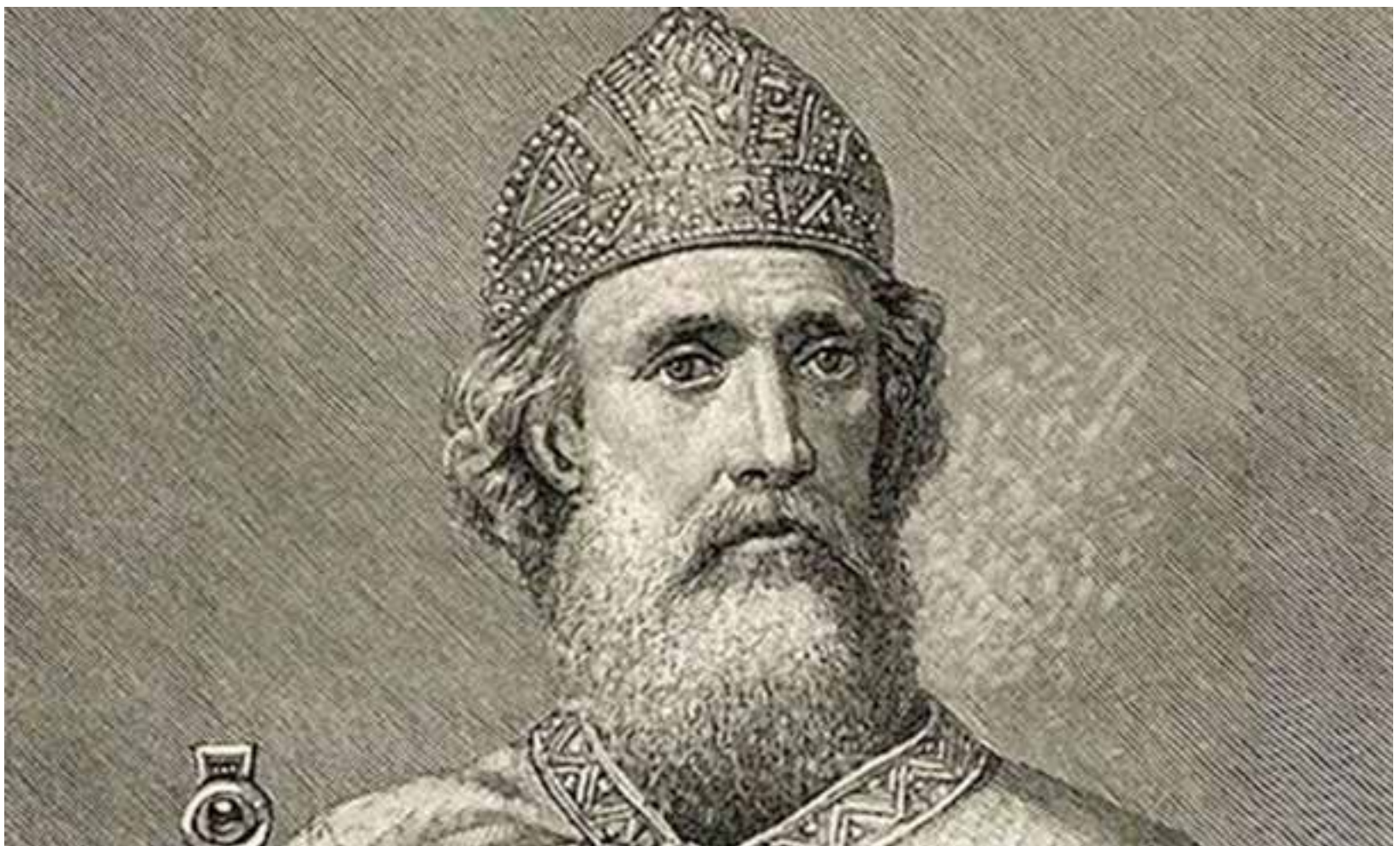


Vladimir I

978-1015

Grand Prince of Kiev

Saint Vladimir was the **founder of Russian Orthodox Church**. He unified his people under christianity thereby laying foundations to the new **Russian identity**.



Yaroslav the Wise

1019-1054. Grand Prince of Kiev

Yaroslav's reign was the **cultural and territorial peak** of Kievan Rus. Although his military campaigns failed, he put a landmark with the first **code law** and a great cultural impact



Vladimir Monomakh

1113-1125. Grand Prince of Kiev

One of the wisest and most legendary rulers of Kievan Rus. After many military campaigns he put an end to a long civil war and finally restored **law and order** in the state.



Yuri Dolgorukiy

1149-1157. Grand Prince of Kiev

Yuri Dolgorukiy is believed to be the **founder of Moscow in 1147**. He was also a Grand Prince of Kiev who played a significant role in the **power shift from Kiev to Vladimir**.



Andrey Bogolyubsky

1158-74. Grand Prince of Vladimir

Saint Bogolyubsky took less interest in Kiev and created his own **capital in Vladimir**. The **power shifted** to the Vladimir-Suzdal-Rostov area and Kiev lost its importance.



Vsevolod the Big Nest

1176-1212. Grand Prince of Vladimir

The long rule of Vsevolod the Big Nest was a **Golden Age of Vladimir-Suzdal** principality. He was at the all time height of power among Russian princes.



Alexander Nevsky

1252-1263. Grand Prince of Vladimir

He was the **legendary** ruler and hero. He successfully fought against the **German and Swedish** knights. His victories were made possible by **collaborating** with the the Mongol invaders.



Ivan Kalita

1325-1340

Grand Prince of Moscow

Ivan I (Kalita meaning “Moneybags”) was the **tax collector** for the benefit of the Mongols. He used Mongol Great Khan’s favour to make **Moscow the centre** of Russia.



Dmitry Donskoy

1359-1389. Grand Prince of Moscow

The first Russian prince to openly **challenge Mongols** and beat them in a battle. Although Mongol rule lasted for another century, it was the **beginning of the end** of that era.

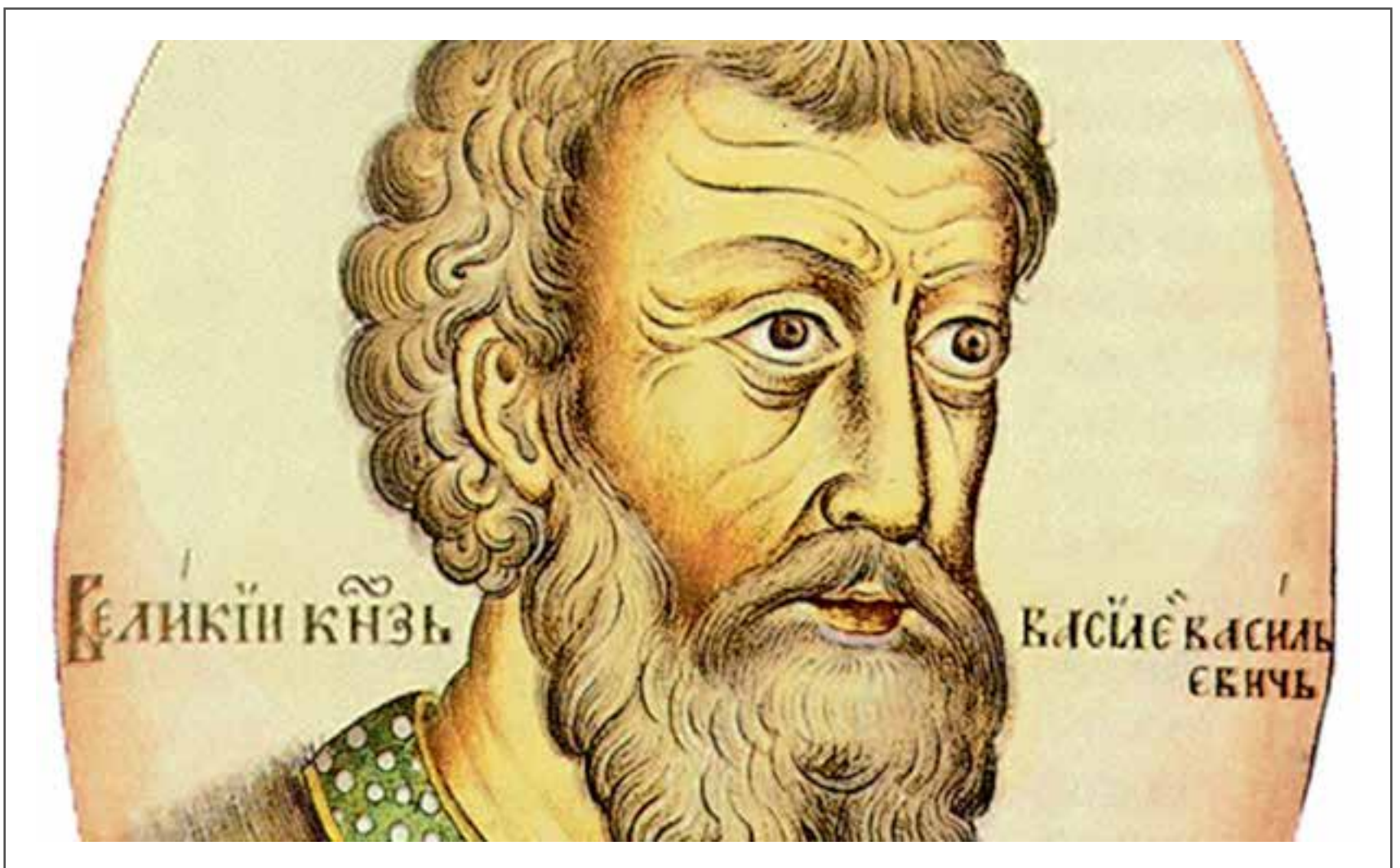


Vasily II

1425-1462

Grand Prince of Moscow

His reign was shadowed by the greatest **civil war** of the era. That cost him his eyesight (nickname "**The Blind**"). He declared Russian Orthodox **church independent** from Constantinople.



Ivan the Great

1462-1505

Grand Prince of Moscow

He was the **founding father** of the Russia state. His wise political and military skills made it possible to **gather lands** and centralize them to a **unified Russian state**.



Vasily III

1505-1533

Grand Prince of Moscow

Vasily III successfully completed his father Ivan the Great's **policy of uniting** the Russian territories under his firm power. He was the **father of Ivan the Terrible**.



Ivan the Terrible

1533-1584. Tsar of Russia

The **first crowned tsar** of Russia. He centralized the power and laid foundations to tsardom as we know it today. His reign saw **massacre** of his people grow to an unimaginable extent.



Fyodor I

1584-1598

Tsar of Russia

“The Bellringer” was the last ruler in the line of **700-year-old Rurik dynasty**. He was **feeble-minded** and his regent Boris Godunov drove Russia to a disastrous Time of Troubles.



Boris Godunov

1598-1605. Tsar of Russia

One of the **most controversial** rulers in the history of Russia. His rule started **peacefully** as a regent to an infant tsar. It ended in tsar's murder and the **Time of Troubles**.



False Dmitry

1605-1606

Tsar of Russia

He was the **most successful usurpator** of the Russian throne in the Time of Troubles. He remains the only tsar ever to have acquired his throne by means of **military invasion**.



Vasily Shuisky

1606-1610. Tsar of Russia

Vasily IV Shuisky is one of the **most controversial** tsars. He was the master of intrigue who **changed sides** many times. His short rule was only partially recognized



False Dmitry II

1607-1610. Tsar of Russia

The second of the **three impostors** who claimed Russian throne in the **Time of Troubles**. He was only partially recognized and **murdered** before he could complete the besiege of Moscow.



Mikhail I

1613-1645

Tsar of Russia

He was the first ruler of the **Romanov dynasty**. His coronation ended the long period of chaos in Russia. His father **patriarch Filaret** was the actual ruler of Russia during his reign



Alexey I

1645-1676

Tsar of Russia

His eventful reign is characterized by **active foreign and domestic policy**. Alexis was a balanced and wise ruler. He centralized the state and **legalized serfdom** of peasants.



Fyodor III

1676-1682

Tsar of Russia

During his short reign Fyodor III **continued the social and state reforms** that had been launched by his father and grandfather. He was very intellectual, but physically disabled.



Sophia Alexeyevna

1682-89. Tsarina of Russia (regent)

She was the **first female** ruler of Modern Russia. Although **never officially crowned**, her reign as a regent was very successful and **progressive**.



Ivan V

1682-1696

Tsar of Russia (co-ruler)

Ivan V was **Peter the Great's formal co-ruler** for 14 years. Peter's half-brother, he was mentally and physically **disabled** and had never any influence in politics.



Peter the Great

1682-1725. Emperor of Russia

He was the first **crowned Emperor** of Russia. Being by far the **greatest reformer** in Russian history, he turned Medieval Russia into a truly **modern empire**.



Catherine I

1725-1727

Empress of Russia

She was the **first Empress of Russia**, following her husband Peter the Great. During her very short rule Peter I's **reforms were generally continued**.



Peter II

1727-1730

Emperor of Russia

The grandson of Peter I. He was the **teenage Emperor** who spent his 3-year reign **feasting, courting women and playing cards**. He died on his wedding day of smallpox.



Anna Ivanovna

1730-1740. Empress of Russia

She was the daughter of Ivan V (the co-ruler of tsar Peter the Great). Her stable and **peaceful reign** was dominated by the **Baltic German** nobles.



Ivan VI

1740-1741

Emperor of Russia

The **most tragic** among Russian rulers. As the only rightful heir he spent **20 years imprisoned** in a cellar until he was murdered by the orders of Catherine the Great. He never actually ruled.



Elizabeth

1741-1762

Empress of Russia

Elizabeth of Russia successfully **continued** her father **Peter the Great's** policy. She set new standards for European **courts** and she was a role model for Catherine the Great.



Peter III

1762

Emperor of Russia

His reign lasted only **6 months** until he was murdered. The **most ridiculed** emperor in Russian history. Most of what we know of him comes through Catherine II, who hated him.



Catherine the Great

1762-1796. Empress of Russia

She was the first **Enlightened Ruler**, a **clever diplomat** who expanded the power of **nobility**. Contrary to Western liberals' expectations she actually did very little for the **serfs**.



Paul I

1796-1801

Emperor of Russia

The policy of Paul I and his incomprehensible decisions were so **commonly unpopular** that it was quite predictable that he would be deposed (and murdered).



Alexander I

1801-1825

Emperor of Russia

The “**Liberator of Europe**” beat Napoleon and promised to give people their first **constitution**. Instead, he turned to autocracy. The shadow of his father’s murder never left him.



Nicholas I

1825-1855

Emperor of Russia

The **most reactionary** leader in Russian history. His long autocratic reign earned him a nickname “Gendarme of Europe”. He saw all the Russian military grandeur collapse in the Crimean War.



Alexander II

1855-1881

Emperor of Russia

“The Liberator”. The emancipation of the serfs gave him a lifelong reputation of one of the most liberal rulers of his time. Paradoxically he was the ruler with the most **assassination** attempts.



Alexander III

1881-1894

Emperor of Russia

“The last true autocrat” and “**Peacekeeper**” were his names. Alexander’s reign saw not one war. He is sometimes referred to as the most “russian” of all the Russian rulers.



Nicholas II

1894-1917

Emperor of Russia

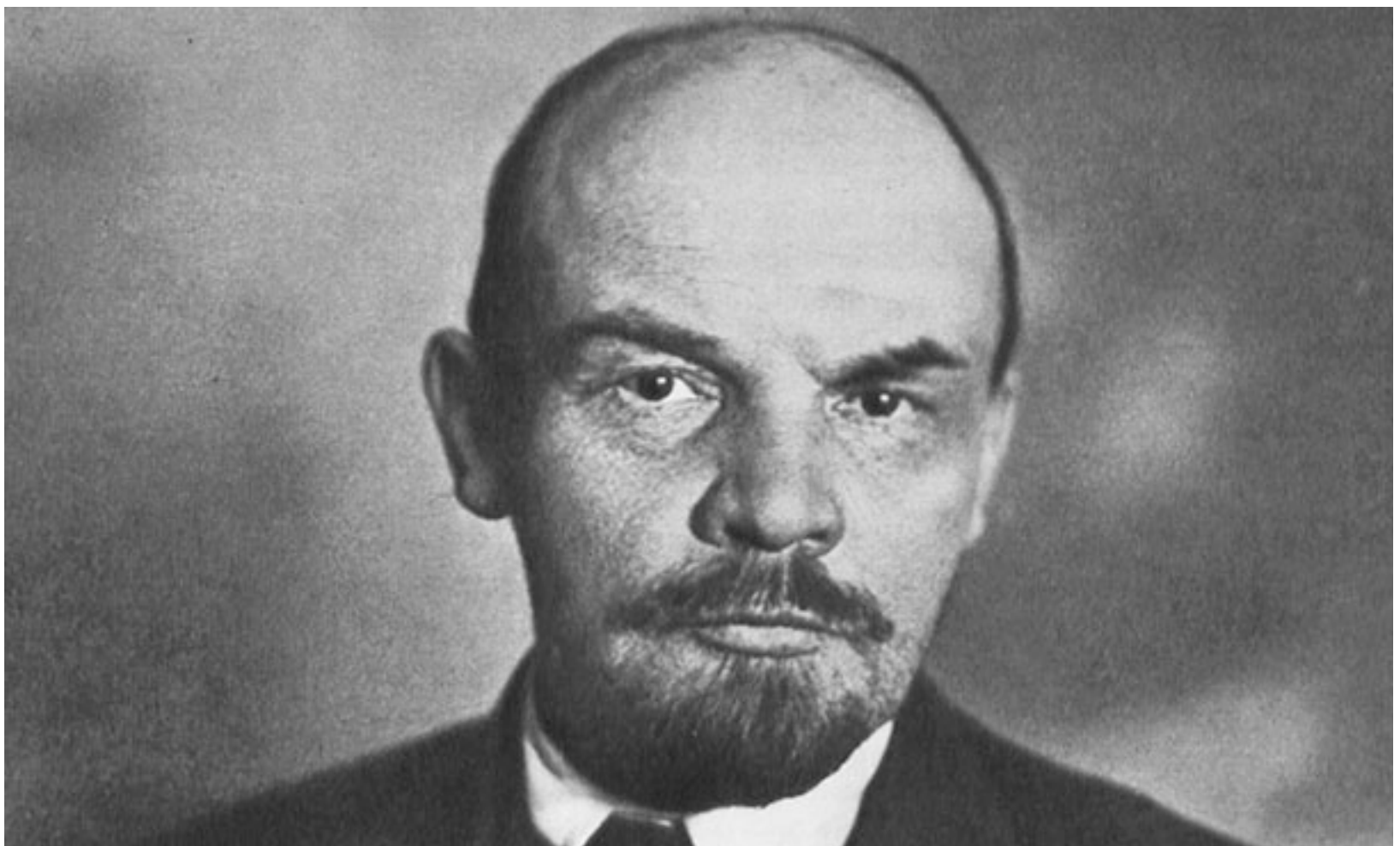
The **last tsar of Russia**. He was forced to abdicate in 1917 during the February Revolution and his entire family of 7 people were murdered by the Bolsheviks a year later.



Vladimir Ilych Lenin

1917-1922. Leader of the RSFSR

The **ideological leader of the Soviet cause** in Russia, the first Premier of the Soviet Russia. It was very much thanks to his personal wit that the socialists could seize power in Russia.



Joseph Stalin

1922-1953

Leader of the USSR

One of the most blood-thirsty, **most powerful and feared dictators** in the history of the world. His **death toll** is estimated from **20 million to 60 million** people.



Nikita Khrushchev

1953-1964. Leader of the USSR

Khrushchev is probably the least condemned and **least criticized leader of Soviet Union**. His de-Stalinization healed the society a great deal and helped create a more open climate.



Leonid Brezhnev

1964-1982. Leader of the USSR

He became the leader of Soviet Union because the Party needed someone more predictable than Khrushchev had been. **His reign became known as the Era of Stagnation**



Yuri Andropov

1982-1984. Leader of the USSR

Yuri Andropov's reign lasted only 15 months. He was the ageing KGB chief and his time was the **era of Gerontocracy** when Politburo leaders kept passing away in short intervals



Konstantin Chernenko

1984-1985. Leader of the USSR

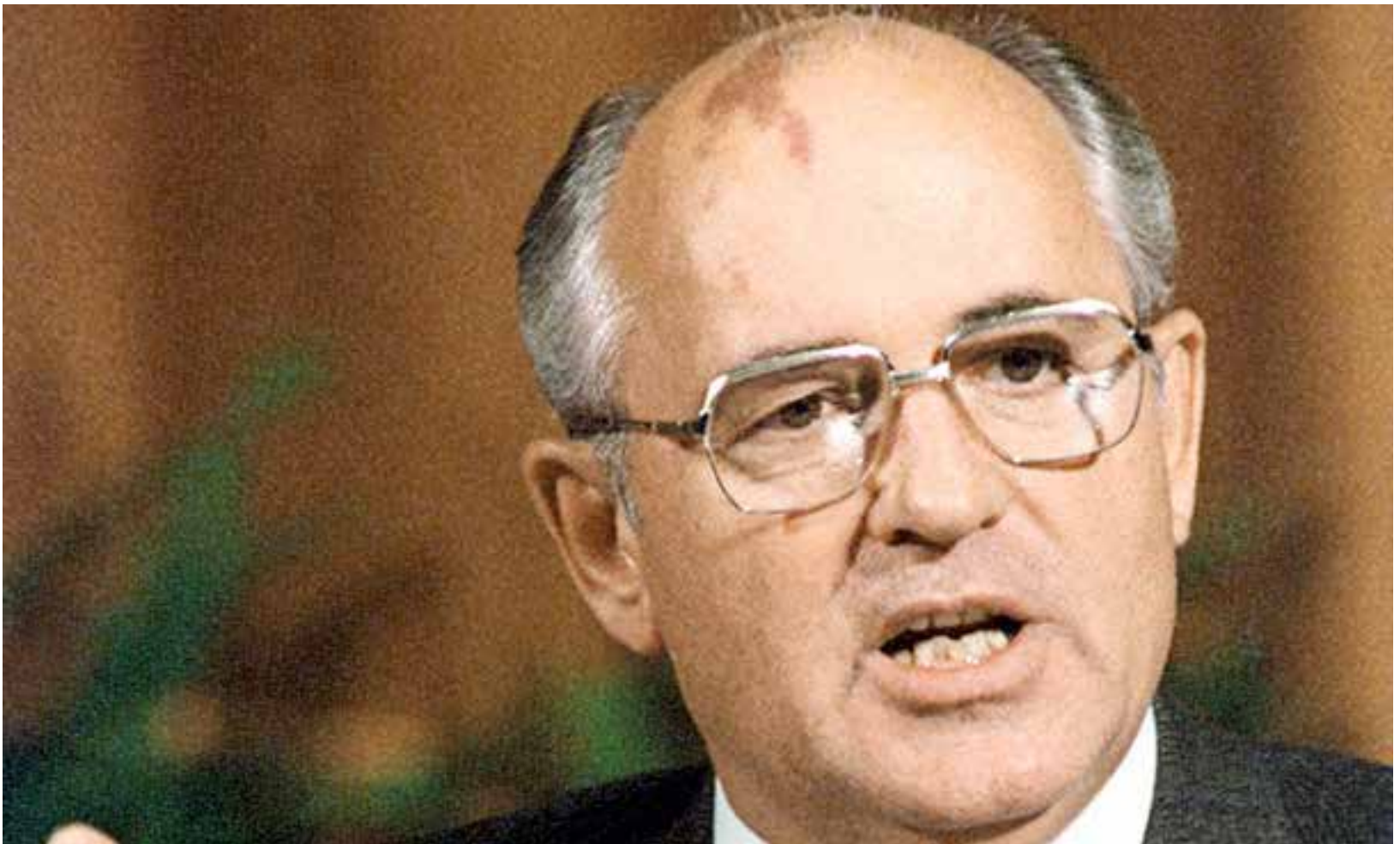
A sickly old **party apparachik** whose reign lasted less than a year. He enclosed the Era of Gerontocracy. At his time the American-Soviet relations had come to the coldest phase.



Mikhail Gorbachev

1985-1991. Leader of the USSR

The last leader of Soviet Union. He started out as a great reformer but the process went out of hand and resulted in the collapse of the Soviet Union.



Boris Yeltsin

1991-1999

Leader of the Russian Federation

He was the first President of Russia. One of the **most loved** politicians in the final days of the Soviet Union and **much hated** after Chechnya Wars, shock therapy and corruption.



Vladimir Putin

2000-

Leader of the Russian Federation

Vladimir Putin's term has marked the comeback of **centralized state**, censorship and old KGB methods of dealing with the opposition. The East-West confrontation has been revived.



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